



The 709 Communicator
The Magazine of 709 (Toronto) Communications Regiment
Vol 5: Issue 2
December 2009
 Fall/Winter Edition



HMCS Haida
66 Years and Still Going

Her Majesty's Canadian Ship Haida, recently celebrated its 66th Anniversary of being commissioned into the Royal Canadian Navy, having sailed into a place in Canada's naval history. Built and launched in England in August of 1943, Haida was one of the Tribal class destroyers, all named after one of the original Na-



tive Canadian tribes who walked the forests of our country long before the white man arrived. The very name of the vessel strikes a spark of pride in the hearts of all Canadians but none more so than in the thousands of men who sailed in her during her 20 years of service. Her battle honours include the Arctic 1943-45, English Channel 1944, Biscay 1944, Normandy 1944, and Korea 1952-54. To commemorate this historic vessel, Dean Cassar VE3SUG, applied to Industry Canada for permission to set up and operate a special event ham radio station from the ship's original radio room and personnel from 709 Communica-

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At this time of the year the appeal go out to our Regimental Family and Friends to open their hearts and pockets to assist the Regiment in fund raising. It's these funds the Regiment depend on for needs that are not provided by public money. Esprit-de-corps and equipment not covered by public funds are important to keep the troops a cohesive and one happy unit. Please consider giving generously by using the form on the last page of the 709 Communicator.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR





**Maj. Greg Stasyna CD
Commanding Officer**

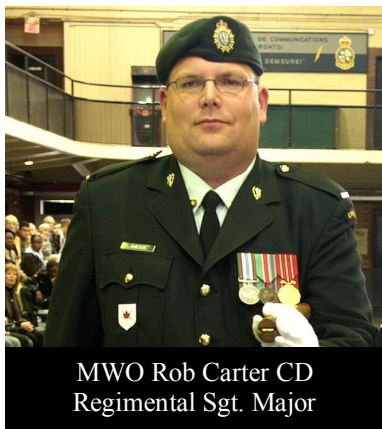
From the Commanding Officer:

I am now well into my fifth year as Commanding Officer of 709. I have accepted an additional extension of my command. My own account of this year has been very intensive and satisfying. I was offered yet another challenge and opportunity when I took command of 705 (Hamilton) Communication Squadron from Major Ken Lloyd (former CO of 709) last May. From May to September I had to divide my attention between 709 Communication Regiment, 700 and 705 Communication Squadrons. I wish to thank the soldiers of all three units for the support and understanding of my

unique predicament. In September, I was able to hand over command of 705 to Maj. Christopher Federico from the RHLI. Please join with me in welcoming Major Federico to our Signals family.

I would like to address the continuing saga of our “transformation”. As you may recall, in April 2008 the Communication Reserve disbanded as a formal command and the 23 Comm Res units across Canada were transferred to the Army and managed under their respective areas. In Ontario there has been a development within the formation structure. Last April, 70 Communication Group stood down and was replaced by 2 Operational Support Group (2 OSG). The new formation still has the five Comm Res units (709/700/705/763 and 772) commanded by a full colonel – Dave Patterson. There is still much development to be done to the new headquarters as 2 OSG has not yet reached its initial operating capability. Plan-

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**MWO Rob Carter CD
Regimental Sgt. Major**

From The New RSM

The appointment to RSM is one of the greatest positions that a soldier can aspire to in the Canadian Forces. It takes many years of hard work and dedication to have the skills and knowledge to be a mentor, career advisor, historian and the Commanding Officer’s advisor on the soldiers of the unit. It is made even more special if it is the unit you joined many years ago as young soldier.

First I would like to thank April for all her hard work during her term as RSM. The day of the parade was very special, with family and friends coming to support me on this “great day”. But as soon as you are handed the pace stick, the clock

starts ticking and it is time to get to work.

The Regiment will face many challenges during the coming year. With the Olympics in February and the G-8 Summit in June there will be many requirements for 709 personnel in domestic operations. We also have two members of the unit gearing up for deployment to Afghanistan. MCpls Natalie Gajewski and David Spessot are currently in Petawawa preparing for deployment on Task Force 1/10 in the spring timeframe. There also are coming soon changes in how communicators will be trained to meet both the international and domestic

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HONORARY COLONEL HORSFALL'S COMMENTS

A special thanks is due once again to all of the volunteers who work so hard preparing this newsletter. To each of you, I express my congratulations.

Things are certainly busy in the Army these days – the combination of continuing transformation, finances and our growing domestic and international responsibilities are keeping the chain of command hopping. The Reserves are taking on a greater proportion of the responsibility with the “One Army” approach and Gen. Andrew Leslie claims we have the best and most impressive training anywhere. His aim is to continue strengthening the army to ensure that even after

the predicted withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2011, the army will maintain its reputation as “the best small army in the world”.

In the spring, the Government of Canada approved \$5.2 billion to fix and upgrade equipment. Currently of 8,000 vehicles, 4,000 are considered “not serviceable” i.e. broken. All LAVS will get rebuilt and a massive fleet of light and heavy combat vehicles are out for bid, as well, new communications equipment is planned.

Reservists continue to represent about 20% of our strength in Afghanistan and are the core component of the new Arctic Strategy (which includes 4 to 5 thousand Rangers and a soon to be built training centre in Resolute).

Transformation of the reserve force is a high priority; leadership continues to be a focus. We need more Master Corporals, Sergeants and Warrant officers and are seriously short of Engineers both Regular and Reserve. An inordinate number of army reservists (almost 1/3) are currently Class B and while they do augment the regular force, attempts are being made to reduce the numbers and get some of that leadership back onto the armoury floor. Across Canada, we currently have 23 Com Reserve units; most are under strength with severe succession planning issues. While this may necessitate some tactical grouping of units – there is no plan to close any. Reserve units are important force generation for both domestic and expeditionary missions.

A recent poll shows 82% of Canadians Support our Troops; obviously the Afghan conflict has raised the profile of the Canadian Forces and particularly, the fact that 2,000 soldiers have managed to keep Kandahar, the most dangerous province in the country, from collapsing. The poll also showed that concern exists regarding the care and follow up for our returning soldiers and their families. This has been identified as priority for the army. As well we need to continue to raise the community awareness of the CF – General O’Brian tells me that we are encouraged to show the uniform - wearing it to the armouries and when traveling. For too long, our citizens have been denied the opportunity to see us and our work and to take pride in it. So show the uniform proudly.

Meetings I attended this fall, were most reassuring – there is a strong sense of purpose, and the chain of command seems unusually focused and clear on the direction for the Army. Yes – we all can be very proud to be Canadian and part of its Armed Forces.

Holiday greetings to all and be safe.

Hon Colonel Sally Horsfall, SSStJ CD RN

Spiritus Manet



709 (Toronto) Communication Regiment

Maj. G.I. Stasyna CD
Commanding Officer

Capt. H. Buller CD
Adjutant

MWO Rob Carter CD
Regimental Sergeant Major

Col. S. Horsfall SStJ 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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709 Regimental Council
Publishing Support

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The editor reserves the right to modify or re-format 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

I PASS THE TORCH

Editorial by Steven Brickenden CD

When I was first approached to take over the position of editor of *The 709 Communicator*, four years ago, I knew then that the day would come when I would have to hand it over to someone else. That day is sadly here! I did not know how hard it would be. The Regimental family made it easy. I was welcomed at all levels and was helped out when I had to ask what a specific short form meant.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped make *The 709 Communicator* such a wonderful experience for me and I apologize for making such a pest of myself when columns and articles were late. That was my job. I have come to think of the Signals Regiment as my second home and this publication as my 'child'. I am leaving it in good hands. My successor is Capt. Fred Butler-Caughie CD, Gr. COSJ, padre, friend and now the new editor. I'm sure that the *709 Communicator* will continue to be your publication.

The motto of the EME Branch is *ARTE ET MARTE!* By skill and fighting! It is a fitting complementary to *SPIRITUS MANET!* The two are now both mine.

I leave now wishing you the very best of the Christmas Season and may God, in whatever form you believe Him to be, bless and grant you the best of 2010.



Capt Steve Brickenden CD — Editor



Norman Gregory Lawton

By Bruce Sharpe

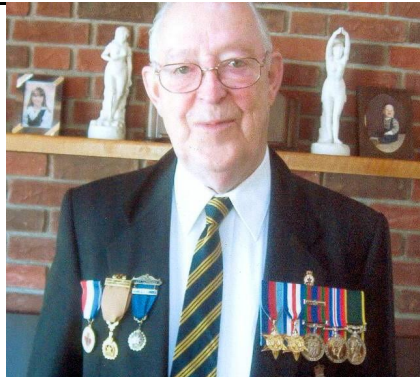
Mr. Norm Lawton was born on November 29, 1920 in Saint John New Brunswick. He lived with his mother and father, older sister Marion and an older brother Richard.

One day in 1936 Norm asked his older brother where he was going and his answer was "I'm going to join the Signal Corps". His second question was "Can I go?". That was the start of Norman Gregory Lawton's career in the military.

Norm enlisted at the St. John's Armouries with the #7 District Signal and Royal Canadian Signals in the non-permanent militia and started his introduction and instructions into radio theory to be a radio operator. Every summer he would be sent out to different training camps to improve his knowledge and promote his skills in the radio and communications field. He attended training camps in Sussex, New Brunswick in 1936, Camp Borden in 1937, Sussex again in 1938 and then on to Kingston Ontario in 1939.

In August of 1939 he was asked to report for duty at the armouries in St. John. He enlisted with the #7 District Signals on September 1st, where he volunteered like most of his buddies to go overseas. This was just prior to the war that broke out on September 3rd. His unit name was changed to the #4 Fortress Signals Atlantic Command and they were told they would not be eligible for the draft and would be exempt from going overseas. They were instructed to stay in Canada and protect the homeland.

Norm was assigned to the Partridge Island at the entrance to St. John harbour for a few months where he worked with radio and switchboard communications and as a wireless operator. In addition to this, he was also



on a Navy vessel towing targets for artillery practice. In May of 1940 he was sent to Gaspé Bay Quebec to protect the harbour. He states that at the time and unknown to the Canadian public there were a great number of ships being sunk in the St. Lawrence River and off the coast of Gaspé by German subma-

rines. At various times some of the survivors of these ships would land at his base. The sailors that were in serious condition due to exposure to the salt water and oil were flown to Halifax. Later they went out to see if any German sailors from the submarines or strangers had visited any of the local villages. Norm's first sad experience of the war was when a number of our young sailors who were staying with him on the base for a couple of weeks. They went aboard the HMS Raccoon and later were torpedoed off the Gaspé coast. There were no survivors. This next painful experience would come later in 1942 when he was to receive the sad news that his older brother, Fl. Sgt. Richard Lawton Air Gunner was killed in a crash of his Lancaster bomber on the border of England and Scotland. He went overseas in July 1942 and died six months later in December.

Norm showed me the original letter that was sent to his uncle to be relayed to his mother. He wondered when he read it how many families have received that terrible dispatch. The first few words of the correspondence tell it all. "It is my painful duty to inform you ...". Then, continues to state how he was killed, where he was killed, the date of his funeral, which was on December 21st, and concluding with the finality of it all, buried in Silloth Westmoreland, England. He was just another soldier, another son who gave his life for freedom, another mother with a broken

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AWARDS AND PROMOTIONS — The bells are rung!



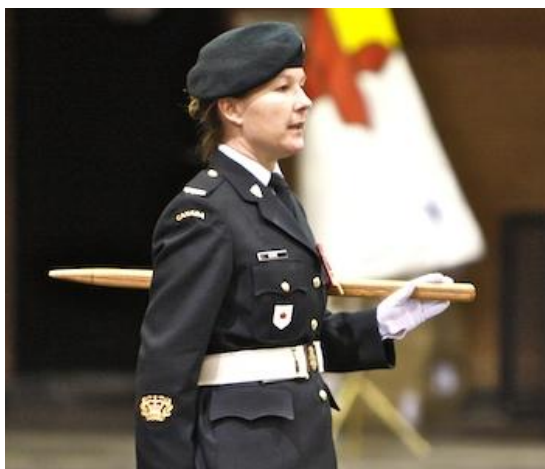
(Top) Promoted MCpl T. Humphreys,

(2nd Row left) Awarded Sgt Triton CD, (right) Promoted WO Ben,

(3rd Row left) Promoted MCpl Milburn, (right) Promoted MWO Rob Carter— appointed RSM,

(left) Promoted CWO Marcel Mallia— former RSM 709 now appointed RSM 32 Combat Engineer Regt

NO PHOTO—MCpl Gleeson



MWO April White CD
Outgoing RSM

What an incredible farewell parade and dine-out! I would like to say "Thank-you so much" to everyone who made this weekend so lovely and memorable. Without a doubt, it is a weekend I will never forget, as it is a rare occasion in one's career to have such fanfare and festivities. I have always enjoyed writing short articles for the Communicator so I was pleased to have been asked to submit an article for this edition as well and will pass along 5 'tips' I advocated during my tenure and to share an excerpt of my farewell speech as thanking the Regimental family cannot be overdone. In my 3 years as RSM, here are my top 5 'tips' that I maintained and advocated: 1)

Make a plan and make it happen - whether it be a deployment, a course or tasking; 2) Give each other professional courtesy. (Get the facts before you make negative judgments and have a professional discussion about differences of opinion.); 3) React to facts, not fiction (and it's all fiction until you have the facts); 4) Nip negativity early. (Foster teamwork and cohesion.); and 5) Take pictures throughout your career, as you never have the same fun twice (all exercises are different as are the memories they create.)

Realizing that it is difficult for the troops to understand speeches, I thought I would share this excerpt from my speech:

"...The position of RSM is one of authority and responsibility within the Regiment but without question, the position also comes with an immense sense of pride and honour as you have been bestowed the distinct privilege of representing the fine men and women that you see before you. As the RSM, you not only represent the interests of the personnel, but you also honour traditions and the legacy of those that have served before you while also trying to inspire others to follow. It has been an incredible experience and being the RSM of the Regiment for the past 3 years has been the highlight of my career. I want to take a moment to recognize and thank the serving members of the Regiment as it is no secret that the success of the CO or the RSM is a direct result of the talented and dedicated Regimental personnel that you see on parade before you. It

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 2) RSM

operations requirements in the future.

I am proud of the dedication and professionalism members of the Regiment show whether parading at the unit or on exercises. It is my goal that together we strive to raise the level of unit performance to even greater levels in the coming years.

Spiritus Manet

MWO Robert Carter, CD
Regimental Sergeant Major



Remembrance Day 2009— A perfect day for reflection



There have been cold days, blustery winds, fog, drizzle, light rain, driving rain, snow, sleet and freezing rain. But November 8, 2009, with sunny temperatures approaching 15^o C will go down as being one of the nicest Remembrance Day Church parades in many a year as the Regimental family paraded along Eglinton Avenue. The band, resplendent in their original Signals red, provided their usual excellent musical accompaniment to the ranks of uniformed soldiers, cadets, Hong Kong Veterans, and even an RCMP Constable in his dress scarlet tunic. Bad weather is no reason not to participate in this annual ritual of Remembrance, but warm weather is a definite bonus!



My thanks to John Spiteri, the photographer whose work has made this page possible.

Editor



The Toronto Signals Band



The band has been very busy for the past few months. With many parades and the Band's Annual General Meeting & Elections on September 28th. The Toronto Signals Band is pleased to have a very active and energetic Executive Committee and staff for 2009/2010.

Each member brings his or her own unique perspective to the Band. Many of the executive have been long time members and it is this rich history that keeps Toronto Signals' traditions alive. President Dave Cameron, Vice President Ted Blight, Treasurer Ellie Cameron, Business Manager Gail Roblin, Public Relations Manager Maude McHaffie, Secretary John O'Leary and Member at Large Marilyn Sturino. Band Liaison with the Regiment is Ort Beaumont.

These are just a few of the parades that we have done over the past few months...

June 13th & 14th the Hamilton Tattoo, June 20th Burlington Parade and June 21st the Welland Rose Festival Parade, July 1st Cambridge Canada Day Parade, Aug. 8th Shelburne Fiddle Fest Parade, Aug, 22nd Warriors' Day and



CNE Grand Parade, Sept. 12th London Warriors' Day Parade, Sept. 26th The Boy Scouts

100th Anniversary in Toronto, Oct. 4th Change of Command, October 17th the Toronto Lung Kong Parade.

Winning over 400 awards to date, 3 more where added this past season.

The Colour Guard won "Best Colour Guard" in the Warriors' Day Parades in Toronto and London. As well as the Band won "Best Band" in London.



(Continued on page 15)

SIGN IN A BUSINESS WINDOW, HERE IN ONTARIO!!!!

"WE WOULD RATHER DO BUSINESS WITH 1000 ALQAEDA TERRORISTS THAN WITH ONE SINGLE CANADIAN SOLDIER!"

This sign was prominently displayed in the window of a business in Ontario and you are probably outraged at the thought of such an inflammatory sign. However, we are a society, which holds Freedom of Speech as perhaps one of our greatest liberties. And after all, it is only a sign, right? You may ask: "What kind of business would dare post such a sign?"

(Unbelievable—Continued on page 16)



Haida turns 66 (Continued from page 1)

tions Regiment manned the microphones for a one-day event that saw contacts from over 200 operators from Europe, North America and Hawaii. The Haida is now a national historic site, owned and operated by Parks Canada, berthed near HMCS Star in Hamilton Ontario and 709 is proud to have been part of this event. Thanks to Dean for his efforts and all those



Vintage equipment in the ship's radio room is still operational. Capt Buller and Maj Stasyna



OK Hal. Wait till I yell "PULL"! Maj Stasyna with the Anti Aircraft Gun



CADETS CARRY ON

By Captain Rick Leswick CD,
Commanding Officer
709 Toronto Comm Regt Cadet Corps

This was a busy summer for corps cadets who continued their training at the two week basic and six week cadet leader courses held at Blackdown Summer Training Centre.

Located at the west end of CFB Borden, Blackdown is familiar to many old timers in the regiment who remember when log cabins dotted the camp grounds. It then served as a militia training centre and summer concentration facility. Now, after a several million dollar face-lift, the camp is home to the summer training courses that were once held at Camp Ipperwash.



Cadets provided some help to the Canadian National Bird Show in Richmond Hill in Oct. Cadets received community service hours that go towards their high school graduation.

At the end of the summer, several cadets and officers were called upon once again by the Regional Cadet Support Unit to provide personnel for the cadet information presentation at Ontario Place. The week long display was also supported by members of the regiment, including Warrant Officer Lee Whalen who did a great job providing equipment and expertise.

The first parade following the summer hiatus was immediately after Labour Day. Since then the corps has participated in a major garrison exercise at Blackdown and recently toured the old Mimico

Cadets (Continued on page 15)



709 (Toronto) Communication Regiment, Regimental Sergeant Majors (2009)

Back Row

Leo Sansone Alison Perry Marcel Mallia April White Robert Carter

Front Row

Ted Gemmell Lou Lombardi John Speirs Steve Kiss Tom Bell

RSM's of 709 (Toronto) Communication Regiment from 1970-2009

It all started when four RSM's of the Regiment attended the Jimmy and Associates BBQ on 8 August 2009. I thought it would be great to have a photo taken of the four, Leo Sansone, Lou Lombard, April White and John Speirs. When I heard there would be a change of RSM parade in October I thought it would be an historical event if I could get all the RSM's together at the parade and have a group picture taken of all the RSM since 709 (Toronto) Communication Regiment came into being.

Prior to that all reserve Signals across Canada were under command of the army. 1970 saw a change when all the Signals Reserve units came under control of The Canadian Forces Communication Command. Every reserve unit was renamed, to coincide with the Comm Group they came under. Toronto, Hamilton & Borden came under command of 70 Comm Group. So Toronto became 709 (Toronto) Communication Regiment and Hamilton 705 (Hamilton) Communication Squadron and so on across the country. Each unit took up the first prefix of their Comm Group HQ.

Well it happened all 10 RSM, including the new one just taken over were together for a group photograph. All the RSM's provided their full support and a special thanks to Maj. Ted Gemmell, the first RSM for his great memory of the past and LCol Jack Lee for taking the photograph. When all the years totaled up this group accounted for 271 years of service to Communications.

The picture will now hang in the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess for all future soldiers to view. Their nightmare, (10 RSM's in the same room!), can come true.

John Speirs, MMM, CD
CWO (Ret'd)

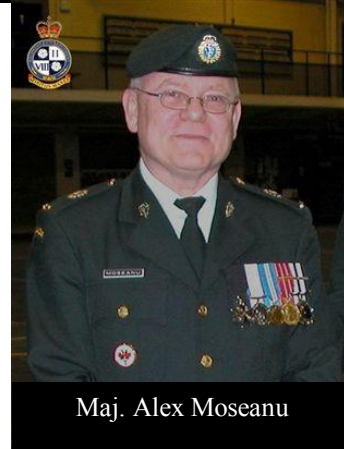


Message from the President of Jimmy & Associates

On behalf of Jimmy and Associates, I wish all in the 709 Regimental Family a Merry Christmas and Happy Prosperous New Years 2010.

I am pleased to announce that Jimmy and Associates will again have their traditional Christmas Party on Sunday December 6, 2009 at the Warrant's and Sergeant's Mess at 1:00 pm. Arrangements will be announced.

Major Alex Moseanu, SBStj CD AdeC
President
Jimmy & Associates



Maj. Alex Moseanu

705 (Hamilton) Communication Squadron: CHANGE OF COMMAND



Maj. Ken Lloyd



Maj. Greg Stasyna

In May 2009, Major Ken Lloyd retired from the Canadian Forces after a distinguished career. At the time of his departure, his successor had not been finalized. This was due in part to a number of factors including a severe shortage of commissioned signals officers above the rank of Lieutenant. Major Greg Stasyna current Commanding Officer (CO) of both 709 Communication Regiment and 700 Communication Squadron was asked by the Group Commander to



Maj. Christopher Federico

step in as an interim CO until a suitable successor could be secured. As a result Major Stasyna became the CO of all three western Ontario communication reserve units simultaneously from the end of May until Mid September. His responsibilities included supporting appropriate operations in both 31 and 32 CBGs throughout western and south central Ontario. As many of you may know, being a reserve soldier and carrying on a full time job is no easy task. Being a CO of three units and carry on a civilian job is indeed an enormous task. On September 12, Major Stasyna was able to hand command of 705 over to Major Christopher Federico from the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry (RHLI). Major Federico is no stranger to the signals trade and comes well educated and trained to undertake the challenges of

(Continued on page 13)



(Continued from page 12)

a commanding officer. Both parades in May and September illustrated the importance of a commanding officer which will both set the course for the Squadron and maintain continuity of management and leadership for all soldiers to follow.

We wish the best of luck to Major Federico and give our thanks to both Major's Stasyna and Lloyd for their services as COs of 705 Communication Squadron.

Signals Officer Club 2009 Luncheon

In the Ward Room at the RCMI, Colonel John Catto gave a warm welcome to the assembly. Don Kerr had commented that it was like pulling teeth to get members of the Club to this annual function. For his efforts Don managed to gather 17 members to attend the luncheon at the RCMI and he was congratulated for an effort well done.



World War II members are dwindling. The group photo shows five members seated in the front row with the exception of Sally Horsfall and Nancy Watson. From the left: Sally Horsfall, Don Kerr, Joe Atyeo, Frank Price, Nancy Watson, Harold Olafson and Lloyd Davies. This event seems to be the only time we get these veterans gathered together.

After the delightful luncheon, Major Don Kerr addressed the group of his latest trip to Normandy and again received by the wonderful people that remember the Canadians that freed their country.

Major Greg Stasyna, CO of 709 gave a succinct situa-

(Continued on page 15)



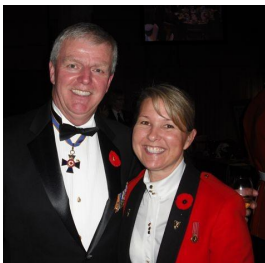
True Patriot Love Gala

Hon LCol Jack Lee

T rue Patriot Love is a foundation established by corporate and community leaders to raise funds for programs that support the well-being and morale of members of the Canadian military and their families.

True Patriot Love Tribute Dinner, a benefit which celebrates our soldiers' selfless service, raises awareness of the cause and raises funds for various programs through the generous donations of the invited guests. The funds raised at the inaugural event held in Toronto on November 10, 2009 will support the Military Families Fund.

Hon Col Sally Horsfall presented members of 709 a wonderful opportunity to rub shoulders with high ranking CF staff, retired generals, corporate CEO's, politicians and a variety of influential people. Accompanying photographs shows some of the dignitaries taken with our members at the gala.



Former CDS
Gen Rick Hiller with
MWO April White and
Maj Greg Stasyna



(l-r) RSM MWO Rob Carter, Former RSM MWO April White,
Chief of the Defense Staff General Walt Natynczyk CMM MSC CD,
CO Maj Greg Stasyna, and Hon LCol Jack Lee

'OLD' IS WHEN... Your sweetie says, 'Let's go upstairs and make love,' and you answer, 'Pick one; I can't do both!'

Your friends compliment you on your new alligator shoes and you're barefoot.

'Getting a little action' means you don't need to take any fiber today.



(Continued from page 9)

Our fall and winter schedule is loaded with engagements.

Ten upcoming parades to be exact!

Although we will be cold on many of the Santa Claus Parades, we enjoy and look forward to doing them, just to see the happy faces of the children along the route as we march by.

Please visit our web site www.torontosignals.com for more information.



PS — The band is always looking for new members. Know anyone that might be interested?

Lunch (Continued from page 13)

tion of the units under his command and also the transitional structure of Signals within OSG2 and where the units stand within the Army structure.

The annual reunion was a good time to catch up events that has occurred in the past year and we all agree to repeat this again at the same time next year. Perhaps Don Kerr may not have to become a dentist get the members to meet again.

Jack Lee

'OLD' IS WHEN... 'Getting lucky' means you find your car in the parking lot.

You are cautioned to slow down by the doctor instead of by the police .

You are not sure if these are facts or jokes?

Cadets (Continued from page 10)

correctional facility. Thankfully, all of the corps members were released without having to serve long term incarceration. A vital fund raising tag weekend was cut just a little short so that the corps could participate in the change of RSM parade that saw a friend of the cadet corps, MWO April White relinquish the “top kick” job to MWO Rob Carter. We all wish the new RSM all the best!

We also joined the regiment for the annual Remembrance Day church parade.

A new officer cadet, Jeremy Dsouza has been enrolled with the corps. Jeremy has spent many years as a volunteer and despite this; he was still willing to become an officer staff member. Lt. Court Elliott has left the crew and now serves with the Service Battalion ca-

det corps up at ASU Toronto.

The corps has embarked upon an exciting training program under the direction of Captain JP Ferron and his staff including volunteer Lt. Ric Rangel-Bron and Civilian Instructor, (soon to be O/Cdt) Peter Ferguson. DCO, 2Lt, Andrew Milligan is almost at the end of all of his qualification courses that will allow him to take over command in the near future.

The corps continues to be headquartered at the armoury where optional training is also being held. Our regular parade days are Saturdays from 0900 to 1130 at Fairbanks school, Dufferin just south of Eglinton.

We invite members of the regimental family to visit, “the junior squadron” any Saturday.



(Continued from page 7) RSM White.

is they, who make this Regiment the success it is today so I sincerely want to thank each and everyone - from the Officer's and Sr NCO's to the most junior Private, thank you for your unwavering dedication and hard work for the benefit of the Regiment. Continue to hold your head high and wear your uniform proudly. Do your best to be the best. You have made me so very proud and you have served the Regiment and Canada well. ..."

Spiritus Manet!
MWO A. White, CD

**An Australian Definition of a Canadian.
In case anyone asks you who a Canadian
is . . .**



You probably missed it in the local news, but there was a report that someone in

Pakistan had advertised in a newspaper an offer of a reward to anyone who killed a Canadian - any Canadian.

An Australian dentist wrote the following editorial to help define what a Canadian is, so they would know one when they found one.

A Canadian can be English, or French, or Italian, Irish, German, Spanish, Polish, Russian or Greek. A Canadian can be Mexican, African, Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Australian, Iranian, Asian, Arab, Pakistani or Afghan. A Canadian may also be a Cree, Metis, Mohawk, Blackfoot, Sioux, or one of the many other tribes known as native Canadians.

A Canadian's religious beliefs range from Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, Muslim, Hindu or none. In fact, there are more Muslims in Canada than in Afghanistan. The key difference is that in Canada they are free to worship as each of them chooses. Whether they have a religion or no religion, each Canadian ultimately answers only to God, not to the government, or to armed thugs claiming to

speak for the government and for God.

A Canadian lives in one of the most prosperous lands in the history of the world. The root of that prosperity can be found in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which recognize the right of each person to the pursuit of happiness.

A Canadian is generous and Canadians have helped out just about every other nation in the world in their time of need, never asking a thing in return. Canadians welcome the best of everything, the best products, the best books, the best music, the best food, the best services and the best minds. But they also welcome the least - the oppressed, the outcast and the rejected.

These are the people who built Canada. You can try to kill a Canadian if you must as other bloodthirsty tyrants in the world have tried but in doing so you could just be killing a relative or a neighbour. This is because Canadians are not a particular people from a particular place. They are the embodiment of the human spirit of freedom. Everyone who holds to that spirit, everywhere, can be a Canadian.

Unbelievable (Continued from page 9)

Answer: A Funeral Home. (Who said morticians had no sense of humour?)



LAWTON—(Continued from page 5)

heart.

In May of 1943 Norm was transferred once again to Saint John for a month before heading to Kingston Ontario for further training and also a line wireless communications course. From there he was sent to Windsor Nova Scotia for special instruction and handling of all types of different weapons and grenade practice. At the end of July in 1944 he went to Halifax and boarded the Empress of Britain. He was on his way overseas to Liverpool England.

Norm arrived in Liverpool on August 4th and was stationed at the Signal Centre that was located just outside the city of Farnborough at Cove. A month later landed in France on Juno Beach where he then traveled to the city of Caen to join the 3rd Infantry Division where he was assigned to A Company Headquarters with the A Section #1 Company Division Signals. Norm recalls that he can still see the terrible destruction that took place in the city caused by the intense bombing.

The 3rd Division then proceeded through the city of Rouen where the French people greeted them by putting flowers on their trucks. Norm states it was a wonderful boost for the Canadian morale. Finally, they moved on to Ghent Belgium for a much needed rest and regrouping. They were treated with the utmost respect and billeted out to the many families in the area. They then traveled through the sniper infected Eeklo Belgium then on to the coast to take the city of Boulogne.

In Boulogne they encountered incredible resistance. A battle ensued for the good part of a week. The Canadians attacked the heavily supplied German infantry that were using Ack ack guns in their pill boxes and concrete shelters with everything they had and held their own until the allied air forces mounted their assault. That was the final blow. The German soldiers that survived the onslaught

surrendered. Norm recalls seeing six high ranking impeccably dressed German officers with their highly polished boots walking towards them waving white flags. He says it was very impressive.

This was only one of many battles that Norm was involved in. His regiment battled all over Europe. He fought in France, Belgium, Holland and finally ending in Aurich Germany on May 4th. The war ended the next day. In November 1945, Norm returned home safely to Halifax aboard the Queen Elizabeth and a waiting military band, then home to his family in Saint John.

Norm applied for a position with Veteran Affairs in Saint John and was accepted. He was put in charge of the task of organizing veteran records and personal files. He also joined the Legion in Saint John. A short time later he met a wonderful young lady named Isabel Johnson who was a nurse at the Saint John General hospital. They were married on October 19th, 1946. A year later they immigrated to the U.S.A. to live with an uncle in St. Louis Missouri who longed to have family members by his side.

He was immediately employed with the Ford Motor Company in St. Louis. Also at the time he studied railway communications and ticket agent coordinating. Upon completion, Norm went to work for the railroad outside of St. Louis and was responsible for the day-to-day activities in the area. Norm was also a member of the Canadian Legion in St. Louis and eventually became their Post Commander. He then moved on and worked for the railroad in Louisville Kentucky.

Norm moved back to Canada in 1960, accepting a position with Canadian Pacific Railroad in Toronto. He then moved to Ajax employed by Dowty and transferred to our Legion Branch 322. He final move would take him to Pickering Hydro in the construction section. He has been retired since 1984.

(Continued on page 18)



LAWTON—(Continued from page 17)

Norm and Isabel have been together for fifty-seven years. They have a son, a daughter and five grandchildren.

Norm Lawton is a very impressive individual when you get to know him. A true gentleman in every sense of the word and a loving family man. He is a practicing Mason and Shriner and an active member of Jimmy and Associates. As well he is an avid radio amateur. He is a very honest and humble man who is constantly involved with the number one and most important thing in his life, Shriner's Children's Hospital.

Awards, plaques, pictures of his family and friends from all over the world draw your attention in his home. He is another veteran of our Branch 322 who at one time put it all on the line for this country and asks for nothing more in return than just to be remembered. Oh yes, something else that he had put away that he should be very proud of and certainly has earned his medals.

Many thanks to Comrade Bruce Sharpe for taking the time to interview Norm and the permission to reprint.

(Continued from page 2) *Commanding Officer*

ning is underway for restructuring of the units in Ontario. There are a number of models being developed which include amalgamations into various types of regimental structures. It is important to note that this process will take some time and will most likely stretch past 2011.

Our "enhanced" recruiting efforts over the past two years have begun to yield results. 709 have increased its intake of recruits both commissioned and non commissioned ranks dramatically to 25, a substantial improvement over the old quotas of 5 or 6 recruits per year. However, with this development come new challenges. We do not have enough experienced soldiers particularly at the ranks of MCpl – WO who are available to train our new recruits. This is a bottle neck that was anticipated some years ago. To overcome this, I have been combining efforts with our sister Comm Res units along with using resources from our Brigade Battle School. I estimate that we will need three more solid years before we re-grow a trained core of junior NCOs and five years to generate a trained and experienced core of Lieutenants, Captains and perhaps even a Major or two.

As the year 2009 comes to a close I wish to

thank you all for your assistance and hard work in making the Regiment work. 2010 is going to be busy with the Olympics, G8/20 Summit, Royal visits from Prince Charles and the Queen along with task force rotations from LFCA for our Afghanistan theatre.

I want to thank all ranks not only from 709 Communication Regiment but from the other two units that I command / have commanded this year including 700 and 705 Communication Squadrons. I would also like to extend my thanks to the Regimental & Squadron families including our honorary colonels, Jimmy and Associates, the flag party, 709 Cadet Corps, Toronto Signals Band, Hong Kong Ex Serviceman's Association, The Dutch War Veterans, US Post Association, Toronto Police Traffic and Communication Services units, Amateur Radio Emergency Services along with the affiliated cadet corps from 700 and 705 and the Hamilton Signals Association. I also extend my greetings to our new Commander and headquarters at 2 OSG and to 32 CBG.

Merry Christmas and best wishes on a Happy New Year.

Spiritus Manet

G.J. Stasyna, Major, Commanding Officer

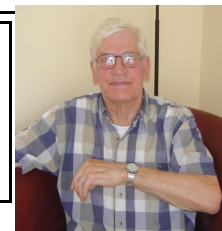


Silent Signals

DOWNES, Major Marguerite (Peggy), OMM., CD., ADC. - Passed away peacefully on Thursday, June 4th, 2009, at Toronto East General Hospital, at the age of 70. She served for over 45 years as a Canadian Armed Forces Reservist, rising to the rank of Major. This made her one of the highest ranking black female officers in Canada at the time. She was a former DCO of the 709 Toronto Communications Regiment and was the administrative officer with the Queens York Rangers army cadets. She received the prestigious Order of Military Merit, the Canadian Forces Decoration and the Canadian Forces 125 Centennial Medal. She was the first black female to receive the appointment of Aide de Camp serving 5 Lieutenant Governors of Ontario in succession. She was also a registered nurse and devoted caregiver for the elderly and dependent. She was a member of many community organizations and a devout member of the First Baptist Church for 50 years. She used her God given talent to assume the role of Musical Director/Pianist for the Voices of Joy for over 25 years.



MCCLORY, George Adam - Passed away peacefully on July 1, 2009 at the age of 81, at the Scarborough General Hospital, with his family by his side. George, beloved husband of Mary Brigid and father of Heather for 55 years was a proud 55 year member of UA Local 46.



Dr. Milton H. Henderson, MD FRCP Milt passed away peacefully on Wednesday, October 21, 2009 at Toronto General Hospital in his 93rd year. Major Henderson joined the Royal Canadian Medical Corps in 1945 near the end of World War II and was posted to Holland to process the Canadian troops for repatriation. Returning to Toronto and married Jean his predeceased wife and pursued his medical career. However, he did find time to serve with 2nd Signal Regiment as the Medical Officer until 2nd and 8th Signal Regiment's amalgamation.

Doreen McKinlay

McKinlay, Doreen Ellen (nee Hoath) passed away on Friday September 4, 2009 in her 89th year. Beloved wife of Donald McKinlay for 59 years. The attached picture of Don and Doreen McKinlay was taken in May 1985 during a memorable trip to Holland for the 40th anniversary celebration marking the liberation. The couple was fortunate to being able to repeat the experience in 1995 for the 50th anniversary.



We Will Remember Them





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

Dear Joe:

Enclosed is my 2009 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: _____

The 709 Communicator is ON-LINE!

1. Open your Internet program (“Windows Internet Explorer”).
2. Navigate to the Windows live login window <http://login.live.com/>
3. Use your ID and password to login
4. Navigate to the 709 Comm Regt Group Page <http://709commregt.groups.live.com/>
 - a. From Home page, click on menu item “More”, then “Groups”.
 - (1) Choose the 709 site from among all of your groups.
 - b. Use existing link from your main page
5. Click on the SkyDrive button (left menu tree, or select via the recent activities list)
Select the “Communicator” file folder.



Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year
The Editor

SPECIAL THANKS TO: WO1 Ret'd Eric Cozens, Hon Col Sally Horsfall, Hon LCol Jack Lee, Maj. Greg Stasyna, Capt. Hal Buller, Capt. Fred Butler-Caughie, MWO April White, MWO Rob Carter, Jim Taylor, Ted Cowie and all the other people who have given me articles and photos. Without you there would be no 709 Communicator. SPIRITUS MANET