

# Commissionaires

## *The Corpsrespondent*

~ Newsletter of Hamilton Division - Winter 2006 ~



## *Season's Greetings from the Commandant*

*Fred J Lee*

At this time of year it is my pleasure to wish each of you and your families Compliments of the Season and a Merry Christmas and Happy and prosperous New Year.

Although we are at the three quarter mark of our current year we have, so far, experienced a good year at all our contract sites. There is no doubt that this success is due to the service and diligence provided by each of you. It is very gratifying to me to be part of all your experiences.

I am very conscious of the fact that although I normally try to say something in my portion of the newsletter, this time I will refrain to some extent. This is a time of year when we all want to be able to spend as much time as possible with our families and friends. Often our job requirements conflict with these wishes for a number of us. Our clients have expressed their gratitude for the kinds of service we provide at this time as we continue our duties through long hours on a daily basis regardless of the holiday season. The gratitude to which I referred earlier is extended to you for all that you do.

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year*

### **REMEMBRANCE SERVICES**

**2006 ~ Editor**

It is a matter of some priority with this editor that we report annually on the many activities of Commissionaires in the wide variety of Remembrance Week events that take place throughout Hamilton Division. In 2005 we were fortunate to have a splendid collection of photographs of members on parade, laying wreaths etc. Unfortunately this year no photos were submitted for inclusion in this edition.

We are aware that lack of photos does not equate to lack of participation in events. Hopefully next year we will arrange to obtain pictures so that a suitable review of Remembrance Week activities can be written about in this newsletter.

In the meanwhile we hope you enjoy the submission by Comm. Alan Freckleton outlining his visit in 2006 to Vimy Ridge.

### **HEALTH and SAFETY ~**

**MWO Jim Farrauto CD**

This is a reminder to all our Commissionaires to be extra careful during the winter months. Approximately **90%** of our reported accidents are '*slip-and-fall*' incidents and we do not need you to be one of those statistics. It's the ice you don't see that gets you. Happily we have had very few accidents or incidents so far this year. Keep up the good work

Stay alert, be careful and have a safe and happy holiday season.

**~ Merry Christmas and Happy  
New Year ~**

**Commodore Ross T. Bennett,  
CMM, CD, BA, LLB, RCNR (Ret'd)  
1928 - 2006**

The Board of Governors regrets to report the passing of our immediate past-chairman, Commodore Ross T. "Buck" Bennett CMM, CD. on 28 November 2006 following a protracted illness.

Born, raised and educated in Hamilton Cmdre. Bennett received a Bachelor Degree in Political Economy from McMaster University in 1951. In 1955 he graduated from Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto and was called to the bar of the Supreme Court of Ontario as a Barrister and Solicitor. For the next twelve years he practiced law in Hamilton seven of which were served as an Assistant Crown Attorney in the Hamilton Courts. In 1966 Ross T. Bennett was appointed to the bench as a Magistrate. Thirty years later he retired as a Justice of the Ontario Court of Justice. In 1991 Judge Bennett was awarded a Bachelor of Laws Degree by York University.

Cmdre. Bennett's naval service began in 1947 when he enrolled as an ordinary Seaman in the RCNR. Over the years he advanced in skill and in rank being commissioned as a Sub-Lieutenant in 1951. He served at sea in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans as well as in Europe and the United Kingdom. By the time he retired from the CAF(R) in 1971 Cmdre. Bennett was qualified not only as a sea-going officer but also as a legal officer in the Judge Advocate General Branch. He served in shore appointments in Halifax, Ottawa and Victoria. In Hamilton he commanded the University Naval Training Division at McMaster University, was Commanding Officer of HMCS Star and Barracks Commander of Canadian Forces Reserve Barracks Hamilton. His final Naval appointment was in the rank of Commodore as the Senior Naval Reserve Advisor to the Chief of the Defence Staff.

Cmdre. Bennett was also, at various times, active in the Boy Scout movement at the senior level, and the Royal Canadian Sea Cadets. He served on the Board of Governors of Commissionaires (Hamilton) from 1993 until his passing.

Cmdre. Bennett was particularly proud of his family, He had been married for over 50 years to his wife Lois and is survived by her and three children and seven grandchildren. His two daughters and son followed his naval example attaining the respective ranks of Captain (N), Commander and Petty Officer 1st Class.

He will be missed.

**LAST POST  
Sgt. Les White ~ 1931 - 2006**

Sadly, we must report the passing of Sgt. Les White, Niagara Falls By-law, on 13 November 2006. Les joined the Canadian Army in 1951. Over the fifteen years that followed he earned a number of UN medals for service in such far flung places as Korea, Egypt and Cyprus. In 1966 Les left the Army and for the next several years worked in computer and data processing related fields. Upon his retirement Les joined the Corps of Commissionaires serving in Niagara Falls By-law. Les White was admired for, among other things, his good humour and pleasant way. He will be missed by all who knew him.

## HER MAJESTY'S BIRTHDAY ~ Comm. Alan Freckleton

In the 17 June 2006 I had the wonderful opportunity to witness **The Queen's Birthday Parade Trouping of the Colour** in honour of Her Majesty's 80th birthday. I was particularly fortunate to lodge with a good friend who resides in the Royal Mews,



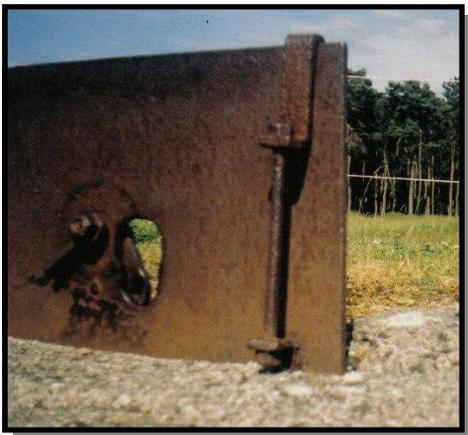
Buckingham Palace. The event took place on the square at historic Whitehall whose immense buildings were created by King James II in the 18th century.

In the photo to the left the Queen's Life Guards, the oldest regiment in the British Army (circa 1660,) pass by our vantage in line abreast. I have no idea how many soldiers were on parade that day. They would certainly have numbered in the several hundreds. It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me to be present on such an event. I am very grateful to have been part of it.

Following my stay in England I travelled to France to finally visit a place that has special meaning for all Canadians but particularly for my family. On April 1917 my late grandfather, Pte. James Devenport, 20th Battalion, CEF, won the Military Medal for valour at the famous battle of Vimy Ridge. I have always wanted to visit this hallowed site where Canadian soldiers "took the un-takeable" and helped to establish Canada as an independent nation. To the great credit of both France and Canada Vimy has been maintained in wonderful condition over the decades. A magnificent monument was created there and dedicated in 1936. Unfortunately the entire site, including the monument, tunnels, trenches etc., are closed as they are under major restoration in preparation for the 90th anniversary of the battle in April 2007.



Behind me in this photo are the trenches that mark the Canadian Front Line at Vimy Ridge. The rusted plate (lower left) was a rifleman's firing site. The small hole provides a place to shoot through while maintaining some protection from enemy fire. It should be noted that the front lines were



I have to confess to being quite disappointed at not being able to see everything up close but I understand the need for the work that is being done. It is my hope that I will be able to participate in the anniversary event next April to stand in for my grandfather who, I am happy to say, lived well into his senior years. It will be an honour to do so.

## Commissionaires Receive Long Service Medals



**Commissionaire Long Service Medal** recipients:  
**Left to right:** Cpl. Tom McVey; CCIW, Comm. Ted Arthurs; RCMP, LCol. Jack Evanoff, OSTJ, Capt. Robert Begin, CD, Comm. Larry Perry: Cambridge By-law, and BGen. Len Salmon CD



On Monday 20 November 2006 Cdr. Robert Williamson CD, Chairman of the Board of Governors, presented four *Commissionaire Long Service Medals* and two Bars to the Medal to members of Hamilton Division. The presentation took place at a dinner held in honour of the recipients at the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce.

The *Commissionaire Long Service Medal* is presented to Commissionaires, including members of the Board of Governors, who have completed a minimum of twelve years of service. Commissionaires Eric Anderson, Bud Bishop, Sid Brougham, Bill Dorks and Gord Peddle were unable to attend the event. They will be presented their medals in the near future.

Congratulations to all recipients. For the rest of us Commissionaires it is an event to look forward to.

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Congratulations as well to the following Commissionaires who received service pins and cash awards since the last newsletter;

**5 year pin and \$100.00** — Comm. Peter Snow,  
**10 year pin and \$200.00** — CWO Harold Reilly, Comm. Jim Workman  
**20 year pin and \$400.00** — Comm. Gordon Boardman

## THE CADET INSTRUCTOR CADRE

### *Training Canada's Leaders of Tomorrow*

Among the most successful youth movements in the history of Canada are the three Cadet organizations, the Royal Canadian Army Cadets, Royal Canadian Sea Cadets and the Royal Canadian Air Cadets. It is a safe bet that many members of Commissionaires Hamilton received their introduction to military uniforms and training as members of a cadet unit.

The oldest, by far, of the three cadet organizations, is the Army Cadets. Drill Associations, as they were then known, date back as far as 1862 when students were formed into volunteer groups to undertake basic military instruction. Officers held commissions in the Militia. Over the decades the organization undertook many changes and today there are several hundred Army Cadet Corps most of



attached to a reserve army regiment.

The Royal Canadian Sea Cadets were formed in the early part of the 20th century and administered by officers who wore RCN uniforms but were not commissioned.



Founded in 1941 the Royal Canadian Air Cadets were formed to provide a large number of semi-trained young men for entry into the RCAF as they came of age. Officers were commissioned as primary RCAF officers. Today, while they wear distinctive uniforms of their respective services, officers of the CIC (Cadet Instructor Cadre) are identified by the wearing of a gold maple leaf cap badge. CIC officers form the largest officer corps in the Canadian Forces numbering between 5000 and 6000 members. Cadet officers are highly trained and qualified. They are incredibly dedicated to their work in training boys and girls aged 12 to 19 in a wide variety of service and community related subjects. The impact that Cadet officers have on the development of skills and character in young people cannot be overstated. They are a vital, often under appreciated part of the Canadian Military.



Several members of Hamilton Division are currently, or have recently been, members of the CIC. We thought you might like to know who they are. Doing great work for youth in their communities are:

- Waheed Al Mahady, CD (NATTCO)** - Captain, 2347 Army Cadets, ASHofC (PL) Hamilton
- Ken Brady, SBStJ, CD (Headquarters)** - Captain, (CO) 1626 Army Cadets, 705 Comm. Sqn. Grimsby
- Ken O'Breza, CD (Halton Schools)** - Captain, (CO) 2379 Army Cadets, RHLI, Burlington
- John Hammill, CD (spare)** - Captain, (CO) 2814 Army Cadets, 23 Service BN, Hamilton
- Marie Bissionnette (St. Catharines Passport)** - 2nd Lieutenant, 68 Army Cadets, Lincoln and Welland Regiment, St. Catharines
- Bruce Jeffrey, CD, (Mohawk)** - 2nd Lieutenant, 62 Squadron Air Cadets, Grimsby
- Jana Vermeulen (Niagara Falls By-law)** - Civilian Instructor, 2966 Army Cadets, 56 Field Artillery Fort Erie
- Joe Disimine (St. Catharines By-law)** - Civilian Instructor, 68 Army Cadets, St. Catharines
- Art Evans, CD (Spare)** - Area Liaison, Army Cadet League of Ontario
- Colonel Jim Forsyth, CStJ, CD (Past Chairman)** - Member, Army Cadet League of Ontario
- Frank Begley, CD (University of Waterloo)** - Captain, now retired after long service in all three cadet corps. He held Commanding Officer appointments in several cadet units in Southern Ontario
- Fred Entwisle, CD (Hamilton Fed. Bldg.)** - Captain (ret'd) at various times CO of 2379 RHLI and 2990 Milton Army Cadets (which he formed)
- Dave Jeffrey, CD (Spare)** - Captain (ret'd) (CO) 23 and 809 Squadrons Air Cadets (total 19+ years) Following retirement at 65 appointed to Ontario Provincial Committee (OPC.) Awarded *Director of The Year* in 2006.

## WELCOME ABOARD

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

**Colin Hutt, Stephanie Logan, Sharon Norwood, Colin Rycroft, Terry Scourfield, Jacqueline Malcolm, Tammy DeVries, Johnny Bissell**



## New Head of School Crossing Appointed in Niagara Falls

Sgt. Jana Vermeulen has been appointed Commissionaire NCO in charge of School Crossing Guards in Niagara Falls. She is shown here receiving her chevrons from CEO Cdr. Fred Lee.

## Headquarters Hours of Operation Holiday Season

Friday, December 22, 2006	08:30 to 16:00
Monday, December 25, 2006	CLOSED
Tuesday, December 26, 2006	CLOSED
Wednesday, December 27, 2006	08:30 to 16:00
Thursday, December 28, 2006	08:30 to 16:00
Friday, December 29, 2006	08:30 to 16:00
Monday, January 01, 2006	CLOSED

NOTE: The duty telephone is to be called in cases of **REAL EMERGENCIES ONLY!** Routine inquiries are to be directed to HQ during regular office hours. Please respect the function of the duty phone and the person who carries it.

## Board of Governors

Past Chairman

**Cmdre. R.T. Bennett, CMM, CD**

Chairman

**Cdr. R.J. Williamson, CD**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairman

**LCol. P.P. Garrick, CD**

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chairman

**Maj. R.W. Nuttall, CD**

Secretary

**BGen. L. Salmon, CD**

Treasurer

**Maj. J. Petozzi CD**

Members

**Col. F.T. Bailey, CD**

**Capt. D.R. Begin, CD**

**LCol. J.A. Evanoff, OSTJ**

**Col. James Forsyth, CSTJ, CD**

**LCol. G. Frid, CD, PESM**

## Headquarters Staff

Commandant & CEO

**Cdr. Fred Lee, OSTJ, CD**

Director of Operations

**Capt. John Livingstone, CD**

Manager of Operations

**CWO Tom Lee, CD**

Training Manager

**MWO Jim Farrauto, CD**

Dispatcher

**Sgt. Wally Trapler, PESM**

Finance Manager

**Patricia Bachor**

Administration Manager

**MWO Ken Brady, SBStJ, CD**

Fingerprinting & ID Manager

**Sgt. Bill McBride SBStJ**

Administration Clerk

**Cpl. Rick Gallant, CD**

## *The Corpsrespondent*

Is the Newsletter of

**Commissionaires**

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Editor, **Sgt. Bill McBride SBStJ**

## ST. CATHARINES BY-LAW STEPS OUT PROUDLY

There is an old but particularly profound piece of advice that is useful for all of us that ‘we should never pass judgement upon someone until we have walked in their shoes.’ I don’t know if the quote is precisely correct but the meaning certainly is. Recently St. Catharines By-law Commissionaires participated in *The Men’s March to End Family Violence*, and most of them did it wearing women’s shoes! The event was held as a fund-raiser for a new facility being converted from an old school building. Called *Women’s Place Safe Haven* the new shelter will provide shelter for women and children against the horrors of family violence.

Although St. Catharines By-law received the pledge forms for sponsorship only a day or so prior to the event they still managed to raise over **twelve-hundred dollars**. Commissionaire Mike O’Sullivan accounted for some **six-hundred dollars** of the total.



Chris Stopani-Thomson, Darik VanderMeer, Ivan Hawerchuk, Joe Disimine, Sgt Tony Bilotta (front) Tim Kenyon (rear,) Mike O’Sullivan and Martin Johnson don ladies footwear and show a little leg for their **Men’s March to End Family Violence**



Sincere congratulations to all members of St. Catharines By-law for their exceptional contribution to such a worthy cause. Your Generosity and enthusiasm reflect the very best spirit of The Corps of Commissionaires.

Sgt. Tony Bilotta backed into a puddle of water while snapping this photo giving his team good cause for a chuckle. He was wearing a pair of ladies shoes at the time.