



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



## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

With winter gone and now with snowbirds, both feathered and pensioned having returned from the south, many of us are enjoying the weather as we get flowerbeds and gardens ready for the summer's beauty and harvest. Still for many of us, our nitro bottles are close at hand as we watch the Senators bring us to the edge of our seats in the hope the only Canadian team left in the playoffs brings the Stanley Cup back to Canada.

Congratulations goes out to Bill Dickson, a stalwart member of the club who was recently honoured by the awarding of the **SERVUS CREDIT UNION SAGE AWARD**. This award, presented by Servus Credit Union celebrates seniors who inspire, empower, and engage others in making our communities, province, nation and world a better place to live, work and play. It honours those, such as Bill who achieve results and contribute much to their communities since reaching the age of sixty, although Bill has been doing it.

Bill's nomination was put forward for his dedicated commitment and service as highlighted in the following paragraphs.

Quote...Bill he has always had the welfare of others as his primary objective for the vast majority of his life. A steadfast community minded man; he has been a minor league and senior men's soccer coach. In addition to this has been a mentor to young Army Cadets which was a passion driven by his own military background.

As a community member Bill has immersed himself into activities which benefit his surroundings and his community as a whole. An active member of his Legion he

has continues to be a vital member of the planning and staffing, as well as the Parade Marshall for the St Albert Remembrance Day Ceremonies for many years.

It would be uncommon not seeing Bill standing in front of a display anywhere in his community providing an education perspective on the area, Legion activities and historical matters, both civilian and military. He is often called upon to assist whenever activities such as these are being conducted.

Bill has studied and become a notable military historian, especially in the realm of parachuting operations. As a result he was a member of the Street and Area Naming Committee for the Village at Griesbach. His efforts in the research of military history helped with the naming of selected streets in Griesbach. Additionally, he initiated, helped design, planned and secured financing from numerous agencies, departments and individuals to build a Memorial Cairn in the Perron-Berger Park which was a great success. This park was formally dedicated by City of Edmonton official in August 2014.

Having a desire in keeping his community informed on military history, Bill, since 2000 has been actively involved in the annual memorial ceremony at the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion Memorial Cairn at Siffleur Falls. Over the years he has single-handedly taken over from the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion veterans to ensure this ceremony continues to be conducted annually. In doing so he has made all arrangements, ensured media and press coverage was available and has had dignitaries from municipal, provincial and federal departments as principal speakers. Most recently The Lieutenant-Governor of

Alberta being one of them. Bill has acted as the MC to this event for the past 10 years.

Bill has demonstrated and continues to show his desire to serve his community. He without a doubt is an excellent recipient of the SAGE Award...Unquote.

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Bill was honoured with this distinguished award in the presence of his wife Uschi, daughter Patricia her husband Simon; as well as long-time friends and airborne brothers as witnesses.

Congratulation Bill, a well deserved award, Airborne!

**ART CYLES FOR WISHES.** Art Brochu in 2014 at the age of 70 Art cycled across Canada to raise awareness and donations for “Children's Wish Foundation”, cycling a total of 9,285 kms. On May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, he once again began another cycling tour; this time, Art left Fort Hills, just north of Fort McMurray and began his cycling venture throughout Alberta (5300 kms) with the hope to raise money to grant wishes for those seriously ill children and their families. During his touring, Art will be doing speaking engagements at stop-over locations where he will speak to PTSD and the relationship to Health and Wellness and how all three are related. The presentations will be short, relaxed, friendly, and enjoyable for all. Check out the below link and help Art meet his objective.

<https://roxannvaos.wixsite.com/artcycle sforishes>

Special note, during his tour, not only will Art be cycling this year for “the Children” he will be cycling with his beloved wife, Beth in tow where mid-way through the tour (on the 2315 km mark), on June 4<sup>th</sup> Art and Beth will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> “Golden” wedding anniversary in the Nordegg area, at the David Thompson Resort, Hill Top Chapel where they will renew their wedding vows. Beth and Art would be delighted to have their airborne friends and family join them on this special day. Your presence will be their gift.

David Thompson Resort is located west of the town of Nordegg on Highway 11, GPS

coordinates: Latitude:  
**52.186920/Longitude: -116.476623.**

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:ben.murdock@shaw.ca) or (780) 457-0646.

### **LAST POST**



This edition may have missed notices of departed airborne brethren who may have passed since last publication. We do try to ensure all known 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.

**TOMPKINS Art, CWO (ret'd)**, Oromocto, New Brunswick, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. CWO Tompkins served with 2 RCR. He was the RSM of 3 RCR in Germany, and later of the Canadian Airborne Regiment and RSM at the Infantry School (1985 – 1986). He later was appointed BCWO CFB London and RCWO (1986 – 1987). CWO Tompkins was invested into the Order of Military Merit as a Member on June 13<sup>th</sup>, 1983.

**GIRARD Albert “Bert” – AKA “Joe”**. Joe passed peacefully in Welland hospital after a battle with cancer. Joe joined the Royal Canadian Artillery in 1953 and served until 1985. He served in various artillery units in Picton, Petawawa, Germany, Edmonton, Valcartier and Ottawa. In 1968 during the formation of the Canadian Airborne Regiment Joe was posted to 1 Airborne Battery. Joe was a proud airborne soldier and often mentioned that the best part of his career was serving as #1 Gun with the Airborne Battery. He was a great gunner, airborne soldier who was liked and admired by everyone that had contact with him. One of the "Very Best Story Tellers". Joe will be missed, UBIQUE! AIRBORNE! Rest in Peace

**HASSETT Thomas Francis**, 84, passed away peacefully on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, at the Veterans Lodge at Broadmead in Victoria, BC. Tom was ordained as a priest in the Roman Catholic Church after completing university studies in Ontario and Ireland. In 1966, after working as a professor at Notre Dame University in Nelson, BC and numerous parishes in the Kootenays, he joined the Canadian Armed Forces serving in the navy, airborne and army as a Padre. Tom left the priesthood in 1972 when he met his wife, Joan, while posted to Cyprus with the UN. He went on to become a social worker and eventually the Vice Principal and Principal at Saint Andrew's High School in Victoria from 1988 to 1995. Tom is survived by his wife Joan; three of his four children, Gavin (Caroline), Rory (Phairat), daughter Nicola (Papa Yoro); seven grandchildren, Jesse, Sabrina, William, Athena, Dior, Nancy, and Birame;

he was predeceased by his son, Liam in July 2000.

**SHAW Colin Thornton “Chuck”**. Chuck as he was known to many passed away peacefully on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 in the Sturgeon Community Hospital in St. Albert, Alberta. He fought a lengthy battle with diabetes. His unwavering strength of spirit was a testament to his joie de vivre. Colin was born in Toronto on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 1941. He followed many dreams during his life. He joined the Canadian Army in 1959 and was one of the original members of the Skyhawk's Parachute Team. He spent several years as a photojournalist. During his tenure at the Edmonton Journal, he made many lifetime friends. After leaving the news business, Colin owned a cycling store on Vancouver Island and when he moved back to Edmonton, he worked in numerous retail businesses that reflected his deep interests in photography, travelling, reading, cycling, and food. The Edmonton Oilers have lost an avid fan.

Colin will be greatly missed by his four children: Colin, Jr. Shaw, Jennifer Shaw, Heather Shaw and Jesse Shaw as well as his grandchildren, Noah, Elliot, Taylor and Devon and his close, loving friend, Karen Shaw.

**GOULD, John David “Dave”**. Dave passed away in Victoria, BC, October 16, 2016 after an 18 year battle with cancer. Born in Westlock, AB to Otis and Virginia Gould, he grew up and attended school in Barrhead and Hinton, AB. Predeceased by his parents and step-mom Jennie Gould, Dave is survived by his beloved wife Sandi; his daughter Terra (Bert) Warmerdam and his son Shannon Gould; grand-children Destiny and Justin Warmerdam and Mariah, Tori and Darcy Gould and Lena Borle; his siblings Jim Gould, Marg St. Jean (Darrell Harris) and Beth (Art) Brochu; brothers-in-law Tom (Loveron) Zibin and Larry (Nina) Zibin and many nieces and nephews.

Dave joined the military at 17 years of age serving with the Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry in peacemaking and

peacekeeping roles in Germany, Cyprus and Egypt, retiring at age 40. His second career with The Co-operators and Sovereign General Insurance Companies brought him to Kelowna, BC where he met and married his soul mate Sandi launching the best 22 years of their lives.

Dave loved running, cycling and sailing. His zest for life, travel, and learning took him many places; a family wedding in Bulgaria, a life-changing trip to Israel; a local community college where he was the "old guy" in class learning how to service the diesel engine on his sailboat.

**FREEMAN Leonard D.** beloved husband of Adrienne for 55 years, passed away peacefully with his wife by his side at the Mazankowski Heart Institute on Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016. He leaves to mourn his passing his three sons: Len Jr., Grant, and Ben, as well as six grandchildren: Morgan (Kyle), Madison, Brooke, Jackson, Kole and Evan, special daughter-in-law, Janet, his sister Shirley, and numerous nieces and nephews from Winnipeg.

Len served in the Armed Forces for 26 years doing two tours in Germany and one in Egypt. He began sports parachuting in 1966 and was one of the original Army "Skyhawks". Upon retirement in 1979 as an MWO, he went to work for Dow Chemical in Fort Saskatchewan in the Fire and Security department working his way up to Fire Chief. He was instrumental in forming the Alberta Industrial Fire Protection Association. Len was very proud to be a volunteer driver for the Cross Cancer Institute. Len enjoyed fishing, hunting, camping, video games, golfing, football (but only the Winnipeg Blue Bombers), and travelled many winters to Yuma, Arizona. Len and his amazing sense of humour will be sorely missed by his loving family and many friends.

**BOWERS Clarence Freeman (Johnny).** Passed away suddenly on August 12<sup>th</sup> 2016, in Kelowna, BC at the age of 76. Johnny as most knew him by was formerly of Grand Falls-Windsor NL. He retired from the Canadian Forces where he served as a

paratrooper in many different countries during his career. He was predeceased by his parents: Roland and Myrtle Bowers; son, John; sister, Dorothy Hurst; brother, Terry Bowers. He leaves to mourn his wife Gwen; sons: Roland, Bob (Marla), Jason (Jessica) Roth; daughters: Laura Bowers (Brad Degen), Roberta Lynn Shaw, Carrie Ann Bowers, Nicole Louise Bowers and his eight grandchildren. He also leaves his sisters Laura, Joyce (Gino) Gaudio, Shirley (Charles) Carey; brothers: Roy, Allan (Mary), Ralph (Mildred), Robert (Eileen), Russell (Anne) and Doug (Orathai) and a circle of other relatives and friends.

**FISHER "BUD".** Bud passed away August 13<sup>th</sup> 2016 at the age of 73. Bud spent his final days in the company of family at the Royal Jubilee Hospital, Victoria. He was born, August 3<sup>rd</sup> 1943, in Kingston Ontario. Nicknamed "Buster", he was raised in Hamilton by mother Margaret and step-father Harry Dennis, along with brothers, Ernie and Harry Jr, and sister Teresa. Bud left Hamilton to join the Canadian Army in 1962. He headed west to join the PPCLI. Stationed in Edmonton, Bud married Lynne, nee McKerracher, in 1964. They welcomed daughter Michelle, later that year. Son, Daniel, was born in 1969 while Bud was serving in Germany. Bud contributed to Canada's UN peacekeeping missions, with five tours of Cyprus.

Bud proudly served in the Canadian Airborne Regiment from 1973-77 and again from 1980-1985. Bud fully embraced the role of Sergeant Major. He was known to be demanding, yet fair and cared deeply for the men who served under him. Bud retired from the regular forces in 1992. He continued to serve with the Rangers until 2012.

In 2003, Bud married Sgt (retired) Connie Lapointe, becoming father to her son Aaron. Bud also leaves behind four grandchildren, Bradley (Michelle), Eli, Seamus, Finn (Dan). His family and friends fondly remember Bud for his compassion, for his humour, and for his thoughtful discourse on politics and sports.

**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*

**UPDATE - 2017 D-DAY CEREMONY -  
SIFBLEUR FALLS STAGING AREA**

Plans for this year's D-Day Ceremony at the Siffleur Falls Staging Area are progressing well. Our hosts at the David Thompson Resort (DTR) have reported that the main lodge is virtually full and there are quite a few camp sites booked at this time. I am aware of a number of members coming down just for the ceremony day. This is a good omen as I know we have veterans, and a number of relatives of veterans, coming in from BC and Saskatchewan. We look forward to a strong attendance again this year.

We have also received confirmation a contingent from 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn PPCLI will again attend and support the ceremony. These Patricia's, usually from Para Coy, have been supporting this event since the beginning in 2000. They will also be making the climb up Normandy Peak on the 5<sup>th</sup> June. Given that conditions allow them to make it to the top of the mountain, they will take time to observe a memorial session in memory of the fallen, and those that have since departed. The climb team will be

accompanied by members of the 2551 (PPCLI) RCACC and their CI, from Edmonton. These Army Cadets have performed and supported this climb venture for many years, which is a credit to these youthful members.

I am also pleased to report that we will again have a few members attending the ceremony from the UK contingent at Trails End Camp (TEC), located at Cochrane. TEC is a military adventure training facility controlled out of HQ BATUS at Suffield, AB. The newly appointed CO, Major Russell Bailey, has recently arrived and has assured me he is looking forward to attending our ceremony, along with a few of his soldiers – duty permitting. We look forward to this liaison and welcome the opportunity of sharing the experience with our comrades in arms.

For those of us that have taken the package deal offered by DTR, events will proceed as they have in the past. The evening of the 5<sup>th</sup> will have the Meet & Greet at the Bubble Tent. The other normal meals follow as scheduled. **The ceremony on June 6<sup>th</sup> 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, 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 6<sup>th</sup> usually takes place around 1700/1730 hrs. Again that time is subject to change and we would be notified again by the DTR Office. The departure breakfast on the morning of the 7<sup>th</sup> as usual has us saying our good-byes!

For anyone who is coming down for just the ceremony on the 6<sup>th</sup> and may want to stay for the BBQ, the cost is \$30 plus tax for the BBQ and you need to advise the DTR by June 1<sup>st</sup>, so they can make sure they have enough goodies available.

It's a great opportunity for you one day winders....make it happen Jumpers!

A special reminder, don't forget, those who can make it down for June 4<sup>th</sup>, Art and

Beth Brochu are renewing their vows at the DTR Chapel that day. Let them know you are coming, or at least send them "Best Wishes"!

In closing, anyone having questions about the event, do not hesitate to contact me either by e-mail, or my cell 780-893-1789. I leave on the June 4<sup>th</sup>, so best to contact me before... "And remember, there is no cell phone contact in the area of the DTR, or the Monument". The contact number for DTR is 1-888-810-2103.

See you there! Airborne!

Bill Dickson  
Coordinator/MC  
2017 D-Day Ceremony  
Siffleur Falls Staging Area

**PARATROOPERS REUNION EDMONTON,  
ALBERTA - CANADA'S AIRBORNE  
LEGACY 1942-2018 - (JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup> - 10<sup>TH</sup>,  
2018)**

Art Brochu, 2018 Reunion Chairman and committee are in full swing on sorting out details. Mark your calendars and plan on attending, as the success of this will depend mainly on your attendance. While planning has not been fully cemented, below highlights activities in the planning stages.

***Activities are in their planning stages and once they have been confirmed a detailed activities agenda will be promulgated. Reunion activities will be held at the Edmonton Inn & Conference Centre. One-time registration fee gains entry into all activities.***

The Reunion will follow the Annual D-Day Ceremony activities, to be held June 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>. A formal ceremonial parade will be held June 6<sup>th</sup> 2018, approximately 1300 hrs at the 1 CAN PARA (Airborne) Monument, Siffleur Falls.

Possible activities such as touring para training facilities, viewing a para drop, visit to the rifle ranges, golf tourney, tour through Village at Griesbach, which houses

military landmarks and park areas dedicated to Land, Sea and Air Forces.

**Pre-Registration Events:**

Thursday or Friday afternoon shot-gun golf tourney, Namao Golf Course, TBC  
Thursday, 1900 hrs, pre-meet and greet at St Albert Legion with an open dart tourney, signup on the spot. Bring your darts.

**Friday, June 8<sup>th</sup>.** Registrations, meet & greet, social time, meal, music and dance. There will be an "open mic", in the afternoon. Bring your instruments and voices and ready to share your talents.

***Reunion Kit Shop will be available with airborne items throughout the weekend***

**Saturday - June 9<sup>th</sup>.** Parade at HMCS NONSUCH, lunch, social, static displays, entertainment, cocktails, dinner and dance, (live band).

**Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup>:**

Memorial ceremony Perron-Berger Park and the Airborne Cenotaph.

Departure brunch followed by farewells until next time.

**ACCOMMODATIONS**

The Edmonton Inn & Conference Centre has established a reunion rate of \$129.00 per night for the June 5<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> 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: 1-877-473-7871  
Local Tel: 780-454-5454

**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  
Toll Free: 1-888-919-6682  
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

### **SIFFLEUR FALLS CEREMONY**

*Although not formally part of Reunion 2018, the annual D-Day Memorial activities immediately prior, June 5-7<sup>th</sup>. A formal parade on June 6<sup>th</sup>, followed with a BBQ and social. As with previous years negotiated package deals with the David Thompson Resort for the full period and for June 6<sup>th</sup> only for those who may wish just to attend the parade and BBQ.*

### **David Thompson Resort**

Cline River on Highway 11  
Toll Free: 1-888-810-2103  
Local Tel: 403- 721-2103  
E: [info@davidthompsonresort.com](mailto:info@davidthompsonresort.com)

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

<http://www.airbornesocialclub.ca>  
E: [airborne-reunion-2018@shaw.ca](mailto:airborne-reunion-2018@shaw.ca)

### **AIRBORNE KIT FOR SALE**

Following kit items are available, some in limited quantities, at reduced rates. For information contact Bill Dickson [abn339@shaw.ca](mailto:abn339@shaw.ca) or 780-893-1789.

AB T- Shirts... Wing and Cdn AB Regt Variants...Most Sizes. \$15.00

AB Maroon Golf Shirts (loose fitting)...L, XL, 2XL Special \$5.00 each!

AB Bro Grey Shirts. Mainly L, M, \$10.00

AB Sweats... Large Wing Cdn AB Only...Limited Sizes.... \$30.00

AB Hoodies ...Large Wing Cdn AB Only...Limited Sizes \$35.00

AB Windbreaker Jackets w/Regt Crest/Snap Buttons...\$35.00

AB Brotherhood Ball Caps...Black with Para Wing...\$15.00

AB Ball Caps Maroon with Vets Can Still Kick Ass Patch...\$15.00

Supports Troops Ball Caps Red and Black...\$10.00

AB Belt Buckles...Western Style...Many Unit Variants, I Cdo, 2 Cdo, Para Coy 3PPCLI, 2PPCLI Recce...Also Made To Order!

AB Decals – Cdn AB Regt “Para’s Never Die”, Pegasus, Etc

FSSF Decals

AB Lapel Pins...Wings, Cdn AB Regt Badge, Ex Coelis, X-Flags

Jumper Key Chains...\$5.00

Striker rescue knives with airborne and para wing embossed, limited Edition \$35.00.

Airborne Books...In Search of Pegasus, Into the Maelstrom, Cdn AB Wings and Para Badges, 1 Can Para War Diary, etc Prices vary.

Limited Edition Prints at Cost plus 15%: Eight Minutes after Midnight (1<sup>st</sup> Can Para signatures - D-Day Drop), Op Varsity, Pegasus, Night Raiders of Anzio, Airborne Sunrise. Prices vary, and do not forget we still have a few of the Canadian Airborne Memorial Cairn coins left! There is more, just ask!

### **NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION**

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





*CTV News Personality Stacey Brotzel presents Bill with his Award*





*Family, friends in attendance at Bill's award presentation:*

*L-R: John Johnston, Gord Carter, Ian and Lou Nicol, Bill's wife – Uschi, Bill Dickson, Bill Johnston, Bill's daughter Patricia, Adrienne Freeman, Dave Paris (Missing at time of photo Patricia's husband Simon)*



*L-R: Gord Carter, John Johnston, Bill Dickson, Bill Johnston, Dave Paris*