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A Message from the Editor

This edition of the Essex and Kent Association Newsletter is marked by a series of remembrances and commemorations that remind us of the selfless sacrifices of those who put themselves in harm's way for the liberation of many and the freedom of all.

In this edition you will travel to the Dieppe Memorial in Dieppe Gardens right here in Windsor, Ontario. You also will discover new memorials to the sacrifices made during the Dieppe Raid. You will then journey to Dieppe, France and Ekeren, Belgium where you will be reminded of those who wore the uniform before us and how they brought freedom to many people when Canadians liberated their towns and villages from Nazi tyranny.

And finally we will journey inward and remember that, since our last Newsletter, we have lost a number of friends and supporters who have gone to their eternal rest. This includes our Honourary Colonel Joseph "Joe" Ouellette. These people too will be remembered for their selfless service to our Regiment and our world. We will remember them.

Semper Paratus

Kim Gilliland

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held on 14 November 2024 beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Ansell Armoury in Chatham. All members are invited to attend and as we review the past year and plan for events in the coming year.



A Tribute to HCol Joseph Ouellette



It was with great sadness that the Essex and Kent Scottish Regimental family learned of the death of HCol Joseph Ouellette 27 September 2024.

Although he never served in the CAF HCol Ouellette had a record of long and distinguished service with the Regiment. He was a member of the E&K Association and Delta Company and participated in many of the Regiments annual ceremonies and events. His dedication led to him being appointed to the position of Honourary Lieutenant-Colonel in 2018 where he served for four years until his appointment to Honourary Colonel in 2022.

In his role as Honourary Colonel he orchestrated the launch of Maple Scholar, a program linking local colleges, the military and employers with the goal of recognizing military leadership training for the purpose of admissions into post-secondary education institutions. This initiative focused on helping army reserve junior leaders to benefit from their military training and further their education, while bringing added value to their employers. As Honourary Colonel

he was also the primary point of contact with the regiment's Colonel-in-Chief, HRH Prince Michael of Kent, at Kensington Palace and was the lead host for HRH during the Change of Colours ceremony in May 2023.

In his civilian life, HCol Ouellette worked in the Acrolab, the family business, where he eventually became President and CEO. In the early 2000s, Joe was appointed as the first Executive-in-Residence of the Odette School of Business at the University of Windsor. He was actively involved in the local business community and engaged with the Windsor Economic Development Commission. He championed the initiative with the Polish Canadian Business and Professional Association in the creation and development of the present partnership between Windsor and Lublin resulting in the successful twinning agreement between the two cities in 1999. He also was a co-founder of the Windsor Association of Mold Makers, now the Canadian Association of Mold Makers (CAMM) and served on the Association board for many years. Joe was also a member of The Windsor Club, Pointe West Golf Club and Chevalier (Knight) of the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem (SMOTJ).

A funeral mass will be held at St. John Vianney Church in Windsor on Friday, October 4th, 2024. HCol Joe Ouellette will be fondly remember and greatly missed by the Regimental family.



82nd Anniversary of Dieppe “Operation Jubilee”

19 August 2024 marked the 82nd anniversary of Operation Jubilee, known locally simply as the Dieppe Raid. Eighty-one years ago, nearly 5,000 Canadians stormed the beaches of the French coastal town of Dieppe to test the German defences. Of those who landed that morning, 3,367 Canadian soldiers were killed, wounded or taken prisoner. Only 51 of the 553 Essex Scottish who landed on Red Beach returned to England that day which represented an astonishing 90% casualty rate. This raid impacted virtually every family in Windsor Essex.

Although there are no surviving members of the raid left, their sacrifice will not be forgotten. We will continue this annual commemoration and seek to be as faithful to King and country as they were.

80th Anniversary of the Liberation of Dieppe



On a warm and sunny Sunday of 01 September 2024, the quiet streets of Dieppe, France were awakened by the sound of bagpipes approaching, descending down the Avenue des Canadiens. Many of the residents were already up and about in expectation as Dieppe was celebrating the 80th anniversary of its liberation by the Essex Scottish Regiment on 01 September 1944, when the Regiment returned once again to Dieppe after the disastrous Raid of 19 August 1942, where the Regiment was decimated, suffering 90% casualties in killed, missing or taken prisoner.

On 01 September 1944, they marched into Dieppe, led by their Pipes and Drums, and liberated the town, and on this 80th anniversary, the Regiment was invited to re-create that historic day. By the time the parade reached the downtown area near the City Hall and Memorial square, the streets were filled with people, young and old alike, many carrying miniature Canadian flags. Canadian flags flew from the windows of residences and business all around town.



As the sounds of the Pipes and Drums echoed among the narrow streets and old buildings, the sound of applause grew louder. One could not help feeling very proud to be a Canadian and to witness the reverence and respect our soldiers received that day. After formalities, anthems and speeches from various dignitaries, including the Regiment's Colonel-in-Chief, Prince Michael of Kent, the parade marched off to City Hall Square where citizens and soldiers mingled and the town put on a "champagne" reception.

That afternoon the Regiment paraded once again in the nearby town of Pourville-sur-Mer, where Canadians had also landed on August 19, 1942. A civic ceremony was held, packed with townspeople and visitors, with the emphasis on involving the young people of the community. It was very apparent that this part of France takes the legacy of remembrance very seriously, especially with regards to the Canadian soldiers who fought and died in this area for their freedom. The Pipes and Drums led a parade of dignitaries and townspeople to an oceanside reception where the Band entertained the crowd. Later that evening Prince Michael dined with the troops at their barracks and was presented the bar to his CD by LCol Prentice.

The morning of 02 September 2024 the Regiment paraded again on the beachfront esplanade of Dieppe, stopping at the Regiment's Memorial, where a short service was held to commemorate the members of the Regiment who died on that beach on 19 August 1942. HRH Prince Michael spoke and laid a wreath at the foot of the monument in their memory.

That afternoon the Pipes and Drums and the Regiment formed up once again at City Hall Square, where they were joined by approximately 400 Grade 5/6 students, notwithstanding that it was their first day of school! The Band and the Regiment then led this huge parade of students, teachers and chaperones through the streets of the "old downtown" that culminated at Canada Square, a memorial park not far from the beachfront, where they had their collective photo taken with Prince Michael and the members of the Regiment.

It was very heartwarming to see the level of respect and gratitude shown to our Canadian soldiers by the townspeople and children of Dieppe. Having lived through the ravages of war and occupation in their own cities, towns and villages, they have a genuine connection to the brave Canadians who fought and died to secure their freedom many years ago. With so many monuments, cemeteries and even rubble still evident from those times perhaps it is much easier for them to remember than it is for us in Canada, but let us learn from their dedication to this history... lest WE forget.



Pat Coughlin
E&K Scottish Regiment Association

Dennis Poole
Delta Company, E&K Scot



Remembering Dieppe at Branch 594

Following the Dieppe Memorial Service at the Windsor Dieppe Memorial Gardens on 19 August 2024 around 90 people traveled to Royal Canadian Legion Branch 594 to witness the unveiling of two important Dieppe memorials. The first was mural by a local artist, Nicole Hutchinson. This mural is located over the doors of the Dieppe Room at Branch 594. It depicts the involvement of the army, navy, and airforce that participated in the Dieppe raid.



The second memorial was the Dieppe Wall which is located on the back wall of the entrance hallway. It is a series of storyboards containing pictures of various Dieppe veterans, and a picture of the famous nursing sister, Sister Agnes, who provided medical assistance to our Canadian on the Dieppe Beach. There is another picture (not shown here) which shows the artists rendition of the battle as seen from above the beach. The unveilings were followed by a light lunch.



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In Memoriam

Since the last newsletter, we have lost a number of friends and members of the Association. Among them are Pat Harding, Jim Stokes, Don Oliphant, Cathy MacDonald, Joseph Ouellette and Robert Winand. We continue to honour those who have gone from our midst and we remember them.





Remembering Ekeren



A contingent of the Essex and Kent Scottish Regiment traveled to the town of Ekeren, Belgium also celebrated its liberation eighty years ago. Captain Eric Willson, Corporal Michael Lenhart, and Corporal Grant Hill (Piper) took part in two official ceremonies on 05 October 2024.

The first ceremony was the unveiling of a plaque and commemorative bench that tell the story of a V2 rocket that landed on a Mobile Bath Unit on 14 October 1944, killing twelve Canadian servicemen and wounding many others. Twelve family members of men who were either killed or survived the blast were also in attendance from Canada. Capt Willson and Corp Lenhart, laid flowers at the ceremony, while Corp Hill joined a Belgian piper and drummer in providing some solemn music for the event.

Next, a parade featuring a number of WWII vehicles and period-dressed re-enactors led the crowd (and carried our soldiers in a jeep) to Canadezenplein, the memorial park commemorated five years ago with HCol Ouellette and Essex Scottish veteran Roy Hare. The liberation celebration ceremonies had an emphasis on the participation of children as a means of the Belgians ensuring that the upcoming generations are taught to remember the years of occupation and the meaning of freedom. Following a VIP reception at the town hall (a castle), Canadians had the opportunity to mingle with local citizens and many of the re-enactors.

Our soldiers were treated to a completely full agenda of hospitality including visits to the main Antwerp cemetery where 23 Essex Scottish are buried, and the main city museum featuring a gallery devoted to life in Antwerp during the war. They also managed to do quite a bit of touring, both on our own to a number of sites pictured in the Essex Scottish history book and with local guides to see battlefields further from Ekeren.

Thanks to the Scottish Borderers Foundation who have worked hard to create funding for the OUTCAN trips like the Dieppe and Ekeren commemorations. Our soldiers also deserve recognition for their professional service as ambassadors for our Regiment and our country while so ably representing their military forebearers

Submitted by Dennis Poole



Rededication of the Boer War Memorial

For decades, the presence of Windsor's Boer War Memorial (also called the South African War Memorial) was "lost in time" - a tribute to Canada's fallen in the conflict that lasted from 1899 to 1902.

The 118-year-old monument has a much-revered history honouring Windsor and Essex County's 48 men who rallied to the colours to serve in an "Imperial" war fought on the veldts throughout South Africa.

After five months of skilled and pains-taken restoration, undertaken by Clifford Restoration Limited, the Boer War Memorial, situated in Windsor's Queen Elizabeth Gardens in Jackson Park was rededicated on Wednesday, 3 October 2024.



L to R, Royal Canadian Dragoons Trooper Regacho, Lieutenant-Colonel (Retired) Hardy Wheeler and Trooper Bartley

Master of Ceremonies, Lieutenant-Colonel (Retired) Hardy Wheeler, opened the rededication program by welcoming guests and presenting the background of the war and history of the monument as Windsor's first 'war memorial'. It was originally dedicated 24 May 1906. The inscription appearing below the brass plaque on the face of the monument - Dieu et mon droit "God and my right" is a testament to the depth and strength of loyalty, pride, and patriotism!

Windsor's Mayor Drew Dilkens' insightful comments affirmed the City of Windsor's financial commitment of \$675,000 to finance the restoration of the Boer War Memorial honouring the memory of all who served - of those who fell -- remembering their bravery and sacrifice. Guest speakers included Richard Gow of The Royal Canadian Regiment Association, Tom Skelding who is President of The Royal Canadian Dragoons Association, and Mary Baruth representing the Essex and Kent Scottish Regiment Association. Walter White and Harold Barr, the two local men who fell during the conflict, were remembered (their names are engraved on separate plaques on the face of the monument).

In a most fitting tribute to the legacy of our military heritage, trumpeter Sgt. Chaif of the Windsor Regiment Band performed the Last Post followed by a tribute of silence. Piper MacLean of the Essex and Kent Scottish Regiment Pipes and Drums performed the Lament, with Sgt. Chaif presenting a Reveille.

Following the "march off" of the Essex and Kent Scottish Regiment and the Windsor Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel (Retired) Wheeler presented his closing remarks after which guests had the opportunity to reflect upon the storied chapters of our Boer War Memorial and its distinguished place in our local history - in this generation and those to follow!



Care Packages



Submitted by Dan Leblanc

It was a busy year for the regiment and overseas deployments. This year, the regiment deployed six individuals on a variety of deployments around the world. Thanks to the regiment providing their information, each one received a care package from the association.

With the deployments over the past few years and the expectation of large numbers of our serving members deploying in the next two years, a successful fundraising campaign took place this spring. The Association Board of Directors gratefully received large donations from Royal Canadian Legion branches 18, 157, 188, 201, 255, 594, 642, Northwall Riders Association Windsor Chapter, Windsor Chopper, General Gun, The Lasalle Firefighters Association, and Member Jack Goddard. Thanks to these supporters, our serving members deployed overseas will receive care packages on behalf of the association for a long time to come.

Ansell Club Golf Tournament

The 13th Annual Ansell Golf Tournament was held on 03 August 2024 at Hidden Hills Golf Course. 64 golfers enjoyed 18 holes on a beautiful day. After the 18th hole, the golfers met back at the Ansell Armoury for steak BBQ. In total 90 people enjoyed the dinner and the draws for prizes. \$3,200 was raised to help support the members of the Regiment.

Submitted by Kevin Shaw.





The Regiment Celebrates Its 70th Birthday

The Ansell Club held a celebration to mark the 70th birthday of the Regiment on Oct 5th. There were 40 people in attendance, including our HLCol Lauren Bradley. She welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. Former members who served with the Regiment dropped in to visit and chat. There were door prizes and we had a BBQ and also a cake. The Military Family Resource Center also had a display to show how they support members of the Military. We have raised \$412 to support the serving members of the Regiment. Special thanks to Dan Leblanc for his hard work in making this a successful event.



Submitted by Kevin Shaw

Coming Events

Field of Valour dinner will be held at the Kent Venue in Chatham on 09 November 2024. This is a professional development day culminating in a very special dinner, where key aspects of our Regiment's continuing history are discussed and our Pipes and Drums entertain the soldiers and guests alike. There is some limited seating available for non-serving members who wish to attend.

Tartan Day Fundraiser will be held on 05 April 2025 at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 594 located at 5030 Howard Avenue in Oldcastle. More information will follow.

Hochwald Mixed Dining In Commemorating the Battle of the Hochwald and the awarding of the Victoria Cross to Maj. F.A. Tilstons is scheduled for 01 March 2025 at the Windsor Club. More details will be sent out when they are available.

Keeping Connected Online

It is important to stay connected even when we cannot gather in person. Those wishing to keep in touch with the activities of the Regiment are encouraged to visit the Regimental website and Facebook page listed as follows:

Website www.ekscot.org

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/6161648785>

Thanks to everyone for your contributions. Kim Gilliland, Editor.