

# *Royal Canadian Dental Corps Association Newsletter*



*Bulletin de l'Association du  
corps dentaire royal canadien*

December 2017 décembre

## Officers of the Association

President – Maj (ret'd) Richard Groves,  
rkdca\_acdrc@icloud.com

Vice President – Maj (ret'd) Tony Nguyen

Past President – vacant

Secretary – LCol Brenda Joy

Treasurer – LCol (ret'd) Frank Hedley, rkdcatreas@icloud.com

Special Projects - LCol (ret'd) Bill Budzinski

Archives & Historian - vacant



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

We have reached the end of another year, and the completion of another newsletter. Last year I asked members to provide any stories of historical interest, in keeping with the RCDCA's mandate to preserve the history and heritage of the Dental Corps. Your response was wonderful. I would especially like to thank Justin McNeil for a comprehensive look at the CFDS participation in Vietnam near the end of the war (and to Alyson for her typing contribution). Until I spoke with Justin in the mess, I had no idea Canada had sent troops to Vietnam. Peter McQueen has also provided some photographs and articles for use in my President's Update emails and the newsletter, including the biography of Major Franklin written by Bill Parker included in this issue.



Your Executive Committee has been busy this year. We finally made progress with our kit shop items - new RCDCA ties and blazer crests will be available for purchase soon, and we are assessing interest in a jewelled brooch of the current RCDCA crest. See the last page for more details.

We also organized the annual National Capital Region Dental Corps Birthday celebration at Dows Lake again this year. With excellent support from the RCDCA, this event has grown every year. Even if the 5-10 km walk is too much, if you are in town please join us for lunch afterwards. The annual fall luncheon is back on track after several years of falling attendance. We are still trying to bring back the annual Meet and Greet in conjunction with the annual CDA/Provincial Dental Association convention. We had a small one in Newfoundland last year as a trial. This year was in Toronto and the price to host an event was beyond our reach. Next August it is in Charlottetown, and



we have already found a venue. This is just one way we can bring our services to members that do not live close to Ottawa, and we are open to other suggestions to achieve this goal.

The story of WWI CADC Major Blair's DSO and other medals provided a challenge to the Executive. The full story is included as an article in this issue. With very little time to react, and a lot of effort, we tried to repatriate these medals. At least we now know where they are, have a good quality photo of the medals, and the Military Police have started an investigation.

The last project was the production of roll-up banners with the RCDCA crest, pictured below. These banners are very portable, relatively inexpensive, set up and tear down in minutes, and will be featured at all future RCDCA events. The photo is from our fall luncheon at the Orleans Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, where they made their debut.



From the entire RCDCA Executive, we wish you a happy and prosperous 2018. Please continue to provide updates of where you are and what you are doing - News from Members is still the most popular part of this newsletter. I also ask that if you have an interesting story from and exercise or deployment, or any other story of historical significance, to please share it. We will help with editing, scanning, typing or any other help you need to get these stories told and saved for the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard

***Sanitas in Ore***

Major (retired) Richard Groves, CD  
President

Royal Canadian Dental Corps Association / L'Association du Corps dentaire royal canadien

<http://rcdca.cfdental.ca>

## Colonel Commandant Comments

### BGen (ret'd) Vic Lanctis



Greetings All!

Having had the pleasure of attending the most recent Dental Corps Senate meeting at CDA Headquarters in Ottawa a few weeks ago, I thought it might be of interest to RCDCA members to be updated on recent developments in the Corps, as highlighted by the Director Dental Services.

Col Lemon indeed emphasized that Canada's new Defence Policy Paper, "Strong, Secure, Engaged", puts increased emphasis on the health and welfare of people and provides direction to move forward with the modernization of the CAF Health Care System. Such will therefore be the focus of the new Surgeon General, BGen Andrew Downes, who has stood up a team, comprised of both medical and dental personnel, to ensure that our soldiers, sailors and aviators continue to receive the best of care. To help achieve that objective, it was reported that the Canadian Forces Health Services Group, which includes both medical and dental clinics across the country, was granted "Accredited" status by Accreditation Canada.

On the operational front, an RCDC dental team comprised of a Dental Officer and a Dental Technician (aka a DA) has been deployed on Operation IMPACT in Iraq since October 2016, to provide integral support to Global Coalition forces. The assignment is expected to potentially extend into 2019. A similar team is deployed on Operation REASSURANCE, Canada's contribution to NATO deterrence measures in Central and Eastern Europe. Located in Latvia, it is providing dental care to the Canadian-led multinational battle group. Of note, those two teams are the first to deploy with the new state-of-the-art Dental Medium Support Vehicle System (MSVS).

From a personnel standpoint, increasing numbers of RCDC members are being recognized as top performers within the Health Services talent pool. MWOs have been promoted to CWO and/or posted to traditional MedTech/PA positions. LCOs have been asked to head up cells normally held by HSOs. While quite a credit to the Corps, developments of that sort understandably put extra pressures on the RCDC.

Although attracting new dental officers is going well, retaining them appears to be more of a challenge, as is the level of competencies of new grads. Admittedly, this is a problem affecting the profession generally, but it could be particularly problematic for the RCDC in terms of deployability to isolated locations or on operations.

On the OR side, the base rank for hygienists has been downgraded to MCpl with promotion available to Sgt and one to WO. Reclassification to Dent Tech will be possible for hygienists seeking greater responsibilities and/or leadership roles.

Finally, the DDS and his staff continue to address the usual number of other matters such as professional standards, treatment policies, succession planning, as well as the seemingly never-ending rewriting of regulations, orders, directives, and the like (Sound familiar?). All in all, the Corps is active and doing very well.



On that positive note, Marilyn and I will soon be off to the south of France again for our regular three-month winter sojourn, but would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone Happy Holidays and a great 2018!

Brigadier-General (ret) Victor J. Lanctis

## **NEW RCDCA MEMBERS 2017**

Major Bryant Roy

Donna Mitchell

Major Richard Mansour

## **NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS**

What have you been up to lately? Your colleagues would like to hear from you. Please email your submission directly to [rcdca\\_acdrc@icloud.com](mailto:rcdca_acdrc@icloud.com) (it is easier for me to cut and paste from an electronic submission) or include a note with your membership form.

### **Bill Jackson, Victoria, BC December 2016**

So nice to read the doings of RCDCA members. Sadly, so many now appear in the Last Post. By the time you read this, the Lord willing and the devil doesn't interfere, I will be in my 86<sup>th</sup> year.

My son, ex-dental tech Ric, keeps our shop busy. Having taken 3 years of spare time to restore the 1947 Hudson, we now have a 1950 Morris CVT, a small British pickup truck, in the tear-down stage.

I've been a beekeeper for over 40 years and still maintain about 100,000 of the critters – that's 3-5 hives – and again, Ric helps with the heavy lifting when it's time to harvest the honey crop.

Wife, Carol, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's 3 years ago, so our days of motor homing, sailing and travel have come to an end, as all things must; however, I'm able to get away for a weekly morning of golf and model railroading.

Life's good, arthritis and all.

### **Tom Routledge, Coquitlam, BC December 2016**

As some of you may know, I have been collecting CAD/CDC/RCDCA/CFDS militaria (uniforms, badges, photos and the like) for many years. The time has now come to downsize my residence so I need to dispose of my collection. I have offered it to the Corps and to the RCDCA but they are not in a position to accept it. So, I am offering it to the membership of the RCDCA. If any of you would be interested in acquiring some or all of it please contact me at [drtomr@uniserve.com](mailto:drtomr@uniserve.com) or 778-549-3564. I can provide photos and descriptions upon request. Hopefully we can somehow keep some of it in the Corps family!

Best regards, Tom Routledge

### **Lloyd Payette, Barrie, ON December 2016**

Greetings all; it has been another good year for us old retired dudes. My wife Krystyna and I took a trip to Poland. We will be heading to Florida for January and February again, and also will stick in a cruise while we're there.

I'm still with the St John Ambulance as a medical first responder here in Barrie. "Keeps me busy."

Curling season is well underway, especially in the seniors league. There are many Forces veterans taking part. It's like "old home week" sometimes.

In closing, may the New Year be prosperous to all

**Bill Wiseman, Barrie, ON     December 2016**

It's hard to believe that I'm about to enter my seventh full year of retirement from dental practice! Retirement is great, and Anne and I are blessed with good health and four incredible and fast growing grandchildren.

My daughter Andrea practises dentistry in Ottawa and her husband Sacha provides IV sedation for several dental practices, and their children Rhianna (12) and Callum (10) are wonderful kids.

My daughter Karen is a board-certified neuropsychologist in private practice in Toronto and her husband Johani is an armed security guard for the TTC. Their children Charlie (6) and Caitlin (4) are great fun to be around.

I play lots of golf (still poorly) and usually play 3 times a week with Doug Morphett in Barrie and at least that much in Florida, where we spend four months each winter. I recently spent time with a dear friend, Cheryl Boone, who lives in Kingston. Cottage living rounds out our life pretty well. I'm staying fit and active. I wish continued health and happiness to all of my old friends from the 'Corps'. Thank-you for your hard work in providing such a great newsletter.

**Wayne Cudmore, Barrie, ON     December 2016**

Wayne Cudmore (CWO retired) is retired and has lived in Barrie, ON for the past 3 years. Wayne has early onset dementia and seems to be getting along as well as he is able in this journey.

Wayne and his wife Marcia spend 3 months a year in Mesa, AZ where they are able to connect with former dental personnel. Wayne thoroughly enjoys his time in Arizona. He is often found at Peter and Victoria McQueen's home at Viewpoint. He still manages to play pickleball, ride his bike, and play pool. He gave up golfing and curling – his two passions in life!

Wayne looks forward to the mess dinners with the Army and Navy Club in Barrie, where he can fellowship with former Dental people. We hope that we are able to go back to Arizona for a few more years – health permitting! He really looks forward to this newsletter!

**Al Charlebois, Kingston, ON     January 2017**

My wife Terry and I moved into a condo last December and are so far enjoying our new 'digs'. We just finished re-doing our kitchen and a few other things which has been a big improvement.

Our son Daniel and his family were transferred from BC in August, back to Ottawa. He was recently promoted to Captain (Navy).

Our son Andy and his family still reside in Lethbridge where he is a mortgage broker.

We are looking forward to spending 6 weeks in Florida in March and April.

**Joe Lemieux, Boucherville, QC     March 2017**

First, I must say that I am getting old (72 in December 2016) but enjoying a very good health, and only getting the normal pain and injuries while still practicing many sport activities such as hockey, downhill skiing, tennis and swimming, etc.

Being grand-parents, my wife and I need to babysit on a regular basis.

Personally, I am still with Health Canada, as a full-time Regional Dental Officer in Quebec, working with a young crew, and enjoying it.

Thanks for keeping the RCDCA alive.



**Geoff Iverson, Cultus Lake, BC**

**January 2017**

Geoff spent his usual month of January chasing powder at Sun Peaks with his wife Gloria. They then had lots of fun traveling, including a 3 week April Panama Canal cruise from Fort Lauderdale back to Vancouver.

They were involved in a scary motor vehicle accident in June 2016 where an 18-year-old novice driver was speeding out of control and T-boned them around a curve, writing off their big SUV. They were very grateful to be alive.

Geoff has fully healed, but Gloria still has a moderate case of whiplash 6 months later, and is continuing therapy. Unfortunately she will not be able to ski this season.

After a November trip to Riviera Maya with friends, they had a first time family Christmas at Cultus Lake, and even had snow to make the holiday season more festive.

Geoff would like to wish everyone a healthy new year.

**Gerry Shand, Cold Lake, AB**

**January 2017**

I only pay for a 1 year membership, as on 25<sup>th</sup> May I will be 97 years old. At that age you never know what may happen.

Still try to keep active. I bowl twice a week and play pool twice a week, at the Seniors, of course.

(Editor's note - Gerry passed away November 21, 2017. Details in the Last Post)

**LCol Mike Kaiser, Ottawa, ON March 2017**



Congratulations to RCDCA member Mike Kaiser on being invested into the Order of Military Merit on March 6, 2017. Mike is on the far left, with the Governor-General and other CFHS members who were also invested that evening

**Major Nathan Elliott, Geilenkirchen      November 2017**

Currently posted to GK. Enjoying the cycling and buying miniature skis and introducing bicycles to my young daughter, Isla.

**Derek Decloux, Toronto, ON      January 2017**

I am in the middle of my dental anaesthesia residency program (3 years) and I am less than a month away from my first child being born ... going to be busy next year!

**Richard Abfalter,      Summer 2017**

Greetings to my friends, acquaintances, and good folks that I've never met.

Wow, does time ever fly. I retired in 1989, my twins will soon be 54. Debbie has a business in Ottawa called "Senior Solutions" and Steven is General Sales Manager at a large Toyota dealership in SW Calgary. I recently had my 75th birthday; wow, I thought getting old would take longer. I've been single for the past 35 years, still feel great with no aches or pains, which rather surprises me, as I've lived a fairly adventurous lifestyle. I feel very fortunate, and always feel sad when I hear that one of ours passes on.

Five and ½ years ago I met this beautiful, intelligent caring lady, Ludy. She was born in the Philippines in 1965, has been in Canada over 30 years. She is working as an Industrial First Aid for a large construction company, so for 7-8 months we live in our 5th wheel, usually in the west or east Kootenays of BC, then for the winter we go to the Philippines for four months. We have two homes there, and drive our motor cycles to many different islands. It's a great life.

My address seems to keep changing, so now I will leave it at her sister's place. Send all mail to: Richard Abfalter, % 2616 Copper Ridge Dr, West Kelowna, BC, V4T 2M8. Please, anyone that wishes to be on my Xmas list, drop me a line and give me your address. In the meantime you all take care, and I must say that I miss many of you

Ab (from the lab) and Ludy

**Dr Neville Headley, Calgary AB      November 2017**

A few months back Dr. Neville Headley was chosen to be the new cover model for the Western Stage Props 2018 catalog. From their press release:

Dr. Neville Headley lives in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. He served with the Canadian Forces Dental Services for twenty years before returning to private practice in the home of the Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth, the Calgary Stampede. He began his volunteer service in 1999. Currently, he is coming to the end of his term as Chairman of the Promotion Committee, which is only one of forty-six volunteer committees devoted to embracing our values of integrity, Western hospitality and commitment to the community.

His love of the West was born when he first moved to the Stampede City in the 70's. A background role on the set of Superman III, a brief spin as a DJ, officiating at the 1988 Winter Olympics, and a developing love for all forms of music and dance fueled his enthusiasm for volunteerism and the performing arts.

Although his practice of Dentistry is thirty-five years old, his self-taught Western skills of trick roping, gun spinning, and whip cracking have developed over the past two years, to supplement his engagement at numerous parades, pancake breakfasts, youth events and community western activities. Neville also enjoys curling, bowling, hot yoga, golf, and is a capable social, country, ballroom and Argentine Tango dancer.





His future plans include learning to play the harmonica, and perfecting the Arrowhead whip crack, yet more skills that will help connect him to both our Western heritage, and the unique, enthusiastic spirit of the West.

*During the search for Lt.Col. John Blair's DSO, Ken Wallace sent the following email, slightly edited. In his own words, it is a bit of a ramble, but there is a lot of information, both about Ken's route to becoming a Past President of the RCDC, but also about some other interesting Dental Corps members. The story of the missing DSO is a separate article near the end of this newsletter.*

#### **Ken Wallace, Edmonton, October 2017**

My mother died when I was 11 years old, and we were a desperately poor family of four children and a father who delivered milk for Palm Dairy's. I quit school after grade 8, at the age of 14 years, and went to work in Saskatoon Dental Laboratory, as a delivery boy. At the age of 20 years (1952) I joined the RCDC, which became my home and its members became my family- over the next dozen years. An unhealthy marriage and an Ignorant Judge, who left me \$15.00 as month to live on, left me with no alternative but to terminate my career in the Army. I could tell no one that my intention was to complete High School, make University entrance, complete Pre-Med, make Faculty of Dentistry entrance, and then apply to get back into the RCDC through the ROTP route. I did all that in less than 4 years, but I was not accepted into the ROTP in 1969. Only ten Dental Students were accepted across Canada that year, and I was not one of them.

That was a bit of a let-down, but not devastating: I was getting enough Scholarships, Grants, and Student Loans that I could continue. My intention was to apply again the next year, but when the time came I had reconsidered. By the time I would get back into the RCDC, all my

former buddies would be retired or gone from the Army. I graduated from Dentistry in 1973, and joined the RCDCA in 1974, while at the Ontario Spring Session of the ODA. This brings me to a funny highlight in my life:

While at that Ontario Spring Session, I was wandering about in the Manufacturers exhibits when B/Gen Craigie showed up in front of me in full uniform, and with about six fully dressed Military Escorts in his entourage. I made the mistake of addressing him as Major Craigie when I offered my hand-shake. This was just a slip of the tongue, because he was a Major the last time that I had seen him, and that was in 1956, in the Currie Barracks Dental Clinic, where he was my Commanding Officer. I must admit that I didn't like him very much at the time because I thought it was very unprofessional to have a big, red dog sitting beside the chair in the clinic while he was working on patients. Also, he was social climber, and he hated dental laboratory technicians; but on to the story: He very indignantly said "Sergeant Wallace, what are you doing here?" I replied that I was a Dentist, and I have every bit as much a right to be here as you do. His face turned a brilliant crimson, he did an about turn, and went storming out of the exhibit area with his entourage try to catch up to him. I never saw him again. I did hear that on the evening of his retirement party in the Officer's Mess, that he had a heart attack and died on the spot.

On to the rambling: After graduation, I set-up a practice in Edmonton, built a Castle, bought a Roll Royce, and retired in 1991. Since that time I spend the winters in Arizona, and the summers I head to Edmonton to visit my family, then head East or West until it is time to head back to Arizona. About December of 2015 my health took a down turn, and I couldn't figure out what was wrong with me. I had so many commitments to visitors that I couldn't leave. In March my son strong-armed me into the Yuma Hospital where I spent five days and US\$31,000.00, before I could get an Air Ambulance back to Edmonton (US\$65,000.00, and no insurance) The diagnosis: Dehydration, Malnutrition, Pneumonia, and Valley Fever. Two months later I was back on my feet, but 60 lbs lighter, and I spent the rest of the summer in Edmonton.

That just about brings us up to date. Now I can get on to the things of interest for the RCDCA News Letter. Damon Casson died on 8 February, 2014. I am certain that there was no obituary, and my info' came directly from his wife. He was diagnosed with Class III Dementia in 2012, then he had a stroke a month later. He survived in numerous health care facilities around Edmonton, and died in his sleep on 8 February, 2014. From what I can remember, Damon joined the RCDC in 1949 and retired about 1964. He was one of the finest laboratory technicians in the RCDC, and a protégée of CWO Herb Bilbey. His postings were mainly in Western Canada. I am sure that he spent time in Korea, and in Egypt. He was single while he was in the RCDC, so it is likely that he did a lot of temporary duty in many places. After his discharge from the RCDC he worked as a Prison Guard (courtesy of his brother, Chief Justice Ben Casson of Alberta). In 1965 he was working for Dr. Harris Wood (Fixed Prosthodontist) in Edmonton. He was one of the first Denturist to graduate from NAIT in Edmonton. About 1970 he and a partner bought Purdy Denture Clinic on Whyte Avenue in Edmonton, and they worked under that name until about 1999, when they both retired. They sent me all their surgery patients, and I sent them all my denture patients. It was a good relationship. I am certain that there are many RCDCA members who will remember him, and they will be saddened to hear of his demise.

I spent about a week with John Hughes in London this summer. John turned 91 years old this year, is still mentally alert, but he is not getting around as good as he use to. He hires people to do his lawn and gardening, and even his grocery shopping, but he is still living in the same house on Baker Street in London, ON, that he bought over 40 years ago. He gave away his car last year, and does not drive anymore. His main interest seems to be watching baseball on TV. About ten years ago he organized most of his pictures from his Military Tour in Korea and Japan into a photo-album. I have been trying to get him to donate this album to the RCDCA Museum, but he is not ready to part with it yet. I am afraid that once he does depart, that the album will be lost. He has no children, and I am about the last of his close friends.

John Hughes joined the RCDC in 1944, and retired in May 1969. I am sure that he was the longest standing Sergeant in the RCDC. He spent most of his career at Wolseley Barracks in London, as a compassionate posting to look after his aging parents (he was an only child), but he did have postings to Halifax, Korea, and Montreal. He has been meticulous in every field of interest that he pursued, from raising fish to photography and gardening. After he retired from the RCDC, he took the Denturist Course in Toronto, and set-up Denture Clinics in London, Park Hill, and Grand Bend. John was a 'Giver' and not a 'Taker' and I guess that is why I have so much respect for him. This sounds like an Obituary, but he is very much alive. I believe that John Hughes is still a member of the RCDCA.

While I was in London, ON, I went up to visit with Lt/Col Jack Harris. At 95 years of age, he is still the most intelligent and down to earth person that I have had the pleasure of talking with. He is physically active and mentally alert, and married to a beautiful wife that has all his attributes. She is an Artist in her own field of painting, and has assisted Jack in one of his hobbies of water colour painting. I have one of his paintings hanging on my wall in Yuma. Another of Jack's hobbies is woodworking, but his interests seem to be mainly with the RCDC. Jack Harris is a Life Member of the RCDCA.

L/Col Arthur Jack Harris has a very interesting history. In 1941 he was one of the 60 High School students selected from across Canada to be trained as dental technicians for the Canadian Dental Corps. This may have been the Canadian Army Dental Corps at the time; correct me if I am wrong. They were attached to Stanley Barracks in Toronto for the 6 month Dental Tech' Course. Stanley Barracks was actually the Horse Barns for the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto. From there it was a Route March every day to the Faculty of Dentistry at the Toronto University where they were trained. After the course was completed, Jack was sent back to a Medical Dental Unit in London, Ontario; and then in 1943 he was shipped as a Sergeant to Aldershot in England for the duration of the War in Europe.

A year or two after the War, Jack was one of 200 Dental Students who were enrolled the Faculty of Dentistry in Toronto. This College was equipped to handle 70 students, so they had to double up into two shifts. Very shortly after graduation the Korean conflict became apparent, and he was called-up by Col Meldrum to join and form a Militia Dental Unit in the London area. Our Jack Harris became the Commanding Officer of that Unit while still working with the team of Oral Surgeons of Kennedy, Styles & Harris in London.

As I mentioned previously, Jack Harris is a Life Member of the RCDCA. He has also been the President of the RCDCA several times. Lt/Col Charley Hunt has to have been the longest reigning President of the RCDCA. He was a Stores Officer in the RCDC, and after retiring from the Military he ran Premier Dental Supply Company, but his interests were mainly the RCDCA. After Charley died in 1993, Jack Harris took over leadership of the RCDCA again, and passed it on to me in 1994. I have tried my best to encourage Jack Harris to write up his memoirs of the RCDC, as he knew everyone on a personal basis.

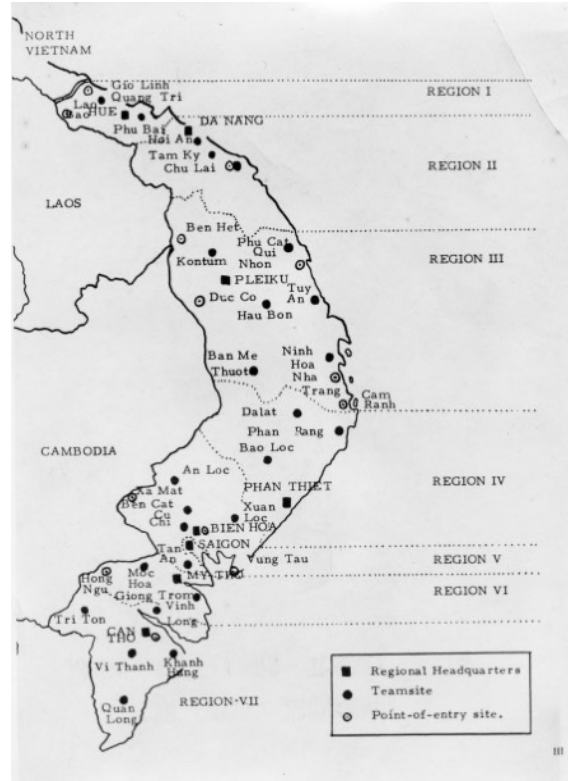
This brings us to Jack Harris's Lament with the RCDC/RDCA; and, Richard, I hope there is something that you can do about it through your RCDCA News Letter or any other route possible. At some during Lt/Col Harris's association with the London based RCDC Militia, he acquired the Medals of Lt.Col. John Blair. Prominent in these Medals was a Distinguished Service Medal, one of only two awarded to a Dental Officer from the First World War. Col. John Blair was living in the London area, and was a frequent guest at the London RCDC Militia functions. I am presuming that in his respect for Jack Harris, that Col. John Blair willed that his Medals should go to Col. Jack Harris. Our Jack Harris had them refurbished with new ribbons, mounted in a frame with a picture, and presented them to the RCDC School in Camp Borden for display. They seem to have disappeared, and Jack Harris has been unsuccessful in finding any information about their whereabouts. I have tried to encourage him to report their disappearance to the Provost Martial, but he seems reluctant to do this.

## VIETNAM 1973

*By Major (ret'd) Justin McNeil*

In January, 1973, the Paris Peace Accords were signed, “ending” the Vietnam War which had been ongoing for 30-plus years with the Americans increasingly involved since the 1950’s. This is not the platform for a discussion of that War, rather it is a brief insight into Canada’s and my involvement in its aftermath. The Peace Accords called for an international contingent to facilitate prisoner exchange and investigate breaches of the ceasefire.

The International Commission of Control and Supervision (ICCS Vietnam) consisted of military and Foreign Affairs personnel from Canada, Indonesia, Poland and Hungary—two Communist Countries and two non-

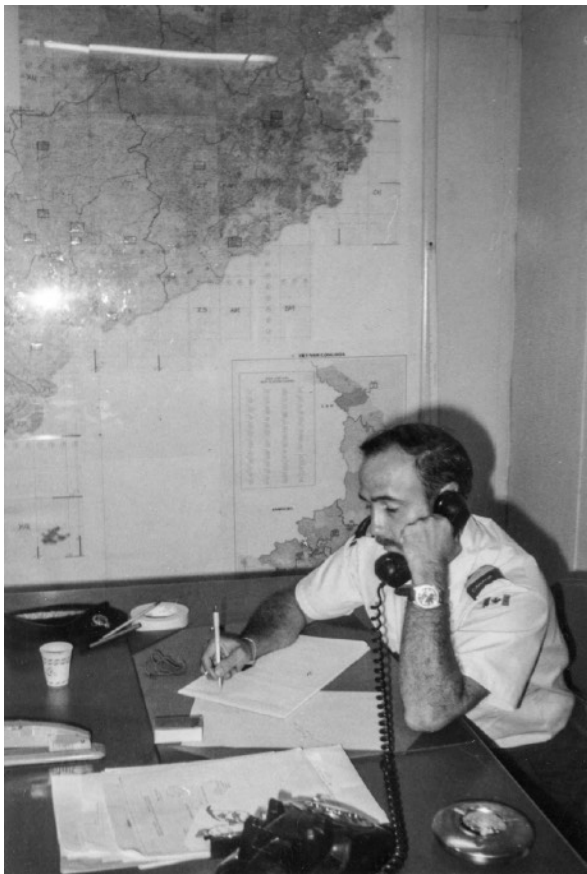


**ICCS Map of South Vietnam**

Communist. Canada’s contingent was 290 personnel—250 Military and 40 Foreign Affairs. The other countries had a similar makeup

Shortly after Canada’s deployment, Col Harold Brogan travelled to Vietnam to determine if a Dental Officer was required. His findings were positive and he arranged to pre-position a mobile dental unit.

My first knowledge of any of this was a call from a Medical Sgt at CFB Esquimalt instructing me to report for shots. “What shots?” “Your shots for South East Asia.” “Sorry, but what are you talking about?” “I have a message stating that you are going to Vietnam.” Quick call to Dental HQ, “Oh, didn’t you get the posting message?”



**Major Justin McNeil, OpsO**



I called Col Brogan and he informed me that I wouldn't be accompanied by an assistant. He had arranged for me to meet the American Dentist at a Saigon Missionary Hospital, as well as a Vietnamese Dentist who knew of several Vietnamese Assistants that had worked with the American Military. I was to hire one.

I had been scheduled to attend a two-week oral pathology course at Walter Reid Hospital in Washington, D.C. Since my posting to Vietnam wasn't for several more weeks, I was allowed to attend the course. This was fortunate because I met a number of medical military personnel with knowledge of Vietnam.

Shortly after my return to Victoria, I was put on a first-class flight to Hong Kong, then on to Tan Son Nhut Airbase in Saigon. I called the Duty Officer, who wasn't aware that anyone was arriving.

I reported to HQ the next morning. They had been expecting me, but didn't know when. Further, they expected a staff trained dentist, who would work as an Ops Officer and basically do dentistry in my spare time. After some discussion a compromise was reached where I would do half a day in Ops and the other half in the clinic, which, by the way, I had to design and have built.

ICCS consisted of a HQ in Saigon and seven regional HQ's set up across South Vietnam. Each HQ had a number of team sites. The twenty-six team sites in all were staffed by two to four personnel from each country. These were the people on the sharp end who actually investigated violations.



***Typical ICCS team site quarters***



***Saigon Traffic***

There were no defined borders between areas controlled by the Viet Cong nor the South Vietnamese Military. Not mentioned in the Paris Peace Accords was the North Vietnamese Military, and, therefore, they did not officially exist. As a result, they could not be guilty of violations even though they had over 100,000 soldiers in the South.

One of the few successes of ICCS was arranging and



***ICCS Patrol on MeKong River***

overseeing the exchange of 32,000 prisoners of war.

During the period 29 January 1973 to 31 July 1973 there were 18,000 cease fire violations and 76,000 killed, wounded or missing to all sides combined. It was often said that we were not observing a peace; we were watching a war.

I met with both the American and Vietnamese Dentists and was introduced to Nhung, a Vietnamese Hygienist, who had worked with the US Military. During the interview, she showed me reference letters from the Americans. Her English was

good, and it was obvious that she knew her stuff. So, I hired her as a combination of receptionist, hygienist and assistant.

Two weeks later the clinic was ready for patients. Since I worked morning in Ops, Nhung would treat her patients then and assist me in the afternoon. With only 290 Canadians in country, and most of them spread out to the area HQ and team sites, my work load was not too heavy. So, half a day was more than adequate. I even had time to do emergency treatment on some of our civilian employees.

My work in Ops was most interesting, but, at times frustrating, especially the phone system. When I had to phone all seven regional HQ's, the first call would be OK, but, then, the Vietnamese Operator would not disconnect me for 10 to 20 minutes. My ambition was to contact all seven HQ's in under an hour—never happened! Most of the time was spent on logging Sitreps, finding answers and writing the war diary. It did keep me well informed.

Accommodations in Vietnam varied from plush to deplorable. A number of members contracted malaria in spite of preventive medication. Just about everyone had at least one bout of intestinal problems.

ICCS personnel were not allowed to drive vehicles, a very wise decision considering that the whole traffic situation appeared to be one giant game of "Chicken". Traffic, especially in Saigon, was the source of constant amazement. It was easily the



***Nhung, Receptionist, Hygienist, DA***



***Viet Cong POW***



***American POW Exchange***

motorcycle capital of the world. Controlled intersections took on the appearance of a start of a cross country motorcycle race; with all drivers gunning motors and jockeying for position. Interspersed among this plethora of Hondas, was the oddest assortment of vehicles imaginable: Pedi cabs, ancient Citroen taxis, military vehicles, bicycles, three-wheeled trucks and official limousines. One writer stated that the only reason the population didn't die of asphyxiation was that the nightly midnight to 6 am curfew allowed time for the smoke to dissipate.

Air service for getting around the country, was provided by Air America - the CIA Airline - 22 helicopters plus an assortment of fixed wing aircraft. When

flying low level, we sat on our flak jackets as a number of craft had received ground fire. Fortunately, only one was shot down, but that resulted in the deaths of nine personnel including one Canadian.

Members in the team sites often had to take shelter in bunkers. In addition, two Canadians were taken prisoners for 17 days. For the first week we had no idea of their situation. Even when their return was negotiated, the helicopter picking them up was fired on.

The cease fire violation reports were at times amusing. The four countries were supposed to write an agreed upon report; that only happened a few times. Canadians wrote what they saw, but two of the other countries would not find the Communist guilty of anything. As a result, bridges were not brought down by explosions, but by the wind





***A captured AK47 Maj McNeil donated to the Mess on his return to Canada***

and a lot of attacks were by bandits. My favourite one was about a school mortared by the VC. Lining up holes in the tin roof with the impact craters on the floor, it was obvious that the origin was an area controlled by the VC. The report read in part “an unknown force, firing from an unknown location, using an unknown weapon...”

A notice in the Ops Section neatly summed up the whole situation in Vietnam:

“all statements about what happened, about what is surely happening now, or about what is promised to happen in the future must, in Vietnam, be considered false or suspect until confirmed personally, and even then what is seen, heard or touched, may be incredible”

It became obvious that the Canadian contingent was no longer serving a purpose in Vietnam, so we departed at the end of July 1973.

Less than two years later, the North invaded and took over the South.



***Canadians leaving Vietnam on 31 July 1973***



## LAST POST



Vimy War Memorial

## We Will Remember Them

**WRIGHT, BGen (ret'd) James Nelson**  
**HOUDE, LCol (ret'd) Bernard**  
**WEILER, Capt (ret'd) Dr. Stanley W**  
**MOIR, MWO (ret'd) Norm**  
**SCHUH, Fred**  
**BOWERING, CWO (ret'd) Robert "Derek"**  
**GAGNON, Linda Albert**  
**KEARNS, Charles William**  
**FELL, Dr. (LCol Ret'd) Robert Allen**  
**ANDERSON, MWO (retired) Gerry**  
**DAWSON, CWO (ret'd) William Roy**  
**COLEMAN, Capt (ret'd) Paul**  
**SHAND, WO (ret'd) Gerald**





**WRIGHT, BGEN (ret'd) James Nelson** - CD, QHDS, DDS, MScD, NDC, MRCD(C), FICD, FACD, FIADS September 29, 1933 - February 14, 2017 After a prolonged battle with cancer and surrounded by his devoted family, Dr. James N. Wright passed away at St. Mary's of the Lake Hospital, Kingston on February 14, 2017. He was 83 years old. Jim leaves behind the love of his life Eliane, his wife and partner of 57 years, his proud daughters Tamara (Tammy), Michele and Lisa, grandchildren Maxime and Jessica Lemay, sister Laney Saley, nephews Michael Saley (Maria) and Martin Duhamel (Susan) and niece Laurie MacKay (Craig).

Jim was born in Lethbridge, Alberta but left home at a young age in order to study, work and earn his way in the world. No job was too big or too small if it helped him achieve his goals. Originally set on studying Physics (which he took as an elective for "fun" at the University of Alberta) he switched courses, completing his dental degree through the Canadian Armed Forces. Shortly

afterwards, he met and married Eliane who was to share equally in every adventure, challenge and success that his illustrious career and full life had to offer. A man of few words but great ambition, Jim reached the pinnacle of not one but two separate careers. A consummate leader within the Canadian Armed Forces Dental Corps for 33 years, he achieved the rank of Brigadier General. Upon retirement from the military in 1986, he became Head of the Department of Stomatology, Associate Dean and finally Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Manitoba until his second retirement in 1996. Few would have been able to excel in in such disparate environments but this was just one of the many challenges he met head on, relishing the chance to win over those in doubt. As one colleague noted "while not everyone necessarily liked Jim, everyone admired him" for his intelligence and diligence as well as his decisive, fair and pragmatic leadership.

With awards and accomplishments too numerous to list, Jim was invested as Honorary Dental Surgeon to the Queen and left an indelible mark on military dentistry. His forward thinking leadership as Dean of Dentistry ensured success for the next generation of dental professionals. Enthusiastic travellers, Jim and Eliane embraced retirement with customary vigor, continuing to travel the globe and making Ajijic Mexico their beloved winter home for over 20 years. A true hero to his family and many friends in Canada, the US and Mexico, Jim's legacy of lifelong learning, dedication to family and commitment to national and professional duty will forever be admired. The Wright family is indebted to the entire staff at St. Mary's of the Lake Palliative Care Unit for their enduring care and compassion.

*Keith Morley requested that I share this letter with you, that he wrote for Eliane Wright.*

Eliane,

I am writing this email to you to say how sorry I am that I could not attend Jim's funeral on May 26th. My wife, Elizabeth, had a major function in Winnipeg that was booked since the fall of 2016 that I needed to attend with her on the same day as the funeral.

As I reflect back over the decades of my own life which has now spanned three prime careers, the Canadian Armed Forces which included the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps, the Royal Canadian Dental Corps/Canadian Forces Dental Services, private practice in Pediatric Dentistry and extensive involvement in organized dentistry, there are three individuals in the RCDC to whom I am eternally grateful: the Late Brig. General Lawrence (Laurie) Craigie, the Late Col. Harold Brogan, and yes, your husband, the late Brig. General James (Jim) Wright. All three were directly responsible for the development and establishment of my leadership skills and style for a lifetime.

I had the privilege of working for Jim when I was a then young Major, during his tenure as Commandant of the Canadian Forces Dental Services School (CFDSS) as it was known in those days. In addition to the gratifying every day demands and challenges of a posting at the CFDSS, I also remember two key humorous events that I coordinated that involved Jim.

The first was my recollection of how Jim despised beards on any military personnel including the Navy even though it was the prime branch at that time where "facial hair" was authorized. The CAF was in the process of changing this policy to allow beards to be grown on both Army and Air Force personnel in uniform. I had what I thought was a great idea to "commemorate" this paradigm shift. I had one of my contacts at the CFB Borden Training Aides Section superimpose a beard on Jim's picture which was prominently on display as you probably recall, on the wall in the main foyer entrance of the CFDSS.

I vividly remember his reaction when he walked into the School that morning and saw his modified image complete with a "splendrous" beard! Shortly afterwards, a curt message came over the PA system, "Major Morley, you are to report immediately to Col. Wright's office to discuss an urgent matter".

He made me stand at attention in front of his desk, asked me who was responsible for this egregious act (he already knew), to which I answered "me sir". He then informed me in rather expressive language, which would be politically incorrect to put in an email, exactly how he felt about beards and the defamation of his picture. Needless to say, I thought my military career had immediately come to an end. He then told me to sit down and broke out in tremendous laughter saying it was one of the best pranks that he had seen in his career to-date. He then shook my hand, congratulated me and told me to take the "damn picture down immediately" to which I responded "yes sir".

The other event was in 1982 when I hosted the official "Colonel Jim Wright" roast at our home, at which you and all the CFDSS officers and spouses were in attendance, prior to Jim's departure for the National Defence College Course. I received a hand-written note from him afterwards, which I have kept to this day in my memorabilia file, thanking me for organizing a tremendous evening of humour and yes, expressing his sincere appreciation for the recognition of his years in the role as the CFDSS Commandant as well as the best wishes for the future.

Eliane, Jim was a person who personified all the traits of an exceptional leader in that he demanded, inspired and motivated all his personnel to perform to their very best potential. He also ensured that everyone received recognition and was rewarded for their efforts.

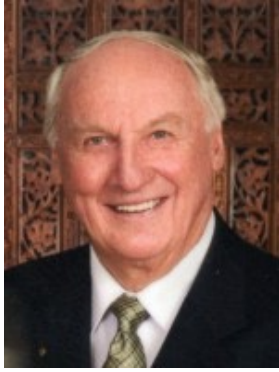
Jim, along with Laurie Craigie and Harold Brogan epitomized, in my opinion, dedication, devotion and loyalty to the "Corps" that can only be described as phenomenal.

In addition, Jim as many know, developed a fantastic second career after retiring from the CFDS/RCDC as the DGDS with the rank of Brigadier General to become Dean of my old alma mater, the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Manitoba.

Eliane God Bless his memory and his life as I wanted to share these memories with you.

Keith

Dr. Keith R. Morley (Lieut.Col ret'd).  
CD BSc DMD MBA FRCD[C]



**HOUDE, LCol (ret'd) Bernard.** Le 10 février 2017, est décédé à l'Hôtel-Dieu de Sherbrooke M. Bernard Houde, à l'âge de 82 ans. Il était le fils de feu Omer Houde et de feu Sofrida Beaudoin, l'époux de feu Monique Michaud et en secondes noces, de Suzanne Bonin. Il habitait Sherbrooke.

Outre son épouse, M. Bernard Houde laisse dans le deuil ses enfants : Sylvie (Alain Naud) et François, ainsi que ses petits-enfants Geneviève, Joëlle et Louis-Philippe Naud, Mathieu et Nicholas Houde; les enfants de son épouse Johanne Philippon (Yvon Simard), Chantal Philippon (fe

u Jacques Doucet), Richard Philippon et Denise Philippon (Christian Pouliot) de même que les 10 petits-enfants et 4 arrière-petits-enfants de Mme Suzanne Bonin. Il laisse également dans le deuil ses frères Georges

(feu Carmen Duquette) et André (feu Estelle Auger); sa soeur Jeannine; ses belles-soeurs : Claudette Robinson (feu André Michaud), Louise Michaud (Jules Hébert), Louise Bonin (Gaëtan Lefebvre), Suzanne Blais (feu Marcel Bonin) et Lise Vincent (Raymond Brunet) de même que de nombreux neveux, nièces et amis, notamment Fernand Beaudoin et Benoît Letendre. Il était aussi le frère de feu Jean-Paul (feu Lucille Duquette) et de feu Solange.

Diplômé de l'Université de Montréal en dentisterie en 1960, Bernard se consacra à sa profession au sein des Forces armées canadiennes pendant 22 ans où il atteindra le grade de lieutenant-colonel. Après son service militaire, il travaillera au Centre dentaire Portland jusqu'en 1994.



**WEILER, Capt (ret'd). Dr. Stanley W.** Stanley Weiler passed peacefully at 99 years old in his home where he and his late wife Gladys raised their family. Stan received his DDS from the University of Toronto's Faculty of Dentistry in 1941 and subsequently received his commission into the RCDC to become a dental officer. He was posted to Halifax thereafter where his commanding officer would introduce him to his wife, Gladys. He practiced in Halifax several years until he was called to serve overseas as a dental officer in the Second World War, where he completed several tours of duty in the UK including stops in Aldershot and Farnworth among others. He returned home shortly before the holidays in 1945 and completed his release the following

March. His family moved to Guelph, ON where he both had a successful career as a general dentist, and where he and his wife went on to have 9 children.

On the left is the late Capt (Ret'd) Stan Weiler and his grandson Capt (Ret'd) Derek Decloux



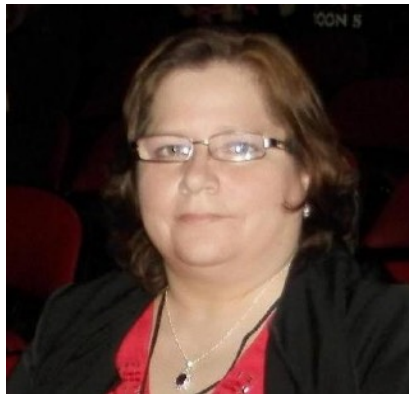
**SCHUH, Fred.** (From Tom Taylor). Fred was a dental laboratory technician who served in the RCDC and CFDS until retirement. He was a colourful character, a talented musician, photographer and a good friend. RIP 'Boots'.

Alfred Schuh was born in Urbar, Germany on 29 July 1931 to Hermann and Marguerite Schuh. He emigrated to Canada in his 20's where he met and married Madeleine. He passed peacefully surrounded by family on 20 February 2017. He is survived by his daughters Denise Cochran and Cheryl Schuh, and granddaughters Elise and Monique Cochran. He was a long time member of the Royal Canadian Legion, a founding member of the German-Canadian Club in Chilliwack, and a member of the 879 Wing and

RCAFA. He will be remembered for his many interests and his love of music. He received many accolades for sharing his music around the community.



**BOWERING, Robert “Derek” CWO (ret’d)** passed away on April 17, 2017 at age 65. He was the son of Verna and the late William Edgar Bowering of Bay Roberts , Nfld. Derek spent 25 years in the Canadian Armed Forces (Dental Corps), retiring as a CWO. He then joined a private practice in Digby and retired in 2015. He loved to hunt and fish and spend time at his camp. Derek is survived by his loving wife of 45 years, Shirley (Fleet); daughters: Shelley (Paul) Lincoln and Angela (Ian) Thompson; three grandchildren: Avery, Owen and Amelia; one sister and four brothers and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his father and two brothers.

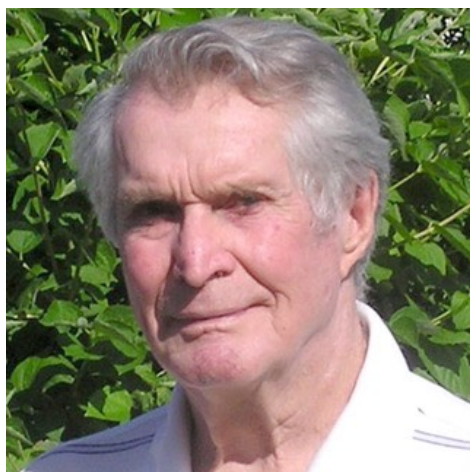


**GAGNON, Linda Cécile Gagnon (née Albert)**, passed away at her residence on Monday August 21 at the age of 54. Predeceased by her parents Délima (born Couturier) and Yvon Albert. Beloved wife of Réjean Gagnon and loving mother to Sébastien (Diana Celina Felix). Cherished sister of Gérard (Sharon Deschêne), Guildo, Paul (Nadine Émond), Gisèle (Marcel Martin), Gilles, Marcel, Luc, Réjean, Yves and Nathalie (Alain Lavoie). Will be dearly remembered by her in-laws; Sylvie (Martin Dallaire), Michel (Hélène Roy), Rémi, Odette (Claude Tremblay) et Louise (Gilles Potvin) and numerous nieces and nephews.

Est décédé à sa résidence le lundi 21 août, 2017 à l'âge de 54 ans. Elle est précédée de ses parents Délima (née

Couturier) et Yvon Albert. Elle était l'épouse bien-aimée de Réjean Gagnon. Elle laisse également son fils Sébastien (Diana Celina Felix). Elle était la sœur de Gérard (Sharon Deschêne), Guildo, Paul (Nadine Émond), Gisèle (Marcel Martin), Gilles, Marcel, Luc, Réjean, Yves et Nathalie (Alain Lavoie). Elle laisse aussi ses beaux-frères et belles sœurs; Sylvie (Martin Dallaire), Michel (Hélène Roy), Rémi, Odette (Claude Tremblay) et Louise (Gilles Potvin) ainsi que de nombreux neveux et nièces.

Linda worked at the Directorate of Dental Services as an Administrative Clerk where she made many friends in the Dental Corps. She also volunteered her time to assist the RCDCA with sorting and scanning many of the historical photographs and newsletters stored at the Directorate. She was truly part of the Dental Corps family.



**FELL, Dr. Robert Allen**, peacefully entered into rest at the Kingston General Hospital on Saturday September 2nd, 2017. Robert Fell of Kingston and formerly of Lansdowne age 96 years. Beloved husband of 72 years to Marjory “Jean” (Hambleton) Fell. Loving father of Jeffrey Fell (Deborah) of Verona, Robin Ballou (William) of Oregon, Anthony Fell (Nelli) of Georgia, Barnaby Fell of BC and the late Tamar Fell. Cherished grandfather of 7 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. Dear son of the late Roy and Blanche (Allen) Fell. Robert served in the RCAF during WWII, afterwards joined the RCDCA, and retired as a LtCol.



**KEARNS, Charles William**, passed away on September 27, 2017, a beautiful autumn afternoon just five days after his 76th birthday. Bill was born and grew up in Saskatoon, the son of Etta (Alles) and Charlie Kearns, and younger brother of Maureen Kearns Heron (all deceased). He graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a BSc and went on to dental school at the University of Manitoba, where he was president of his class for three years and senior stick in his graduating year, 1967. Upon graduation Bill served five years in the Canadian military's Dental Corps, retiring as a Captain. While in the military Bill met his future partners, Nick Misura and Bob Depledge. Bill, Nick and Bob practiced dentistry together in Calgary for over 40 years. Bill was thrilled when his son Tim joined the practice in 1993. Bill loved dentistry, and especially interacting with his patients.

Bill also enjoyed many couples' golf excursions as well as numerous golf trips and curling bonspiels with his good friends

from the Calgary dental community. No matter where he went Bill cherished the people he met and the friends he made.

Bill leaves behind his wife Lynne, children Tim and his wife Michele Durling, Jane and her husband Andy Kurelek and Andrew and his wife Melanie McMaster, as well as grandsons Ross, Scott, William, Reid, Sawyer, Hudson and Wyatt.

**DAWSON, CWO (ret'd) William Roy**, age 82 of Lower Sackville, passed away October 27, 2017 in Ivy Meadows Continuing Care Facility, Beaver Bank. Born in Springhill on Nov 8, 1934, he was the son of the late Roy and Evelyn (Spence) Dawson of Springhill). Roy was Chief Warrant Officer in the Canadian Armed Forces from 1958-1985. After his retirement he served as a Correction Officer for 10 years with Nova Scotia Correctional Services. Roy was a member of Masonic Lodge No. 137 in Lower Sackville. He was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed spending time fishing and hunting back at his camp. Roy was a devoted husband, father and grandfather. Roy is survived by his wife, Joan L (Megeney) Dawson; daughter Jill (Ian) Crowell, Mount Uniacke; sons, John "Jack", Amherst; Richard "Scott" (Debbie), Edmonton, Alta.; James (Pam), Upper Sackville; grandchildren, Megan, Dylan, Nicole, Michelle and Dawson whom he cherished and adored. He was predeceased by his brother, Bert (Buddy) Dawson and his special uncle, Bert M. Dawson. Cremation has taken place, Memorial Service will be held at a later date.



**MOIR, Norm.** Norm passed away 27 Mar 2017 at the Campbell House Hospice. He leaves behind his mother, wife, two daughters and grandchildren. At the request of his family, there will be no service or memorial. Norm will be cremated and taken by his family for burial in Montreal.

Norm est décédé le 27 mars 2017 à l'hospice Campbell House. Il laisse dans le deuil sa mère, sa femme, ses deux filles ainsi ses petits-enfants.

À la demande de la famille, il n'y aura pas de service mais il va être enterré à Montréal.



**COLEMAN, Capt (ret'd) Paul (Rasjad)** passed away on October 19th, 2017. The birth and death of this funny and intelligent man, however, are not nearly as important as the days and nights that he lived to the fullest between them. He was a master of many things. Birth control was not one of them as he had seven children (Hamidah); Raemond, Raner, Erica, Halima, Fardijah, Stacey (deceased), and Harris. Those were his birth children but he helped raise far more children than that. All who entered his home were given food and shelter and invited out to the cottage or to go fishing or skiing or maybe to go play a round or two of golf. He gave endlessly in an attempt to make sure all felt included and were having a good time. His

giving did not end with his home life. As a dentist in Petawawa for over twenty-years, both as part of the military and in private practice, he made sure that his patients felt comfortable and were cared for even if they could not afford it. In his later years, Dr. Coleman embraced music and would play for members of the hospitals and residences where he lived.

He will be sorely missed by his wife Mae, his siblings Dave, Peter, Steve, and Heather, as well as his many children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.



**ANDERSON, MWO (retired) Gerry.** Passed away peacefully at his late residence on Wednesday June 7, 2017. Gerald Anderson , beloved husband of the late Shirley Anderson. Dear father of Kara (Trevor) and Kent (Sherri). Grandfather of Courtney & Curtis Anderson and Rory & Yukie Ritchie. Beloved brother of Grace (late George). Predeceased by his parents Maynard and Lilly and brother Gordon.

Gerry served in the "Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry". He was in the armed forces for 40 years and lived all over the world during that time. He played the trumpet, in the coveted Canadian Army's Princess Pat's band. He was an avid parachutist also! He then served in the Canadian Forces Dental Services. After retiring, he branched out on his own and had "Anderson Dental Lab" with 9 technicians, fabricating dentures for many of the dentists around

Ottawa.



**SHAND, WO (ret'd) Gerald.** A loving husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather & friend passed away peacefully on Tuesday, November 21, 2017 in Cold Lake, Alberta at the age of 97 years.

Gerry is lovingly survived by his wife of 58 years: Audrey; four sons: Gary of Calgary, AB, Brian (Debbie) of Calgary, AB, Stephen of Kalispell, Montana, USA, Greg (Lorann) of Prince George, BC; eight grandchildren; seven great grandchildren; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, cousins & other relatives.

Gerry was predeceased by his parents: Roy & Cassie Shand and eleven siblings.



## Dental Corps Birthday

12 May 2017

The RCDCA now hosts the annual Dental Corps Birthday celebration in Ottawa. The format is still the same - a 10 km (with options for 5km and 7 km) walk around Dows Lake and the Rideau Canal, followed by lunch at a pub with great views of Dows Lake. This is always in the middle of Tulip Festival, which adds to the beauty of the walk. We encourage participants to bring family members to celebrate with us, and during the walk we all get the opportunity to meet other members of the Dental Corps family.



A group photo at the first bridge.



**No birthday party is complete without a cake. This year the new Chief Dental Officer, Colonel Dwayne Lemon, and the RCDCA CWO, CWO Mario Bizier, did the honours of cutting the cake.**







## Remembrance Day, 2017

Each Remembrance Day the RCDCA lays a wreath at the cenotaph adjacent to the Orleans Legion. While the ceremony downtown is a Federal government affair, with the Governor-General and the Prime Minister, the parade in Orleans is a City of Ottawa ceremony, attended by the Mayor of Ottawa and other local dignitaries. It is televised locally, and this year included a fly-past of two CF-18s.

This year the wreath was laid by Richard Groves and Bill Budzinski, and attended by other RCDCA members, some of whom added their poppies to the wreath after the parade. We later met at a local pub for lunch, which I also hope becomes an annual event.



***clockwise: Bud Budzinski, Lecompte, Peter McQueen, Brenda Joy, Kevin Goheen, Frank Hedley, Richard Groves, Fred Begin enjoy some camaraderie after the parade.***



## CFOne Card

This information is repeated from two years ago, as we still receive many requests for information about the CFOne Card.

The NDI 75 ID card for retired military members is no longer issued. The CFOne card is the only currently available documentation that gives veterans access to these programs.

CFOne card consolidates the functions of several cards into a single card. It easily and accurately confirms your membership within the Canadian military community of one million strong and provides you with access to both the CANEX Rewards Program (the program that rewards you for shopping at CANEX) and the CF Appreciation Program (the official discount program of the Canadian Armed Forces community).

In the future, it will also be the one card to support membership to PSP sports, fitness and recreation programs and services at Bases and Wings across the country. In addition, the CFOne card will provide membership and confirm access to messes and specialty interest activities, such as golf, curling and sailing clubs.

It is free for Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members (Regular and Reserve Force) and their families and Former members of the CAF and their families, including families of the deceased.

Join Now page: <https://www.cfmws.com/en/OurServices/CFOne/Pages/JoinNow.aspx>

Registration Form [https://www.cfmws.com/en/OurServices/CFOne/Documents/CFOneRegistrationForm\\_EN.pdf](https://www.cfmws.com/en/OurServices/CFOne/Documents/CFOneRegistrationForm_EN.pdf)

Some of the benefits of particular interest to our members include:

- Currently a 20% discount on **VIA Rail**
- Free baggage allotment on **West Jet** and **Air Canada**
- **Canadian War Museum** - free admission for the veteran and some guests, free parking, and a voucher valid in the cafeteria and gift shop. Report to the Information desk instead of the normal ticket line.
- **Canada Aviation and Space Museum** - free admission for the veteran and free parking. Report to the ticket desk before paying for parking.



***In honour of Canada's 150th year, an interesting juxtaposition of ads from 1867:***

*London Free Press July 25, 1867.*

**NITROUS OXIDE GAS.**

**A SAFE, Pleasant & Efficacious Agent**  
for producing Anæsthesia, or Artificial Sleep.

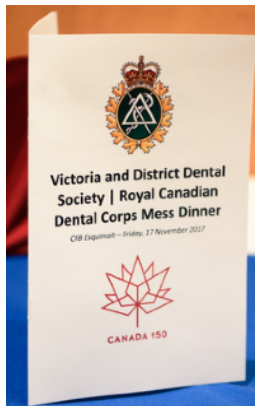
The Subscriber has just received a complete apparatus for manufacturing the above gas, and is prepared to administer it to all who may desire to undergo the hitherto painful operation of tooth-drawing without pain.

**J. B. SABINE, Dentist,**  
Dundas-st., opposite E. Adams & Co.'s Wholesale Grocery.  
London, Jan. 12, 1867. D-ly

**F. JARMAN,**  
**COFFIN MAKER & UNDERTAKER,**  
North of the Catholic Church,  
RICHMOND-STREET, LONDON, C.W.,  
**BEGS to INFORM the PUBLIC that**  
he keeps on hand a large stock of COFFINS of all sizes and superior finish.  
Orders from the country attended to with dispatch.  
London, March 29, 1867. D-tf



## **RCDC and VDDS Mess Dinner and Continuing Education Day**



On Friday, November 17, 2017, the Royal Canadian Dental Corp Esquimalt Detachment and the Victoria & District Dental Society held a joint continuing education day and Mess Dinner at the Naden Wardroom at CFB Esquimalt. This event last took place in 1981 and in renewing this important relationship between our local military and civilian dental communities, this was a reminder of the value of such an event.

The British Columbia Dental Association partnered in this event by providing the continuing education afternoon – “The Challenge for BC Dentists – Balancing Your Role as a Health Care Provider First and Practice Owner Second”. Speakers included Dr. Jim Armstrong, the Chair of the BCDA Economics Committee and BC Director to the CDA Board of Directors, and Ms. Jocelyn Johnston, Executive Director of the BCDA.

Hosted by Detachment Commander, LCol Bob Hart, the Mess Dinner was a mixed dining evening with all of the Mess Dinner formalities. BGen A. Downes, Surgeon General, LCol B. Joy and CWO M. Bizier joined us from Ottawa. Dr. Jim Armstrong was the Guest of Honour and spoke of the enduring relationship between dentists of the Canadian Dental Association and RCDC. One hundred and six guests enjoyed the evening, which included the local detachment dental officers and Capt M. Jun acting as PMC; many dental society members with partners; and guests from the College of Dental Surgeons of BC and the BCDA. Past RCDC members included Sunny Tatra, Gord Jones, Mike Bouris, Teo Russu, Bryan Parker, Jeff Hall, Frank Harreman and Peter Lobb.

These are the sort of events that continue that bond between serving and former members as well as with our local dental community. It is the hope of the group to see more of this sort of event in the future.

The RCDCA was invited to participate. Peter Lobb graciously represented the RCDCA President at the head table of the mess dinner, and spoke eloquently on our behalf.



***Left:*** Gord Jones, Teo Russu, Peter Lobb, Bob Hard and Brenda Joy.

***Below:*** Peter Lobb addresses the attendees on behalf of the RCDCA President.



## A DISTINGUISHED DECORATED FLYER THAT ENHANCED THE CORPS

Major E.M.C. Franklin, DFC, CD, DDS, BSc.  
WWII RCAF 1942 – 1945, RCDC 1951 - 1968  
By Bill Parker



**Major E.M.C. Franklin, DFC, CD** was born 12 Aug 1920 in Digby N.S. He enlisted in the RCAF 2 October, 1940 in Digby N.S. Following extensive flight training he was commissioned in 1942 as a Flying Officer.

On 01 July, 1944 after completing 32 sorties (166 hours-32 minutes) Flight Lieutenant Franklin was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with the following citation: "Flight Lieutenant Franklin has completed a large number of sorties against some of the most heavily defended targets in Germany, including several to Berlin. On all of his sorties he had displayed, excellent leadership, a cheerful attitude, while combining a splendid operational record and by setting an inspired example for his crew and the Squadron as a whole. Meanwhile ensuring that his photographs of the target were excellent, many indicating hits on the actual aiming point".

Following his return to Canada and subsequent release, he obtained his BSc and Doctorate of Dental Surgery from the University of Toronto and enlisted in the Royal Canadian Dental Corps in 1951 as a Captain. In 1955 he was promoted to Major, serving on several bases in Canada, as well as No. 1 Air Division in France prior to his retirement in 1968.





## **RCDCA TREASURER'S REPORT FY 2016/2017**

Following a review of the records, the following statement has been prepared to report on the Revenue and Disbursements including supporting documents and reconciliation of the RCDC Association bank account general fund 1 October 2016 to 30 September 2017.

Respectfully submitted,  
Frank Hedley, Treasurer, RCDC ASSOCIATION

### **GENERAL FUND**

#### **Revenue and Disbursements for the FY 2016/2017 period 1 October 2016 to 30 September 2017.**

##### **Revenue**

Membership Dues	\$5,600.00
Donations to the RCDCA	\$ 635.00
Social	\$ 540.00
Interest	\$ 6.76
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b><u>\$6,781.76</u></b>

##### **Disbursements**

Office Supplies	\$ 143.85
Printing	\$ 772.59
Postage	\$2,098.02
Social	\$ 424.00
Donations and Memberships	\$1,900.00
Trophies and Historical	\$ 20.34
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b><u>\$5,358.80</u></b>

Opening bank balance 1 October 2016	\$16,378.39
Closing bank balance 30 September 2017	\$17,801.35

<b>Net Gain for FY 2016/2017</b>	<b><u>\$ 1,422.96</u></b>
----------------------------------	---------------------------

### **SUMMARY**

**RCDC Association** has cash assets of **\$17,801.35** for the FY ending **30 September 2017**.

Membership dues are up because of the popularity of multi-year renewals introduced this year. Renewals this FY included 32 one year renewals, 45 three year, 11 ten year, and 2 lifetime paid memberships. Revenue from dues will decrease in subsequent years until the multi-year memberships are again renewed.

'Social' included the RCDCA fall lunch at the Orleans Legion and a cake for the RCDC 102nd anniversary.

'Printing' was for the fall 2016 newsletter.

'Postage' was for mailing out the combined RCDC Centennial book and 2016 newsletter

'Donations' was to the Legion Poppy Fund, the Orleans Legion, and two years of membership dues to the Canadian Defence Association.

Special thanks to those who generously donated to the RCDC Association, and to all members who continue to support the RCDCA with their membership dues.

## Distinguished Service Order and the Dental Corps

By Richard Groves

The Distinguished Service Order (DSO) is a British medal, awarded to Canadians until WWII. The order was generally given to officers in command, above the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel and awards to ranks below this are usually for a high degree of gallantry, just short of deserving the Victoria Cross. Two DSOs were awarded to Canadian Army Dental Corps personnel during WWI. The citations read:

*'Major John Freeman Blair, Canadian Army Dental Corps, attached 4th Field Ambulance, Canadian Army Medical Corps. For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty from 5 to 11 November 1918, in the Valenciennes-Mons area, as liaison officer between regimental aid posts and forward collecting posts. Keeping in close touch with the rapidly advancing infantry, he was continuously under fire, but ensured the rapid evacuation of the wounded. On several occasions he dressed the wounded in the open under fire, remaining to superintend their removal on the arrival of the stretcher-bearers.'*

*'Major Orvil Ard Elliott, D.S.O., Can. A. Dental Corps, attd. 5th Fd. Amb., Can. A.M.C. For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in the area forward of Iwuy, N.E. of Cambrai, on 11th October, 1918. On hearing that there were two wounded men, lying in a road in front of our lines, he collected a party of bearers and led them forward under heavy fire. It was through his personal efforts and disregard of danger that the wounded, numbering eight, were successfully evacuated, and he was without doubt the means of saving their lives.'*

RCDCA member Jack Harris, a retired WWII Canadian Dental Corps officer, who is now in his 90s, came into possession of Lt.Col. John Blair's medals, pictured to the right. At his own expense, he had them framed with a photograph of John Blair, and presented them to the CFDS in 1983, so that they could be seen by as many dental personnel as possible. They hadn't been seen for many years, and Jack had asked about their whereabouts on many occasions.

Ken Wallace, a Past President of the RCDCA, was also asking about the medals, and contacted the RCDCA to see if we had any photos or information. While on-line confirming that John Blair had indeed been awarded the DSO, I found the medals for sale on a British auction site, with the sale date set for only three days later.



**A scarce Great War D.S.O. group of five awarded to Major J. F. Blair, Royal Canadian Dental Corps**

*Distinguished Service Order, G.V.R., lacking cypher to reverse centre and top suspension brooch; 1914-15 Star (Capt: J. F. Blair. Can: A.D.C.); British War and Victory Medals (Major J. F. Blair.); Efficiency Decoration, G.V.I.R., 1st issue (Lt-Col J. F. Blair, D.S.O.) lacking 'Canada' top suspension brooch*

I immediately informed the Military Police and the auction house that I believed the medals belonged to CFDS and were stolen property, but, without documentary evidence, the sale was allowed to proceed. Also, the seller had a receipt for the medals from a reputable dealer dated 1984. The RCDCA attempted to purchase the medals, and the Executive agreed upon a maximum bid that was well over twice their value and almost three years worth of our annual expenditure, hoping to recoup the funds by asking for donations. Unfortunately we were outbid, and the medals remain in private ownership. The Military Police investigation is ongoing - if you have any information that may be useful, please contact either me or your local MP section.

## Korean War Plaque presented to RCDC

As part of our mandate to preserve the History and Heritage of the Dental Corps, the RCDCA recently purchased a plaque presented to the 25 Canadian Field Dental Unit in Korea on the occasion of the 38th anniversary of the Dental Corps. It measures 19 inches by 14 inches, and the RCDC badge is carved directly into the wooden base, as opposed to being an appliqué. It is not our intention to purchase items on a regular basis, but in this case we were able to rescue this item from the private market for a very reasonable cost.

Before deciding to purchase this item, we did confer with a few of our more knowledgeable members to determine if we should consider this an important artifact or an interesting trinket. The fact that it was presented to the entire dental unit, as opposed to an individual, and the collection of all of the cap badges represented within the Brigade were important factors. We think this plaque would be of interest to all Korean War Veterans as well as all RCDC/CFDS personnel.

This plaque also generated a discussion about the term 'Queen's Crown'. You will note many of the

badges on the plaque still feature the crown associated with King George VI. Cliff

Beauchamp was kind enough to provide the following information: *The Tudor Crown, often called a "King's Crown" and properly called the Imperial Crown, was introduced by His Majesty King*

*Edward VII in about 1902, and was used until replaced by the St. Edward's Crown after the ascension of Queen Elizabeth II in 1952. This type of crown replaced the Victorian Crown on uniform insignia such as cap badges, collar badges, and Rank and Appointment Insignia.*

The next decision will be what to do with the plaque now that we have it. It is our intention to find a place where it can be displayed publicly and kept secure.

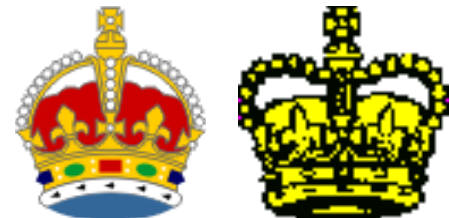


The inscription reads:

***Presented by  
25 Canadian Infantry Brigade  
to  
25 Canadian Field Dental Unit  
Royal Canadian Dental Corps  
On their 38th Corps Anniversary  
1915-1953  
Korea 1953***



***Kerry Mathers had this tattoo done on his left shoulder on his 80th birthday, in honour of his uncle Lt Col John J Armstrong, Col Gordon Shillington, Brig Ken Baird, and 'The Corps'***



***Tudor Crown, St. Edward's Crown***



## RCDCA KIT SHOP

The RCDCA has several items for sale, and is in the process of producing more items that will be of interest to our members and to serving RCDC members.

We have a new RCDCA Regimental Tie. We had received numerous comments about the previous tie, especially concerning the length and material. The new tie is 60" long and 3.5" wide, and made of silk. With a new supplier, we also were able to correct the colours (the background blue is Navy vice Royal Blue and the yellow stripe is less green) and correct the orientation of the diagonal stripes. The new tie is available for \$35 (\$40 for non-RCDCA members). We still have a limited supply of the old tie (ranges from 52-57" in length, 3" wide, and made of polyester) available for \$5 per tie.



The old version on the left, the new tie on the right



All of the RCDCA blazer crests have been sold. A new supply has been ordered. The price remains \$25 per crest.

Please add an additional \$5 per order for S&H if we need to mail the ties or crests to you.

Payment can be made by mailing a cheque payable to the Royal Canadian Dental Corps Association to : Frank Hedley, 5842 Knights Drive, Manotick, ON, K4M 1K2, or by *Interac* e-transfer and email your order to: [RCDCAreas@icloud.com](mailto:RCDCAreas@icloud.com)

**Jewelled Brooches:** There has been some interest in producing jewelled brooches of the current RCDC cap badge, as pictured to the right. We have found a supplier, who can provide a brooch 2" wide x 1 3/8" long, silver tone plated, no colour infill, with cubic zirconia gemstones, plus brooch fastener attachment and a loop that allows it to be worn on a chain, packaged in acrylic presentation box. We could sell them for \$75 each if at least 20 people commit to buying one, and even less if there is more interest. If interested, please contact Richard Groves at [rcdca\\_acdrc@icloud.com](mailto:rcdca_acdrc@icloud.com).

