



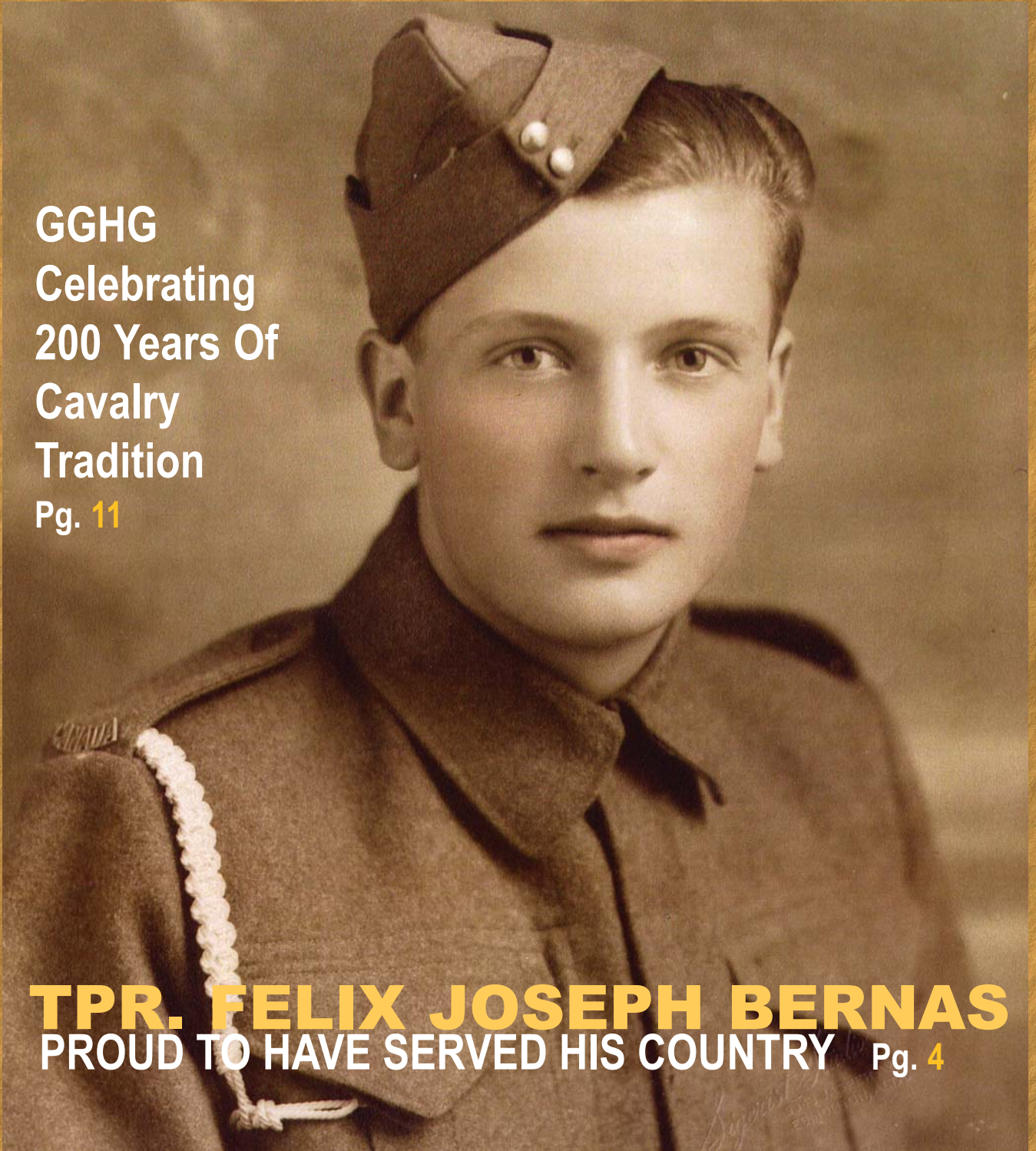
# REGIMENTAL LINES

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S HORSE GUARDS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

SPRING & SUMMER 2009

GGHG  
Celebrating  
200 Years Of  
Cavalry  
Tradition  
Pg. 11

**TPR. FELIX JOSEPH BERNAS**  
PROUD TO HAVE SERVED HIS COUNTRY Pg. 4





**MWO Mark Stephens**  
President, GGHG Association

**W**elcome to our Spring and Summer edition of Regimental Lines.

I would like to begin my remarks by again acknowledging Doug Coombes for another generous donation to the Association. This is Doug's 3rd donation to the Association and he has been a member of the Horse Guards for a long time, having been with the Regiment prior to their mobilization for WW II and then serving in England and Italy. Once again our sincere thanks Doug.

The year 2010 is shaping up to be a very busy one for the Regiment as we

## President's Message

celebrate 200 years of Cavalry. A number of events are being planned for next year and they include a Band Concert at the Markham Theater in April, the Change of Commanding Officer and Regimental Sergeant Major in June and the Freedom of the City of Markham in the October of 2010. In addition, we will be participating in the Warrior's Day Parade at the CNE in August 2010 and the Memorial Weekend also in 2010.

Keep up on all of the events, locations and timing through Regimental Lines or the Association's Web site at: [www.geocities.com/gghgassociation](http://www.geocities.com/gghgassociation)

Don't forget the events for 2009, including the Warrior's Day Parade, August 22, 2009 and the Memorial weekend, November 6-8, 2009. For Warriors' Day tickets, see the information further on in the newsletter.

Keep safe and I look forward to seeing or hearing from you all in the coming months.

"Nulli Secundus"

*MWO Mark Stephens (Ret'd)*  
President



### GGHG ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE

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#### PAST PRESIDENT

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(Photo I.D. needed at the main entrance)

## Royal Canadian Military Institute



### D-DAY DODGERS LUNCHEON

Thursday 4 June 2009

1130hr for 1230hr

### "The Sicilian Campaign"

Guest Speaker: Prof. Eric McGeer

You don't have to be a D-Day Dodger to enjoy the history and camaraderie of this annual event

**Price: \$35.00 service & taxes included**

426 University Avenue, Toronto  
1-800-585-1072 or 416-597-0286

# In Memoriam

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

**BASTINE, Tpr. John Joseph** -



GGHG WW II Veteran passed away on March 28, 2009 while at his home. A memorial service was held on Wednesday, April 1, 2009 in Holland, NY.

Governor General's Horse Guards. Following the war, he served for many years with the Elgin Regiment Militia. A retired employee of National Grocers, London, he was also a former Timken employee. Donald was a life member of the Elgin Regiment Sergeant's Mess, and a member of Lord Elgin Branch #41, Royal Canadian Legion, St. Thomas.

love in her life was her family. A celebration of Gerry's life was held on Monday, April 27th at the Church of the Advent, in Victoria, BC. There will also be a memorial service in Toronto this summer.

**BERNAS, Tpr. Felix Joseph** - GGHG



WW II Veteran passed away on Jan. 28, 2009 at age 87. He served with the Regiment in France and Italy during the war. A Funeral service was held on Saturday January 31 at St.

**MCKEACHNIE, Sgt. Arthur Neil** - passed away peacefully at the F.J. Davey Home in Sault Ste Marie on Friday, October 24, 2008 at the age of 88. Arthur served during WWII with the Governor General's Horse Guards in North Africa, Italy and Europe. He obtained the rank of Staff Sergeant and on his return, joined the local Reserve 49th Field Artillery Regiment in Sault Ste Marie and was appointed Regimental Sgt Major and later commissioned as Major. A memorial service was held on October 30, 2008 in Sault Ste Marie.

**SISCO, Tpr. Charles L.** - GGHG



WW II Veteran passed away on Dec. 16, 2008 in Sanstead Québec at age 95. He was also a member of Stansstead Frontier Legion Branch in Québec where a memorial service was held. ■

George's Anglican Church, New Glasgow, Nova Scotia and a memorial service was also held by Royal Canadian Legion Branch. 34 New Glasgow, Nova Scotia.

**BURKA, Mrs. Margaret** - wife of



Major Mac Burka, passed away on Sunday January 4th at age eighty-one following complications from a stroke. A funeral mass was held on Friday January 9 at the Holy

Rosary Church in Toronto.

**NAUNHEIMER, Mrs. Geraldine (Gerry) Lynn née Crossan** - wife of

Capt. Nicholas (Nick) Naunheimer, passed suddenly, on Wednesday, April 22, 2009, at the Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria, B.C. Nick served as Escort Commander of the Cavalry Squadron in the early 80s (1983-1987) and both he and Gerry were active members of the GGHG Riding Club for many years. In spite of numerous health issues, Gerry's positive and uncomplaining determination was an inspiration to all. Born on December 23, 1942 in Toronto, she grew up and spent the majority of her adult years in the city, retiring to Victoria in 1997 with Nick. Gerry's innate mechanical ability translated into a grandmother who could text her grandchildren to wish them well. She loved playing games and working on her computer, being at the cottage in Muskoka but the real

**MACDONALD, Tpr. Donald E.** -

GGHG WW II Veteran, passed away at the St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital on Friday, August 29, 2008, following an aneurism. He was in his 85th year. During the Second World War, Donald served in Sicily/Italy, Holland, Belgium and France with the

## SICK & WELFARE

**DAVIDSON, Sgt Colin** - Remains at home and still able to receive visitors. To call or if planning a visit, please contact Shirley at (416) 283-1905.

**RENNIE, Tpr Ross** - Has now returned home after a period of rehabilitation at the Providence Healthcare Centre. Ross can be reached at (416) 439-1617.

**SHOPIRO, MWO Milton** - Was briefly hospitalized in April at Humber Memorial Hospital and later admitted to Sunnybrook following a fall. Milton is now back at home and would love to hear from his pals. He can be reached at (416) 630-3912. ■



**Felix Joseph Bernas**  
1921 - 2009

On Friday January 30 at 6:30 PM, far from our Regimental home at the Denison Armoury, family and friends gathered at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 34 in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia for a special service to mark the passing of GGHG WW II Veteran Felix Joseph Bernas. Trooper Bernas passed away peacefully on January 28, 2009, surrounded by his loving family in the Aberdeen Hospital, New Glasgow at the age of 87.

The tribute by the Legion should come as no surprise because Felix was not only the Sergeant-At-Arms for the Branch but he often carried the flags and played the Last Post on his bugle during Remembrance Day ceremonies. Last November (2008) he drove to the local cenotaph for what would be his last Remembrance Day service but the only available parking was a fair distance away and he was unable to walk so he was forced to remain in his car.

Born on November 21, 1921 in Twatinaw, Alberta, during the Pioneer Days, he was the second son of the late Annie (Popeniuk) Bernas and Roman Bernas. During one of the worst eras in Canadian history, known as the Great Depression, Felix, at the tender age of 14, left the family farm and rode the

## Veterans Remembered

### Felix Bernas

by David Bernas

*Recollections of conversations with his Dad, who bore the scars of war to the end.*

rails in search of work. He first volunteered for service in the South Alberta Regiment in 1939 then later transferred to the Governor General's Horse Guards before being posted overseas where he spent one year on the front lines. Felix spent a total of five years in the Army and fought in France and Italy, seeing action in Ortona and on the Gothic Line. During his service, his duties included being a wireless operator and bugler. While stationed in Debert, Nova Scotia, and on a weekend pass, Felix and a friend came to New Glasgow for a visit. When the two young soldiers missed the return bus, they decided to attend a dance in New Glasgow where Felix met and eventually married the love of his life, his late wife, Clara Elizabeth (Gostock) Bernas who passed away in 2008. During their 65 years of marriage, they raised one son (David) and five daughters.

The images and memories of war stayed with Felix to the very end of his life. Some were humorous but most of it was sad and haunting. He told the story of guarding German prisoners in the back of a canvas covered army truck and he had been without sleep for a week so he was quite exhausted. He found himself dozing off from time to time but noticed that a young German prisoner was observing him intently. Suddenly the kid lunged and tried to grab his sten gun which was across his

knees. He caught a glimpse of the prisoner's movement just in time to point his weapon in his direction and squeeze the trigger. He recalled the young headless prisoner falling over the back gate of the truck and into the darkness and the path of the convoy and the tank that was immediately behind them. The youngster could not have been more than seventeen years old and it was one of the memories that haunted him continually. The other incident that bothered Felix was the death of his best friend who was killed by a sniper and died in his arms just moments after he received a cigarette that was being passed around in the trenches for each soldier to have a quick puff.

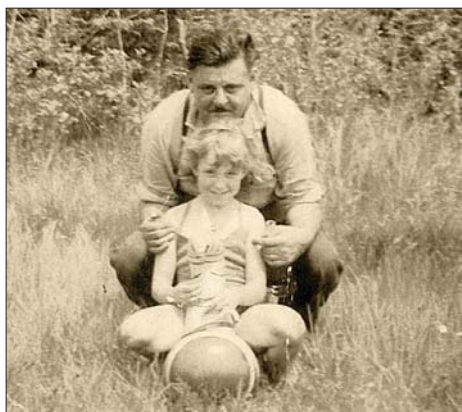
On the humorous side, we don't know if it was in France or Italy but Felix and a pal left their unit and despite warnings, slipped into a nearby village and ended up having a meal with a family. Suddenly there was a knock on the door and the owner of the home found himself face to face with two German Officers. The Germans saw the two Canadians sitting at the table, quickly saluted, said something in German that ended with "Johnny" and exited the house. Their sten guns



**Felix and the love of his life, Clara on their wedding day April 25th, 1942**

were leaning against the wall in plain sight but the Germans may have thought that the Canadians had occupied the whole village. Whatever, the reason might have been, he and his buddy got the heck out of there and never looked back.

Following his return from overseas, Felix built his own house and settled in Pictou County where he found employment doing several different jobs, ranging from cement finisher, carpenter, bricklayer, mechanic, stonework to



**A surprise meeting in 1955 during a visit to Cape Breton, with a German POW he had guarded during the war.**

trucking wood, coal, garbage, and doing whatever it took to earn a living. In what can best be described as a strange irony, he was visiting friends in Cape Breton back in 1955 when he somehow was introduced to a German gentleman who recognized him as the Canadian GGHG soldier who guarded him after he was captured during the war and had offered him a smoke. While he did not recall his name, Felix did manage to obtain a photo of the gentleman and his young daughter. He retired in 1971 after working for 26 years at the Trenton Railcar Plant.

Felix was an avid musician and loved playing the guitar, harmonica, fiddle, accordion and many other instruments. He had a popular musical show on the Community Channel 10 that ran for some time showcasing a variety of local talent. He enjoyed gardening, fishing, hunting, camping, swimming, spending time at the beach with his family, square and round dancing, bowling, bingo, playing crib, 45's, and shooting darts. Felix was also proficient in six different languages. He was a member of Saint George's



**This photo was taken on Nov 11, 2008 just before Felix made his last trip to the New Glasgow War Memorial**

Anglican Church, New Glasgow, the Wise Owl Club, 55 Plus Club, YMCA, Overseas War Veterans Assoc., the Memory Gun Shop Club and was a lifetime member of the Royal Canadian Legion, Normandy Branch 34 and proudly carried the flag in many of the Remembrance Day Parades. On several occasions, he bugled the last post at the War Memorial in Carmichael Park in honour of those who made the "supreme sacrifice". Felix was extremely proud to have had the opportunity to serve his country. ■



## D-DAY DODGERS DINNER ONTARIO REGIMENT



The Ontario Regiment Association in their continuing efforts to socialize with the GGHG Association, have graciously invited members of the GGHG Association and their guest to a D-Day Dodger Dinner to be held on Saturday 06 June 2009 in the Officers' Mess of the Ontario Regiment, located at 53 Simcoe St N. in Oshawa.

Both Regiments served admirably in Italy during WW II, while slugging it out with the enemy through the mud in Italy at the time of the D-Day Invasion of Europe on the 6th of June 1944, so it seems very appropriate that both Associations should get together to mark this event.

If you have not had the pleasure of visiting the Officers' Mess of the Ontario Regiment, you will be in for a very pleasant treat. The ambience of their Mess is what many of us remember as being what an Officers' Mess should look like!! The GGHG Association has been invited to visit

with the Ontario Regiment Association on at least two occasions in the past, and each get-together was very well received and much enjoyed.

This is a mixed event with wives, so please feel free to invite friends and let Maj David Mezzabotta know of your intention to attend, so that The Ontario's will be able to cater accordingly. The menu is not yet finalized, but there is some thought that the theme may well be Italian. As in the past, the dinner in their Mess is reasonably priced and the cost is \$35.00 per person. The GGHG Executive will be in attendance for the most part, and we remind all members of the GGHG Association that their presence would be very much appreciated. The Ontario Association has much in common with the GGHG Association in that they are very sociable and enjoy the camaraderie.

The Dress for the evening is Jacket and Tie and the bar will open at 1800 hrs. Please plan to attend. ■

## 'ROUND THE REGIMENT



Outgoing 748 Cadet Corps Commanding Officer Capt. Stephen Lavergne (Right) receives a framed photograph of the Corps from his successor Capt. Gene Fisher in Markham last December .



GGHG Association's "Combat" Secretary has now landed and started her tour in Afghanistan. Here she is all decked out in protective gear aboard a CF-17 during her flight into Kandahar.



RSM Brady sharing a light moment with 2IC Major Develiadiis (Left) and LCol Spiteri during the "Meet & Greet" before this year's Cavalry Luncheon at the RCMI.



The Horse Guards contingent was out in full force as shown by this group photograph taken on the front steps of the RCMI prior to the luncheon.



The Cavalry Luncheon turned out to be a Horse Guards Reunion of sorts for (L to R) Maj Ted Fahlgren, Lt Richard Gunn, Col Chris Judd and Lt Craig Anhorn.



As always, the Horse Guards laid claim to their traditional corner of the dining room and there was a sizeable representation of the Association Executive.

# 'ROUND THE REGIMENT



Major Chris Brown was one of a number of surprise guests at the Cavalry Luncheon and he had a chance to renew old acquaintances.



This year's Black Hat BBQ was bigger and better, thanks to organizer Captain Terry Shaw who took time out to address the gathering.



Great to see RSM "Tooner" Martin at the Black Hat BBQ and he's now back on our mailing list.



Some of the Horse Guards at the Armoured Corps Barbecue Luncheon in Borden on May 8, 2009.



No visit to CFB Borden is complete without a stop at the Armoured Corps Memorial. (L to R) Dave Mezzabotta, Bruce Madden, Doug Quimet, Colin Rowe, George Lancia and Terry Bannon.



As always, it was members of the Horse Guards Association who closed the Borden Museum, long after the BBQ crowd had left.



GGHG Riding Club's Summer camp is being organized at this time, for the week of July 13 – 17 or August 10 – 14. Many of last year's participants can attest to the fun and frolic that camp brings.



# 61st Anniversary

## GGHG Riding Club



by Faye MacLachlan



The 60th anniversary of the riding club was celebrated with a dinner at the Royal Canadian Military Institute on Saturday, November 1, 2008. Among the speakers were past Officers Commanding of the Cavalry Squadron. Many of the attendees were newer members of the club who had never been there before and seemed very impressed by the history and ambience of the building. To celebrate this momentous anniversary, golf shirts were commissioned and some are still available from Faye MacLachlan. She can be reached at: 416-314-9531 extension 208 or [faye.maclachlan@ontario.ca](mailto:faye.maclachlan@ontario.ca).

For those of you who took riding

lesson on the mare, Mirage, we are saddened by her retirement, but pleased to advise that she has been retired to a well-earned rest with P.J. Van Auken. We have had Mirage in our care since we were

Eglinton/York Equestrian Centre on Davis Drive, and she served us well.

We have had several changes in horses, recently. Flicka is still with us, John Simons still has Savannah and Linda Dunbar has Major and CJ. Brittany Nicholls, Jacqui's daughter, has been having success with Savannah at local horse shows. Well done, Brittany. The club now owns Dylan and Stone, two younger horses recommended to us by Jacqui Nicholls, our farm owner. They are working into our programs very well and we hope to send them out on parade, soon.

Lessons are beginning to pick up again after a long, cold winter. Several classes still have available spaces and

we are receiving telephone calls from interested persons. Classes are on Monday and Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. Please contact Jacqui for suitable times.

Summer camp is being organized at this time, for the week of July 13 –

17 or August 10 – 14. The date has not yet been confirmed but this is a very popular activity and spaces are filling quickly. For registration, please contact Jacqui at: [jnicholls2@rogers.blackberry.net](mailto:jnicholls2@rogers.blackberry.net).

We celebrated the arrival of Spring with a Pirates of the Caribbean party at our old faithful location, Lemonville Community Centre. There was lots of fun, and plenty to eat and drink including pirate stew and beer. Our next bash will be a bar-b-que at the riding club on Saturday, August 29, 2009. This will be an afternoon function with food and fun. Tentative plans are in the works to have the 61st anniversary at the R.C.M.I., again, on Saturday, November 29. We have been advised that the building will not yet have begun renovations before that date. The annual potluck and annual general meeting will be on Saturday, December 12. This will take place at Lemonville. Timings to be arranged.

Anyone interested in visiting the riding club may do so on our scheduled riding days.

*We are located on Holborn Rd., east of Woodbine Ave., the next concession north of Queensville Sideroad, at Cedar Springs Equestrian Centre.* ■



**Riding can be a fun activity for the whole family and spaces are still available in some classes.**



**Proof that it's never too early to begin taking riding lessons.**



## REGIMENTAL PARADE TO SALUTE OUR TF 3-08 SOLDIERS AND ALL FAMILIES WHO SUPPORT OUR ONGOING SERVICE TO CANADA.

Serving members, families and friends of The Governor General's Horse Guards:

In recognition of your ongoing support and to celebrate the return of our soldiers who recently returned from Task Force 3-08 in Afghanistan, you are invited to a Regimental parade at Denison Armory (1 Yukon Lane, Toronto) on June 9th 2009 at 7:30 pm.

Please join us and meet other members of the Horse Guard family on this important occasion. Refreshments will follow the Parade in the Denison Armory Mess.

Dress-Business Casual

Regards,  
LCol. S.D. Matheson, CD, A de C  
Commanding Officer



## MORE *Tunes of Glory*

*The Twentieth Annual Massed Military Band  
Spectacular at Roy Thomson Hall  
Sunday, October 25, 2009*

*Doors and military displays open at 12:30 pm—Concert begins at 2:00 pm*

*F*or 2009's concert the eleven massed military bands and pipes and drums will perform more of the stirring, familiar music we've known through the years, both military and popular tunes. Included will be a salute to the 250th anniversary of the birth

of Robbie Burns. And you'll hear 'Scottish Rhapsody', 'Garry Owen', 'Glendaurel Highlanders', the '007 Themes', 'The Saints', a salute to Canadian and U.S. Forces, and many more favourites. And of course you'll sing along, too!



Tickets: \$29.50—\$69.50  
By phone: 416 872 4255  
Box Office: 60 Simcoe St., Toronto  
On-line: [www.roythomson.com](http://www.roythomson.com)

ERIC MORSE  
PHOTOGRAPHY  
AND DESIGN

ROY  
THOMSON  
HALL





## WARRIORS' DAY PARADE - SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2009

Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto, Ontario

Please be sure to visit our website at [www.thewarriorsdayparade.ca](http://www.thewarriorsdayparade.ca)

### 2009 APPLICATION FOR FAMILY TICKETS

Free Family tickets to the Canadian National Exhibition grounds will be issued to, and are only for the use of **Canadian or Allied Veterans, or members and ex-members of the Canadian Forces**, Permanent Force or other Canadian Components and their **IMMEDIATE FAMILIES**.

Many spectators who view the Parade do so from along the Parade route; however, we encourage spectators to also take advantage of the wonderful opportunity of viewing the Parade from inside the **BMO Field**. This has very comfortable seating and the unobstructed view of the Parade is second to none. The **BMO Field** is also fully accessible to the handicapped and has washroom facilities inside the facility. Since the saluting dais is located inside the **BMO Field**, all bands will be playing once they enter and as they march past the Reviewing Officer. An announcer will also provide information about each contingent. Immediately after the parade there will be a sample of the evening's Musical Salute presented by the combined bands of the Canadian Forces at **BMO Field** so you won't even have to leave your seats to continue enjoying the show. Please pass this information on to all spectators and those marching in the Parade. After contingents have completed their part in the Parade they are invited to take seats in the **BMO Field** and take part in the rest of the festivities. We believe your Warriors' Day Parade experience will be enhanced tremendously by taking advantage of the **BMO Field**. There is no cost involved.

---

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ tickets in the enclosed stamped, self-addressed envelope/ Requests must be received by **7th AUGUST 2009**.

Postal rates; **1 to 11 tickets - \$0.54, or 12 to 28 tickets - \$0.98, or 29 to 70 tickets - \$1.64.**

**Organizations requiring large quantities of tickets for their personnel should arrange with the Ticket Chairman to have their tickets picked up from his home, if possible. The person requesting tickets must provide Name of each person and the Name of the Unit, which whom they served.**

Ticket Chairman **will not** affix postage. Parking is very limited at the CNE.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Rank; \_\_\_\_\_ Serial / Regimental #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address is: \_\_\_\_\_

Request for these tickets should be mailed to: Ticket Chairman  
Warriors' Day Parade Council  
105 Hollyberry Trail  
Toronto, ON, M2H 2N9



**FREE FAMILY TICKETS ARE NOT TO BE SOLD - NOR GIVEN TO ANY UNAUTHORIZED PERSON. THE TICKETS WILL NOT BE HONoured AFTER 12:00 P.M. ON THE DAY OF THE PARADE, as all related activities associated with the Parade will be completed at or before that time. ALSO, PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE TICKETS WILL NOT QUALIFY FOR ANY CNE COME BACK PROMOTION, DISCOUNT OR SPECIAL OFFER.**

## THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S HORSE GUARDS (GGHG) 2010 CELEBRATIONS



**I**n 1810, Captain John Button first raised a troop of Cavalry in the town of Markham. This troop would one day form one of the squadrons which led to the GGHG. In 2010 the GGHG, in cooperation with the town of Markham will celebrate 200 years of cavalry service and tradition in Canada. The Regiment will hold a number of events in the town of Markham during 2010.

### 2010 EVENTS

- January 1st 2010      The town of Markham will raise the GGHG Camp Flag at City Hall.
- April 17th 2010      The Markham Theatre will have a band concert featuring the Regimental Band of the GGHG.
- June 12th 2010      The Change of Command and Change of RSM Parades to be held on the Markham Museum grounds.
- October 2nd 2010    The Freedom of the City of Markham will be bestowed on the GGHG with a Gala in the evening.
- November 5th 2010   Memorial Dinner.
- November 6th 2010   All ranks Regimental Ball.
- November 7th 2010   Regimental Memorial Parade and Service.



*Capt. Steve Bedford*  
CO  
GGHG 2402 RCACC

### GGHG 2402 RCACC

## NEWS and EVENTS

### EXERCISE RAPID JAB

The Corps recently participated in a navigation exercise conducted at CFB Borden. This was the first of a series of spring exercises during the latter half of our training year before the Annual Inspection scheduled for Saturday 30 May 09.

### CADET CERTIFICATION

Three of our NCOs successfully completed their National Star

Certification, the highest level in the Army Cadet Training Program. MCpl Calero placed highest in all of Central Area.

### CADET CERTIFICATION

The Adrenaline Project is a Canadian extreme sports reality TV show which premiered in 2007 on YTV. Our own WO Dimitry "Hollywood" Galamiyev competed this year and dominated the events, making it into the semi-finals, which will be televised.

### CADET ACCEPTED AT RMC



We're proud to announce that RSM Burgos has received his acceptance into the Regular Officer Training Program at RMC. Nothing thrills the staff as much as to see a young Horse Guard make that commitment to continue their service. He will do us proud. ■



Members of The GGHG 748 Cadet Corps in Markham, proudly pose for their annual group photograph with their new Commanding Officer, Capt. Gene Fisher.



**Official Publication of the  
Governor General's Horse Guards  
Association**

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