

Airborne Social Club
Northtown PO, Box 71034
9308 - 137 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5E 6J8

March 2013



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With the sun shining and the temperature warming gives a person the perception that spring is on the way.

The social club had a great winter and some wonderful times; the Christmas party was a great success and the people had a wonderful time. The committee once again outdid themselves again in organizing and carrying out a memorable social gathering. The January meeting started a new and very exciting year with all that's going to be taking place.

The February meeting was a potluck and it always amazes me how we get so many different and wonderful dishes, thank you to everyone that attend. In order to try everything it is definitely difficult to walk out without a bit of a wobble.

Over the next three or so months we will be ironing out the important final touches to what has the potential of being a great memorable reunion celebration. To start, we have the memorial celebration at Siffleur Falls on June 6th and then back to Edmonton the 7th to join in and be part of the meet and greet with comrades and brother jumpers that many of us have not seen each other in a long time.

This reunion already has a lot of excitement and anticipation of being a great and wonderful time for all that attend. I have noticed there are many I would have expected to be registered by now, but do not see their names on the list, yet. It is important to get registrations in as soon as possible so the committee can do the proper planning and preparation

The committee had a great meeting recently and has many things planned for enjoyment and celebrations during this reunion. Therefore, it is vitally important for all to register and attend so that they can be part of these celebrations

The wind up to this reunion, on Sunday there will be a sod turning ceremony for the Airborne Memorial Cairn. The cairn is being erected in the Perron-berger Park, located in the Village at Griesbach across from Patricia Lake and the "Airborne Plaza". The Perron-Berger Park was named in honour of two Airborne Regiment soldiers killed during the Regiment's 1974 tour of Cyprus.

Remember, if not already, get your registrations in, come, and join us for this reunion. I am sure everybody will have a wonderful and rewarding time reminiscing and just enjoying the camaraderie with old friends and comrades we made and served with over the years.

With that, we hope to see you all here this coming June. Until then, "gentle winds and soft landings, Airborne!"

Art Brochu, President.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

I would remind all this is the time for your dues renewals, \$10 yearly. If you have moved or had a postal or email address change please let me know so club correspondence can be delivered to the correct address.

In addition, if you know of any member who has moved or not receiving the newsletter contact Dave at (780) 478-9172 or dr.paris@shaw.ca

HOSPITAL MEMBER

As the club hospital member, I provide on behalf of the membership notification of known members who may have been hospitalized or recouping at home. If you know of anyone who may not be doing well, please let me know so I can pass on to the Club and at the same time provide amenities as appropriate. Contact me at (780) 457-0646 or ben.murdock@shaw.ca

Ben Murdock, Hospital Member

LAST POST



Let us not forget those who have gone on before us.

REUNION 2013 - PLANNED SCHEDULE

Thursday, June 6, 0700 hrs - D-Day Memorial Ceremony at Siffleur Falls.

The plan is to travel to Siffleur Falls in the early morning, departure time to be determined, participate in the ceremony and have a short meet and greet and travel back to Edmonton the same evening.

This would be an excellent trip for those already in the Alberta area and for those who have never taken in this ceremony, it is more than memorable. The reunion committee will be arranging and funding a bus or buses, if required to go to Siffleur to attend parade. Specific details for this event are contained in separate article below.

All those not already confirmed as requiring bus transport to this event are to advise the

committee at airborne-reunion-2013@shaw.ca (or) Dave - 780-478-9172 to reserve a seat on the buses.

Friday, June 7th. Registrations, Meet & Greet, Music and Dance.

Registration starts 1000 hrs. Wrist bands will be issued at registration as part of your registration kit and will be used for entry into all events. Military displays open all day and simultaneously meet and greet.

The committee is eagerly trying to secure commitment for a para drop onto DZ Buxton by the SKYHAWKS and/or 3 PPCLI, Para Company. Location and timings to be confirmed.

Friday night music and informal dance starting at 1800 hrs. Friday night meal will be catered BBQ burgers, dogs, salads, snacks and deserts.

Saturday - June 8th, 1000 hrs - Parade, HMCS NONSUCH Lunch, Cocktails, Formal Dinner and Dance

Parade at HMCS NONSUCH with short service and lying of wreaths to our fallen comrades. NONSUCH is in immediate vicinity of Aviation Museum.

1200 hrs. Catered lunch with more displays, get-togethers and socializing.

1800 hrs. Cocktails, Dinner and Dance. Saturday evening will feature a dinner (roast pig) and dance. Music will be provided by DJ service. We are also hoping to have the PPCLI Drum Line perform as well.

Sunday, June 9th. – Departure Continental Breakfast. This will be followed by a sod turning ceremony for the Airborne Memorial

Cairn. Separate details on this event are contained below.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotels in the local area have offered the government rate for accommodation for those attending the reunion. When making bookings advise them you will be attending the Airborne Reunion and ask that you be given the government rate. It is not known for sure what the exact rate will be at this time as most hotels rates will change to their summer scheduled rates sometime in April.

Rosslyn Inn and Suites

13620 - 97 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5E 4E2
Telephone: 780-476-6241 / Toll Free
Reservations: 1-877-785-7005
Fax: 780-473-3021
Email: reserve@rosslyninnandsuites.com

Chateau Louis Hotel & Conference Centre

11727 Kingsway Ave.
Edmonton, AB T5G 3A1
Reservations Tel: 780-452-7770
Toll Free Reservations: 1-800-661-9843
Full hot breakfast buffet is included.

Ramada Hotel & Conference Centre

11834 Kingsway Ave.
Edmonton, AB T5G 3J5
Reservations Tel: 780-453-7308 / Toll Free
Reservations: 1-888-747-4114

Chateau Nova Hotel & Suites

159 Airport Road
Edmonton, AB T5G 0W6
Reservations Tel: 780-424-6682
Toll Free Reservations: 1-888-919-6682

SIFFLEUR FALLS COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONY

Although not formally part of the reunion, the annual Siffleur Falls commemoration ceremony will be held on June 6th, 2013. For those who wish to travel direct to this location and attend the ceremony, arrangements have been made with the David Thompson Resort (DTR) who over the years has been the preferred accommodation of those attending. This year's accommodation arrangements have been coordinated as below. Individual and direct contact with the DTR is the only means of making accommodation arrangements.

David Thompson Resort: 2-night package:

Campground: single \$185.14 / double occupancy \$285.69
Motel: single \$339.34 / double \$438.89
Prices include accommodations, meet & greet, 2 breakfasts, one lunch & steak BBQ.

Contact Information:

David Thompson Resort
Email: info@davidthompsonresort.com
Toll free phone: 1-888-810-2103
Fax: 403-721-2267

D-DAY CEREMONY 69TH ANNIVERSARY, JUNE 6TH, 2013

Planning for this year's D-Day Ceremony at the Airborne Monument, located at the Siffleur Falls Staging Area, is moving along quite well. The folks at the David Thompson Resort report approximately 16 room reservations to date...no update on the talked about caravan crowd from the west coast has have confirmed, at the moment, If you are planning to take in the full meal deal again this year, it would be wise to get your reservations in to the DTR soon at, 1-888-810-2103 for reservations.

We also hear from the Reunion Committee is receiving names of those who wish to make the bus trip from Edmonton to the ceremony. It is important that those who wish to reserve a seat on the bus, if not already must do so soonest so that numbers can be confirmed. In addition to confirming bus seat numbers it is vital the DTR know how numbers coming for the BBQ. Equally important is for you to remember there is a \$50 charge per person for the social and BBQ immediately following the ceremony hosted by the DTR. Those wishing to attend are required to contact the DTR directly to advise their attending numbers and confirm payment options.

Barring any operational hic ups, we have advised the 3PPCLI will be sending a small contingent again from Para Coy for the event. As in past years, they have made plans to do the climb up Mt Ex Coelis Normandy Peak prior to the parade ceremony. I hope this year we are in for a better weather scenario for the troops to achieve another successful climb. Attendance again by the Patricia's is indeed, welcomed news as the commitments to their operational training in Wainwright take them very close to the Ceremony.

We hope that tying this 69th Anniversary Ceremony of D-Day and the annual trek to the Airborne Monument will be looked at as a bonus by many.

For those of you that have never been to this ceremony, it becomes a wonderful opportunity to extend your visit and really turn these separate functions into a week of Airborne camaraderie and activity.

We look forward to seeing you there. If there was one wish we would ask you to individually undertake in your preparations, pray for good weather this year, we are due.

PERRON-BERGER PARK DEDICATION AND THE CANADIAN AIRBORNE MEMORIAL CAIRN PROJECT

After the 2013 Airborne Reunion close out breakfast on the 9th June, all are invited to attend the Perron-Berger Park Dedication Ceremony and Canadian Airborne Memorial Cairn sod turning, scheduled to take place at 1100 hrs on June 9th. This ceremony will take place at the Griesbach Village, across from the Canadian Airborne Plaza on Pegasus Blvd. A ribbon cutting will take place at the park entrance to give the location the formal dedication blessing it deserves and then proceed to the future Cairn location site.

For those of you who were around in 2006 for the dedication of the Airborne Plaza area in Griesbach, you will recall the park was not completed but the planned naming for the park had been preserved. Since then, the park has been finished and the project to erect a Canadian Airborne Memorial Cairn has begun. With a target completion date of 2014 for the Cairn, the Project Committee felt it was fitting to make these dedications in conjunction with this year's Airborne Reunion.

Not to detract from the significance of the event, the plan is to keep this particular ceremony low key. Yes, we will have a few VIP's in attendance; there will be no "top hats" and "marching bands", at least not at this time! Rather, it will be like a "church parade" with informal form ups, a few words of wisdom, hopefully a piper's salute followed with a few words of reflection then a dismissal so everyone can view the location at their leisure. Maybe we'll be able to capture the moment on film and take a few photos for the records, that would be nice too.

For those of you unaware of this project, a display information table will be set up at the reunion hangar location. This will give

everyone an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the project and the future dedication plans upon completion. It will also give everyone an opportunity to make a contribution personally by supporting the project financially, or in a corporate business fashion, which will allow you to become part of the history and legacy in the building of the Cairn.

An informal luncheon at the OB's club will follow immediately after this ceremony.

The Cairn Committee, the Reunion Committee and all members of the Airborne Social Club are looking forward to your attendance to all events associated with this year's reunion.

We look forward to getting together for another superb and successful Airborne Reunion!

Bill Dickson
Airborne Cairn and Reunion Committee
Member

THE WESTERN SENTINEL
MARCH 14, 2013, BY GRANT CREE

EDMONTON — On Feb. 28, Airborne veteran Walt “Spike” Romanow was presented with a Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal by LCol John Errington, the



Commanding Officer of Third Battalion, Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry (3 PPCLI). The ceremony took place in the 3 PPCLI Headquarters Building where 340 soldiers from the battalion were on parade to celebrate the occasion.

When the Second World War broke out in 1939, Walt “Spike” Romanow was a 15-year old high school student in Saskatchewan. He enlisted in a militia unit of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals and later volunteered for the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion.

He went overseas with the battalion and qualified as a parachutists at the Ringway Parachute Training Centre in England in 1943.



PHOTOS COURTESY STEPHEN ROMANOW

Pte Walt (Spike) Romanow is seen above in his Canadian Army portrait in 1944.

Romanow parachuted with the battalion into Normandy in the early hours of D-Day, June 6, 1944, and participated in all further combat actions of the battalion. This included the Battle of the Bulge and Operation Varsity, the drop over the Rhine River into Germany in March 1945. After the war, Romanow continued with his

schooling and would go on to become a Professor Emeritus at the University of Windsor, Ontario. In his retirement years, he was instrumental in staffing the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion War Diary, a detailed historical compilation of the battalion.

Later, he would see through the construction and dedication of the Cairn of the 1st Canadian Airborne Battalion Monument located in the Siffleur Falls area, west of Nordegg, Alberta, in 2000.

"It is truly my honour to present you with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal," said LCol Errington to Romanow, who stood in front of the assembled paratroopers and Airborne veterans.

"I feel humble, I truly do," said Romanow, 89, after the ceremony. "Because I think of my comrades...all the guys that were left behind in France, Holland, Belgium and Germany. All of them.

He recalled that on June 6, 2011 he was at the Siffleur Falls Airborne Monument annual commemoration of fallen Airborne warriors. During this ceremony, Romanow spoke with one of the paratroopers from 3 PPCLI who had been wounded on combat operations in Afghanistan.

The soldier read the plaque on the monument: "To Remember Is To Strive For Peace Among All Nations". He reflected on that for a moment, and said to Romanow, "That's what it's all about".

Romanow thought to himself, "Thank God he understands." He emphasized how proud he is of our current paratroopers and everything they do to serve Canada. "They're really quite

tough you know, and they're all really big guys too," he said with a smile.

Dixon Christie, Director of the Battle Scars TV Series, was there on Feb. 28 in the 3 PPCLI HQ to film the occasion, which will be included in the upcoming Season Two of the show about Canada's veterans and soldiers. Christie is also producing another movie about Walt Romanow's work in the building of the Airborne monument at Siffleur Falls.

"I consider my work in making documentaries and TV about our vets to be very rewarding," said Christie. "That was especially so today to be able to film Walt talk about the monument and then to see him receive this honour."

Romanow has provided guidance to the film crew over the past four years, and has been interviewed three times for a movie series called Paratroopers. He was also featured in Season One of Battle Scars.

"Our producer, Capt (Ret'd) Bill Dickson knew all too well the humility of Pte (Ret'd) Walt Romanow, so he was a bit stealthy about staffing our day of filming, and we did so under the guise of producing the monument documentary," explained Christie.

In fact, Romanow did not know about the medal that he would be receiving. "So it was all very touching, and the way that the 3PPCLI staffed the presentation was truly a first-class effort," said Christie.

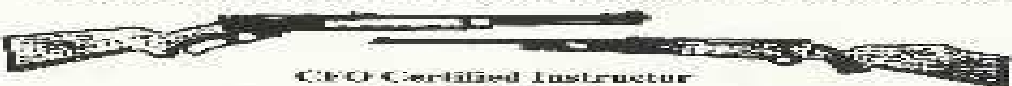
The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal is awarded to Canadians who have made a significant contribution to their fellow citizens and to Canada over the past 50 years. Various organizations were invited to propose the names of candidates, and the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Parachute Association nominated Romanow to receive the medal.

NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION

The Club welcomes airborne stories and original contributions to our newsletter.

Articles may be submitted to me at dr.paris@shaw.ca or postal to the Club Secretary. Published for and/with your cooperation and support, Dave Paris.

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Bill Dickson
PO BOX 414
St Albert, Alberta T8N 7A2

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**REGISTRATION FORM
JUMPERS REUNION 2013
JUNE 7th -9th, 2013**



NAME: _____
(PREFERRED NAME TO BE USED)

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE #: _____ / EMAIL: _____

REUNION FEES: \$75.00 PER PERSON

Number of registrations required: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

Name Of Spouse (or) Accompanied Person: _____

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|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>NOTE: PAYMENT BY CREDIT CARD NOT AVAILABLE</p> | <p align="center">MAIL REGISTRATION FORM AND MAKE YOUR PAYMENT TO: AIRBORNE REUNION PO BOX 71034 NORTH TOWN POST OFFICE 9308 - 137 AVENUE NW EDMONTON, ALBERTA T5E 6J8</p> |
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IMPORTANT REGISTRATION INFORMATION

**REUNION LOCATION / ADDRESS:
ALBERTA AVIATION MUSEUM
11410 KINGSWAY AVENUE, EDMONTON, AB**

- Name tags will be included in your welcome package. Name tags must be carried with you and shown for entrance into all activities of the reunion.
- Refunds will only be granted for exceptional circumstances.
- A general information sheet is available at web link or by emailing address below.



**REGISTRATION REQUIRED
NLT: JUNE 1ST, 2013**



WEB LINK: <http://www.airbornesocialclub.ca>
Email address: jumpers-reunion-2013@shaw.ca

