

# The Blue Beret

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**The Blue Beret** is the official newsletter of the Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association. We welcome articles of interest to Peacekeeping Veterans. An Editorial Board reviews all articles. Opinions expressed in The Blue Beret are not necessarily those of the CPVA.

**The Blue Beret** is published four times a year on the first day of March, June, September and December. Articles should be provided by the 13<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the month of publication. Articles should be submitted by electronic format whenever possible.

Please address queries, comments and/or articles to the attention of the Editor, The Blue Beret.

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## Message from the National Past President Dave Munro, CD.

Veterans organizations executive and staff of Veterans Affairs Canada.

This is to advise you that the Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association held its A.G.M. in Newfoundland Aug 9 where we elected a new slate of officers and made some new appointments.

The new president, Tom Hoppe (his bio attached) has taken over the president's duties effective Aug 09 2006.

Tom and his team will continue to serve our members, veterans, serving members and their families. They will continue with the current projects that are underway.

The new team is committed to maintaining and building relationships with all organizations. All future business for the organization should be directed to Tom ([tomhope@sympatico.ca](mailto:tomhope@sympatico.ca)) and the secretary Jeff Willis ([jwillis2@cogeco.ca](mailto:jwillis2@cogeco.ca)). We also ask for your patience as we move the H.Q from B.C. to Ontario.

This is an opportunity for me to thank the members of CPVA, members of other veterans' organizations and Veterans Affairs Canada staff who have worked together in the past few years to improve the quality of life and commemorations for veterans, serving members and their families.

As past president I offer my congratulations to the new team and offer my support. I am looking forward to working with the new president and his executive team

Regards

Dave Munro

Past president CPVA

# CPVA National Board of Directors 2005 / 2006

C/Supt. (Ret'd) Michael O'Rielly (Patron)

## National Board

President	Tom Hoppe MSC, MB, CD	tomhoppe@sympatico.ca	616-542-4988
Vice President	Ray Kokkonen, CD	kokkonen@nbnet.nb.ca	(506) 627-0217
Secretary	Jeff Willis	jwillis2@cogeco.ca	613-545-1945
Treasurer	Frank Chevrier, CD	jchevrier@shaw.ca	(250) 384-3972

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Past President	Dave Munro CD	daveve3azp@telus.net	(250) 701-0480
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Membership	Joan Chevrier	jchevrier@shaw.ca	(250) 384-3972
Special Assignments	Larry Gollner	pacwave@telus.net	250 743 6736

NB/NS/PEI	Ray Kokkonen, CD	kokkonen@nbnet.nb.ca	506-627-0217
NL & LAB	Garry Best	newfoundlandpeacekeepers@hotmail.com	709-834-1434
MAN	Dale Lamoureau	daljen@mts.net	204-754-3349
ON	Tom Hoppe, MCS, MB, CD	tomhoppe@sympatico.ca	613-542-4988
Surry BC	Don Robertson	dsrobbie@shaw.ca	604-531-9333
Alberta	Wayne Kennedy	waco1870@telus.net	780-865-4332
Edmonton North	Wayne Clayton	claytdw@yahoo.com	780-457-0386
BC	Marlow Fraser	fraser.m@forces.gc.ca	250-391-1375

## Regional Chair Appointments

## CPVA Founders

Founder	Richard Burke, CD		(604) 408-1269
Founder	Tom Leonard, CD	tomzeke@telus.net	(250) 475-3754

# **NATIONAL PRESIDENT**

**Tom Hoppe, MSC, MB, CD, MA.**

Tom Hoppe was born in Kitchener Ontario. He joined the Canadian Forces in 1982 and served with distinction during a career spanning nearly 20 years.

As a soldier, Tom Hoppe served throughout Canada and in many countries around the world, including Germany, New Zealand and Bosnia. In 1994, while serving in Bosnia Tom Hoppe rescued three children who were being shot at by snipers, and successfully command his patrol during several engagements with opposing forces. In recognition of his conspicuous leadership and bravery under fire, the Governor General of Canada awarded Tom Hoppe with both the Meritorious Service Cross and the Medal of Bravery. As the most decorated soldier for one tour since Korea Tom Hoppe has been the subject of documentary films, featured in three books, listed in Canada's "Who's Who," and, in 2004 had a street named in his honour by the City of Calgary.

Since his retirement from the Canadian Forces, Tom Hoppe has focused his efforts on leadership, management, and human resources issues as part of his on going professional development. Mr. Hoppe has completed a Master of Arts in Leadership and Training at Royal Roads University, focusing on front-line leadership and leadership through adversity. Mr. Hoppe has conducted research projects on the high cause of absenteeism in a major hospital; has been involved in seminars on team building and leadership in the both the private and public sector. Mr. Hoppe has actively been involved with modern day veteran's and defence issues; he immediately recognized that the most effective way to assist his fellow soldiers was to educate the government officials that hold the key to providing the necessary programs and benefits. He has been successful in his approach and has been recognized as a person whose leadership has influenced change. Government officials in Ottawa, Ontario have sought his advice and leadership. In further recognition of his leadership, Tom was appointed to the DND Ombudsman Advisory Committee in 2001. Mr. Hoppe is currently writing a book on front-line leadership that will be released in spring 2007.

Tom Hoppe resides in Kingston, Ontario with his wife Jacinthe.

## **National President**

**Tom Hoppe**

With the recent changes and all the work happening behind the scenes I will only take a few minutes of peoples' time and give a quick note on some of the future plans for the organization. Once we have an established national headquarters in Ontario, I will provide a more in-depth update.

As many of you know with the recent AGM CPVA members have voted in a new Vice President, Ray Kokkonen, a new Secretary, Jeff Willis and a new President. I would like to take this opportunity and thank Garry and all the members of the Newfoundland chapter for their hard work in setting up and running this years AGM; as well, I would like to thank them on the hard work they did for the new peacekeeping monument which was unveiled in St. Johns on August 9<sup>th</sup>.

I would like to thank Dave and Larry for the hard work they have contributed over the years and how their efforts helped keep CPVA moving forward; their experience, future involvement, and advice will be important as CVPA continues to grow.

The coming year will be a busy one as the executive looks at ways to build on the achievements of CPVA and continue to grow the organization. Improvements in governance, communications, increasing membership, and working with other organizations will be some of the steps taken to strengthen CPVA. With recent research and discussion the executive has developed and approved CPVA's official vision. The vision will be our road map on how to best meet the transition and challenges that is happening in the veterans' community. This vision will take time to achieve but with patience and support from the members, we will achieve the vision and CPVA will continue to grow as a national organization.

As the new president, I look forward to working for the membership in the coming year, and continuing to represent CPVA to the best of my abilities at the national level.

## **Veterans Helping Veterans** **CPVA Vision for the Future**

The veterans' community is going through a transition. Traditional veterans' organizations have a strong history and deserve to be complimented and respected for their achievements within our society and country. However, as with changing warfare, times in our veterans' community have changed and all must focus on recognizing and addressing the current changes. These changes are:

- The average age in most veteran organizations has risen to 60 or over;
- Societal views have changed and the young professional soldier has a much different view of military life, family, and his or her role as a veteran;
- A soldier who fought in Afghanistan does not consider himself or herself as a "peacekeeper" and because of that will not join an organization which carries such a name; it is not representative of who they are; and,
- Modern day veterans lose their identity when associated with traditional veterans' organizations which have a mostly civilian membership.

To add to the existing challenges, veterans are very passionate about their "era of warfare" and that passion has created many different veteran organizations, each struggling to move its agenda forward. Naturally, this has not enhanced unity among groups and has resulted on occasion in "veterans beating up on veterans". Organizational research indicates the veteran community has continued to operate in the same manner for the last 30 years, which has contributed to the stagnation of veteran organizations. The key to addressing these challenges in the veterans' community is to build on existing history and look ahead 10-15 years and longer.

CPVA has realized that, for our organization to survive, we need to address the needs of our current and future members. We realized that we must do the following:

- Partner with others to create one voice for veterans
- Work with VAC, and DND, not against them
- Provide incentive programs to attract a new generation of members
- Provide transition and coaching programs for veterans leaving the forces
- Establish a fund to assist veterans and their families
- Be the direct link to potential employers of veterans in Canada
- Educate the public about the critically important service veterans have done for Canada

CPVA has been involved in some of the listed services- however, we realize that we must provide more meaningful and up-to-date services in order to move the organization forward and attract new members. As CPVA goes through its transition to meet the modern day challenges, our vision will be to build on existing achievements, work with traditional veteran organizations, support our service personnel, and create an organization where veterans help veterans.

### **ALL CPVA MEMBERS ONLY.**

To CPVA members,

With the recent change in officer positions there have been many question from the membership of what is happening in the organization. One of the main priorities of the new executive is to *improve communication to members*. We are looking at appointing a communications director who will be responsible to develop a communication plan that will keep all members updated on what is happening with the organization. It will take some time to have the communications plan in place in the meantime to help with communications I ask the membership follow the chain of command system. If members have any questions or concerns please direct them to your chapter president who in turn will contact the national secretary or national VP. Messages going to the membership will be done in the reverse order from the national level. If members do not have a chapter president please feel free to contact the national

office directly. I will be contacting all chapter presidents within the next week to touch base and keep them updated with what is happening in the organization.

The new executive is looking at many changes to improve the organization, to facilitate those new changes there will be some reorganization in unelected positions which will be done for operational reasons only. The new executives goal is to build a strong veterans organization, however, **change takes time** and I ask for the **memberships' patience** for the next few months until we get sorted out. We will do our best to keep members updated with the changes and improvements, to help us keep in contact with you **make sure you are on the mailing list**. This next year will be an interesting one, and we have an opportunity of building on past success and growing this organization. Thank you for your support.

Tom Hoppe  
National President CPVA

## **NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT** **RAY KOKKONEN, CD**

11051 Route 430 Highway, Trout Brook, NB, E9E 1R5  
Tel: (506)627-0217, Fax (506)622-6162, Cell: (506)627-6437  
E-Mail: kokkonen@nbnet.nb.ca

### **PERSONAL**

Born in Finland in 1941, immigrated to Canada with parents in 1951, married to Shirley Kokkonen in 1971, lived in Trout Brook, NB (Shirley's family homestead) for past 12 years, speaks fluent English and Finnish, conversational German, limited French, interested in organizational matters and issues (particularly governance), computers, fishing and cross country skiing.

### **MILITARY SERVICE**

Joined Canadian Army, Royal Canadian Artillery in 1959, commissioned in 1974, Regular Force service 35 years, three years Reserve, retired as a Captain in 1996, with service (including

Airborne) in the Middle East, Germany and across Canada (Calgary, Shilo, Petawawa, NDHQ, Toronto, Bathurst).

### **CPVA SERVICE**

Member since 2001, Vice President of Miramichi Chapter for past four years, actively involved and working on various organizational matters and a policies and procedures manual for the Chapter, Regional Chair for NB and PE for the past year, currently conducting a Constitutional review for CPVA.

### **OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Past four years, one of two elected Auditors (Auditors-General), an oversight position for governance and finances for an international federation of 80 member nations.

Speaker of the Congress for the international federation for six years.

Previously for 18 years, Secretary of an elected international committee and Chairman of Rules Sub-Committee.

President of Biathlon Canada for two 4-year terms, member of the Executive in various positions for 25 years, President of Biathlon Alberta for four years.

Two times a member (once the Chair) of a national constitutional review committee, both times for two years.

Currently Chairman of the Board of Directors of Biathlon Canada and President of Biathlon NB.

### **AWARDS**

Inducted into the Canadian Olympic Hall of Fame and the CF Sports Hall of Fame - both as Builder, Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal, Canada 125 Medal, Canada Certificate of Merit, Alberta Achievement Award, various organizational awards.

### **EXPECTED CONTRIBUTION TO CPVA**

With many years of organizational and governance experience in volunteer organizations at the international, national, provincial and community levels, and with a proven motivation and record

for producing results in the Miramichi Chapter, Ray Kokkonen can be expected to make a significant contribution to the governance of CPVA nationally.

## **NATIONAL SECRETARY**

### **Jeff Willis**

Captain Willis was born Rouyn Noranda QC, raised and educated in Chibougamau QC. He joined the Canadian Forces in December 1970 and after basic training in Cornwallis NS was posted to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry in Victoria, BC. He served with the Battalion until 1973.

In June 1973 he was granted an Occupational Transfer to Teletype Operator and after completing trades training at the Canadian Forces School of Communications and Electronics was posted to 708 Communications Squadron Trenton. From October 1974 to April 1975 he completed a tour in Ismailia with the United Nations Emergency Force II. Also while in Trenton he was employed in the international press centre during the Montreal Olympics in 1976.

Capt Willis' postings have included Communication Squadron Lahr, the Canadian Forces School of Communications and Electronics Kingston, 740 Communications Detachment Comox and 743 Communications Squadron Penhold. In 1993 he was selected for commissioning under the Commissioning From the Ranks program, as a Signals Officer.

On completion of phase training he was posted to 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Division Headquarters and Signals Regiment in May 1994 where he served as a Troop Commander, a Squadron Operations Officer and Squadron Second In Command. From December 1994 to February 1995 Capt Willis was the Regimental Operations Captain in Kigali, Rwanda on OPERATION LANCE.

In June 1998 he was posted to the Canadian Forces School of Communications and Electronics as the School Adjutant. In August 2001 Captain Willis was seconded to Celebrations 2003, the Communications and Electronics Branch Centennial Celebrations, as the Secretariat. In April 2004 Captain Willis retired from the Regular Force and accepted a Class B position as the Home Station Adjutant.

Capt Willis is married to the former Wenda Mounteny of Hillier, ON and they have two sons Kyle and Jodi.

## **Special Assignments Officer**

## **Past National Vice President**

### **Larry Gollner**

In the past eighteen months I have been active with CPVA. For a good portion of that time I was National Vice President and Chair of the C-45 Committee. The members of the CPVA C-45 Committee deserve recognition. The twelve Committee members, from across the membership in terms of service and background, worked hard dealing mainly with the emerging New Veteran's Charter, the Veteran's Bill of Rights and Veteran's Ombudsman. CPVA, using the knowledge and energy of its Committee, always prepared in detail before meeting with VAC's representatives at various conferences. At the conferences frequently it was evident to all that CPVA had done its home work. Thus, CPVA was able to contribute meaningfully to the deliberations. We did not win on all our points but on many we did and as a result all our members will benefit as well Canada's veterans at large.

This spring I learned that my Regiment had nominated me as Colonel of the Regiment PPCLI. My appointment has now been approved by the Minister of National Defense and becomes effective 30 August. My nomination was the reason for my withdrawal from the CPVA election process. I have met with our new President and agreed to his request that I stay on as Chair of the C-45 Committee. Much work remains on the New Veteran's Charter and attendant projects.

Our new President has given us a bold new vision for the future of CPVA including a name change. He is backed up by a newly elected dynamic Executive Committee. The Committee's membership has all the vision, energy, and skills essential for success. Success being the building of a true national veteran's organization with the focus being on veterans. A veteran's organization that will make known the needs

of its members and all veterans to VAC and have the clout to press for resolution. In Ottawa membership numbers count. If we are to have a meaningful voice in Ottawa, where the big veteran's decisions are

made, we need to build our membership numbers dramatically. Hundreds of members do not count in Ottawa whereas tens of thousands definitely do. I wish our new President and Executive Committee well and will continue to contribute wherever possible. I also encourage each and every member to do likewise.

J.E.L. Gollner

Chair CPVA C-45

Good Day to All,

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

I would like to congratulate the new officers for the year 2006-2007. As your Membership Chairperson I trust we will all work together to rebuild a new and exciting Association for the Armed Forces and Veterans. This will be my last year as your Membership Chairperson National, it is time someone else with more experience in the Military and with Veterans to carry on for the year 2007-2008, I have enjoyed being your chairman for the past three years. I would like all the Chapters to e mail me a complete account of your membership list with e mail addresses / Home addresses / telephone numbers as soon as possible, [jchevrier@shaw.ca](mailto:jchevrier@shaw.ca)  
Lets have a fantastic year .

In Peace To All  
Joan Chevrier  
Membership Chairperson  
National

## **National Sgt @ Arms**

**Bob McNeil**

Peacekeepers Memorial Day (August 9<sup>th</sup>) which allow us an opportunity to put on our bullet proof Blue Berets pin on our metals and parade to acknowledge the serve and sacrifice of members of the Canadian Forces and their families, past and present.

A good number of Veterans gathered at the Legislative Building where we formed up, a platoon of Veteran followed by the Colour Party, then a Navy platoon from CFB Esquimalt we marched on to the grounds facing the cenotaph. The Guest list included Dr. Keith Martin M.P, Ms. Ida Chong M.L.A., Rear Admiral Roger Girouard, OMM, CD. There were a large number of spectators that also had gathered to watch and participate.

I would like to thank Mrs. Katherine Boustead, CD, Mr. Harry Stinson, CD, and CFB Esquimalt for the great support and help that they gave me.

## **THE SPEECH THAT WAS PRESENTED AUGUST 9, 2006**

**BY HARRY STINSON**

### **Dr. Keith Martin MP**

Minister Ida Chong MLA  
R/Adm Girourd  
Honoured Special Guests  
Fellow Veterans

Today I am pleased to represent our CPVA President Dave Munro, Who is enroute returning from St John's, NL where he participated in the dedication of a Peacekeepers Memorial some few hours ago.

The Province of NL has now joined the group of Provinces who have declared 09 August as "Peacekeepers Memorial Day"

Last year on this date as your Parade Commander I Had the privilege of stating "no names were added to our Honour Roll", today we can't say that. We are here to honour the memory of 20 of our brethren Comrades-In-Arms who have fallen in Peace Operations worldwide in the war against terror.

A senseless act some say – this war on terror; but I Would remind you of and quote from Paul Macrae's TC Article. War against terror is everyone's war and its self Deception to think we can negotiate with fanatics. We – not just Canadians but the whole world are at war with an enemy who hates our ways and ideals and will go to any extreme to force his ways upon us. If this scourge of terrorism is ever to end, all civilized nations need to recognize that negotiation is not possible with fanatics; recognize that terrorists are our enemy and whether we like it or not join the fight not on our ground but his.

Today we stand here together to pay homage to

Those that have taken that stand and paid the ultimate price. Please join me in honouring their sacrifice.

**MAY THEY EVER REST IN PEACE**

### **Edmonton District, Alberta Chapter** **Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association**

Activity Report to August 31, 2006

The Edmonton District CPVA has a membership of 40 active and paid up members and holds monthly meeting the first Monday of each month from September to June annually. The District held its meetings in a community centre at the old Griesbach Garrison location but early this year changed it's venue to the new and recently opened Kipnes Veterans Centre that was constructed immediately north of the Griesbach property.

It has been a busy year for the District with our members participating in a number of events including; a guided tour of the Kipnes Veterans Centre shortly after its initial opening; attending the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission training for Charitable Groups; attending and laying a wreath at the Legion's main Remembrance Day ceremonies held at a facility of the University of Alberta and attending other RCL Branch ceremonies; providing volunteers to assist with care to veterans at the Kipnes Veterans Centre; discussions with the RCL and other veteran groups on providing service to our military services and veterans and holding what is becoming an annual event a District Barbeque in early July.

The District has discussed in its meetings many items affecting memberships, including the factors affecting the recruitment and retention of members and annual fees to National. We are also concerned with the "claw back" foisted onto retired members of the RCMP and the Canadian Forces and is keeping a watchful eye on efforts being made to correct/resolve this matter.

The District, along with all Canadians, is enduring the sadness and sorrow brought about through Canada's involvement in the "War" in Afghanistan. It is particularly traumatic for us since the PPCLI and LdSH(RC) units are stationed in our area and a number of our members have served or are serving with these units. We. like the

majority of Canadians, are proud of the professional performances of our troops in their efforts to promote peace in, not only Afghanistan, but in many other parts of the world. The deaths, to date, of 27 Canadians serving in Afghanistan and many other injured service personnel has an adverse affect on each and everyone of us.

We recognize our members cannot always attend, in person, our monthly meetings. We are attempting to keep our membership up-to-date with all District happenings and have instituted, through the email and regular mail service, the distribution of Minutes of Meetings, Financial Reports, etc. to all members on a regular basis.

## **Surrey Chapter Report**

A monument dedicated to peacekeepers was recently dedicated in the grounds of Royal Canadian Legion Crescent Branch 240 in South Surrey. The Legion is currently reconfiguring their cenotaph and an agreement was worked out with Surrey Chapter to site their peacekeepers monument in that area. A brick wall is being built to provide a backgrounder to both monuments.

The Peacekeeping monument is the first of its kind in Surrey/White Rock area and this granite slab, featuring the face of the Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal, is inscribed, "In Recognition of the Sacrifices of the Canadian Forces "In the Service of Peace," with the word "PAX" etched onto the base. A committee consisting of Chapter Past President Don Robertson, Secretary Terry Herrett, works foreman John Forsman and Ted Neibergal put together the plan with a great assist from Dan Bellan of Bordignan Monuments. The latter two members deserve plaudits for their expert construction of the base for the monument.

Since the founding of the Surrey Chapter, Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association, the Crescent Branch provided a home base for us until we became too large to hold Saturday meetings in the busy Legion Hall. In spite of this the connection between the Chapter and the Branch has been maintained.

This new monument was dedicated by Rev. David Cook, Chapter Chaplain, on Saturday, Aug 5 at 3 p.m., a convenient date prior to the Peacekeepers Memorial Day, traditionally held on Aug. 9, the anniversary of the shooting down of a Canadian Buffalo aircraft, by a Syrian missile, with the loss of nine servicemen in 1973. This enabled a number of Surrey Chapter veterans to attend the ceremony held in Victoria on Aug. 9.

Coverage in both community newspapers, the Surrey Leader and the Peace Arch News, read, "Veterans, their families, and local dignitaries gathered at the Royal Canadian Legion, Crescent Branch 240 in Surrey on Saturday in recognition of national Peacekeeping Day, Aug 9.

Wearing the peacekeeper's blue beret and a scarlet poppy on the lapel of his navy jacket, veteran Hugh Message acted as master of ceremonies.

Message, vice president of the Surrey chapter of the Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association, said many people underestimate the difficulties of modern peacekeeping missions, which have grown more complex over time. Soldiers are no longer just peacekeepers, but peacemakers facing increased risks of injury.

"A lot of people think peacekeepers are just wiping noses and patting heads, but they're dealing with fractious groups that don't necessarily represent a country. It's a very difficult situation," Message said during an interview with The Leader on Friday.

This year's ceremony is significant because it marks the 50th anniversary of Canadian peacekeeping, Message said. And, according to him, the conflict in the Middle East hasn't changed much since Canada's first peacekeepers went to help mediate the Suez Crisis in 1956. "It's been 50 years since Canadian peacekeepers went into Gaza and they're still there," said Message, who served as a peacekeeper in the Gaza Strip from 1961 to 1962. Since that time, more than 120,000 Canadians have participated in over 50 operations – from Congo to Cyprus to Cambodia and, more recently, in East Timor, the former Yugoslavia, and Haiti.

Despite the conflict currently raging in the Middle East, Message believes its unlikely Canadian peacekeepers will be sent to Lebanon because the military simply doesn't have the resources. "It's rather tragic – a country with the stature of Canada doesn't have sufficient military to send overseas. The populace also thinks we should go to Darfur, but we've dismantled our forces and can't go." Russ Hiebert, MP for South Surrey-White Rock-Cloverdale and parliamentary secretary to the minister of national defense, attended Saturday's event. He said the Conservative government's efforts to increase recruitment and provide the military with more resources will increase its ability to make contributions worldwide.

However, Hiebert added Canada had received no direct request for its military to participate in Lebanon or Darfur, and the current focus was the mission in Afghanistan. Canadian troops are not part of the UN peacekeeping force caught in the crossfire between Israel and the Hezbollah, but Department of National Defense estimates there are 146 personnel in the region – 100 of which are aiding the evacuation of Canadians from Lebanon.

Some 122 Canadians have lost their lives on peacekeeping missions – the most recent being PPCLI Maj. Paeta Hess-von Kruedener. Hess-von Kruedener, with the UN Truce Supervision Organization, was one of four observers killed when Israel bombed a UN post in South Lebanon on July 25. His sacrifice was honoured at Surrey's Peacekeeping Day ceremony.

Surrey Chapter has been stood down over the summer period having wound up our activities with a potluck luncheon on June 10. The fall season swing into action on Sept. 9 with meetings held in the Community Hall of West Villa Estates, 8560 156 St. Surrey (Fleetwood) at 1300 hrs each Saturday, barring a holiday which sets it back one week.

Chapter is concentrating on recruiting this coming year in an attempt to bring younger members into its fold.

**Don Robertson**

## **Miramichi Chapter**

Many things have been going on since our last article so we are going to try and catch up. First of all we want to say congratulations to our president Mr Dean Lawrence on being selected to represent CPVA at the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme and Beaumont-Hamel June 26<sup>th</sup> to July 6<sup>th</sup> 2006.

On 1 July we took part in the Canada Day Parade and once again we were a great hit with the spectators. All along the route we received a lot of applause from the large crowd gathered to watch the parade. Again this year we had a UN outpost mounted on a trailer and accompanied by a foot patrol provided by the local militia, under the command of Sgt. Jeff Allard.

Our Chapter was invited to take part in the ceremony and service honoring Mr. Herman James Good of the 13<sup>th</sup> (Royal Highlanders of Canada) Bn, (29 November 1887 – 18 April 1969) who was the recipient of the Victoria Cross for his actions on 8 August 1918 at Hangard Wood, France. It was an honour and a privilege for our Chapter to be invited to take part in this prestigious ceremony.

The ceremony consisted of the unveiling of a Cairn, a grave side ceremony and a drum head service preformed by members of the Black Watch Association of Canada.

On 9 August we had our Memorial Day service which included the raising of the UN Flag. We had the honour of having as our special guest the Lt Governor of NB attend our parade. Following the flag raising ceremony the Lt. Gov. presented the Nobel Peace Scroll to Mr. John Wylie; Mr. Mel McGraw was presented with a plaque for his continued work and support of our Chapter. Mr. Leonard Pitre who was unanimously chosen as our Peacekeeper of the year and he was presented with a plaque. Len has over the years been extremely generous to our chapter by donating his time and effort in support of our chapter and is deserving of this award. Ray Kokkonen was presented with the Builders Award plaque, for his continues work in the forming and developing of the CPVA. Upon conclusion of the celebrations the City of Miramichi held a social gathering with refreshments for our members and guests.

In the evening we held our annual Memorial Day dinner which was held at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch # 10 dining room. As usual the food and service was great, following the dinner several draws were made and the prizes were won by members and guests. The light house lawn ornament was won by Mr. Ralph MacMillan and the 50/50 was won by Mr. Howard MacEachern.

We would like to thank the members and businesses who have so graciously donated the prizes for this function.

Our deepest condolences go out to Mr. and Mrs. Louis Galliah on the death of their son Robert, and to Mel McGraw and his family on the loss of his mother

Our prayer's and wishes for a speedy recovery to all CPVA members who are not be in the best of health.

On Friday Aug 18th we gathered at our local GMC dealer and presented them with a certificate of appreciation for all their support to our Chapter.

## **Gulf War Medals**

FROM National President Gulf War Veterans Association of Canada  
Subject: Medal Update

I just got off the phone with the embassy of Kuwait. The medals are starting to be shipped out this week.

I urge all of you to please pass this on to everyone that you know. With 4097 medals to be handed out and only 200 applications received by the embassy, obviously a lot of people are unaware or are procrastinating. There is a cut-off date by the Embassy of 31 Dec.

If you have not applied please do so.

Currently SERVING MILITARY members can apply for the medal through the DHH Defence Information Network (DIN) site (under Honours and Awards).

RETIRED CF members who wish to obtain the medal are to communicate directly with:

Embassy of the State of Kuwait  
333 Sussex Drive  
Ottawa, ON, K1N 1J9  
Canada  
(613) 780-9999  
FAX (613) 780-9905  
Email : [info@embassyofkuwait.ca](mailto:info@embassyofkuwait.ca).

Jeff Bentley  
National President  
Gulf War Veterans Association of Canada  
PO Box 5225 Stn Forces  
Cold Lake, Ab  
T9M-2C3

[presgwva@yahoo.ca](mailto:presgwva@yahoo.ca)

## **Greetings from the Ombudsman Office.**

As you may be aware, on 06 Jun 06, Mr. Coté announced an investigation into medical/health care matters pertaining to Reservists. We are now at the stage of making Reservists and former Reservists aware of the investigation and encouraging them to participate. Following several conversations with Maj Marshall, we decided to request your assistance in informing those under your command about the investigation.

Ideally, we would like every Reservist, in every unit to be informed. To achieve that goal, effective communication through a variety of means is the key to getting them informed. I request that you, by whatever means available to you, inform all Reservists throughout your command about the investigation. Attached are two documents that

simply explain what we are examining. This Office will also use other means of communicating to the target audience such as Base newspapers, veterans' websites, etc..

If you agree to assist, I further request that you advise us when and through what mediums you fan out the information so we can remain fully informed on where and when and how the information was distributed. This will enable us to respond should we hear that some did not receive the information and will also give us a good idea about the breadth and depth of the coverage.

At this stage we want to encourage Reservists and former Reservists to participate in the investigation by telling their stories regarding their experiences in accessing health care. They can call our Intake section to make their views known by telephone or can access a complaint form on our website. Contact information is spelled out on the attachments.

Thanking you in advance for your assistance.

Best regards,

Dave Clarke

Team Leader - Reserve Investigation

DND/CF Ombudsman Office

1-(613) 992-0787/CSN 842-0787

1-(888) 828-3626 toll-free

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[www.ombudsman.forces.gc.ca](http://www.ombudsman.forces.gc.ca)

I just have to share this. The following column by Lindor Reynolds appeared in the Winnipeg Free Press today (2 May 2006):

**Hey peaceniks, show soldiers some gratitude**

**Tue May 2 2006**

A group of mewling local activists is frantically trying to drum up opposition to a massive military exercise underway in Winnipeg.

The loosely cobbled coalition of protesters, malcontents and bandwagon-jumpers has vowed to be a vocal pain in the butt during Exercise Charging Bison, one of the largest urban warfare exercises in Canadian history. Five hundred soldiers are here to learn how to fight a modern war, one that takes place in a city and not in an old-fashioned field of battle.

They're here to train for the unthinkable and the inevitable.

Most of us will never see them or sense their presence. Their work, which will include everything from combat operations to humanitarian relief efforts, will largely be practiced at Red River Exhibition Park, Pioneer Arena on Logan Avenue and the former Le Rendezvous on Tache Avenue.

If you're not looking for them, you probably won't see anything.

But the exercise still doesn't sit well with the peaceniks, people who are able to ignore the fact that Canada, along with many other countries, is already at war. We're not sending troops to Afghanistan to pat children on the heads and hand out candy. We're sending them there to defend the ideals we hold sacred -- peace, security, democracy and a rejection of terrorism. The fact that some politicians have used the commitment of our soldiers and even their tragic deaths to score points is unconscionable. That these bystanders condemn the men and women who have volunteered to do a necessary job makes me ill.

"We don't support an exercise that helps them do this terrible job," James MacKay, a member of the World People's Resistance Movement told the *Free Press* last week. "These aren't our troops. We don't support what they're doing in any way."

Well, bully for you.

"This isn't peacekeeper training, this is urban warfare training," complained Macho Philipovich of the Canadian-Haiti Network. "Canadians made it clear they did not want our soldiers in Iraq. I think if there was a debate they'd say they don't want this here either."

There wasn't a debate, thank the Lord. There was a decision that our military deserve to be adequately prepared to do an awful, ugly job. Few of us can cheer the need to have our young and brave face attacks, physical danger and death; most of us have the good sense to cheer their willingness to get the dirty, necessary job done.

We can't put the genie back in the bottle. We're engaged in a war. We need to send troops who are properly trained and prepared to fight. If we don't, we should be ready to send over even more body bags and debate endlessly whether or not flags should be lowered for the next dead soldier and the one after that.

We're not used to seeing soldiers roaming our streets, armed and ready for battle. Their guns will fire blanks on this exercise. Their helicopter flights over the city will be just part of the practice. No one is in danger; no one needs to fear these soldiers and their activities.

We need fear only the ignorance that would send them to real battle unprepared. The last time we saw a massive gathering of soldiers in Winnipeg, they were here to fight a flood. Their presence was jarring in 1997 too, those disciplined, uniformed men and women working to help save our city.

We were grateful then and applauded them when the crisis was over.

These are our troops, in peace and in war, and we have a duty to support them in their work. Not just the parts that comfort us, not just the parts we can categorize as peace-keeping, but all of it.

As uncomfortable as it makes us, as opposed to war as ordinary, decent people must be in their souls, we have to understand that these soldiers have signed up to represent us and our values.

I've yet to meet the parent or spouse of a soldier who was grateful that their loved one was facing danger. We all know there is no glory in war. But there should be gratitude that, inevitably, our young are willing to go into battle.

As these troops roll out of Winnipeg, we owe them the same gratitude we showed the soldiers who stood beside us and kept the river at bay. We should thank them, not engage in rid

## **"Promoted to Glory"**

**Mrs. Frank McGraw**

**Passed away July 27, 2006 Mrs. McGraw is the mother of Mel McGraw  
One of our members.**

### **In Celebration of the Life of Jack Stagg**

A memorial service will be held in Jack's honour in Ottawa at 2:30pm on Sunday, September 24, 2006, at the Unitarian Church and Reception Hall, 30 Cleary Avenue. Also, for the benefit of departmental employees in the Charlottetown area and others who may not be able to travel to Ottawa, a service will be held in Charlottetown at 10:30 am on Thursday, August 31, 2006, in the atrium of the Daniel J. MacDonald Building, 161 Grafton Street.

Receptions will follow both services.

In addition to the memorial services, the Department is compiling a special "Book of Memories" to be presented to the Stagg family at a later date. This is an opportunity for all those who knew Jack (employees, friends, colleagues) to submit materials to be included in the Book. Examples could be anecdotes, photographs, or any other contribution you would like to make to the Book which will serve as a living memory to Jack's family. Your contribution to the Book can be forwarded to Gail Ferris at PO Box 7700, Charlottetown, PE, C1A 8M9 or by email at [communications@vac-acc.gc.ca](mailto:communications@vac-acc.gc.ca), before September 8, 2006.

Derek Sullivan  
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## **“WHEN THE SUN GOES DOWN WE WILL REMEMBER THEM”**

### **HUMOUR**

A young wife, her boorish husband and a good-looking sailor were ship-wrecked on an island. One morning the sailor climbed a tall coconut tree and yelled, "Stop making love down there!" "What's the matter with you?" asked the husband after the sailor came back down. "We weren't making love." "Sorry," said the sailor. "from up there it looked like you were." Every morning after that, the sailor scaled the small tree and yelled the same thing. Finally, the husband decided to climb the tree and see for himself. With great difficulty, he made his way to the top. "By golly, he's right," said the husband. "It does look like they're making love down there."

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During an Army war game a commanding officer's jeep got stuck in the mud. The C.O. saw some men lounging around nearby and asked them to help him get unstuck.

"Sorry sir," said one of the loafers, "but we've been classified dead and the umpire said we couldn't contribute in any way."

The C.O. turned to his driver and said, "Go drag a couple of those dead bodies over here and throw them under the wheels to give us some traction."

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A SERGEANT and a private were court-martialed for kicking a colonel as he got into his car. The sergeant said the colonel had stepped on his most sensitive corn, and he had lost control of his reflexes, kicking the colonel unintentionally. That made sense to the court. The private then gave his explanation: "I saw the sergeant kicking the colonel and I thought the war was over."

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A FRIEND of mine, Capt. Charles Blue, was stationed in a remote area of Newfoundland during part of World War II. His wife was at home in Nova Scotia anxiously awaiting the birth of their third child. The only means of communication was the military radio, which could not be used for personal messages no matter how important. Blue was sure he would not get news of his child's birth. But a fellow officer in Yarmouth, N.S., cut through the red tape and relieved the anxiety with this wireless message:

**LITTLE BOY BLUE ARRIVED STOP BLOW YOUR HORN STOP**

**CANADIAN PEACEKEEPERS VETERANS ASSOCIATION**  
**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

PO Box 48197, Victoria British Columbia, Canada V8Z 1H6  
Phone (250) 478-2881 Fax (250) 474 2130  
Email- cpva-blue-beret@shaw.ca

---

Surname \_\_\_\_\_ Given Names \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number; Res: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Bus: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Service (circle as applicable); RCN< CDN ARMY, RCAF, CDN FORCES, RCMP, OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

Branch, Corp, Regiment or unit; \_\_\_\_\_ Period of Service; from \_\_\_\_\_ To; \_\_\_\_\_

Present Rank or Upon Retirement; \_\_\_\_\_ Service or Sin Number \_\_\_\_\_

Orders, Decorations, and Medals awarded (list over leaf if necessary); \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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You are seeking; Regular Membership (Peacekeeping Veterans only); \$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_.

Associate Membership ( non-Peacekeeping Veteran ) \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_.

**Peacekeeping Service** – ( list overleaf if necessary for Multiple Tours)

1<sup>st</sup> Tour – From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_ Place/Mission \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Attach Proof of Peacekeeping** Service such as a photocopy of certificate of service or other documentary proof ( ie: ID card ) along with Cheque or money order of \$20.00 (Regular) or \$25.00 ( Associate) Made payable to CPVA for annual membership fees.

“I certify that the information I have given above is accurate and I hereby apply for membership in the Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association.”

Date; \_\_\_\_\_ Signature; \_\_\_\_\_

---

CPVA membership Chairman

Remarks \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Number \_\_\_\_\_

# CANADIAN PEACEKEEPERS VETERANS ASSOCIATION

## KIT SHOP PRICE LIST

1. MINIATURE MEDALS (PER MEDAL, INCLUDES GST & PST)-----\$ 12.00
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4. UN HAT BADGE ----- \$ 15.00
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13. PICTURE PRINTS (WITHOUT FRAME) -----\$ 20.00

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**\*\*SHIPPING AND HANDLING IS \$ 4.00 (BASIC COVERAGE) OR MORE DEPENDING ON WEIGHT OF TOTAL ORDER). IF S & H IS MORE THAN \$ 4.00 YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED OF THE COST \*\* \*\*WHEN PLACING YOUR ORDER INCLUDE SHIPPING AND HANDLING TO YOUR TOTAL ORDER \*\***

**\*\*If you have any question please call Frank Chevrier (250) 384-3972,  
E-mail: [jchevrier@shaw.ca](mailto:jchevrier@shaw.ca) or Mail or Fax order form to:**

**CPVA National Headquarters  
P.O. Box 48197 Victoria, British Columbia V8Z 7H6  
Phone: (250) 391-1568 Fax: (250) 391-1568**

# CANADIAN PEACEKEEPERS VETERANS ASSOCIATION

## KIT SHOP ORDER FORM

ITEM #	NAME OF ITEM	# OF ITEMS	SIZE	PRICE
				<b>SUB TOTAL</b>
			<b>S &amp; H</b>	<b>(Min) 5.00</b>
				<b>TOTAL</b>

**FIRST NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **LAST NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MAILING ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**PROVINCE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **POSTAL CODE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE #** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ **E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_



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