

## Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry - The Patricias

### The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2014-2015



The Patricias will commemorate a Century of Service to Canada from 7 August 2014 to 8 May 2015. The Regiment's purpose is to celebrate with the Nation the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Regiment and Canada's participation in the First Great War that contributed so much to our development as a strong and independent Nation. We will be actively sharing our history and capabilities by connecting with Canadians at every opportunity.

Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry was formed in August 1914 when Andrew Hamilton Gault, a Montreal businessman, approached the government of Canada with an offer of \$100,000 to raise and equip a battalion of veterans to be first in the field for overseas service. The Regiment was named in honour of Princess Patricia, the daughter of the Duke of Connaught, who was then Governor General of Canada. Drawing its recruits almost exclusively from ex-soldiers from all parts of Canada, the Patricias became the first Canadian Regiment in the field when they landed in France in December 1914. Although based in Western Canada, the Regiment draws its soldiers from all parts of the country. There is also an active Regimental Association comprised mainly of former members of the Regiment, with branches in over a dozen Canadian cities.

### Edmonton Commemoration 7 to 10 August 2014

The Edmonton Commemoration will be the start of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities and will consist of the following:

**Opening Ceremony** – The Opening Ceremony will be held on the evening of 7 August at the Better 'Ole. This will officially launch the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorations.

**Better 'Ole** – The Better 'Ole will be held at the Lecture Training Facility at CFB Edmonton and will be open throughout the Edmonton Commemoration. There will be themed areas from throughout the PPCLI's history, food vendors, plenty to drink, and entertainment in an outdoor beer garden. There is no cost for this activity. However, to ensure there is sufficient bar staff, bar stock and food, please register.

**Centennial Art Show** - The Art Show will be at the Royal Alberta Museum from 6 August. With sufficient interest, transport will be arranged to and from the Art Show.

**Centennial Golf Tournament 7 August.** – The Centennial Golf tournament will be a shotgun style best-ball tournament and feature multiple prizes. Registration is open to all, and you can register as an individual or as a team of four. Entry fee of \$90 will include lunch at the Garrison Golf Clubhouse.

**Fun Casino** – A casino will be set up near the Better 'Ole on 7 August. This activity is free.

**Bridge Tournament** – With sufficient interest, a bridge tournament will be held on 7 August. Make sure to contact the Anniversary Office if you are interested! This activity is free.

**Texas Hold ‘Em Tournament 7 August** – A poker tournament will be run with professional dealers. There will be cash prizes. Register online or on the registration form. Availability will be on a first come first served basis. There is an entry fee of \$60.

**PPCLI Museum Trip** – With sufficient interest, one-day bus trips will be organized to the newly renovated PPCLI Museum in Calgary on 7 and 8 August. Indicate your interest on your registration form early! The cost for this event is \$75 per person.

**Soldier’s Lunch** – The Soldier’s Lunch will be held at the Junior Ranks Mess on 8 August and will be attended only by serving MCpls and below.

**Trooping Rehearsal** – The Trooping Rehearsal will take place 8 August in the morning and a prominent Patricia will be the reviewing officer.

**Trooping of the Colours and Military Display** – The Trooping will be held on 9 August and coincide with a public military display by the entire 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group. Skyhawk and Snowbird participation is also expected, and 1 PPCLI will be conducting a demonstration of infantry capabilities. There is no cost to attend this activity. However, to ensure Regimental members get suitable seating at the Trooping, the Anniversary Office needs to know the number of Patricias and their guests planning on attending the Trooping.

**Centennial Dinner and Dance** – Northlands is confirmed as the venue for the Centennial Dinner. The event will be a formal black tie or mess kit event, evening gowns or mess attire for ladies. Pricing is tiered: \$60 for serving Master Corporals and below, \$100 per person for all other serving members and Association and Foundation members in good standing, and \$150 per person for all others. Your price tier will apply to any civilian guests you wish to bring. Parking will be included in the price.

**Dedication Ceremony** – 10 August. A dedication to the Fallen will take place at Patricia Park at Griesbach. This ceremony will also include the insertion of a time capsule into the Memorial. There is no cost to attend this activity.

**Closing Ceremony** – 10 August. The closing of the Edmonton Commemoration will take place in the afternoon following the Dedication Ceremony. This will mark the start of the Memorial Baton Relay, and the Better ‘Ole will remain open throughout the evening for further socializing. There is no cost to attend this activity.

## **Ottawa Commemoration 18 to 21 September 2014**

On 23 August 1914, the Regiment paraded in Lansdowne Park in Ottawa to receive the Colour (or Ric-A-Dam-Doo as it is known within the Patricias) it would carry in action throughout the war from the hands of Princess Patricia. A century later, the Patricias will gather again to commemorate and celebrate its close ties to Ottawa as the birthplace of the Regiment. The celebration in the

Nation's capital will provide an opportunity to focus on the service of all who served Canada during World War 1 and those that followed. The Commemoration will provide Patricias with the opportunity to rededicate themselves to the service of Canada.

***Commemoration Gathering and Memorial Dedication*** – At Lansdowne Park, on the afternoon of 18 September, a new Memorial commemorating the Birth of the Patricias will be unveiled and the Memorial Baton Relay will arrive, completing its journey from Edmonton. This event will be open to all. There is no registration fee to attend this activity; however, for planning purposes, please register.

***Better 'Ole*** – A Better 'Ole will be held at the Carleton Armouries throughout the Ottawa Commemorations.

***Tree Planting*** – 18 September. A tree will be planted at the Governor General's house to replace the tree that was cut down for the mast of the Camp Colour in 1914. A light lunch will be served. Cost is \$15.

***Sunset Ceremony*** - 19 September. This will involve Guards and Colour Parties from the PPCLI and the R22eR, supported by the R22eR Band and other professional bands. This is planned for Parliament Hill. The Governor General has been requested to be the Reviewing Officer. There is no cost to attend this ceremony; however, to ensure there is sufficient and suitable seating for the members of the Regiment, it is strongly recommended you register if you plan on attending.

***Parade of Rededication*** – 20 September. The PPCLI has received permission to exercise Freedom of the City, and in doing so will recreate the march from Lansdowne Park to the old railway station where the Regiment began its journey to the battlefields of Belgium and France. The Regiment will pledge itself to another storied Century of Service to Canada. The parade will be followed by a reception to which the public will be invited. The Prime Minister has been requested to be the Reviewing Officer. There is no cost to attend this ceremony; however, to ensure there are sufficient beverages and snacks at the reception, it is strongly recommended that you register if you plan on attending.

***Regimental Dinner*** – 20 September. A formal dinner will be held at the Canadian Museum of Civilization. \$80 per person for all other serving members and Association and Foundation members in good standing, and \$110 per person for all others.

***Historical Tours*** – With sufficient interest, historical tours of the Ottawa area will be organized on 19 and 20 September.

## **Memorial Baton Relay 10 August to 18 September 2014**

The Memorial Baton Relay will travel from Edmonton to Ottawa between 10 August, the date of the Regiment's call to service, and 18 September, when it was formed in Ottawa. The Memorial Baton Relay will end in Lansdowne Park in Ottawa and connects the Edmonton and Ottawa commemorations. The Memorial Baton will be transported to Frezenberg for the ceremony on 8 May 2015.

The Memorial Baton contains the Roll of Honour of the Regiment, symbolizing the national character of the Patricias and the passing of the torch from generation to generation as old soldiers

retire and new ones join the Colours. The Roll of Honour is a listing of all Patricias who have been killed in action since World War 1. The Memorial Baton will be carried by soldiers from Edmonton to Ottawa with stops along the route. The Regiment will encourage the participation of veterans and youth groups throughout its length. Stops will be advertised well in advance and will be designed to maximize media coverage for the team, its partners, and the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary itself. In brief:

- Aim. The aim is to connect with Canadians at every opportunity en route, and as such, we will showcase the Memorial Baton, the Regiment, and Canada's military to as many Canadians as possible. Paul Gross and Dave 'Tiger' Williams are Honourary Captains of the Memorial Baton Relay team. The PPCLI Colonel in Chief, the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, will participate in select events.
  
- Centennial Display Team. In addition to the runners who will carry the Memorial Baton, a Centennial Display Team will travel with the group to publicly demonstrate some of the modern capabilities of the Canadian Army. The center piece of the display will be a Light Armoured Vehicle which was used extensively during Canada's recent military deployment to Afghanistan. Historical and contemporary weapons, supplemented by military uniforms and the PPCLI Drumline, will also be featured in the display.
  
- Route. The route for the Memorial Baton Relay during the period 10 August to 18 September 2014 is:
  - Alberta: Edmonton, Camrose, Wainwright, Calgary, Suffield and Medicine Hat
  - Saskatchewan: Regina and Moosomin
  - Manitoba: Brandon, Shilo and Winnipeg
  - Ontario: Thunder Bay, Elk Lake, Espanola, London, Toronto, Highway of Heroes, Trenton, Kingston and Ottawa
  - Quebec: Montreal and Mont St-Hilaire
  
- [Southern Ontario Route 4 to 10 September 2014.](#)
  - **16/17 August** - The Memorial Baton Relay will be the lead contingent for the Warrior's Day Parade at the CNE.

- o **4 September** – The Memorial Baton Relay will be in London, Ontario where there will be a service at MGen Cameron Ware’s gravesite. MGen Ware commanded the Patricias during World War 2 from 11 August 1943 – 27 June 1944 and again 4 June 1946 – 30 September 1947. He was appointed Colonel of the Regiment from 13 September 1959 to 21 April 1977. He died in 1999 and is buried in Woodland Cemetery.
  
- o **5 September** – Arrival of the Memorial Baton in the GTA. A number of events are still being planned. These will range from possible participation in a CFL half time show, visits to Sunnybrook Hospital and Tony Stacey Centre to a family event at Bison Transport or Tim Hortons.
  
- o **6 September** – The Memorial Baton Relay team will run from Cpl Ainsworth Dyer’s gravesite (Cpl Dyer was one of the first four Patricias killed in action in Afghanistan) to Queen’s Park and then to HMCS York where the Centennial Display Team will conduct a community outreach.
  
- o **7 September** – A 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary plaque will be unveiled at the Adamson family crypt at Trinity Church in Port Credit. Agar Adamson joined the Patricias in August 1914 and was one of the original officers who survived the war. He commanded the Regiment from June 1916 until May 1918, including during the Battle of Vimy Ridge. His ashes are interned in the family crypt. After the plaque dedication, the Memorial Baton Relay will run to the Adamson Estate where a second plaque will be unveiled and the Centennial Display Team will showcase the Regiment’s history to the community.
  
- o **8 September** – Canadian Heroes and the Regiment will unveil a memorial to Capt Richard Leary in Brantford, Ontario. Capt Leary was killed in action in Afghanistan on 3 June 2008 and is buried in Brantford. There will be a graveside service followed by the Memorial Baton Relay team running to the memorial and a community reception.
  
- o **9 September** – A memorial service will be conducted at the Korean National War Memorial in Brampton. The service will include representatives from the Korean Consulate, Korean Veterans Association and the Regiment. After the service, the

Memorial Baton Relay will proceed to Gage Park in downtown Brampton where the Centennial Display Team will showcase the Regiment's history to the community.

- o **10 September** – The Memorial Baton Relay team will visit MacKinnon and Bowes Funeral services to present them with a Regimental certificate of appreciation for all their efforts in repatriating our Afghanistan casualties to Canada. The Roll of Honour will then travel along the Highway of Heroes from the Coroners' Office to Trenton. Upon arrival in Trenton, there will be a memorial service at the Afghanistan Memorial.
- Media. In addition to partnering with local media outlets for regional events, arrangements are being finalized with the Globe and Mail for national exposure. This coverage will be supplemented by an embedded media program to maximize public awareness of the Memorial Baton Relay.

### **Frezenberg Belgium 7 - 11 May 2015**

The Patricias were formed largely from veterans of Britain's previous military campaigns. As it was largely trained and ready, the Regiment was the first to deploy on the western front and the first Canadian unit to enter combat on 6 January 1915. The Regiment has long remembered its service in the Battle of Frezenberg, near Ypres in Flanders where it played a critical role in stopping a major German offensive that threatened to overrun allied lines. We will commemorate the Regiment and a number of historic battles that were fought during World War 1. The Memorial Baton and Roll of Honour will end its journey with the rededication of the Frezenberg Memorial on 8 May 2015, the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the battle. The Regiment commenced the battle with 547 all ranks and at the end 4 Officers and 150 Soldiers survived. This will conclude the Patricias Century of Service to Canadians and the Nation.

The details of all events and activities can be found at [www.pplici.com](http://www.pplici.com).

For further information on the PPCLI 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities that will place take in Southern Ontario please contact Paul Hale at [PaulHale3VP@yahoo.ca](mailto:PaulHale3VP@yahoo.ca).