



# The Lorne Scots Regimental Association Newsletter May 2020

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## Our first anniversary

This is our first anniversary edition. Things certainly have changed in a year.

It has been a pleasure to produce the newsletter. The newsletter was started to keep the Association membership informed about what was happening in the Association and Regiment and it has grown to include coverage from all areas of the Regimental family and the Allied Regiment. The newsletter is an international production now as it is sent to the Colonel-in-Chief, the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers Regimental HQ and the Fusilier Association. The Fusilier HQ and Association are kind enough to post it on their social media.

The last item in this letter tells you how to contribute to the newsletter. If you have a story about an event, notable achievements by members of the Regimental family or items of interest to serving personnel and veterans to pass along, I am looking forward to hearing about the great things that the Regimental Family is doing.

## COVID-19 Pandemic

The pandemic has shut down the normal activities of the Regiment, Association and Cadet Corps. The Regiment is not parading, all Cadet activities have been suspended until the end of August and the Association has had to postpone the Annual General Meeting and the Dunn Softball

Tournament. As well, travel plans from across the Regimental Family have been postponed or cancelled

The Executive is hoping that the AGM and Dunn Tournament can be rescheduled for later in the year but that will depend on how and when the current restrictions are relaxed or lifted.

Early in the response to the pandemic, the Honorary Colonels sent out this letter to all on the Association data base;



#### A Message from The Honorary Colonel and The Honorary Lieutenant Colonel

To Members of the Regimental Family

The COVID-19 pandemic is a global health emergency that threatens many lives and our economies. We all know that extraordinary measures have been put in place to stop its spread in Canada and the rest of the world. This will tax our patience and resolve but we must avoid person-to-person contact because that is how the disease is spread.

As the Honorary Colonels of the Regiment we would like to assure you that we will get through this pandemic together. As HM The Queen stated in her message yesterday, we will be together again. Until then we must remain strong and resolute.

The Canadian Armed Forces has quickly responded to this crisis as soldiers always do. There are two main operations that are operating concurrently in response to this crisis. The first is OP LENTUS which is the CAF response to domestic emergencies. (Floods, forest fires etc.) This is a continuous effort throughout the year.

OP LASER is the direct CAF response to Covid-19 within Canada. As the CDS has stated, it is the CAF's response to COVID-19 and is designed to support Federal, Provincial, Territorial and Municipal efforts to suppress the disease, support vulnerable populations and to provide logistical support to all levels of Government. Both these operations will be interconnected and run concurrently. The concept of deployment has been approved and will include the Regular Force, Primary Reserve and the Canadian Rangers.

The Army's plan for OPs LENTUS and OP LASER is now being executed and the Regiment is in the process of mobilizing a large number of our soldiers. The CO and his leaders have been working around the clock in identifying and preparing our soldiers to be operationally ready. To date 80+ soldiers are preparing to fill positions assigned to the Unit. If you have been watching the news large numbers of reserve soldiers from 32 CBG and 4 Div have arrived in CFB Borden and are preparing for any eventuality. I am sure more soldiers will be asked to step up as needs are assessed and gaps filled in the Orbat.

The efforts to get the soldiers out the door fully equipped and administratively supported is immense. However, the CO and the command staff are approaching this effort in a calm, measured and professional manner. It has been really impressive. As the CO stated in one of his Orders Groups this is the largest number of Lorne Scots mobilized at one time since World War II. It surpasses Yugoslavia and Afghanistan in total numbers and has occurred literally in one week not years. However long this emergency lasts our soldiers will make us proud.

As far as the rest of the Regimental Family is concerned LCol Hayman and I convened a Senate meeting using the media platform Zoom. The CO briefed us on the operational commitments of the Regiment and the latest from 32 CBG ops briefings. The Senate is fully behind the Commanding Officer and if he needs us we will be there. We also stand behind The Regimental Association.

There is a lot to take in, but the bottom line is that these are unique and stressful times and is very personal for all of us. Remember that our soldiers are willing to place themselves in harms way to protect us so we must be there to support them.

Please take care of yourselves and your families both physically and psychologically. To the soldiers; practise the buddy system and look after each other. While social separation is absolutely imperative, social isolation is not. We need to use the buddy system to keep in touch with each other, through media platforms, and we need to identify any individual needs that members of The Regimental Family may have or may develop.

Air son ar duthchais

Honorary Colonel Adcock & Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Hayman

Help for those who are suffering financial or mental hardship is available through support programs from government and the private sector. Although these links and other information were sent directly to all Association members, it is worthwhile to post them again. Click on these links for more details;

Federal - <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html>

Provincial - <https://budget.ontario.ca/2020/marchupdate/action-plan.html>

Veterans Affairs Canada - <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng>

Royal Canadian Legion - <https://www.legion.ca/>

Canadian Forces Morale and Welfare Services - <https://www.supportourtroops.ca/Get-Support/Emergency-financial-assistance>

If you need help, you can also contact the Regimental Chaplain, Capt Kevin Coupland at [kjthepadre@gmail.com](mailto:kjthepadre@gmail.com)

An early example of helping came from Chris Banks and Rob Walsh, who will be familiar to many readers. The comments below are from an article on local initiatives in the Mar 26 Legion Magazine. They also wound up as part of the broadcast of "The National" in early April.

“In Brampton, ON, 20-year Army Veteran Chris Banks and his local Branch Service Officer knew they needed to integrate a delivery service. They decided to call up the list of Veterans they normally serve and see how things were going.



*Photo courtesy CBC and Legion Magazine*

“Every single Veteran said don’t worry about me, help the next person,” says Banks. Knowing they likely did need help, the duo persisted and have delivered supplies like perishables and dry goods to thirteen of them so far. “Saves thirteen people from going out and exposing themselves (potentially to the virus),” he says. “It was a simple math equation for us.” Many Veterans have pre-existing conditions that could make them more susceptible to illness, Banks adds.”

## **OP LASER**

As mentioned by the Hon Col in his letter, the Regiment has deployed over 80 personnel as part of OP LASER. These members will form part of the 32 CBG Territorial Battle Group (TBG) and a Local Response Force (LRF). The TBG, based in CFB Borden, will be made up of soldiers from across the province and will be preparing to assist with requests for assistance in dealing with COVID as well as being the area response unit for flood relief. The LRF is based in the Regimental area of operations and will be preparing to support local communities if tasked.

Details on OP LASER can be found on the DND website at;

<https://www.canada.ca/en/departement-national-defence/services/operations/military-operations/current-operations/laser.html>

## **Keeping fit during COVID**

The CF has emphasised keeping fit as a priority during the COVID-19 pandemic. If you want to see how the Regiment is keeping fit these days, you can check the series of posts about exercise on their Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/LorneScots>

## **Cadets continue to stand out**

There were several outstanding achievements by Lorne Scots Cadets which did not get into the last edition;

676 Cadet Corps in Georgetown had 2 female cadets qualify to be part of the Ontario team and one male cadet qualify as an individual competitor at the National Cadet Biathlon at CFB Valcartier from 03 to 07 March. Pictures and results from the competition can be found on the Cadets Canada Facebook page at; <https://www.facebook.com/cadetsca>

1188 Cadet Corps in Oakville brought home an individual silver medal from their Zone Marksmanship competition.

2777 Cadet Corps in Campbellford won their zone Marksmanship competition and advanced to the provincial competition. 2777 is a Hastings and Prince Edward Cadet Corps but it has some strong Lorne Scots influences. The CO is Capt Neil Burrell, a former Cadet CO with 1188 Cadet Corps in Oakville and former MCpl with A Coy, the shooting team is coached by LCol Dick Irvine and the Army Cadet League Liaison Officer is Col Bill Adcock. As well, former RSM CWO Jim Antrobus is keeps an eye on their drill at Remembrance Day and other activities

## **From the Fusiliers**

The Fusiliers continue to be busy despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion deployed 2 rifle Companies and the Bn HQ to Estonia as part of OP CABRIT at the end of March. They will be staying there, training with the Estonian forces and other NATO troops until the early fall.

The deployment of over 100 members of the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion to Cyprus on OP TOSCA has taken place and they are now carrying out their patrolling duties between the Greeks and Turks in Sector 2.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion were also tasked to provide 120 personnel for an immediate response unit to deal with the COVID situation in the UK, but that task has now been stood down.



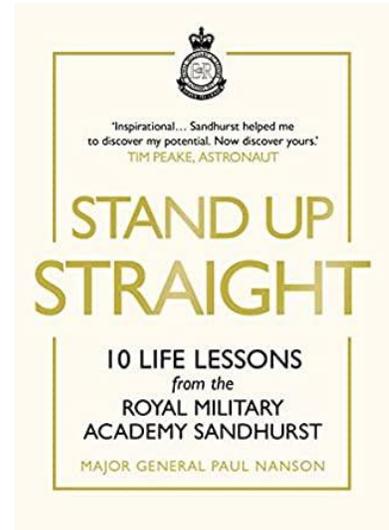
For those who have been to Bury and experienced the hospitality of the Fusiliers at Castle Armoury Reserve Centre, recruiting has continued to go very well, and they have grown from a platoon to almost a full company strength. As a result of this and a lot of hard work behind the scenes, the Fusiliers have become the Head of Responsibility unit for the Armoury

effective 01 Apr. The Armoury, built in 1868 on the site of the 13<sup>th</sup> century Bury Castle and extended

in 1907, is a Grade II Listed building, which means that it is of special interest and protected under law.

Major General Paul Nanson CB CBE stepped down as Commandant of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst at the beginning of April. He took on the position in 2015. General Nanson will continue as the General Officer Commanding Recruiting and Initial Training Command, a role he took on in 2018 and as Colonel of the Regiment, the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

He has also become an author. With some help from the staff and Trustees of the RMA he wrote and published an introductory guide to leadership book, just in time for the Christmas rush. Entitled “Stand Up Straight; 10 Life Lessons from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst”, it is available on-line from Century Publishing in the UK and on Amazon in Canada. The reviews have been particularly good so far.



## Links to other parts of the Regimental Family

The serving Regiment - <https://www.facebook.com/LorneScots>

The Association - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/146923842093667/>

The Pipes and Drums - [https://www.facebook.com/LorneScotsPipesandDrums/posts\\_to\\_page/](https://www.facebook.com/LorneScotsPipesandDrums/posts_to_page/)

The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers – [www.thefusiliers.org](http://www.thefusiliers.org)

1<sup>st</sup> Bn - <https://www.facebook.com/TheFusiliers>

5<sup>th</sup> Bn - <https://en-gb.facebook.com/FiveFusiliers/>

The Fusilier Association - <http://www.fusiliers-association.co.uk/>

## How to contribute to the Newsletter

If you have a story about an upcoming event, want to pass on how an event went or something that may be of interest to the Regimental Family, please send a short write up ( 100 – 150 words) with one or two good quality pictures to the Association Secretary at [stewart.sherriff3@gmail.com](mailto:stewart.sherriff3@gmail.com) by the middle of the month. The newsletter is published bi-monthly.

Please ensure that all people in any submitted pictures have agreed to having their image posted. The Association will assume that such permissions have been acquired before the picture was submitted. The Association reserves the right to vet all submissions for appropriateness before posting. Items may not be deemed suitable for posting due to inappropriate language or content. Items submitted will be reviewed for factual accuracy and may be edited for length.

Any mistakes which may occur are entirely accidental and no malice or harm is ever intended.