

Mess and RUSI Vancouver Members News 11 Oct, 2011

Report on Sunray, 15 Field

Col Wickens is doing much better. He has now been moved to VGH, Rm 9710 in the Jim Pattison Pavilion. Diagnosis is still Pancreatitis, but the Doctors still don't know the cause.

Father of slain Canadian soldier to 'make a difference' in Afghanistan

By Matt McClure, Postmedia News



Dr. Tim Goddard, father of Captain Nichola Kathleen Sarah Goddard who died in combat May 17th, 2006 in Afghanistan, walking by the casket of his daughter at the funeral service.

Photograph by: Mikael Kjellstrom, Calgary Herald

CALGARY — Tim Goddard says his mission to Afghanistan next month is about completing a job his daughter started and would have wanted him to finish. Five years after his daughter became the first female soldier from Canada to be killed in action, the education professor is joining an effort to improve teacher training and accreditation in the war-ravaged country. “I hope I can make a difference in a place where she was trying to make a difference,” Goddard said in an interview. “Now that Canadian Forces have done what they done and withdrawn from a combat role, I should be able to go and do what I do.”

An artillery captain, Nichola Goddard was fatally wounded in May 2006 when the armoured vehicle she was commanding was hit by rocket-propelled grenades during a battle with Taliban fighters on Kandahar's outskirts.

A public funeral was held in Calgary where her parents were living at the time. A former vice-provost for international affairs at the University of Calgary, Tim Goddard has been the dean of education at the University of Prince Edward Island for the last three years.

He's heading to Afghanistan's capital Kabul now along with four other academics to begin a five-year project working alongside officials in the country's Ministry of Education. The aim of the \$10.2-million project — funded by the Canadian International Development Agency and overseen by World University Service of Canada — is to find better ways of recruiting, training and retaining teachers, particularly women.

While there has been dramatic improvement in the last decade, literacy and school attendance rates in Afghanistan are still among the worst in the world. Only six per cent of girls and 18 per cent of boys are getting high school instruction, according to UNICEF figures. While Canada and other donor countries have invested heavily in building and renovating thousands of schools and 44 teacher training colleges around Afghanistan, nearly one-third of instructors still don't have a high school diploma.

"We've got better bricks and mortar, but if what's happening inside is the old style of teaching then you're only going to make a limited impact," he said. While pay for teachers has doubled to \$120 per month in recent years, the project director with Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan said there is still a high rate of absenteeism among instructors and salaries are still not competitive with other professions.

Lauryn Oates said there is a critical need for the Afghan government to create and enforce standards for certification and provide upgrading for teachers who need more training. "The focus has long been on the metrics — getting more teachers hired, more schools open, more students enrolled," Oates said. "Now it's time to switch the focus to the quality of education."

As Canada and other western countries reduce their troop numbers amid a deteriorating security situation in the capital as well as Afghanistan's south, Goddard said he is still optimistic development projects like his can make headway.

"We've focused on the war part and we've had five years of it. Canadians I've talked to are fed up with that," he said. "I've lost someone but so have a lot of Afghan families. For me, there's an element of trying to have something good happen now."

Calgary Herald

Poppy Street Signs

Well, the City of Vancouver has outdone itself. The original concept was to have every street named after a fallen soldier or a battle Canadians fought in made unique by putting the Poppy Symbol on the streets' signs. They have done that, but went further and have marked every street sign with a



military connection.

The job is done and our fallen comrades honoured. Congratulations to Vancouver. Mission did it several years ago. When will we see this done in other local cities?



An Evening with Senator Romeo Dallaire

“Canada’s Changing Role in the World Stage” Sat November 19th, 2011

Date/Time: November 19th, 2011
6 pm for 7 pm

Place: HMCS Discovery.

Attendees: Ex-Cadets,
open to acquaintances and
other military affiliates.

Dress: Business Suit or Uniform.

Cost: \$25 per person;
Finger foods, bar available.



1. Preferred Payment Method - By PayPal:
 - a. Click the button below, and follow the instructions.
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 - b. No-shows will be invoiced for committed tickets.
3. By check:
 - a. You must RSVP with the number of attendees, and advise whether you will pay in advance or at the door.
 - b. Up to 2 weeks before the event, mail checks to Konrad Mech, 5552 Swordfern Place, North Vancouver, V7R4T1 per prices below. Otherwise, bring them to the door.
 - c. No-shows will be invoiced for committed tickets.

BUY TICKETS THROUGH PAYPAL Once your order is placed, click VIEW CART and Check Out

Report on Royal Canadian Artillery Association

Annual General Meeting and Seminar 30 Sep to 1 Oct 2011

Col Comdt, BGen Beno's last round in the role as Col Comdt

This year's session of the RCAA meeting commenced with a bang. After four years BGen (r) Ernie Beno the outgoing Col Comdt RCA fired his last round to mark his hand over to LGen (r) Mike Jeffery the incoming Col Comdt.

Concept of AGM and Seminar where and why.

This year's Annual General Meeting and Seminar took place at the Home Station in Shilo 30 Sep to 1 Oct. A different venue is chosen each year to permit RCAA members in the various regions to attend the conference close to them should they not be able to cross the country. Last year the Conference was in Victoria, BC. Attending were representatives of each unit in the RCA, both regular and reserve and individual members of the RCAA.

The conduct of both the AGM and Seminar concurrently provides the opportunity for members of the RCAA to contribute to the Association as well as hearing expert speakers from the RCA, academia, other nations presenting and discussing on topics of interest to gunners.

We are changing, and the transformation process is working. Our aim is to bring the regular, reserve and retired family together in a newly relevant and revitalized organization.

The Annual General Meeting

This is a big year for the RCAA as our Transformation Task Force (TTF) study has pointed a direction that was endorsed by the voting membership present of the AGM for further development over the next year to permit changes to our Mission and Roles and make it a more relevant and dynamic organization. This was the major work of this year's AGM.

The AGM approved a resolution to create a Board of Directors to whom the Executive Committee will responsible. The board will be formed by standing down the Advisory Committee and having its members, along with the President, Vice President, Past President and ex-officio members form the newly created Board. The members of this Board selected, by election, a Chairman from its membership. The new Chairman is LGen (r) Andrew Leslie. The Board of Directors will move transformation forward and present, for approval at the 2012 AGM, a new constitution to replace the current RCAA rules.

The detail of the process and the recommendations of the TTF can be seen on the RCA web site <http://www.artillery.net/rca-transformation/>. It is worth your attention.

Normal business was presented to the AGM, specifically the following activities took place which are mentioned for their special interest; The Association presented a cheque to the Commanding Officer of 62 RAC LCol Francois Segard for the work on their book "Gunners of the Mauricie".

The management committee concerned with the writing of Volume 3 of The Gunners of Canada, which will cover the period 1967 – 2014, presented a request for subject matter experts to advise the authors, as well as point of contact for units. The staffing of this project is progressing well.

Two new life members were approved by the AGM; Col Donald Wilkin and MWO Stoneberg, while an Honorary Life Membership was approved for our departing Col Comdt BGen (r) Beno.

The Col Comdt, BGen (r) Ernie Beno presented his last words to the RCAA during the AGM. Finally, the AGM approved an expression of the RCAA's loyalty to our Captain General which will be sent to London.

The Seminar

This year's Seminar started with the artillery staff provide an update on the state of the artillery. The Director of Artillery Col Brian McPherson spoke as to the future of the units of the RCA. He noted we are in good shape and we have much new and capable kit, but our 105mm fleets of

guns are experiencing fatigue. Projects to deal and prolong their lives are in progress and a new fleet of guns is programed. He noted that the Royal Regiment and its soldiers have performed well over the past decade in operations. The integration of reserve units into positions in regular force units continues and new specialities such as target acquisition are being adopted by some units.

The Comdt of the Royal Canadian Artillery School, LCol Michael Sullivan spoke of challenges and successes that had been achieved in this era of high tempo and what the future would bring. He noted that some adjustments had occurred over the past year to reduce the backlog in candidates awaiting training and this had been successful. As well the school was continuing to ensure the officers coming through the system were suitable and have the skills required. It was noted that the recruiting system was failing us but that this has been addressed. Finally the training at the school needed to become more challenging to increase the confidence and leadership of students. This was already showing results and coupled with a back to basics direction will give us better NCOs and Officers.

This was followed by LCol Craig Landry, Director of Land Requirements 2, speaking to future artillery requirements and purchases. As mentioned by the Director of Artillery we have some issues with our guns and delivery of new gun tractors but these are being addressed and new projects are in process. We have good equipment now after current operations, however we must strive to replace and update some of it.

The Commander of the Army, LGen Peter Devlin, spoke to the Seminar about the state of the Canadian Army. He noted we were in a situation where we would have to use good leadership and innovation in our training to return to basics and keep our troops engaged as we refocus to the future. He was confident that we were in fine shape and set for success.

On the post-operations front the Seminar was briefed by Capt Pat Lanouette about his experiences as a forward observer in Afghanistan and Capt Stu McBean about his experiences working in the Canadian Airspace Coordination Centre in Afghanistan. Both these officers have been back from Afghanistan for less than two months and provided engaging presentations.

LCol Stephan Boucher the former CO of 5 RALC spoke on the challenges of preparing an Artillery Regiment for “a war” after the Batteries having fought “the war.” He noted that we need to get back to the basics and train in the regimental context again after 10 years of our op experiences having been at the battery level; we need to train using the system that we know as gunners. He explained how he had done this during his command of 5 RALC.

We were treated to a special presentation by the senior serving gunner, LGen Stu Beare, the commander of Canadian Expeditionary Force Command (CEFCOM), on where we will be going as an army over the next decade. He noted that war fighting was not over and we need to ensure that we can bring the capabilities that we have built over the past decade to do this. Finally the seminar was presented a briefing by Dr. Donna Pickering of the Resilience Group, Individual Behaviour and Performance Section of Defence Research & Development Canada on a study she has completed for the army on “CF reservist post-deployment reintegration and support experiences”. She noted that successful reintegration was critical in reducing stress and was very much dependent on two factors, good administration of the return at the unit level and coming back to a job or school.

As can be seen from the cast of speakers, the seminar was presented a wide range of experience from the operationally current veterans to the planners of the way ahead. We were well served by this year's speakers.

The Special Guest Night

As a tradition at the RCAA, a special guest night is held on the last evening of the conference. This year's conference saw as special guest our departing Colonel Commandant BGen (r) Ernie Beno. A handover ceremony took place before the dinner.

Photos of the event and other activities can be seen at:

http://www.flickr.com/photos/royal_canadian_artillery_association/sets/

Why the RCAA?

Help us move the Royal Regiment forward by becoming a member. Being a member in RCAA will help the Royal Regiment do many things. Your membership permits us to take on various tasks that assist in recognizing the heritage of the RCA and create or maintain memorials at locations that are important to us. The following were our actions over the past year.

This year we contributed to the maintenance of the RCA Vimy Memorial erected in 1918 by Canadian Gunners, at the village of Thélus just below Vimy Ridge in France. We are involved in the following tasks: Working on the development of "Volume 3 of The Gunners of Canada" covering the period 1967 to present, supporting the writing of "With A Few Guns" the gunner story in Operations in Afghanistan.

We have also supported the project for the creation of a statue of the author of "In Flanders Fields" John McCrae at the Artillery Memorial in Ottawa with unveiling May, 2015.

As well, we continued our support of the Remembrance Day Ceremony at the National Artillery Memorial in Ottawa and contributed to the creation of the 62e Régiment d'artillerie de campagne led book "Les Artilleurs de la Mauricie". This is how the RCAA maintains the legacy of the Royal Regiment.

The RCAA is also the national organization which links local gunner organizations and we want to help by advising you of gunner events. Of note the following gunner events are presently planned:

- Gunner and Airborne Reunion at the Home Station in June/July 2012
- An Apprentice Reunion in Victoria in May, 2012,
- Gunner reunions in both Eastern Ontario and Oromocto, NB during the 2012
- spring/summer season
- "Gunners of the 80s" in July or August (TBA) 2011 in Kingston

As well the RCAA would point you to the following internet locations for access to gunner information:

- RCA web site www.artillery.net/beta/
- RCAA web presence at www.artillery.net/beta/royal-canadian-artillery-association/
- The Quadrant new and past editions www.artillery.net/beta/the-quadrant/

- The Canadian Gunner new and past editions www.artillery.net/beta/the-canadian-gunner/

A pdf version of this report is available on the RUSI Vancouver website:

[Annual General Meeting and Seminar 30 Sep to 1 Oct 2011](http://www.rusivancouver.ca/Journal/journal.htm) or paste:
<http://www.rusivancouver.ca/Journal/journal.htm> into your browser

Note: The Vancouver Artillery Association has been formed and is open to all Gunners and friends of the Gunner family in the area and membership in the VAA also make you a member of the RCAA. We have a few points to work out with the other Societies and Messes and expect to start a big recruiting campaign shortly.

With Glowing Hearts ***A Concert of Celebration and Remembrance***

With less than a month left before the curtain rises, the box office managers at our venues tell us tickets for the *Band of the Fifteenth Field Artillery Regiment* third annual ***With Glowing Hearts, A Concert of Celebration and Remembrance*** are selling fast. There are still some left, but you had better not wait too long to get a good seat. All seating is assigned and many of the best seats are already sold. Call the concert hall closest to you today to ensure you get a great seat!

This years concert will be a musical review featuring the music of George Gershwin, Eric Coates, Stephen Foster and more. The band will take you on a musical journey that begins in the movie theatre in the 1920s before the arrival of talkies when the orchestra painted a musical commentary for the action on the screen, to the disco to dance to a hot funk band followed by a stop at the ballet theatre as Bacchus, the god of wine, enters with his entourage. Pianist ***Gary Tse*** will dazzle with his rendition of Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue and local crooner ***Phil Moriarity*** will join our own ***Cary McCaffery*** for our musical tribute to the troops. Don't miss a thoroughly entertaining evening or afternoon with these talented Canadian Forces musicians! You're guaranteed to leave the concert hall smiling ear to ear!

Tickets are **only \$20** and available by phone from the box office or online. If you are a member of a group of ten or more, see below for special discount offer.

Proceeds aid charities that assist military personnel and their families.

Showtimes

Friday November 4, 730pm @ the Gateway Theatre, Richmond

Box Office: (604) 270-1812

www.gatewaytheatre.com

Saturday, November 5, 200pm @ Kay Meek Centre, West Vancouver

Box Office: (604) 913-3634

www.kaymeekcentre.com

Sunday, November 6, 200pm @ ACT Centre for the Performing Arts, Maple Ridge
Box Office: (604) 476-2787
www.theactmapleridge.org

Special group rates for ten or more ~ buy ten, get one free!
Contact Bill @ (604) 618-3607 or email tickets@militarymusic.ca

From the 'Punitary'

Once there was a circus that was without a doubt the best circus in the world because it boasted the best lion tamer in the world. He was spectacular, the lions would do whatever he said, the high point of course was that he would stick his head in a lion's mouth.

When the circus started losing money the owner started selling off animals and equipment to help meet expenses. He called the Lion Tamer into his office.

"I'd really like to keep you on, because you keep the circus going," the owner said. "But I've had to sell your lions because they cost too much to feed. Still, you're good, and we need you, so if you can come up with an act with what we have left, you've got a job." "Well, I do need a job," the Lion Tamer said. "What animals do you have left?" "Well, to tell you the truth," the owner said, "the only animal I have left is my faithful old Bassett hound. I'd never sell him!"

"I'll take him," said the Tamer.

So the Lion Tamer worked with the Bassett hound and taught him the entire lion act. The dog caught on right away, but there was a problem: no way was the Lion Tamer's head going to fit into the dog's mouth. "My foot will fit," the Lion Tamer said, so he tried it, and sure enough the dog picked that up too.

Opening night, the Lion Tamer did the act with the Bassett hound, and the crowd loved it.

They'd never seen anything like it before. At the end of the act, when the Lion Tamer put his foot into the dog's mouth, the crowd went wild. "Encore, encore!" the crowd yelled.

Well, the Lion Tamer hadn't thought of an encore before, so he thought to himself, "If one foot is good, two is better." So he stuck his other foot into the dog's mouth. Well, the two feet together are almost as big as the dog's head, so the dog was choking and gasping, and finally out of self-preservation, he clamped his jaws shut, biting off the Lion Tamer's legs at mid-calf.

And the moral of this story....?

Don't put all your legs in one Bassett.

Murphy's Rules of Combat Operations.

When in doubt, empty your magazine.

(something Arab fighters seem to believe in religiously)