

UELAC

CALGARY BRANCH FALL NEWSLETTER: 2017

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UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

Calgary Branch

The 2017 fall meeting was held on October, 22nd at the Military Museums at noon. Thirty-one guests were present. Following a catered light lunch, a short meeting was held. Special guests, Barb Andrew (Dominion President) and Gerry Adair (Vice President of the Prairie regional) and his wife, Pat, were introduced by Suzanne Davidson, Calgary Branch President. Layla Briggs received two certificates, the minutes from the AGM and spring meeting were read and we learned from the Treasurer, George Tapley, that there was little change

in the accounts. Pat Brown from Lethbridge presented witches hats to Rory Cory and his guest, Leigh Meyers. That was followed by a tour of the Museum led by Rory Cory.



From Left: Pat Adair, Gerry Adair (Vice President; Prairie Regional), and Barb Andrew (Dominion President)

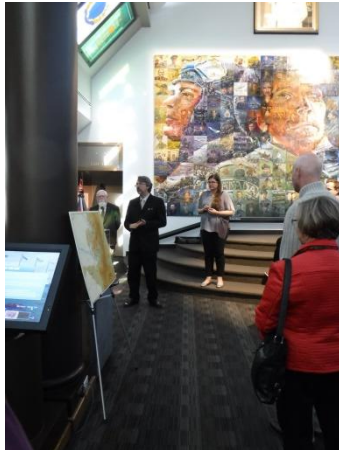


Layla Briggs received two new certificates. That makes three for Layla.

Pat Brown presented witch hats to Rory Cory and his guest, Leigh Meyers. Rory and Pat have members in their families who were involved with the Salem witches.



Following the meeting Rory Cory led us on a tour of the Museums. We started with WWI, proceeded to WWII, the Korean War, and Afghanistan. The dioramas made the stories come to life. Below are photos of the responses to chlorine gas (Battalion 10), and life in the WWI trenches.



By Ian McIlreath and Brenda Bergen

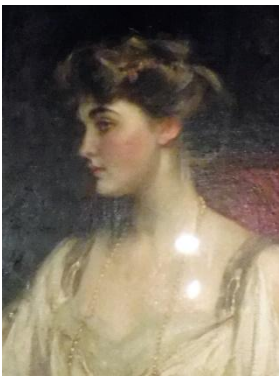


Brigadier General Andrew Hamilton Gault (shown above) at his own expense, raised the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) named for Princess Patricia of Connaught, daughter of the Governor General of Canada and granddaughter of Queen Victoria.

The Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry

Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI, generally referred to as the Patricia's)¹ is one of the three Regular Force infantry regiments of the Canadian Armed Forces. The PPCLI was raised in Ottawa on 10 August, 1914, to participate in the Canadian war effort for the First World War. It was the first Canadian infantry unit to enter the theatre of operations arriving in France on December

21, 1914. The PPCLI fought in numerous major battles in WWI including Mount Sorrel, Somme, Vimy Ridge, Passchendaele, Amiens, and the Battle of the Canal du Nord. However, on May 8, 1915, the battle in defence of Bellewaerde Ridge during the battle of Frezenberg established the reputation of the Patricia's.....but at a tremendous cost of 550 casualties out of 700 in three days. After this, their unofficial motto, "Holding up the whole damn line", is still in use today.



The regiment has also participated in WWII (notably in Sicily, Italy and the Netherlands), the Korean War (notably the battle of Kapyong where afterwards they received both the United States and Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation), War in Afghanistan, as well as in numerous NATO operations and UN peacekeeping missions. The regiment has received 39 battle honours, three Commander-in-Chief Unit Commendations and the United States Presidential Unit Citation.

Ric-A-Dam-Doo is a nickname for the original camp flag of the PPCLI. It is surmised that the founder, Brigadier Hamilton Gault, a former 'Black Watch' officer from the Canadian Militia, may have used the Gaelic term when referring to the flag and subsequent soldiers' bastardization of the Gaelic became accepted practise. The Ric-A-Dam-Doo was hand-sewn by Princess Patricia and presented to the Regiment. The original song Ric a Dam Doo had 13 verses, relating light heartedly to the overseas experiences of the Princess Pat's during World War I. The Canadian Girl Guides sing a version as a traditional camp fire song.

Here are two of the original verses:

The Princess Pat's Battalion
They sailed across the Herring Pond,
They sailed across the Channel too,
And landed there with the Ric-A-Dam-Doo
Dam-Doo, Dam-Doo.

The Ric-A-Dam-Doo, pray what is that?
'Twas made at home by Princess Pat,
It's Red and Gold and Royal Blue,
That's what we call the Ric-A-Dam-Doo,
Dam-Doo, Dam-Doo.

The original flag is on display at the Calgary Military Museums. Barbara Andrew was able to find her ancestor in the hall of honour room for the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.



This photo shows a LAV III (Light Armoured Vehicle)

Ian McIlreath comments that this museum unlike other similar ones in Canada incorporates the stories of men who fought in our wars as opposed to simply being a museum housing military equipment. They have done an excellent job of humanizing these conflicts and especially focusing on Albertans, including the indigenous peoples.

The tour continued to the Air Museum



HOW TO EJECT

Ejection Procedure

- Optimum ejection speed is 460 km/hour (250 Knots). Faster than this will exert dangerous forces on the body.
- Ensure visor down, helmet secured, and oxygen mask tight
- Assume proper body position:
 - Head pressed against head rest
 - Chin slightly elevated
 - Back straight
 - Hips against seat back
 - Thighs flat on seat survival kit
 - Feet on rudder pedals, heels on floor
- Ejection control handle - PULL

APEX ROCKET

Arctic sovereignty was a growing concern for Canada in the 1950s. In addition to the Soviets, surveillance projects had to be directed at the United States after an incident in the late 1940s when American forces discovered a number of "ice islands" in northern waters that were flat and strong enough to support aircraft operations. Their existence was concealed from Canada until word leaked out and the RCAF formed a special unit of modified Lancaster bombers to keep an eye on northern activities.

As scientific interest in the Arctic accelerated in the 1950s, the Soviets started occupying ice islands. Some of these drift stations were in waters claimed by Canada or very close to them. A project called APEX ROCKET was established to monitor these drift stations.

Ben Boutin was the pilot on this mission: "The first run in was to be at low level using altitude call outs... by the navigator at the navigation table as forward visibility was dangerously reduced. We climbed another 200 ft, so as to make the first run across the facility with all cameras rolling. Within minutes, the level of activity on the ground increased significantly, particularly around the 'budget'... We continued to orbit for several minutes until we were satisfied we had enough photographic evidence to keep Air Photo Interpretation Centre (APIC) back at Rockcliffe 'busy for a while'."

In 1958, a Soviet TU-16 nuclear bomber became stranded on one such drift station. A Lancaster from 408 Squadron was tasked to provide the first close up photographs of this aircraft. Due to the precise location and the challenge of Arctic weather conditions the trip required three navigators.

The following are photos taken at the luncheon: Below are Brenda Bergen, George Tapley, Barbara and David Hongisto



Left (front to back): Susan and Ian McIlreath, Alan, Jo-Anne, Pat Brown
Right: George and Susan Himann, Rosamonde, Lorna Laughton, Jacquie McGowan



Following the meeting, Suzanne attended the University of Calgary Department of History award celebration where the department's awards and scholarships were handed out, including the one from the UELAC, Calgary Branch which was set up in 1967. The recipient for this year is Blake Mitchell



Photographer: Don Molyneaux 1

Thanks to the effort of Sharon Terray, a remembrance wreath was laid at the Remembrance Day service at the Military Museums in Calgary.

