



# REGIMENTAL LINES

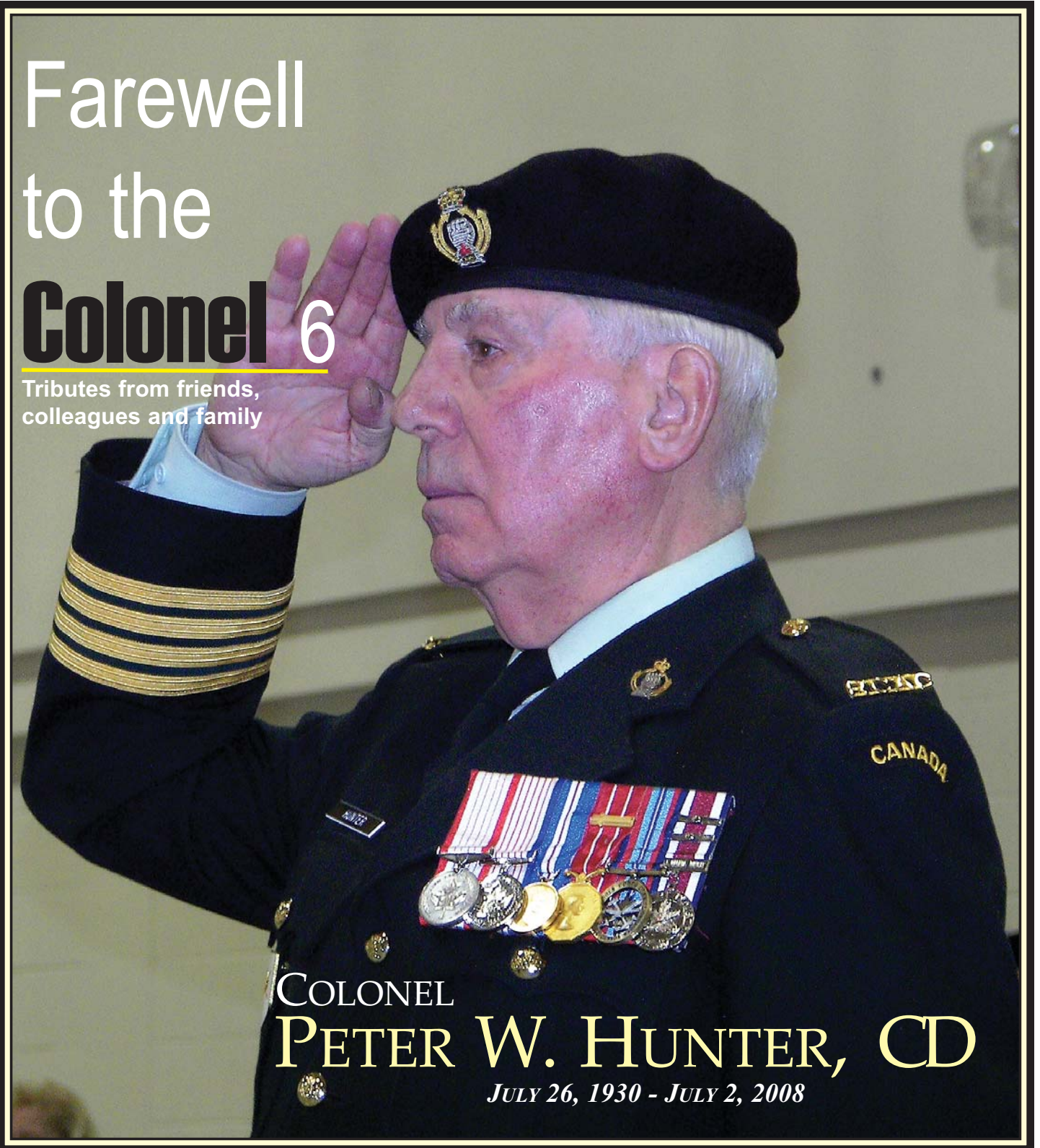


GOVERNOR GENERAL'S HORSE GUARDS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

FALL 2008

## Farewell to the **Colonel 6**

Tributes from friends,  
colleagues and family



COLONEL  
**PETER W. HUNTER, CD**

*JULY 26, 1930 - JULY 2, 2008*



MWO Mark Stephens (Ret'd)  
President, GGHG Association

I hope you enjoy this Fall Edition of the Regimental Lines. The various articles and pictures help to keep you up to date with the Regiment and your Association.

The Association continues to provide communication to all members of the Regimental family through the publication of this newsletter. We are always looking for articles for the newsletter. Please send them to the Armoury c/o The Association or submit them on-line to:

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

During the last number of months and for the foreseeable future the Regiment will be providing support to the mission in Afghanistan. To the members of the Regiment serving there, we are thinking of you and wish you a safe return. If there is anything that the Association can do to for you or your families please drop us a line at [gghgassociation@yahoo.ca](mailto:gghgassociation@yahoo.ca).

We have obtained Regimental ties and Blazer crests for purchase and we continue to source other Regimental items to offer to the membership. If you require one, please contact us through the website or by mail. Keep watching the website and future newsletters for updates to the kit list.

Finally I want to acknowledge Doug Coombs, for his generous donations to

## President's Message

the Association. Doug has been a member of the Horse Guards for a long time. He was with the Regiment prior to their mobilization for WW II and served in England and Italy. Thanks again Doug

Keep safe and I look forward to seeing or hearing from you soon.

“Nulli Secundus”

*MWO Mark Stephens (Ret'd)*  
*President*

## GGHG BATTLEFIELD TOUR – ITALY 2009



Planning for the “In The Footsteps of the Regiment” tour of Italy in 2009 has begun. Those who are interested and those who may be interested, please advise LCol Jeff Dorfman:

[Jeffery@4dorfman.com](mailto:Jeffery@4dorfman.com) - of your interest. Numbers of Horse Guards, family members and guest who may participate in this event, will assist in the planning of this, once in a life time tour.



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## Searching For Veterans

I found your website while looking for information on your regiment.

A maternal uncle of mine served with the 3rd Armoured Recce Regiment in WW II (He died in 1973). I'm wondering if you have a textual and/or pictorial history of the Regiment during WW II. If you do, perhaps I could visit your library sometime and peruse the material (I'm in Toronto).

I'm wondering just what the story and experiences of the Regiment were in Italy and Northern Europe . I'm a bit confused re Northern Europe because I found references to both Holland and to Juno Beach . Your blog on the recent trip to Italy did give some idea of the journey thru Italy.

My uncle was Pte. (I believe that was his rank - at least as of Oct/4) Daniel Hugh Sullivan, B132522. He was from Toronto. Of course I'd be interested in speaking to any WW II veteran who may have known him or, finding any reference to him.

My mother says the only two experiences during his tour that he ever mentioned was about going to a midnight mass in Rome - officiated by the Pope - and being sent to England to recover from wounds and then returning to Italy . Absolutely nothing about what he did or experienced while going up through Italy and in France or Holland. She said it was as if he didn't want to talk about it. Thank you for your time.

Donald Thew, Toronto, ON ■

## In Memoriam

*We wish to convey our heartfelt condolences in acknowledging the recent passing of the following:*

**AXMITH, Mrs. Ester** - Mother-in-law of LCol Jeff Dorfman and mother of his wife Faye, passed away on Wednesday October 29 in Toronto. She was laid to rest on Friday October 31.

**BRIDGEMAN, Tpr. George P.** - passed away earlier this year in Waterdown Ontario. George was 90 years of age and a Member of the GGHG Association. Date unknown.

**FUGARD, Reginald William** - GGHG WW II Veteran passed away on Friday, April 11, 2008 at Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital at the age of 94. A funeral service and cremation was held on Monday April 14th in Orillia.

**HINTON, Barbara May (nee Harris)** - passed away peacefully at home on July 23, 2008, after a short battle with brain cancer. Barbara was the the wife of the late Harry Hinton, a former Trustee of the Regiment and member of the GGHG Association.

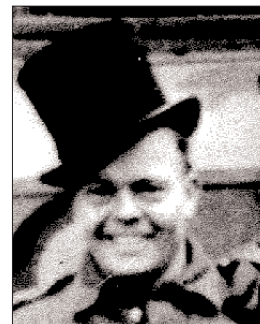
**HUNTER, Col Peter W.** - Past Commanding Officer and former Honorary Colonel of The Governor General's Horse Guards and former Colonel Commandant Royal Canadian Armoured Corps passed away on Wednesday, July 2, 2008 in Toronto, at the age of 77.

**JACKMAN, Vernon E.** - GGHG WW II Veteran passed away on October 24, 2008 in Staynor, Ontario after a brief battle with cancer. Funeral services were held on October 26.

**KIMBALL, Tpr. Edward James "Sonny"**- GGHG WW II Veteran, passed away on July 13, 2008 at the CSSS de Papineau in Gatineau Québec



at the age of 85 with his family by his side. Mr. Kimball served overseas during WW II with the Regiment and was part of the 5th Canadian (Armoured) Division.



**PRIESTLY, Tpr. George "Tiger"** - passed away in Toronto on April 7, 2008 at age 88.

**WASS, Capt Charles "Bud"** - passed away in Stroud Ontario in May 2008. Exact date not known.



**WEBBER, Sgt. Ross Harrison** Webber - passed away on Friday, June 6, 2008 in Vancouver at the age of 88.

He was a proud member of the Governor General's Horse Guards and was a tank sergeant in Italy during the Second World War. A Service of Celebration for his life was held on Saturday September 6, 2008 at Forest Grove United Church in North York

**WILSON, Tpr. John Robert "Jack"** - World War II Veteran and member of the Governor General's Horse Guards Association, passed away on Tuesday, August 19, 2008, at Lakeridge Health Oshawa. He was in his 87th year. ■



Tpr. Edward James "Sonny" Kimball was known as "Kim" to those with whom he served.

Since the start of this year, the GGHG Association has recorded the passing of twelve of its Veterans with the likelihood that there may be others we are unaware of. However, with each life that passes on, there is a unique story that reflects the diversity of this country, Canada, and this Regiment, the Governor General's Horse Guards.

On July 13, 2008 Edward James "Sonny" Kimball, better known as "Kim" to those with whom he served, quietly passed away in Gatineau Quebec at the age of eighty-five. His story is one of dedicated service to his country and an unbreakable bond with his Regiment even when separated by distance. It is also a tale of a soldier whose record would show that along with everything else he had done in his life or other affiliations, he was a Horse Guard to the very end.

Edward Kimball was born in Montreal but the Kimball family moved around the Eastern Townships and finally settled in the municipality

# Veterans Remembered

## Edward Kimball

1923 - 2008

by Sgt Colin Rowe (Ret'd)

of Masson, which has now been amalgamated into the city of Gatineau. His mother originally came from the United States but in Gatineau she and her husband raised a family which comprised four girls and two boys. Edward like many young men at the time wanted so badly to join the army at the outbreak of the war in 1939 but was too young so he went to work at the local James McLaren paper mill. In 1942 he turned eighteen and he, along



Kimball (second from the right in back row) taking time out with fellow Horse Guards for a group photo during the war.

with two of his friends, headed to Lansdowne Park in Ottawa to sign up. When the time came to be billeted, he and his buddies were shipped to Toronto but he was the only one who ended up with the Governor General's Horse Guards and his two friends were not seen again until after the war. It was while waiting to be shipped home



Kimball (R) and an unidentified fellow Horse Guard during WW II

from England that he ran into one of them there. There was also a humorous incident where the Military Police showed up at his parent's house because he had not responded to the call-up notice sent to him, not knowing that he had voluntarily signed up and was already on his way overseas.

Kimball and the Horse Guards were part of the 5th Armoured Division and according to his wife Lilly, he was in Ortona during the Italian campaign and hospitalized for a few weeks in France as a result of an infected boil under his belt.

It was in January 1946 that Kimball returned home from the war and the job he had left at the James McLaren paper mill, awaited him and including his four years of military service, he had a successful career there for forty-five years while working his way up the ranks in the company.

Before leaving for the war overseas, he had known his wife Elida (Lilly) casually through high school but was 2½ years her senior. Upon his return, that relationship intensified and on May 18, 1946, they were married. For their honeymoon they went to Niagara Falls for a romantic get-away and stayed at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto. Lilly

recalls that when they got to the hotel, the person who took their baggage turned out to be one of her husband's war buddies. Lilly had worked for the Federal Department of Finance in Ottawa during the time that her husband was overseas but after their marriage, she went to work for Canada Manpower in an office that was closer to home. She ended her career twelve years after they were married when they adopted their first son John and five years later their second son Robert. Together Lilly and Edward lived a happy and comfortable life with their family which now includes two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Although the family may have been considered English, Kimball was fully bi-lingual as are his wife and children who were all raised in Gatineau, Québec,

According to Lilly, Sonny rarely talked about his experiences during the war and seemed unwilling to relive any of it through conversation. However, the ravages of war did have its toll on him when in 2006 he contracted Pick disease, a condition which leads to the degeneration of cells in the brain. As his condition deteriorated he would often have nightmares and flashback, calling out to his buddy Joe with whom



Edward and wife Elida in 2005 prior to his illness.

he had served in the war. It turns out that Joe is GGHG Veteran Joe Bastine, who currently resides in New York State and the closeness of these comrades-in-arms is evidenced by the fact that all through the years, Joe's name was the only one consistently brought up by Edward in conversation. In a recent telephone call (which I facilitated) between Lilly and Joe, he was surprised to learn how much he was thought of by his wartime buddy from over sixty years ago.



Tpr Kimball (R) and unidentified comrade atop a display tank.

Initially, Edward was cared for by Lilly at home when he lost his speech then the use of his hands. With the eventual loss of the use of his legs, he was moved to a Long-term care facility just three miles from home where, for nineteen months, she went daily from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm to feed him and relieve the overworked staff there. Far removed from his Regiment in Toronto, Edward and Lilly have been long-serving members of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 54 Buckingham in Gatineau and we are comforted by the knowledge that his passing was marked by a special tribute from the Legion Branch which Lilly described as "something beautiful".

In a message we received from his son John Kimball, he honours the memory of his father Edward and all our Veterans with the following:

*I thank you for your interest in my father's service. I would also like to say many people don't realize how brave all the soldiers were to go into battle. Like my father, you all have a place in my heart as heroes. My mother, my wife and I thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.*

## Col Peter Hunter –

*The passing of a great friend*



Colonel Peter Hunter was a great friend and ardent supporter of both the GGHG Riding Club and Cavalry Squadron. His snow-white hair and brilliant smile were often seen at social functions, which he attended as often as he could, and generally accompanied by his gracious wife, Wanda.

Col Hunter was a forever Horse Guard. His history and accomplishments as gentleman, father, husband and an officer of the Regiment, later the Regiment's Honourary LCol and full Colonel, and finally as the Col. Commandant for the Canadian Armoured Corps will be told by more knowledgeable friends and colleagues.

His contributions to the Club and Cav are ours. Major Hunter was the Cav's Escort Commander from 1959-1964. He took the fledgling group, so well founded and started by Major Mac Burka, and pushed it to new heights. Under his command the Squadron participated in a number of prestigious rides – Queen's Plates, Openings of Legislatures, the Royal Winter Fair. But, the one that held the most memories for him seemed to be when a group of Horse Guards travelled to the States to attend and perform an escort at the 1964 Preakness – yes, the year that Northern Dancer won the race.

His were the days of huge parades and pageantry, of 60 Horse Guards on parades (some of whom may have been cops happily masquerading as Horse Guards – and honoured to do so) in all their brilliance. His were also the days of hard riding, hard playing. Horse Guards, but always ready to serve ... always ready to get out and ride.

Those of us who knew him have been honoured and enriched – but more, those of us who knew him will miss his support, friendship, knowledge and encouragement to keep going and reaching for the best.

*Laurie Blake - 1st VP, GGHG Riding Club*



Elizabeth "Toony" Dixon

# REMEMBERING COLONEL PETER HUNTER



To The Governor Generals Horse Guards,

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008 I lost my father and my best friend. As it turned out, many of you did as well. In my heart I knew Dad was friend, confidant and inspiration to many. During the days following his death, I was made aware of just how many.

It became crystal clear to me that Dad was part of two families, both very important to him. In our family, Dad loved us all equally, yet differently. It seems that was so in your family as well. I know this from the stories you shared with me, my brother, Geoff, and Wanda. Stories from the newest cadets, wanting to make Col Hunter proud to the longest of comrades sharing how much they will miss Dad's advice, always available, yet never being offered without being requested.

The sharing of these many thoughts and memories along with heartfelt condolences and the most spectacular outpouring of support I have ever witnessed has awed me. I honestly don't know where or how to begin to thank *all* of you.

The military, most specially and particularly The Governor Generals Horse Guards, through Dad, have had an impact in my life for which I will be forever grateful. I am broken hearted to have lost my Dad but blessed to have come closer, even for a short time, to his "other family".

We could not have managed the days after Dad's death without your support and kind words. Thank you. We would never have known how to create a service, so spectacular and so heartfelt at the same time, such as you did. Thank you. Dad would have been overwhelmed, yet so proud. Thank you. We are proud. Thank you.

"Death is not extinguishing the lamp  
But  
Putting out the light because the dawn has come."

With my kindest Regards, best wishes and deepest thanks,

# REMEMBERING COL PETER HUNTER



**Geoffrey W. Hunter**

***The following tribute to his father, Col Hunter, was delivered by Geoffrey at St. James Cathedral.***

**T**hank you first to the Horse Guards and for this beautiful service...for this Gift. Dad would be very happy and very proud of all this. Thank you also to the Horse Guards for your collective embrace of Wanda over the past week. You have lifted her up and truly not let her feet touch the ground.

The Military, the Army, the Horse Guards have all been such a central and important part of dad's life for over 50 years....from college (RMC) to today. You are his other family. You have been the bedrock to his character and to many of his beliefs throughout his life. In particular, his strong sense of duty, sense of commitment, sense of loyalty, tradition and fun.

I too have some thoughts I want to share with you about Dad. First and foremost, Dad to me was an incredible human being, a uniquely kind, gentle, and understated man with a huge heart that touched everyone he knew. He always seemed to make the right call and he always

took the high road.

With Dad, there was never an Agenda. And what about his sense of humor and his story-telling? He always had the right words at the right time for everyone - big or small. Just last week, on the phone from the hospital, he said to me "you know Geoff, the food here is not very good". It was July 1st (he loved food), and he said "I can see the Don Jail from my room and I am sure we share the same kitchen with them". Classic Dad.

And then there is Dad as a father. Here perhaps best to use stories. When I was younger and just beginning to party, I remember pushing it pretty hard one night and finally making it home to my bed. A few hours later Dad came into my room and woke me up, put me behind the wheel of the car to the Farm where he had me mucking out horse stalls for the day. Well, I remember to this day both the pain and the lesson.

Another one...in Kingston Ontario, a few of us were out having some fun that ended up in the big house. By



**Words of comfort being offered to Wanda by The Very Reverend Douglas Stoute, Rector of St. James Cathedral.**

morning we were out - but this isn't something you rush home to talk about...so a few days pass, a few weeks, and then a few months, nothing...until one morning, months later I was having breakfast with dad and he

lowered his paper and said "tell me Geoff, is it true they serve beer in the paddy wagons in Kingston?" Finally, when I finished my studies at Western, I moved to Toronto and got a job with a small financial company. I was very happy and having lots of fun.

After a year or so, I learned I had been accepted to a business school in the US and then came the showdown with Dad. I remember so clearly, it was on the sidewalk in front of his office on Eglinton Avenue. I said, "Dad, you know, I think I have this work thing all figured out, and I don't want to go to school". And he looked at me and said..."Geoff, I think you are making a very big mistake". Well, of course, he was right and I did go and I have never looked back.

So, in each of these cases, whether about life's early lessons...or the fact that he showed me that his spy network was deeper and wider than mine probably ever will be, or by digging in his heels on those really critical issues. Dad always seemed to make the right call.

Wanda called me last Wednesday night and I think Wanda, it was probably one of the most difficult calls you have ever had to make. I just want to say you were wonderful; you were proud, stoic, and very loving.

Toony, my sister...as all of you know, Toony and Dad were very very close. Every time I would speak to Dad on the phone, he would spend half the call talking about Toony, Neil and their 3 kids Jenny, Alan, and Greg. He was very proud of all of you.

And finally Dad, from Wanda, Toony, me, Mom, and everyone here, we love you very much, and will miss you incredibly. ■

# REMEMBERING COL PETER HUNTER



An Officers' Social ca. 1960. Captain Hunter is shown standing 3rd from the left.

*I'm honoured to have been asked to contribute some thoughts on Colonel Peter Hunter in this commemorative edition of Regimental Lines. I must admit that I find this task very difficult as it is challenging to put into words my thoughts about a man that I and others held in such high esteem; a truly great Canadian, a superlative officer and a man that I referred to as the God Father of The Regiment, Colonel Peter Hunter will be sorely missed.*

Colonel Hunter commanded the Regiment from 1965-1967 and I first met him in the summer of 1991 when I was posted to the GGHG as an RSS Officer. As the unit Adjutant I recall many initial dealings with then Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Hunter (1992-2001) and the critical role that he played in this capacity in a time when the future of the Army Reserves in Canada was being challenged. Colonel Hunter introduced The Honourable Hal Jackman to the Regiment who became our Honorary Colonel while also appointed to the office of Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. At all key Regimental

Ceremonial and Social events Colonel Hunter always supported the Commanding Officer and saw to it that all ranks of The Regiment and particularly the Regimental Officers were living up to it's motto of NULLI SECUNDUS...SECOND TO NONE. Colonel Hunter continued to serve his Regiment up to the time of leaving as Honorary Colonel to be appointed as the Colonel Commandant of The Royal Canadian Armoured Corps. We were honoured to conduct a parade in January 2008 to pay tribute to Colonel Hunter's accomplishments as he completed his tenure as our Colonel Commandant. In this capacity he visited every Regular and Reserve Armoured Regiment in Canada and I know that he took great pride in placing his signature on the contract to buy new LEOPARD 2 main battle tanks for the Army.

Like all members of the Regimental Family I was shocked and saddened to hear the terrible news on July 2nd of Colonel Hunter's sudden passing. In the days that followed key members of The Regimental family rallied around Wanda and supported her as we planned a tribute and celebration of life fitting of Colonel Hunter. I was humbled to receive phone calls and messages from across the Corps and CF and can tell you that even the Chief of

Defence Staff called to pass on his personal condolences to Wanda and family. I want to acknowledge the efforts of all members of the Regimental Family at the funeral but in particular want to thank HLCol David Friesen, LCol Jeff Dorfman, Padre Francesca Scorsone, Capt Frank Merlo, Capt Andrew Zeitoun and RSM Brady for their tireless efforts in ensuring that every detail was covered leading up to the funeral. The turnout on Tuesday July 8th at St James Cathedral was simply outstanding and the military precision of the Guard of Honour, mounted Horse Guards, pallbearers along with music provided by the Band ensured the service was conducted in a manner of which Colonel Hunter would approve. Finally to Wanda and Peter's family I want to express once again The Regiment's deepest condolences. We will always remember the wonderful gift of Colonel Hunter and while his absence saddens us his memory will continue to inspire Horse Guards of all ranks to continue to live up to the high standards that he expected. He was truly NULLI SECUNDUS and we will remember him.

*Shawn Matheson  
Lieutenant Colonel  
Commanding Officer*





Hon LCol  
David E. Friesen, CD

# REMEMBERING COL PETER HUNTER

## *Transcript of Address at the Service for Col P. W. Hunter*

### **Wanda and family and friends of Peter William Hunter:**

I represent our Regimental family remembering Colonel Hunter this morning. Peter Hunter was a proud member of his Regiment. He was the very epitome of the citizen soldier. A successful businessman, a volunteer in his community and active in politics. He believed passionately in the role of the Reserves and its ability to play an effective part in the defence of Canada.

Peter was born in Toronto. From high school at UTS he went to the Royal Military College graduating in 1951. He held senior executive and ownership positions in Canada's communications industry including advertising, public relations and film-making, following which in 1989, he served as an executive with Citibank Canada, and then in 1992 as President of the Metro Toronto Zoo. Colonel Hunter performed extensive public service, as Chair of many diverse community organizations and was a trusted advisor to Ontario governments for 4 decades.

Except for two years with the 1st Hussars in London, Colonel Hunter was an officer with the Horse Guards from 1952 to 1967, He served as Commanding Officer of the Regiment from 1965.

Peter's command saw the militia exiting from the dark days of National Survival and the major task of re-establishing the military skills in Armoured Recce. Those years were characterized by shortage of all classes of equipment, but offset by the enthusiasm in our new role, ably led by Colonel Hunter. A

highlight of 1967 was the presentation of a new Standard by the Governor General, Roland Michener. During that year, Peter was also instrumental in strengthening our ties with our Allied Regiments in England and in particular with two commanding officers, Roy Redgrave and Morris Johnson. They have remained great friends of the Regiment these many years.

Following his tour of command Peter joined the Horse Guards Board of Trustees, and served as its Chairman from 1983 to 1991. His leadership in fund-raising has provided our Regimental Foundation with a solid financial footing. He introduced our Regiment to Hal Jackman, who accepted the position as Honourary Lieutenant Colonel with enthusiasm and flair. Hal and Peter worked together to implement a new structure of Honourary ranks. Her Majesty the Queen graciously accepted the appointment as Colonel in Chief, and the Governor General, previously Honourary Colonel, became the Colonel of the Guards Regiments. Following this, Hal became the Honourary Colonel and Peter became the Honourary Lieutenant Colonel. In 2002, Peter succeeded Hal as the Honourary Colonel.

Col. Hunter was a co-founder and continuing co-chair of Reserves 2000, an organization of individuals concerned about the future of the militia. Reserves 2000 is widely acknowledged for its success in obtaining the acceptance by the government of Canada, of the major benefits that a strong militia could provide in Domestic and International operations, and to the security of all Canadians.

His military career culminated with his appointment as the 12th Colonel Commandant of the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps in October 2005. He was the third reservist to serve as the Colonel Commandant, and the second

Horse Guard.

We all admired Peter Hunter for these accomplishments. But his greatest accomplishment was his many friends ..... those who loved him.

He was a gracious and gentle man. In conversation, he was attentive, positive and witty. You felt that you were important to him. In action he sought the positive and fair position, and succeeded with quiet authority.

He had respect for those he worked with, always acknowledging their effort. Peter would provide the leadership on some task or ceremony, and on completion you would receive a beautifully crafted letter, saying that you had been a key to a successful event.

That wonderful smile on the programme today was the image we all had. He would often add humour to almost any event, even those of near disaster, not to distract or belittle, but to break the tension.

Many here today have their own favourite Peter Hunter story, which Peter often delighted in telling himself. If I can just tell one, it would be from the summer of 1966 .... the drive back from Petawawa at the end of summer camp. Peter was driving, and the three officers with him in the car were quickly asleep. Some miles down the winding road Peter must have lost concentration, he missed a curve, and the car lurched offroad, luckily down a farmer's lane. The three passengers were startled awake. At which point Peter turned to them, and said..."I suppose you're wondering why I brought you here".

We salute Colonel Hunter for his 56 years of service to his regiment.... we value his great sense of commitment and his friendship.

His motivation and dedication, his gentle nature and humour, will be remembered. Nulli Secundis. He was Second to None.

Wanda and Family, the Regimental will always be here for you. ■

# REMEMBERING COL PETER HUNTER



Circa 1966 - LCol Peter Hunter trading in his tank for a helicopter!!!



Aug. '66, Peter Hunter left, next Dave Friesen, and 2nd from r. Col HK Forbes.



D. Friesen, A. Burton, Peter Hunter - 1966



I first met Peter Hunter when we both attended UTS during the late 1940's. Our paths crossed again in the 1970's when we were both on the executive of the Empire Club of Canada and also through politics.

However I really got to know Peter Hunter through the Regiment. He was Chairman of the Regiment's trustees and invited me to

become Honorary Lieutenant Colonel, an honour that I was delighted to accept.

A Regiment is the sum total of those who serve now, those who have gone before and those who will serve in the future, bound together by a great tradition of honour, loyalty and service.

To all of us, Peter represented the best in the Regiment's traditions. He was ready to serve in any capacity whenever called.

His life, which epitomized honour, loyalty and service will remain a shining example for all of us. ■

*Colonel The Honourable Henry N. R. Jackman  
OC, KStJ, OOnt, CD*



Peter Hunter was the essence of dedication, commitment, loyalty, and devotion to God and Country. In the way he lived his life he was an inspiration to all who knew him. He epitomized, as has been said repeatedly, "Nulli Secundus" ■

*Colonel The Honourable Margaret N. McCain  
Q.C, O.N.B., BA (Hon), B.S.W.*

# REMEMBERING COL PETER HUNTER



No event was ever complete without Peter and Wanda , as invited guests - 2007.



Tribute dinner in February 2008 marking the end of Col Hunter's term as Colonel Commandant of the Armoured Corps.



Col. Hunter on far R, 1960 - some traditions have been preserved in the Regiment.



At CFB Trenton in 2007 with LCol Forbes' daughters Cpl Cindy Forbes-Favreau and Janette Mitchell, who also provided many of the photographs in this publication.



1967 Mess Dinner, Col Hunter in Command, Centre Right, Col. Redgrave Royal Horse Guards Centre Left

# REMEMBERING COL PETER HUNTER



The Regimental Honour Guard and Trumpet Major on hand to bid a final farewell at St. James Cathedral.



The Cavalry was a large part of Col Hunter's life-long association with the Governor General's Horse Guards.



Pall bearers from other Area armoured units assist in the final journey with his beloved Regiment.



The Very Reverend Douglas Stoute and choir of St. James Cathedral help to put a fitting end to a life well lived.



LCol Dorfman paid an emotional tribute to his long-time friend and fellow Horse Guard.



Sharing a few moments with Wanda at the reception which followed the funeral service.



**NULLI SECUNDUS**

# Veteran Al Sellers at 90:



*“Happy hour at 4 every day”*

BY EVERT AKKERMAN

On Saturday, July 19th, 2008 World War II veteran Al Sellers turned 90. Dutch Canadian Association of Greater Toronto President Martin VanDenzen and I visited the retired arborist and his wife Marie at their Willowdale home just after 10:00 a.m. to congratulate him. Sellers, a Sergeant with the Governor General’s Horse Guards during the war, was interviewed about his wartime experiences for *De Nederlandse Courant* three years ago. This spring, the GGHG reprinted the article in its newsletter. Sellers: “I really enjoyed that. Lots of phone calls... We got eight extra copies of the *Regimental Lines* to give to our relatives.”

Sellers spent four years overseas, first in Italy and then through France, Belgium and Holland, ending up in Assen right after the liberation. “It was strange getting used to civilian life again. Just dealing with people and getting things done... In the Army, everything was provided for. We didn’t need money, everything was taken care of. Not that we had that much anyway - we got paid \$1.45 a day. And then when I came back, I really had very little to get started on.” He had met Marie when she was only 15 and she waited all those years for Al to return. She had worked for Bell and picked apples to get by. “When Al got back, I was 20 and my father said I was too young to marry. So we waited until I

turned 21 and were married 10 days later.”

Al credits his high age to Marie’s good care and to a daily ritual they have: “We have happy hour at 4 every day. I still enjoy my Scotch.” Martin: “So Al, how about a beer or a whisky?” When Marie suggested coffee instead, Martin and I wanted to know whether she would deny her husband a Scotch on a day like this. Marie: “I will, at this hour!”



The retired arborist and his wife Marie enjoy the sanctuary they have created in their well groomed North York backyard garden.

“Veterans’ Aid is really good to me, and I didn’t even ask for it,” Sellers said, puffing on a birthday cigar imported from Holland. “I got this hearing aid from them because I didn’t hear half of what people were saying. A couple of weeks ago, they sent me an invitation to undergo a geriatric evaluation. That made me feel old, you know. So we went there on Thursday and I see all these guys staggering around... They were really old. The doctors ask about your habits and I told them that I have one

drink a day.” At this point, Marie went into the house and came out with a huge beer mug, able to hold three litres easily. “One drink a day!”

Last year, Sellers underwent an operation to remove a cancerous growth in his lower leg and he was out of commission for five months. He now walks with a cane and has good days and not-so-good days. When asked whether he ever thought during the war that he would make it to his 90th birthday, Sellers said: “There were times when I didn’t, of course. But here I am, and I still stagger around.” Sellers estimates that there are some 200 men from his unit left, scattered across Canada and all well into their eighties. They are a dying breed. “I can’t go to funerals anymore now, but there were times when we had two a week.”

Sellers is gratified (and a bit surprised) to see the Dutch continue to recognize Canada and its veterans for the sacrifices made. He is also pleased to see the Poles finally being recognized for their role in the war. Sellers has always made a point of giving them the credit they deserved, especially for breaking through the German defences at Monte Cassino. “The Germans were high up so it was really tough. It was Polish tanks that did it. They really deserve all the recognition we can give them. And don’t forget about the Ghurkhas and the Sikhs.” ■

# CAVALRY SQUADRON AT The North American Police Equestrian Championships (NAPEC) 2008



As the last of the GGHG trailers pulled into the Fort Henry parking lot late Thursday afternoon, the calm and quiet of the week disappeared. From the moment the doors opened and the ramps dropped, the GGHG team was in constant motion. Although we were the only military unit surrounded by a sea of police outfits, everyone went out of their way to welcome us to Kingston.

The plan for Thursday night was a relaxed ride through historic downtown Kingston. There was less than an hour of preparation time, from unloading the horses to the time we rode down the hill towards downtown Kingston, but we were on our way.

It was quite a sight to see 70+ police and military horses winding our way down the hill from the Fort. With our own police escort we happily shut down traffic for miles around, and the only hitch in the whole trip involved looking down into the water through the perforated metal that made up the bridge... The riders were probably more worried than the horses on the first pass, and to prove the point our return trip took us over the same two bridges.

Friday morning started the pairs obstacle course. The pairs were randomly assigned by the organizers and event emphasized teamwork and horse control. MCpl Knights (on Max), MCpl Van Auken (Flicka) and Capt Zeitoun (Tom) all competed in this event. Although it was intended to be a

'fun' event, it served to warm us up for the rest of the competition. It also introduced us to great friends, both new and old, from police forces around the country.

The rest of the day Friday consisted of the RCMP Musical Ride followed by the competitor's BBQ. It provided a perfect opportunity to enjoy the fantastic weather, scenery and company of our fellow competitors. It was also a

an energetic leg-up from the Sergeant-Major). When we heard that each team could only field one contestant, MCpl Van Auken opted to step aside and MCpl Knights went into the competition with the best of both sets of tack. Throughout the inspection, both MCpl Knights and Max stood immobile - no mean feat since the next horse over was an antsy Belgian who kept bumping into Max, and when it was over we were thrilled to watch MCpl Knights take first place.

During the Equitation event, the hardest part was the waiting. While the contestants waited for their number to be called, the rest of the skill-at-arms team went out of the fort for some tent-pegging practice. As throughout the duration, most of the police had no idea what to make of the swords and lances but were happy to watch



MCpls Knights and Van Auken, part of an experienced equestrian team

welcome diversion from the horse preparation required for the following morning's Uniform Class. After a brief tent-pegging practice session, horse and tack preparation started in earnest.

Later that evening, Captain Zeitoun lost the coin toss and his room in the barracks was converted into the skill-at-arms target production workshop. Several pizzas and many hours later, we were ready for Saturday.

Getting both horses and riders ready for the Uniform class was a team effort, but in short order everyone was tacked, polished and ready in the saddle (Except for MCpl Van Auken who was almost thrown clear over Flicka by

from a safe distance. By the time we had returned to the Fort, MCpl Knights number was being called out has having placed in the Equitation class. One hurried tack-up later, and he was collecting second-place in the 'Patrol' division of the Equitation class.

By this time, our crew numbers had doubled to include both CWO MacDonald and Akaash Maharaj (now the CEO of Equine Canada). While they were struggling with our entire target array and some very tight timings, the riders were getting horses ready and watching the daylight slowly disappear. When all the dust had settled, we put on a crowd-pleasing dis-

play of speed, finesse and, in some cases, brute military force. All of this was supported by the skillful commentary provided by Jim Davis. It was fully dark by the time we left the arena, and both horses and riders were exhausted.

Although we were scheduled to depart on Sunday morning, we stayed long enough to watch the walk-through of the final event - the obstacle course. While some parts of the event looked challenging, we think we can give the police a run for their money next year.

Performances like those at Kingston don't happen by themselves. There is a lot of work involved and that effort and dedication deserves a special thanks.

First and foremost, to the

Commanding Officer LCol SD Matheson, for your kind permission and your enthusiastic support for the skill-at-arms team. The CO wrote, "On behalf of all Ranks of the Serving Regiment let me offer my congratulations to all those involved and particularly MCpl Knights. Well Done!"

Then to the riders, CWO A Henderson, MCpl J Knights, MCpl PJ Van Auken and Tpr T Dentay, your hard work, practice and dedication are apparent in the way you rode, both in the demonstration and in the competition. I was very proud to be able to call you my team and I know we left our mark on the NAPEC event.

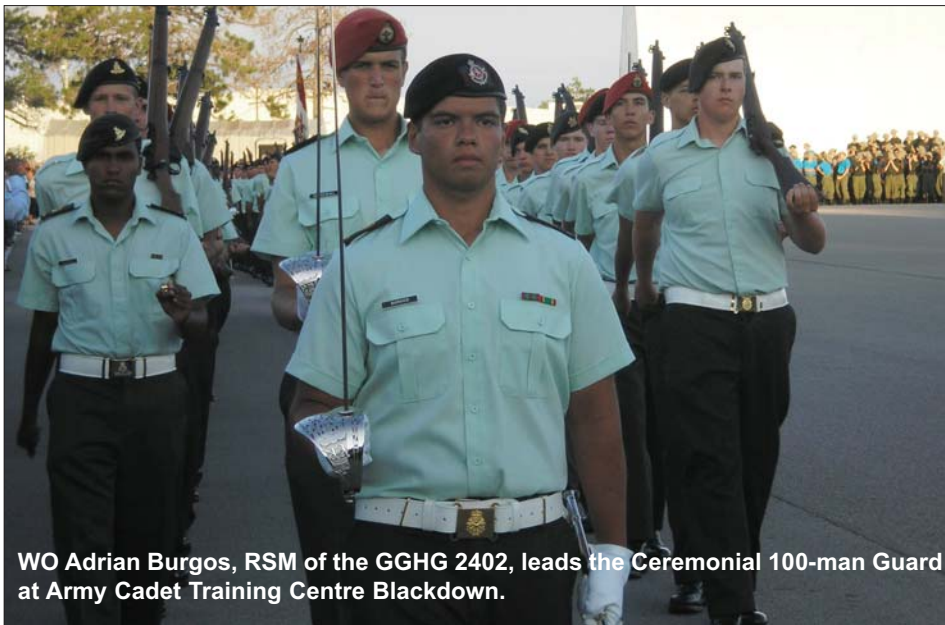
Many thanks go out to the ground crew, Sgt Blake and Sgt MacLachlan. Employed variously as photographers,

videographers, grooms, target-party or at one point, just made to walk up and down the massive hill at the Fort while we looked for a flat strip of ground to practice on, your presence made our jobs easier.

Behind the scenes, Jacqui Nicholls was getting horses ready for our time away. When Mirage went lame at the last minute, Jacqui went to work immediately to trim and groom Flicka so that we would look as good as we could. Thank you, Jacqui.

Finally, thank you to Ralph Brothers and the Riding Club Executive for supporting the Squadron's presence at Kingston this year.

*Captain A.M. Zeitoun* ■



WO Adrian Burgos, RSM of the GGHG 2402, leads the Ceremonial 100-man Guard at Army Cadet Training Centre Blackdown.

## GGHG Cadet continues tradition

Working his first "callout", Cadet RSM Adrian Burgos was employed as the CSM of Alpha Company for the Drill & Ceremonial Cadet Leader Instructor Course; the senior company at the Training Centre's WO Qualifying Course. In addition to this tasking, RSM Burgos was also selected to be the Guard Commander for sunset parade, the spectacle that marks the high-point of the 6-week summer

training cycle.

RSM Burgos demonstrated the high standard of the Guards and his course report reflects this; praising him as the model of what the Army Cadet movement can achieve. While we're keeping him very busy now that the training year is underway, RSM Burgos has his eyes firmly fixed on his future and is currently applying to Royal Military College.

*by Capt Steve Bedford* ■

## It's a Diamond Year for the Riding Club

*By Laurie Blake,  
1st VP, GGHG Riding Club*



Yes, it may be hard to believe, but it's been 60 years since members of the Horse Guards Sergeants' Mess joined together to create the GGHG Riding Club.

### Fall Riding Spots Available

This past summer saw a number of riding activities for both the general Club membership and Cav Sqn members. The Club held two successful summer camps – one for kids in July and a jumping camp for teens and adults in early August.

We have started a new session for lessons – again both of the general "learn to ride" and also intro to Cav Sqn riding (or "2 Troop" as the Captain calls it) for experienced riders wanting to try out for the Sqn. General lessons spots are available for beginners on Monday and Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm; there may also be some spots on Saturday morning (though Saturdays are pretty full). More advanced riders can do an assessment lesson and then discuss appropriate times with the instructor.

For general lessons, please contact [info@gghgridingclub.com](mailto:info@gghgridingclub.com) or call the Club at 905-478-2933 and leave a message, or give Laurie a shout on her cell phone at 905-252-2618. ■



*Major Peter Hunter was the Cavalry Escort Commander of the GGHG contingent which travelled down to the United States for the 1964 Preakness Stakes, won by the tremendous Canadian horse Northern Dancer.*



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