



The Corpsrespondent

NEWSLETTER OF THE HAMILTON DIVISON

WINTER 2022/23

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- ◆ Chair's Message 2
- ◆ From the CEO's Desk 2
- ◆ Dieppe Memorial 3
- ◆ Remembrance Day 2022 4
- ◆ Remembrance Day 2022 (Cont'd) 5
- ◆ Annual Awards Dinner 6
- ◆ Annual Awards Dinner (Cont'd) 7
- ◆ Recent Job Fairs 8
- ◆ RED Friday 9
- ◆ Service Recognition 10
- ◆ Last Post 10

*Best Wishes to you and yours
during the Holiday Season*



*From the Staff of
Commissionaires Hamilton*



From the
Chair

Merry Christmas from the Chair -

It's that crazy season again! It's the season of 'too much'— too much food, shopping, traffic, shortages and cheer! Too little patience, money, time and energy!

I understand that not everyone feels joy, peace or happiness during the Christmas season and not everyone follows the traditional reason for the season. But, whatever brings you happiness or a few precious moments of peace, that is my wish for you!

Winter and all of its furry will soon be upon us. Have a safe, happy and restful holiday season, however you find it! Please be safe and know that I am grateful for *you* and your efforts this year on behalf the Commissionaires Hamilton.

From all members of our Board of Directors, and from me and my family – best wishes to you and yours.

Merry Christmas, God Bless,
Happy Holiday and Peace to you.

Glenna Swing, Chair



The CEO's
Desk

It's the most wonderful time of the year! And what a whirlwind of a year it was. Between shaking off the effects of the pandemic and getting back to a "new normal", to welcoming several new faces to the HQ support team, to recognizing everyone's hard work from 2021 with an historic payroll disbursement, it has been a time of great change for the organization.

Traditionally, this time of year has always been a time of giving thanks, remembering, and sharing joy with others. We certainly have many things to be thankful for, but I am personally most thankful for all of the support, hard work and personal messages of congratulations that you have been kind enough to share with me. As we move forward together into 2023, there are many exciting and interesting things planned to show our appreciation for everything you do (including our centennial baton visit in February, which you can read more about further inside), so keep an eye out for those emails from our hardworking HQ team.

We also take time to remember the sacrifices of those who came before us, and who paid the ultimate price to ensure that we enjoy all of the freedoms that we do. Many of our staff members volunteer their time to attend Remembrance Day services throughout southern Ontario, and you can see these images within this newsletter. Our serving veterans are always in our thoughts, and our current veteran employees are certainly appreciated as well.

Finally, the joy that we share during this time of year is often tinged with sadness as we realize that there are friends, family and loved ones who cannot join us. We recognize that the holidays can be a difficult time emotionally, and we understand that these types of challenges can affect us in many ways. Please feel free to reach out if you are encountering any type of difficulty, and we will always do our best to provide support.

We are more than security, and we're here to help others in any way that we can.

Happy holidays to you and your loved ones from everyone at Commissionaires Hamilton.

Commissionaires Hamilton veteran staff members from HQ attended the Dieppe memorial on August 19, 2022, to honour the 582 soldiers of the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry who took part in the Raid of Dieppe in France 80 years ago. The lessons learned during this battle proved invaluable in planning for the D Day invasion. The memorial was dedicated to those veterans in 2003.



Pictured from l to r: CEO Don Thompson, Director of Operations Gunter Vuegen, Regimental Sergeant Major of the RHLI Gerald Fraser, Honorary LCol of the RHLI (and Board Chair) Glenna Swing, Director of HR Rick Luden, Admin. Manager Ken Brady, and Account Manager William Wilton.

Operation Jubilee or the **Dieppe Raid** (19 August 1942) was an Allied amphibious attack on the German-occupied port of Dieppe in northern France, during the Second World War. Over 6,050 infantry, predominantly Canadian, supported by a regiment of tanks, were put ashore from a naval force operating under protection of Royal Air Force (RAF) fighters.

The port was to be captured and held for a short period, to test the feasibility of a landing and to gather intelligence. German coastal defenses, port structures and important buildings were to be demolished. The raid was intended to boost Allied morale, demonstrate the commitment of the United Kingdom to re-open the Western Front and support the Soviet Union, fighting on the Eastern Front.

Aerial and naval support was insufficient to enable the ground forces to achieve their objectives; the tanks were trapped on the beach and the infantry was largely prevented from entering the town by obstacles and German fire. After less than six hours, mounting casualties forced a retreat. The operation was a fiasco in which only one landing force achieved its objective and some intelligence including electronic intelligence was gathered.

Within ten hours, 3,623 of the 6,086 men who landed had been killed, wounded or became prisoners of war. The Luftwaffe made a maximum effort against the landing as the RAF had expected, but the RAF lost 106 aircraft (at least 32 to anti-aircraft fire or accidents) against 48 German losses. The Royal Navy lost 33 landing craft and a destroyer.

Both sides learned important lessons regarding coastal assaults. The Allies learned lessons that influenced the success of the D-Day landings. Artificial harbours were declared crucial, tanks were adapted specifically for beaches, a new integrated tactical air force strengthened ground support, and capturing a major port at the outset was no longer seen as a priority. Churchill and Mountbatten both claimed that these lessons had outweighed the cost. The Germans also believed that Dieppe was a learning experience and made a considerable effort to improve the way they defended the occupied coastlines of Europe.

Oblique aerial photograph of Dieppe
taken in June 1945, showing the Red beach.





Remembrance Day Ceremonies – 2022

In the days leading up to and including November 11, there are numerous ceremonies and activities, large and small, that take place across the country to commemorate the ultimate sacrifice of those who have fallen in the service of our country, and to acknowledge the courage of those who still serve.

Each year, members of the HQ staff represent Commissionaires Hamilton throughout southern Ontario, laying wreaths and taking the time to remember our fallen heroes, in accordance with our very reason for existence. Shown below are these members in their respective communities ensuring that we never forget the importance of this day, above all others.



(Left) Sgt Carl Caron (Detachment Comd - NRP HQ) at the St. Catharines Service.



(Upper Right) Peter Wobschall (Training and Compliance Manager) attended the service at Stoney Creek.

(Lower Right) Administration Manager Ken Brady represented Commissionaires at Canadian Warplane Heritage.



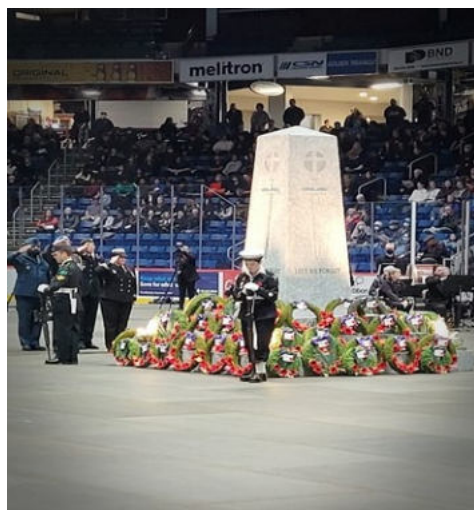
Santa has a gift for the first 10 people who write to him! Simply send the word that Santa has spelled out in the newsletter to the CEO at dthompson@commissionaires.ca and receive your Holiday Gift! Thank you for everything you do!



Pictured above (l to r) are Cmre Tom Hubley in Burlington who served with Medical Services; and Director of Operations Gunter Vuegen in Cambridge, who served in the Belgian Air Force for 25 years.



Pictured at left is the Commissionaire wreath in Kitchener and to the right is our CEO Don Thompson with his son William in front of the Kitchener cenotaph. They also attended the indoor service in Guelph, pictured below.



Hamilton Division held its annual awards dinner on November 17. Five members were awarded Long Service Medals, ten earned their first Long Service bar, one earned their second Bar and one earned their third Long Service bar. The final award of the night was the Commandant's Commendation, the highest honour within the Division, which was awarded to Cmre Ted Arthurs and Sgt. Dave Jeffery. Their life-saving actions that earned them this honour were certainly worthy of recognition.



Cmre Ted Arthurs receives the Commandant's Commendation from the Chair of the Board, and RCMP Sgt (Ret.) Dave Binkley.



Sgt. Dave Jeffery receives his Commandant's Commendation from the Chair of the Board.



Pictured above is Cmre Ivan Hawerchuk (MSOC) with Account Manager Victoria Sita and Cmre Ranjit Gill, who both received their 1st bar for the CLSM signifying 17 years of service with the Corps.



Pictured above is Cmre Paul Gionomo receiving his CLSM award from the Chair of the Board.



Pictured to the right is Cmre Robert Kappel being presented his Long Service Medal by Account Manager William Wilton. Due to work commitments, Robert was unable to attend the dinner



Long Service Medal Recipients:

Commissionaire Paul Gionomo
Commissionaire Robert Kappel
Commissionaire Stephen Portelance
Commissionaire Tom Ramm, CD
Mr. Larry Will, MStJ, CD

1st bar to the Long Service Medal:

Major Joseph Petozzi OStJ, CD
Sergeant Heather Brady, CD
Commissionaire James Curry
Commissionaire Ranjit Gill
Commissionaire Thomas Hacking, CD
Commissionaire Ivan Hawerchuk
Commissionaire Bruce Jeffrey, CD
Commissionaire Robert Perdok, CD
Commissionaire Nigel Purvis
Commissionaire John Young

2nd bar to the Long Service Medal:

Chief Warrant Officer Ken Brady MStJ, CD

3rd bar to the Long Service Medal:

Commissionaire Ted Arthurs

Commandant's Commendation:

Commissionaire Ted Arthurs
Sgt Dave Jeffery

Commissionaires Distinguished Service Medal:

LCol Michael McKay, MStJ, CD, AdeC - Past Board Chair





Commissionaires Hamilton recently participated in 2 job fairs; the first in Hamilton, the second in Cambridge.

Pictured above are Gunter Vuegen, Director of Operations, Account Manager Will Wilton and Corporal Martha Dadia manning the booth at the Hamilton Job Fair.



To the left is Account Manager Wil Wilton and Commissionaire Ranjit Gill answering questions at the Cambridge Job Fair.



Don Thompson, CEO

It came to my attention recently that not everyone may be aware of the significance of R.E.D. (Remember Everyone Deployed) Friday. In 2006, Canada adopted the tradition of wearing red on Fridays, as red is the prominent color in the country's flag. Canadian military spouses Lisa Miller and Karen Boier organized an event and rallied many of their fellow countrymen to show up wearing red. These smaller events gained momentum until Prime Minister Stephen Harper organized a larger rally in support of troops deploying to the Middle East.

The initiative eventually crossed the border into the US after a former Marine, Lloyd Hofmeister, participated in the Canadian R.E.D. Friday and saw its potential in the States. He started redshirtfriday.org to explain the initiative and sell red shirts where some of the profits would be donated to programs to help veterans find homes.

Commissionaires even have a special red slip on for their uniform that some divisions wear on Fridays.



According to new data from the census, in the spring of 2021, 97,625 Canadians were counted as serving in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and 461,240 were counted as Veterans. These men and women are regularly deployed around the world, and I encourage you to think about them and their families, especially during the holiday season.



Santa has a gift for the first 10 people who write to him! Simply send the word that Santa has spelled out in the newsletter to the CEO at dthompson@commissionaires.ca and receive your Holiday Gift! Thank you for everything you do!

Recognition of Service

5 Years Service: Melissa Sterling; Geoff VanGinkle; Mandy Stelling; Tom Hubley.

10 Years Service: Reg Garon.

15 Years Service: Kirk Richardson; Matt Finch

20 Years Service: Arnold Schofield;

Last Post

It is with a sad heart that we announce the passing of the following Commissioners:

Commissionaire Kerry Larmet, CD; Commissionaire Larmet was with the Hamilton Division from April 2002 until Jan 2019 working in the capacity of Division Spare. Kerry passed away on 26 August 2022

Commissionaire Paul Moss, Paul was with the Hamilton Division from October 2003 until July 2013. He worked at Mohawk College throughout his time with us. Paul passed away September 19, 2022.

Commissionaire Kevin Taylor; Kevin started in the Division in June of 1996 working at Mohawk College, Hamilton Fed Bldg. Kevin left the Division in August 2014 to look after his wife Delores who was dealing with a lengthy illness. Kevin returned to the Division in January of 2019 going back to the Hamilton Federal Building. He served 5 years with HMCS Star in Hamilton. Kevin was killed in a Hit and Run while out for a walk at his weekend trailer on 25 September 2022.

Commissionaire Stephen Portelance; Stephen started work May of 2009 as a Spare and with St. Catharines By-Law. He went on to other endeavor's in 2015 but returned in 2016 working at various sites such as Garden City Towers, Energex and NRP HQ. Prior to working with Commissionaires Hamilton Stephen worked with Commissionaires Great Lakes. Stephen served in the RCN in the 1980's. Stephen passed away on 29 November 2022.

As you might know, Commissionaires Hamilton has won the 2023 Consumers' Choice Award for "Best Security Guard Services" for the Greater Hamilton & Niagara Region. This makes us an 8-year in a row CCA winner!

The CCA is unique in that winners are not chosen by a panel of judges but by consumers themselves. Recipients of the CCA represent "Best in Class Businesses" in the quality of their service, value, professionalism, and integrity.

We will be launching several branding initiatives with CCA in the upcoming months, and one of them is a branding video that we have worked on over the past few weeks.



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