



SEAFORTH HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER JULY 2016

SEAFORTH ARMOURY REOPENING!

JOIN US FOR OP HIGHLAND HOMECOMING SEPTEMBER 24TH

It is a moment that many have looked forward to for a long time. After four years of renovations the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada will return home to the Seaforth Armoury. On September 24th, 2016 the regiment will have an official reopening ceremony that will include the following events:

- A Parade from Jericho to Seaforth Armoury
- A ceremony to reopen the Armoury
- A ceremony to rededicate the Regimental Colour with the newly emblazoned AFGHANISTAN battle honour
- A tattoo including performances by the Seaforth Pipes and Drums, Vancouver Police Pipe Band
- A Ceilidh in the Anderson Room and messes



The armoury has been closed for extensive renovations to bring the building up to current earthquake safety codes. It has also been updated to provide better training areas for the regiment. The armoury will also have new neighbours with the opening of the Major General Bertram Meryl Hoffmeister Building which has been

built behind the Armoury on 1st Ave. The Hoffmeister Building will house the units from the recently surplused Jericho Garrison including 39 Canadian Brigade Group Headquarters, 39 Signals Regiment, and 12 Field Ambulance. The day's events will also include a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Hoffmeister Building.



Message from the President

Greetings Seaforths! First of all, the Vimy Memorial Service and Reunion Dinner 2016! To call it a resounding success would be to sell it short. We probably had greater attendance than we have had in over three decades, especially in the serving Seaforth demographic. Thank you to all the members whose efforts made it such a great event, despite logistical and venue difficulties. We owe a special thanks to Mr. Rick Ciccone; Rick, your tireless efforts and zeal paid off, big time!

Since we will be back in Seaforth Armoury for next year, the extremely historic 100th anniversary, I am positive our dinner will continue to be successful. We hope the dinner will continue to grow in attendance and be the most memorable association event of the year! The Vimy Dinner date for 2017 has now been set for 1 April 2017, so mark your calendars now for what will be a huge event back at the armoury! (continued on next page)

Message from the President (continued from page 1)

Our AGM in May was well attended, with myself and the rest of the executive committee retaining our positions for one more year. I would like to welcome our four new directors at large. I feel with such a broad mix of skills and experience we should be a vital and invested directorship for an exciting year to come!

The regiment had its stand down, on 28 May, where the Association once again hosted a family BBQ following the always exciting "Fittest Seaforth" competition! This year's fittest Seaforth is Pte Plett who's family name may be familiar to some.

Cabar Feidh! Josh Muir

Two Seaforths in France for Battle of the Somme Centennial

The battle of the Somme began on the 1st of July 1916 at 7:30am. This massive attack led by the British was set to relieve pressure on the French to the south at Verdun. This battle would carry on for nearly five months and while Canadians did not officially join the battle until August, Dominion of Newfoundland soldiers were there for its bloody beginning. On the 1st of July 1916 the British suffered roughly 60,000 casualties, the highest single day casualty count in British military history. Promptly at 7:30am, The Royal Newfoundland Regiment assaulted the German line near the village of Beaumont-Hamel. Within half an hour they had suffered over 700 casualties, effectively wiping out this unit and nearly an entire generation of Newfoundlanders. Only 68 all ranks were able to answer the roll call the following morning. By the end of the Battle of the Somme Allied Casualties were estimated at 623,907, with 24,000 of them Canadian and over 700 Newfoundlanders. The Allies had gained no more than 10km over a 35km front. German losses were estimated at 660,000 and they came to refer to the battle as *das Blutbad*—the blood bath.

During this battle, on the morning of August 13th, the 72nd Battalion CEF arrived in France with 40 officers and



Cpl Uren marches off the monument at Beaumont Hamel, as His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales looks on.

1015 men. The Seaforths cut their teeth in the Somme doing trench raids and holding their part of the line at the Battle of Courcellette. It was a taste for what was to come at the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

From June 29th to July 4th 2016 it was my honour and privilege to represent the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada at

the ceremonies commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, in France. The Seaforth Highlanders of Canada participated with a number of other Canadian Regiments. It goes without saying that this was one of the most honourable moments of my military career. Corporal Daniel Uren from the

Seaforth Pipes and Drums was also on the trip as our piper for the events. The two key ceremonies were the Centennial of the Battle of Beaumont-Hamel on July 1st and the memorial for the battle of Courcelette on July 2nd.

Driving through Northeastern France, you still see a lot of smaller villages and towns surrounded by farm fields and modern windmills. At first it was hard to grasp the nature of what happened here 100 years ago, until we started passing small war cemeteries for several different nations, just one after the other. Our first ceremony was on July 1st in Beaumont-Hamel. With white belts and bayonets fixed, a guard lined the walkway to the front of the memorial. A cenotaph guard also stood watch below the great bronze caribou atop the memorial, a symbol of Royal Newfoundland Regiment. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales accompanied by the Duchess of Cornwall attended the ceremony and were greeted by a present arms. The drill was crisp and sharp as the guards focused on doing it right for those who suffered so much 100 years ago to the day. It was a humbling experience.



Cpl Yorston and Cpl Uren in France



Cpl Yorston presents arms for His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales

Though the Battle of Courcelette took place later in the Somme campaign, the contingent held a less formal ceremony at the Courcelette Memorial on July 2nd. This ceremony was more memorable for many of us because our regiments held a personal stake in Courcelette.

July 3rd was set aside to visit other sites in the area. In typical army fashion we took the opportunity to visit as many historical sites as possible in one day. At Beaumont Hamel, we did a quick walking tour of the trenches on both sides, and visited the 'danger tree', the spot where the last of the Newfoundlanders regrouped on that bloody day. Later we revisited the memorial Courcelette and a couple of war cemeteries relating to the battle, before we had the opportunity to visit the memorial at Vimy Ridge.

Vimy is arguably the most moving war memorial in the world and bears the names of 11,285 Canadians who were killed in France and whose final resting

places are unknown. Words cannot fully describe the mood that overtook us as we approached the iconic memorial. There is no escaping what it is for. Though our visit was brief, you could tell everyone was forever moved by their encounter.

We finished off the day visiting the cemetery of Cabaret Rouge, holding nearly 7,600 graves, including many who lost their lives at Vimy Ridge. I saw many Seaforth graves there and I couldn't help but say "tulloch ard" and "caber feidh gu brath" as I passed them.

I am challenged to put this experience into a few words. I could go on for ages and would be happy to share the experience in the mess. If there's one thing that will stay with me from of all the memorials I have now seen, it is 'Their name shall liveth forevermore'.

- Kyle Yorston

News from 72nd Cadet Corps



Minister of Defense the Honorable Harjit Sajjan with Seaforth Cadets

Cadets of the 72nd Seaforth Corps have had a stellar year, full of many

accomplishments, both collective and individual, of which we all can be proud. Notably, WO Sophie Vogel-Nakamura received national attention for her exceptional achievements in physical fitness, winning the prestigious Colonel Robert Perron Award as a result. This is the first time in six years the Award has been won by a cadet in British Columbia!

The 72nd cadets also participated in the April 10 Vimy Memorial ceremony at Mountain View Cemetery, with our own CWO Ezra Johnson leading the parade of hundreds of cadets from the Vancouver area. The event was also attended by Canada's Minister of National Defence, Harjit Sajjan.

- Sherry Seganfredo

New Committee Members for the Association

In May the Annual General Meeting of the Association was held. Four new directors at large were added to the committee. The committee would like to thank Rick Ciccone who is leaving the committee this year, for his indefatigable service to the Seaforths. Your Executive Committee for 2017 is

President: Josh Muir

Treasurer: Kent Fabian

Secretary: Patrick Farrell

Members at Large:

Rod Hoffmiester

Neil McRae

Dave Mitchell

John O'Connor

Bob Best

Yuri Miljivich-LaRoche

Vimy 2016 a Huge Success

On Saturday, April 2nd, 2016, the association hosted the annual Vimy Memorial and Reunion Dinner. Held again at the Bessborough Armoury, home of 15 Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery, our hosts were happy to accommodate us for one final year (hopefully) before the regiment moves home to the Seaforth Armoury this fall.

This year marks the Association's most successful Vimy to date, with a record number of attendees. 183 people attended; a far cry from the approximately 70 back in 2013. We also had a record number of serving members at the dinner this year with 74 all ranks compared to 49 in 2014.

During the memorial parade we had occasion to use the Vimy Cross replica for the second year. The original cross is now kept in the regiment's lines at the Jericho Garrison awaiting a new round of conservation. As with every year, the cross served as the focal point for the drum head service, which was performed by Association Padre Neil McRae.

We were very fortunate to have BGen McKenzie with us this year as a special guest. As a former colonel of the regiment, BGen McKenzie is currently the most senior serving Seaforth, and we were happy to have him address this year's attendees.

The Association executive was very pleased to award this year's Fairweather Shield to Sgt (ret) Doug Newton. Doug served with the regiment for over 30 years and trained many of the leaders who now run the regiment. His tireless efforts with the regiment and with the association, have been a great service to the regimental family.

As the dinner concluded the guests retired to the Bessborough Officer's Mess and all were treated to a display of skill and ability by the Pipes and Drums. Whiskey flowed, stories were told and all left with smiles on their faces.

A heartfelt thank you to all those who made this year the huge success that it was, and we look forward to next year's dinner and the next chance to catch up with friends, old and new. ● Kent Fabian



New! Blue Regimental Polo Shirt \$40

Upcoming Events

Highland Homecoming

24 September 2016

Location: The Seaforth Armoury
1650 Burrard St
Vancouver

On 24 September the Seaforth Armoury will reopen and the regiment will march back to our old home. Events will include:

- Parade from Jericho Garrison to Seaforth Armoury
- Ribbon Cutting at the Major General Bertram Meryl Hoffmeister Building
- Ceremony rededicating the Armoury
- Ceremony consecrating the Afghanistan battle honour

The Association will be on parade for the rededication ceremony. Please come out to support this event and see the many changes to our regimental home.

Remembrance Day

11 November 2016

Location: The Seaforth Armoury
and Cenotaph

The Association will have a bus laid on again this year to take members from the Seaforth Armoury to Victory Square and return to unit. If there is interest, association Padre Neill McRae can also conduct a ceremony at the Armoury for those that are not able to attend downtown. The Seaforth Association had a good presence last year. We encourage all Seaforth veterans to take their place in this contingent and let everyone know that we remember.

Ortona Dinner

10 December 2016

Location: The Seaforth Armoury

The Annual Ortona Dinner will return to the parade square of the Seaforth Armoury this year. The traditional dinner will be held complete with cam net decorations, a performance by the Seaforth Pipes and Drums, and a menu inspired by what the soldiers ate at that fateful meal 73 years ago.

100th Vimy Memorial Service and Regimental Reunion Dinner

1 April 2017

Location: Seaforth Armoury

The Vimy Dinner is quickly becoming one of the best regimental events of the year. The new Chair of the Vimy Dinner Committee, Ryan Define is dedicated to making this event even better. The event will start at 1500 with a memorial service to remember our fallen Seaforths, complete with a vigil guard of serving members mounted around the Vimy Cross. There will then be a brief reception at 1600, followed by dinner at 1700. While all the elements of a formal mess dinner are included, the format has been relaxed so that we do not bore our guests. Please feel free to invite a guest and give them a chance to experience the Seaforth family.

Last Post

The Association regrets to announce the passing of the following Seaforths in the last year:

William Ernest Watson (88) Service in Cold War

Joseph Wilfred Laurier (91) Service in WWII

Stewart William Elliott (72) Service in Cold War

David Richard Rolfe (84) Patrons Corps

Norman Safarik (98) Service in WWII

Orville "Ollie" Hamilton (89) service in WWII & Cold War

Wayne Bergunder (62) service in Cold War

Barbara Elaine LEWIS (91) 135 Challenger Squadron
Air Cadets



"Having served with you in strange places, in peaceful days and in the stench of war, it has been my greatest privilege to have known your courage and your brave unselfishness, to have been your friend."

-Padre Durnford

2016 Bursary Program

The association is pleased to announce the 2016 bursary program. This year there will be three bursaries, two \$500 association bursaries and the \$1000 John Conway Memorial Bursary.

To be eligible candidates must be serving members of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada or members of a Seaforth Cadet Corps. Application details are available at SeaforthHighlanders.ca

Name that Seaforth

The Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Museum and Archives has hundreds of photos that have recently been digitized in order to help preserve the history of the regiment and make it more accessible. The next step is trying to identify who is in the pictures and what was happening when they were taken. We need your help putting names to faces and events. Can you name these Seaforths?



Who are these guys making a stop at the Moose Lodge in Snoqualmie?



Did anyone attend this party in the Junior Ranks Mess?



Anybody know who is digging this hole?

Send info about these pictures to
Seaforthassoc@gmail.com

Regimental Senior Appointments

Colonel-in-Chief

HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

Honorary Colonel

HCol Michael Shields

Honorary Lieutenant Colonel

HLCol Rod Hoffmeister

Commanding Officer

LCol Paul Ursich

Regimental Sergeant Major

CWO John O'Connor

Regimental Association Appointments

President of the Association

Josh Muir

Treasurer

Kent Fabian

Secretary

Patrick Farrell

Directors at Large

Rod Hoffmeister	John O'Connor
Neil McRae	Bob Best
Dave Mitchell	Yuri Miljivich-LaRoche

Contact Information

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Regimental Association

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The Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Orderly Room

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Regimental Association Kit Shop

Email: seaforthassoc@gmail.com

Facebook Page: Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Kitshop

Twitter: @SeaforthKitshop

Clothing

Blazer Crests.....	\$30
Baseball Caps Navy Blue.....	\$15
Fishing Hats.....	\$15
New! T Shirt Blue (Small to XL).....	\$20
New! Regimental Polo Shirt, Blue.....	\$40
Stormtech Jacket (Navy Blue).....	\$40
Regimental Tie, Polyester.....	\$30
Diced Hose.....	\$100
Tartan Hose.....	\$100
New! Low Profile Infantry Glengarry.....	\$125

Jewellery

Junior Ranks Cap Badge.....	\$15
Cap Badge Officers (white brass).....	\$80
Cap Badge WOs, and Sgts (white brass).....	\$60
Cap Badge WOs, and Sgts (Sterling Silver).....	Out of Stock
Cap Badge Officers (Sterling Silver).....	Out of Stock
Regimental Ring (Sterling Silver).....	\$75
Seaforth Lapel Pin (Enamelled Blue Shield).....	\$3
Canadian Flag Lapel Pin.....	\$1
Tie Tacks, (Sterling Silver Small).....	\$25
Tie Tacks, (Sterling Silver Large).....	\$30
Ladies Broach.....	\$65
(Sterling Silver Miniature Officer's cap badge on tartan rosette)	

Miscellaneous

Flask with Engraved Seaforth Crest.....	\$50
Zippo Lighter Engraved with Crest.....	\$40
Ice Buckets, Drum w/Regt. Battle Honours.....	\$20
Seaforth Crest Sticker.....	\$2
Regimental History (1919 - 1965) by R.H. Roy.....	\$35
DVD Return to Agira Op Husky 2013.....	\$20
Smokey Smith Print.....	\$5

Note: All items are subject to availability

**Let us know what you think of the new newsletter!
Email us or leave a comment in the Facebook group.**