

Commissionaires

The Corpsrespondent

~ Newsletter of Hamilton Division - Spring 2007 ~

SPOTLIGHT ON NIAGARA REGION

Welcome to the newest regular feature in your newsletter *The Corpsrespondent*. Each issue will contain a sketch on the detachments within the spotlighted area. We hope this feature will give you a peek into the diversity of employment within the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires (Hamilton). Commissionaires Hamilton holds responsibility for providing “dignified and meaningful employment” to its members. This issue will focus on that employment within **Niagara Region**.

The City of Niagara Falls is a longstanding client of the Division and employs Commissionaires in two distinct job categories, Parking Bylaw Enforcement and City Hall Security. **Bylaw duties** within Niagara Falls are performed around the clock in all weather seven days a week both on foot and in vehicles. The Bylaw Officers act not only as enforcers of parking regulations but also as ambassadors for the city. In an area as rich in natural wonders and tourist attractions as Niagara Falls the ability to present a positive and professional image to visitors and local residents alike is a strong challenge but one that these officers have excelled in. **Security duties** at Niagara Falls City Hall also employ Commissionaires and while this task is not as public a function as Bylaw it is no less important. The members of the security staff at City Hall have responsibility for access control and facility integrity and are the eyes and the ears of the City Hall during silent hours. These dedicated Commissionaires patrol City Hall while most of us are at home relaxing after a long hard day or while we are asleep. Every day of the year these Commissionaires are on duty watching and waiting always vigilant to deal with any situation or problem, which may arise.

The City of St. Catharines is another of the Division’s **Parking Bylaw Enforcement Detachments**. These Commissionaires provide order to the chaos that is sometimes involved in parking. This group of Commissionaires has shown an interest in community involvement and has participated in events such as “**The Men’s March to End Family Violence**” detailed in the Winter 2006 Newsletter. The team spirit and the positive public image this detachment presents is an example for all of us.

The Federal Government provides positions in St. Catharines at the Passport Office and the Federal Building with Commissionaires performing access control and information duties.

St. Catharines Passport Office is the one of two officially bilingual posts in the Division. The **St. Catharines Federal Building** is manned by a small detachment responsible for building security during hours the facility is staffed by government employees.

LAST POST

Comm. John Little ~ 1936 - 2007

Sadly, we must report the passing of **Comm. John Little**, Hamilton Passport, on 02 January 2007. John joined the British Army in 1953. He was a Gunner in the Royal Artillery for a number of years until emigrating to Canada from his native Scotland in the late 1950's. Having served as an Auxiliary Police Officer in Hamilton John joined Hamilton Division in 2002. John received a commendation for his outstanding and helpful service to passport applicants who came into contact with him. We express our sincere sympathy to his wife, Ann; his son, Dan (Hamilton By-law) and to other members of his family.

We must also report the passing of two retired Commissionaires who will be well remembered by those who worked with them. **Chuck Tirone**, (WSIB Hamilton,) and **Carl Lucas**, (Mohawk College and CASE.) have both passed away in the weeks since the last issue of *The Corpsrespondent*.

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Brock University's Commissionaires patrol the main campus by vehicle and foot 24 hours a day and work in teams combining Corps members and Brock employees sworn as special constables. These Commissionaires are organized into integrated platoons with their Brock counterparts and perform their duties under the direction of an Inspector who reports to the Director of Security.

SITEL is a large call center in a former K Mart where the Commissionaires have been employed since the initial construction phase. This detachment operates 24/7 and is made up of Commissionaires who have the responsibility for the overall safety and security of staff who work throughout the night and may be vulnerable due to the size and layout of the surrounding parking areas. Their duties don't stop there though as they are also responsible for the traditional access control and perimeter integrity of the facility.

The Provincial Government checks in with two sites in St. Catharines, **Work Place Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB)** and **Landlord and Tenant Board**. These sites are both located in the Provincial Building and are staffed by single long time Commissionaires specific to each site. These Commissionaires require a special skill in public interaction due to the nature of the organizations they serve. These positions are a part of a province wide contract between the Commissionaires and the Province of Ontario.

Rodman Hall, an Art Gallery belonging to Brock University, is a site that stands on its own. Tucked away in the river valley with sprawling grounds it is a very stately and quiet location. You can imagine yourself in the world of 100 years ago when you pass through its doors. This detachment is manned primarily on weekends and provides employment for one Commissionaire.

Ridley College is one of the Corps newest clients and is a well-established long time institution in the Niagara Peninsula. The Corps augments Ridley's internal security staff and provides a strong deterrent presence and a comforting feeling of safety and security for staff, students and faculty.

The Niagara Region is one of three distinct geographical areas served by the Hamilton Division. Next issue of *The Corpsrespondent* will feature **Hamilton/Halton**.

COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE - Cdr. Fred Lee, OStJ, CD

Since the last *Corpsrespondent* There have been some events and occurrences which should be shared with everyone. We are all interested in our Division and what happens within this Division and other Divisions..

As you are aware each Division is a separate corporation established in the particular Provinces in which the Divisions are found. Although we are related to each other in a form of "federation" we each have to do our business in a method that works well for each of us individually. Sometimes there are contracts which are set up in common with all of us throughout Canada. The most usual of those are contracts with Federal Government Departments. Since 1945 the Commissionaires have had what is known as a right of first refusal on such opportunities. Any Division may avail themselves of this right but each Division has a slightly different deal with whatever federal department wants to have us do work. In the simplest terms that may mean different pay rates in different Divisions. There are also contracts where several Divisions get together to handle a single client with one Division doing the administrative work for the contract. Provincial government contracts operate in that fashion sometimes and again there may be differences in how the contract is carried out and what the pay rates are for each Division. Examples of these sorts of contracts at both the federal and local levels are the pay rate differences between Toronto and Hamilton. Toronto gets paid more! We are perceived to be in an area where it does not cost as much to live. We try on every occasion to represent our needs to the best of the interests of all our Commissionaires in the Hamilton Division.

The business which we conduct through our Division is currently working well. This work is done by all our Commissionaires in each of our sites. The volunteer Board of Governors of the Hamilton Division is pleased that we are able to maintain our contracts, gain some new ones from time to time and all within our mission. Our mission is to "provide dignified and worthwhile employment for members of the Corps" while doing so through a not-for-profit corporation. We are fortunate to have dedicated Commissionaires in all our sites and in our headquarters office.

Recently we have all become aware that the province of Ontario through the office of the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services has passed a statute named the Private Security and Investigative Services Act. The proposed contents of the Regulations are now becoming clearer but submissions to the proposals must be made by 4 April, 2007. Currently, after a press release of 6 March there are draft regulations concerning: Vehicles, Code of Conduct and Eligibility to hold a License.

All security guards (not By-law enforcement officers) will require a license on an annual basis.

There will be a written test to be passed to get the license and/or renewal. There will be a cost to each Commissionaire paid to the province for both testing and licensing

Although there has been nothing stated it is probable that after the 4th of April the Ministry will move to implement the regulations and try to have the requirements in place and operational soon there after. For more information visit www.gov.on.ca

Health and Safety

Last Quarter proved to be a very good period in terms of *Health and Safety*. We still require more people to serve on the Health and Safety Committee. All you need to do to get involved is to call **MWO Jim Farrauto** at 905 527-2775 ex 22 and attend our next meeting.

WO Bryan Mercer Retires



WO Brian Mercer receives a certificate of service from Capt. John Livingstone, Director of Operations

It has been 16 years since WO Bryan Mercer joined Hamilton Division. His original intent was to work for a few years then retire a plan which seem to have been extended as the years passed by. Bryan was born in England and served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in the late 1950's before emigrating to Canada in 1967. He worked in the linotype and graphics trade until 1990 and came to the Commissionaires in 1991. Having worked in a number of assignments Bryan eventually became the Detachment Commander at the Hamilton Federal Building on Main Street and followed its move to Bay Street North in 2003. Over the term of his career Bryan Mercer has received a number of letters commending his professionalism and dedication to his work. He received the Commissionaires Long Service Medal in 2003

His official retirement takes place on Friday, 30 March. Bryan will be missed by not only his staff of Commissionaires but also by the Government employees who will especially miss his friendly smile and good humour. We understand that Bryan will be traveling to England for a long term visit with his mother who, in her 90's, remains very spry. We wish Bryan Mercer many years of good health and happiness in his retirement.

New Detachment Commander for Hamilton Federal Building

As a soldier in the Irish Guards Fred Entwisle got to see some rather exotic places like Malaya, Borneo and South Arabia. Born in Liverpool England Fred served in the British Army from 1964 to 1977 following which he emigrated to Canada. Here he served as a CIC officer with Army Cadets for many years retiring with the rank of Captain and a well deserved CD. In civilian life Fred Entwisle was employed for over 17 years as a corrections officer until joining Hamilton Division in 2000. Having served at WSIB, CASE and NATTCO Commissionaires Entwisle was assigned to the Federal Building in 2003. In the photo Fred is promoted to Warrant Officer by Captain John Livingstone, Director of Operations.



SERVICE AWARDS

Congratulations to the following Commissionaires who have received, or will soon receive, service pins and cash awards as follows::

- 5 year pin and \$100.00** - Comm's. Peter Senkow, David Liberty, Art Dubois, Don MacFarlane, Michael O'Sullivan
- 10 year pin and \$200.00** - Capt. John Livingstone, CWO Tom Lee, Comm. Ed Lanfranconi
- 15 year pin and \$300.00** - Sgt. Larry Minor, Comm. William Warburton
- 20 Bar to the CLSM** - Comm. Gordon Boardman

Ontario Senior Achievement Award

Recently the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Cdr. Robert Williamson CD, received an **Ontario Senior Achievement Award** from Ontario's Lieutenant Governor, James Bartlemen. The award is presented to senior citizens for community contributions in the province. A retired educator, Cdr. Williams has authored 16 books, 11 of which he wrote to raise funds for community projects. Cdr. Williamson is a well known lecturer on historical subjects, a writer of news articles, and president of the Hamilton Mountain Historical Society. His most recent book is *Our World's a Stage* the story of the Summers family who operated the Summers Theatre on Hamilton Mountain in the early 20th century. Congratulations to Cdr. Williamson on having earned this prestigious award.

Wills and Powers of Attorney - By Stanley J. Kershman *Planning for the Worst Leaves Your Family with the Best*

If you care about the people in your life, then wills and powers of attorney become essential tools in your estate planning kit. Both are legal documents that set out your wishes if you're unable to speak for yourself – and both can ease your family's worries at a very emotional time.

Why you need a will

Your will sets out how you want your assets – such as land, homes and possessions – divided after your death and (if applicable) will also name guardians for any young or disabled dependents. Without a will, your assets will be divided after your death according to the laws in your province, with no regard to your wishes.

In addition, higher income taxes and legal fees will usually be paid on the estate, leaving less to be distributed. And your family will be subjected to higher stresses, because they'll need to either deal with court-appointed estate administrators, or apply to the court to administer the estate themselves.

Why you need powers of attorney

A power of attorney can give another person the right to make decisions for you, guided by your wishes, if you are mentally or physically incapacitated by something such as a stroke.

A power of attorney for financial affairs lets the other person make decisions regarding your money or property. A personal care power of attorney – a living will – lets the appointed person make medical decisions about issues such as life support. Without these documents, your spouse or dependents will have to ask the court to let them manage your affairs.

What they will cost?

Expect to pay a lawyer or notary at least \$250 for a will and at least \$100 for a power of attorney, but keep in mind that costs will vary depending on how complex your affairs are – and that package deals may be available if you (and your spouse) have the documents drawn up at the same time.

Be well.

Stanley J. Kershman is the author of Put Your Debt on a Diet: A Step-by-Step Guide to Financial Fitness (www.debtonadiet.com), and is a certified specialist in Bankruptcy and Insolvency Law with the Ottawa law firm of Perley-Robertson, Hill and McDougall LLP. He can be reached at skershman@perlaw.ca.

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The Corpsrespondent

Is the Newsletter of

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Welcome Aboard

We welcome the following new Commissionaires who have joined our ranks since the last newsletter:

Flemming Kyle, Barbara Ledwon, William Smith, Patrick Slattery, Ernest Brooks, Robert Wood, Richard Miller, Jeff Vokey, Joseph Lamontagne, Lawrence Crowfoot, Edward Towle, John Stever, Andrew Davis, Paul Bentham, Terry Ryan, Larry Jagger, Dzmityr Kastenka, Stanley Jaques, Lynn Murdoch, Davis Aurini, Gerry Gautreau, James Homan, Ed Parkin, Kim Carter, John Goetz, Dave MacInness

Promotions

To Warrant Officer:

Wally Trapler, Dispatcher, Head Office

Fred Entwisle, Hamilton Federal Building

To Sergeant:

Vaughn Braby, TDL Group Guelph

Important Items from Administration

MWO Ken Brady, Administration Manager

In December all Commissionaires received an updated *Hour of Work and Overtime* form which was to have been completed and returned to Headquarters. To date there has been only a 60% response. Signing the form in no way affects either pay or hours of work. You have signed one in the past. It carries on your acceptance of hours being averaged over a two-week period over the next two years. Please complete the form and return it to Division HQ as soon as possible. If you have a question please call me 905 527-2775 ex 26

Have You Changed Your Address? Lately there have been instances when Division Staff have been unable to contact Commissionaires. This is due to a change of address or telephone number which has not been reported to Headquarters. The onus is **on you** to provide head office with up-to-date information relating to your address and telephone number. Please report changes to Cpl. Rick Gallant ex 21.