



**AIRBORNE SOCIAL CLUB
NORTHTOWN PO, BOX 71034
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EDMONTON, ALBERTA T5E 6J8
FEBRUARY 2018**



EDITOR'S MESSAGE

It seems like just a short while ago we were wrapping up the 2013 reunion and wondering what to do for the next one. With the new year just turning the corner the club is active in planning arrangements for Reunion 2018 with the hopes that as many as possible will be able to attend this year's reunion. Specific details on the reunion are contained below. Hope to see you here.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

In accordance with Club By-Laws and consistent with the Societies Act, once a membership reaches end-December for that year paid-up period that membership will have until end-June the following year to either renew or have their name placed on an inactive listing, i.e. end-December 2017/June 2018. Membership is open to all paratroopers, former or current. Membership dues is established at \$10 yearly.

As the club secretary and membership representative, I endeavour to keep our membership contact information up-to-date. Our normal method of contact is through email, less mailing of cards. If you have moved or had a postal or email address changed since last contact please let me know so I can make corrections. In addition, if you know of any member who may have moved or are not receiving the newsletter contact me at dr.paris@shaw.ca

HOSPITAL MEMBER

The club hospital member, on behalf of the club provides notification of members hospitalized or at home recouping. If you know of anyone who may not be doing well, please let me know so I can arrange to visit

and deliver hospital comforts as appropriate. Ben Murdock at ben.murdock@shaw.ca or (780) 457-0646.

LAST POST

This edition may have missed notices of airborne brothers who may have passed since last publication. We do try to ensure all announcements are mentioned here. Regretfully though full details of member's passing is not always known or available for publication; while sometimes the passing has not been made known at all. If you know of a passing and think we may not, feel free to send it to me with details or a link so that I can send out on our net.

RSM (Ret'd) Fred Cook, Airborne Engineer, 1936-2017, passed away after a courageous battle with cancer with his loving family by his side on Friday, October 6, 2017 at the Sackville Memorial Hospital. Fred was a member of Combat Engineer Regiment; he was



also a member of the Sackville Lion's Club and the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 26, Sackville. Fred was a devoted hockey fan and armchair statistician. He loved spending time on his tractor and was an avid outdoors man who made his own maple syrup. He has built an intricate network of roads throughout the land behind his home and named them after his family.

Donald Bratzer, March 1951- October 2017



Don was a Petawawa era airborne medic. He will be lovingly remembered by all his family and friends. Those of you that knew Don would be familiar with his unique sense of humour and the warmth of his friendship. Rest in Peace

our airborne brother.

CWO (Ret'd) Thomas "Tom" John Holland, CD2, August 1941-October 2017.



Tom is survived by spouse Thelma Agnes Holland (nee Hogan) and brother Gerald Holland; children Debbie and Thomas (Peggy); grandchildren Alma Terry, Thomas James, Richard Neil and Hayley Jeanette, sisters-in-law Donnie Butler,

Linda Holland, and brother-in-law Roy Hogan (Barb), many nieces and nephews and cousins across the country. He will be dearly missed by his family and friends.

Tom was a career soldier who served loyally for 42 years. He was an Army Cadet, Air Cadet and Sherman tank driver in the Algonquin Regiment all at the same time. He served in all Battalions of the PPCLI, as well as the Airborne Regiment. He spent 8 years falling out of airplanes as a member of the CFPDT SKYHAWKS. He served as the RSM of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada and the District RSM of BC. He was very involved with the Free Masons and Shriners and was a PDDGM, Scottish 33° Rite and Director of Uniformed Units of the Gizeh Temple.

Clarence "Wayne" Morash – December 1947 - October 2017.



Beloved husband of Linda Morash of Wainwright, Alberta passed away on Thursday, October 26th, 2017 at the age of 69. Wayne also leaves to cherish his memory son, Shawn (Andrea); daughters, Carrie (Don Vosburgh) and Heather (Anthony) Seear;

six grandchildren, Jared and Evan Morash, Samantha Dunston, Andrew Coughlan and Chelsea and Broghan Seear; two sisters, Sharyn (Murray) Hennigar and Linda (Danny) Proudfoot; godchild, Dawn Walker; numerous brothers and sisters-in-law, step-brothers, step-sisters, nieces, nephews, cousins and good friends. He joined the Canadian Military in 1965 and was dedicated to serving his country at home and abroad. Wayne and Linda married on March 1968 in Calgary. He was a wonderful husband and father and loved spending time with his family. Wayne also loved hunting and fishing.

Colonel (Ret'd) André D. Gauthier, OMM CD

passed away peacefully in the presence of



family on Thursday October 26, 2017 at the age of 82.

Predeceased by his loving wife Francoise, son Jacques, brother Edouard (Savitri) and sister Louise. He leaves behind his loving

children Edouard (Anna) and Madeleine (Harry McHugh). Beloved grandfather of Bryce, Chantal, Charlotte and Scott. He is survived by his brother Paul (Sandy), sister Michelle Seattle and sister-in-law Jacqueline (André).

André was a very accomplished military officer and diplomat with a distinguished career ranging from the former Colonel Commandant of NDHQ, military advisor to the MBFR Talks in Vienna and Military Attaché. He was also a very gifted artist and sculpted many statues and monuments that recognize the many branches of the Canadian Armed Forces. André produced "The Airborne Jumper, a covenant statuette by many an Airborne Soldier". On October 21, 2017 his last monument, "The Return" was unveiled in Kirkland, QC in honor of returning soldiers.

Richard "Rick" Beaudette, June, 1946- November 2017, Calgary, Alberta



Rick left home to join the military at sixteen years old but was told he was not old enough and to come back. He returned a few short months later where he was again told he was not old enough, but this time stayed and worked on the base and took courses until such time he

was old enough to join the Canadian Armed Forces. Rick served in our Military from 1963 to 1975. During this time he completed two peacekeeping tours with the First Battalion Canadian Guards, was a member of the Canadian Airborne Regiment (Charlie Company) and ended his military career as a Military Police Officer.

Rick and wife Joyce, continued to touch and change lives by becoming a foster parents. Over the years Rick and his wife fostered fifty plus foster children, for both long and short terms. Many of these foster children, now adults contribute their success in life to the kindness, patience and life lessons learned while in Rick and Joyce's care. He was able to see the good in everyone and build on it despite their challenges and tribulations. Rick had a way of touching the lives of everyone he met; he was a kind and gentle soul with a love

of nature and animals. He lived his life the way he wanted too and like everything else he did in life, he handled his brief battle with cancer with grace and dignity, making sure to make people laugh and smile every step of his ending journey. He will be dearly missed by all those who were lucky enough to have met him. Rick is survived by his loving wife Joyce; his mother Helen; sister Peggy; brother Tim; daughter Tannis (Keith); son Marvin; grandchildren Kyla (Jarvis), Gerrit, Ryker, Veronica and Monty; and great-granddaughter Phoenix. Rest in Peace Rick.

MGen (Ret'd) Robert (Bob) Gaudreault

MGen Gaudreault passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loving family, in Bromont, on December 1, 2017, at the age of 74, loving



husband of Louise Gaudreau (nee Bouret). He leaves to mourn, daughters, Monique (Steve), and Elaine (Tim); grandchildren, the Robbie, Justin, Andrew (Taryn), Jenny; his sisters, Armande, Diane, and Sonya; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-

law, Claude Bouret (Andrée Couturier), Denise Gauvin, Monique (Jacques Courchesne), Lino Bragoli, Gilberte Beauchemin, Hélène Larue, Michel Perreten, and Sylvia Belleau; his nieces and nephews, other relatives and dear friends.

He also leaves behind many military colleagues, as well as the Sutton Legion's family. MGen Gaudreault was former Commander UNPROFOR Sector in Yugoslavia, CO of 1CDO Cyprus during the Turkish invasion in 1974, Commander of the Canadian Airborne Regiment in 1985-87, National Patron of ARAC and Colonel Commandant of the Army Cadet League. He will be sadly missed by all who have known

him. Rest in Peace and we will meet again on the big Drop Zone.

JOHN WALTER ROSS - 1CANPARA BN



John Ross of Lethbridge, beloved husband of Mrs. Joan Ross, passed away at the Chinook Regional Hospital, January 27, 2018 at the age of 97 years.

He was a Citoyen d'Honneur of Rochefort, Belgium and from France; Knight of the

Legion of Honour. John retired after a career as a signaler in the military and retired again after a second career with Alberta Corrections.

Besides his loving wife Joan, John is survived by four children from his first marriage to Shirley MacMillan, Marilyn, Elizabeth, William (Annabella) and Bruce; his daughter Donna; as well as Joan's daughter, Anne. John was predeceased by his parents Isaac Louis Ross (Jim) and Elsie Louisa Ross.

FRED STOKES - 1CANPARA BN



Fred Stokes, one of the few surviving members, 1CANPARA passed away February 5th. Fred completed his para course as a veteran of the battalion and participated in the final drive to Wismar and the Baltic.

Fred has been a very energetic member of Bornewest, participating in many of their commemorative

events; he was a regular at the Siffleur Falls during the annual D-Day commemorations.

MESSAGE FROM A FALLEN COMRADE

My helmet, now a halo
wings replace my chute,
to fly amongst the eagles
no Soldier would dispute.
No aircraft is needed
to take me to the sky,
your prayers from below
have lifted me so high.
My spirit is my engine
no need to refuel,
no runway required
a rainbow's edge will do.
No need for maps or compasses,
my angels are my guides,
their strength and love have gifted me
to soar the sky with pride.
The heavens here are endless
my soul's now free to roam,
there is no need to cry my friends;

This Airborne Trooper found his home.Unknown

AIRBORNE GUNNERS NEWSFLASH

The following newsflash is about some of the activities involving the Airborne Gunners. First off, we Airborne Gunners in the Edmonton area are involved in the Airborne Social Club events. It is a great organization comprised of airborne soldiers with a common theme, "Keeping the Airborne Spirit Alive". We are really impressed reading and hearing about the various charitable activities (raising funds) the Veterans' Paratroopers Motorcycle Club and Art Brochu have been involved in.

We "Airborne Gunners" are very optimistic about our attendance at the "50th Anniversary of the "Canadian Airborne Regiment". This starts with the Siffleur Falls Ceremony lead by program leader Bill Dickson, including piping by Airborne Gunner "Colin Norris" followed by the reunion organized by Art Brochu and his committee. They are meeting monthly and working very hard to ensure we all have a good time.



The Arty/Airborne Gunners reunion will be held in Shilo this year, June 28-July 1. As well, we are hoping for a good turnout for this event. The Reunion Committee involves us and we are fortunate to have Paul Parsons, our “man on the Ground” representing us.

A few projects we have on the go are:

- ❖ Airborne Gunner Coin - we produced an excellent airborne gunner “coin”.
- ❖ Airborne Gunner Blazer (new and updated) crest and tie.
- ❖ Airborne Gunner Vest W/Crest.
- ❖ In Search Of Pegasus.

“Artist” Robert Chabot is doing a print for Canadian Airborne Regiment 50th Anniversary. (You can follow his journey on FB). We will be sponsoring his trip to Shilo to the ARTY Museum so he gets a chance to view the Airborne Gunner display we enhanced a few years ago in Shilo. He has advised he is eager to work with us to do a print entitled “The AIRBORNE GUNNERS” once he has completed ongoing projects. UBIQUE, AIRBORNE!...Bill Tremain

IN MEMORY OF “DOROTHY SKINNER”

It is with much sadness to report the passing of Dorothy Skinner, beloved wife and partner to Les Skinner. Dorothy passed away on February 2nd after a long battle with her illness.

The following repeat from BGen (Ret’d) Beno is a testament to Dorothy’s virtues:

“We have lost a very special lady, Dorothy Skinner (Dot). She cared for and stuck by her soldier husband for as long as I can remember, back when Les was a Bdr in A Bty, and before. She supported him and allowed him to serve the Army and the Guns wherever, whenever, and whatever the circumstances. She let him go off with us and do our thing, and she looked after him when he got home. She let him soldier, and jump out of airplanes, and fire guns, and play, with us – and took him back when we were done playing. She was a Saint, but she knew that she had a good man, and he knew he had a great wife.

Always calm, steady, warm, and pleasant, Dorothy was a pleasure to be with. She always had a smile, although sometimes she may have raised an eyebrow or two!

Les and the family will miss Dorothy terribly, but we Airborne Gunners will share in the sadness with them – she was part of our family and part of our lives.

Yes, we will always smile when we think of Dorothy, how could you not, but we’ll miss her.

Dorothy, we know that there is a special place for you in Heaven. You’ll look down on us and guide over us. We know that you’ll keep an eye on your loving and caring husband, as you have done for so many years.

You will be sadly missed, and may you rest in peace.” UBIQUE! Ernie

Les has advised, in honouring Dorothy’s wishes, no funeral be held however, a celebration of life will be held this coming summer.

Details to be advised when known.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Les and his family at this of grief.

PARATROOPERS REUNION EDMONTON

Committee Chairman, Art Brochu and committee continue to cement details for the reunion. Highlighted details are as follows:

June 8 – Friday

1000 hrs Registration Opens
1600-1900 hrs BBQ Buffett
Closing – when last gun is fired!!!

June 9 - Saturday

1000 hrs Parade at HMCS NONSUCH
1200-1300 hrs Soup & Sandwich Lunch – Hospitality Room.
Afternoon socializing, military displays, impromptu events
1800 hrs Cocktails
1900 hrs Banquet
Entertainment and dancing (live band)

June 10 - Sunday

0800 hrs Continental Breakfast (hotel facilities)
1130hrs – Memorial Service Airborne Cairn, Griesbach
Edmonton location activities will be held at the Edmonton Inn & Conference Centre. One-time registration fee gains entry into all activities.

The Reunion will be preceded by the Annual D-Day Ceremony to be held June 5th-7th. A formal ceremonial parade will be held June 6th 2018, approximately 1330 hrs at the 1 CAN PARA (Airborne) Monument, Siffleur Falls. (See sitrep below)

ACCOMMODATIONS

The Edmonton Inn & Conference Centre has established a reunion rate of **\$129.00 per night for the June 5th-13th inclusive**. Any period prior to or after these dates must be negotiated individually with the hotel.

Edmonton Inn & Conference Centre

11834 Kingsway Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5G 3J5
Toll Free: 1-888-747-4114
Local Tel: 780-454-5454
Email: reservations@edmontoninn.ca

Other accommodations in the area:

Chateau Louis Hotel

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

Chateau Nova Hotel & Suites

159 Airport Road
Edmonton, AB T5G 0W6
Local Tel: 780-424-6682

Rosslyn Inn and Suites

13620 - 97 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5E 4E2
Toll Free 1-877-785-7005
Local Tel: 780-476-6241

Fairfield Inn & Suites Edmonton North

581 Griesbach Parade, Edmonton T5E6W1
Toll Free: 1-844-844-6083
Local Tel: 780-540-5100

Reunion registrations and additional information can be obtained from the following links/email:

<http://www.airbornesocialclub.ca>
E: airborne-reunion-2018@shaw.ca

SITREP #1 - 2018 D-DAY CEREMONY SIFFLEUR FALLS STAGING AREA

Plans for this year's D-Day Ceremony at the Siffleur Falls Staging Area are on the move. For reasons that should be clear to our aging brotherhood, attendance at this ceremony becomes more important for us each passing year. Our hosts at the David Thompson Resort (DTR) have reported that the Resort has been undergoing renovations throughout this winter and we look forward to seeing the improvements, as this is the base point for all activities related to this event. The following outline of the plan, and what is known or confirmed for the Ceremony.

For those of us that will take the package deal offered by DTR, events will proceed as they have in the past. The evening of the 5th will have the Meet & Greet at the Bubble Tent. The

other normal meals follow as scheduled. **The ceremony on June 6th at the Airborne Monument, Siffleur Falls Staging Area will take place at 1330 hrs rain or shine!** If a need is required to adjust the timings for the ceremony you will be advised. Also, a notice will be posted in the DTR Office.

Following the ceremony, the Bubble Tent again becomes the RV point for “relaxation and therapy”. The BBQ the night of the 6th

the climb. These Army Cadets have performed and supported this climb venture for many years, which is a credit to these youthful members. The purpose of the Climb Teams

Mission is simple; given that conditions allow the Climb Team to make it to the top of the mountain, they will take time to observe a



usually takes place around 1700/1730 hrs. Again that time is subject to change and we would be notified by the DTR Office of any change. The departure breakfast on the morning of the 7th, as usual, has us saying our good-byes!

Right now, arrangements for the climb up Normandy Peak on the 5th June are at a “to be confirmed” point. The plan hopefully will again

see members from 3rd Bn PPCLI forming a climb team, supported by members from 2551 (PPCLI) RCACC and veterans/members joining

Memorial Service in memory of the fallen, and those that have since departed. So once these arrangements have been confirmed, this plan will be updated.

The costs for the DTR Package Deal for 2018 are as follows:

- ❖ Rooms \$129/night
- ❖ 5 Meals \$140
- ❖ Campground rates are \$36.75/night/site.
- ❖ **Reservation desk 1-888-810-2103**

For those coming down for just the ceremony on the 6th and may wish to stay for the BBQ, the cost is approximately \$35 plus tax for the BBQ. DTR to be advised by June 1st, so they can make sure they have enough goodies available. If you wanted to stop in prior to the parade for a quick soup and sandwich lunch, you would be looking at about \$20.

This year, in conjunction with the Airborne Reunion we, are hoping to have two bus coaches available to transport "Registered Reunion Attendees" to Siffleur for the June 6th Ceremony. Registration fees will cover the cost to those wishing to take the bus. However, individual will be required to cover their costs for their lunch and BBQ at the DTR, as desired. Priority here for the trip will go to those registered coming in from afar, without personal transportation. More information will be forthcoming on this arrangement, as details get confirmed and sorted out.

In closing, queries on the event, don't hesitate to contact me by e-mail, abn339@shaw.ca or my cell 780-893-1789, or the reunion contact: airborne-reunion-2018@shaw.ca

I leave on the June 4th for the DTR, so best to contact me before then, **"in case you are not aware, there is no cell phone coverage in the area of the DTR, or the monument"**. Again, the contact number for DTR is 1-888-810-2103.

See you there... and how you get registered for the Reunion. Airborne!

Bill Dickson
Coordinator/MC 2018 D-Day Ceremony
Siffleur Falls Staging Area

SOMALIA VETERANS' MALARIA DRUG CASE IS TOO OLD TO PROCEED, FEDERAL LAWYER ARGUES

Published: The Globe and Mail, Dec 8, 2017:

A photo and boots of Master Corporal Clayton Matchee and others are placed on the front steps of Parliament during an anti-malarial

drug Mefloquine rally on Sept. 19, 2017, Dave Chan/The Globe and Mail

Veterans of the Somalia mission who say they were permanently damaged by the anti-malarial drug they were forced to take during that deployment have waited too long to proceed with a class-action suit launched nearly 18 years ago, the federal government says Justice Department lawyer Elizabeth Richards told the Ontario Superior Court on Friday that the lawyers for Ronald Smith, a former member of the now-disbanded Airborne Regiment who is the lead plaintiff in the case, have provided no reasonable explanation for the amount of time it has taken to move the case forward.

It would be impossible at this point, Ms. Richards told Justice Robbie Gordon, for the government to call witnesses who could provide accurate testimony around the way mefloquine was dispensed to the troops who took part in the Somalia mission of the early 1990s. That means, she said, there cannot be a fair trial. Justice Gordon is being asked to decide whether the case can be certified as a class action so many years after the first documents were filed in the court.

Ms. Richards said the judge must balance the potential unfairness of the delay, which both she and Wayne Stickland, the lawyer for Mr. Smith, agree has been inordinate, and the right of Mr. Smith and the other veterans to obtain justice for the harms they say they have suffered.

Mr. Stickland told the court that his office has been contacted by hundreds of Somalia veterans who say mefloquine left them with long-term mental problems. If this case is thrown out, he said, another plaintiff will quickly step forward to launch an identical suit.

But Ms. Richards said that would run contrary to the principle that defendants are entitled to some finality of justice. "We say nobody can bring a subsequent class action," if Mr. Smith's case is not permitted to proceed,

she told the court. "Once it's been dismissed for delays, it's been dismissed."

That appeared to concern Justice Gordon, who asked both sides to return after Christmas to present their arguments about whether this class action is the end of the line for Somalia veterans who want to sue for the damages that they blame on mefloquine.

According to Mr. Smith's statement of claim, the drug he was required to take in Somalia as part of a poorly executed clinical trial left him with a host of residual mental-health issues, including depression, aggressive behaviour, poor concentration, social isolation and suicidal thoughts. He says his Charter rights were breached and is alleging battery and negligence.

His suit, which was launched in 2000, sat nearly dormant before being taken over and restarted last year by Mr. Stickland. In explaining the delay to Justice Gordon, Mr. Stickland said there had been a long debate between lawyers about who was best positioned to represent Mr. Smith in court.

In addition, he said, the case was hampered by Mr. Smith's own mental state, a lack of scientific evidence in the early years to link mefloquine to the types of symptoms suffered by the veterans, and a lack of expert witnesses. That evidence has now become more solid and he has secured an expert witness, Mr. Stickland said. But Ms. Richards said none of those explanations are reasonable. In terms of the scientific evidence, she said "a plaintiff doesn't get to sit back until they get the best possible evidence to proceed." And even when Mr. Smith's mental state improved in 2010, the previous lawyers for Mr. Smith did nothing to move the case forward, she said. Despite the number of vets who say mefloquine caused severe problems, Ms. Richards said, "the conclusion to date is that there is no conclusive scientific evidence" to link mefloquine to the permanent psychiatric disorders they have described. Two of the soldiers on the Somalia mission were charged in the beating death of a Somali teen, and many others complained of alarming

dreams, hallucinations and depression. Health Canada updated the warning labels for the drug in 2016 to emphasize that certain side effects can persist for months or years after the drug is discontinued, and some may be permanent in some patients.

The Canadian military conducted a review of the medical literature this year and concluded there is no evidence that the drug causes long-lasting problems. But it now says alternative drugs are the preferred options for soldiers who deploy to countries where malaria is a risk.

NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION

The Club welcomes airborne stories and contributions to our newsletter. Articles may be submitted to dr.paris@shaw.ca or postal to the Club Secretary. Published for and/with your cooperation and support.

HUMOUR

Three women, two younger, and one senior citizen were sitting naked in a sauna. Suddenly there was a beeping sound. One of the young women pressed her forearm and the beep stopped; the others looked at her questioningly. "That was my pager", she said, "a microchip under the skin of my arm".

A few minutes later a phone rang, the second young woman lifted her palm to her ear. When she finished, she explained, "that was my mobile phone, I have a microchip in my hand".

The older woman felt very low-tech, and not to be out done, she decided she had to do something just as impressive. She stepped out of the sauna and went to the bathroom. She returned with a piece of toilet paper hanging from her rear end. The others raised their eyebrows and stared at her. The older woman finally said; "well, will you look at that. I'm getting a fax!!

Note: Any typing or grammatical errors have been intentionally put in for your edification.