



**2332 Major E.J.G Holland V.C Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps  
2018/2019 Year in Review**

2332 Major E.J.G Holland V.C Royal Canadian Army Cadets has participated in a productive training year that started on September 5, 2018. This newsletter presents the highlights of our training year focusing on community events, support for our two sponsoring Legion Branches, team competitions, mandatory/optional training and summer training.

***Community Involvement***

**Poppy Campaign**

We assisted both the Bells Corner and Barrhaven Legions in the 2018 Poppy Campaign and this year we fundraised over \$36,000.

**Remembrance Day**

Our cadets stood at the Cenotaph for both Legions on November 11th to do their part in honouring those who sacrificed their lives for our freedom. Many Cadets also took part in Remembrance Day Ceremonies at their schools by proudly wearing their uniforms.

**National Capital Region 2018 Remembrance Week Ceremonies**

We had Cadets take part in several Remembrance Week Ceremonies including:

- First Poppy Ceremony at Rideau Hall
- Veterans Affairs Candlelight Vigil at Centre Pointe Theatre
- Wreath Bearers on Remembrance Day
- Legion mess dinners



Senate Ceremony

### ***Achievements***

#### **Top Large Army Cadet Corps Award**

This year, 2332 RCACC was awarded the prestigious Colonel John H.C Clarry Trophy for Top Large Army Cadet Corps in Ontario. This is an annual award presented by the Army Cadet League. The winner is selected based on a point system which accounts for a number of criteria including interesting and effective training, attendance, team participation, retention rate, and strength –all relative to the size of the Corps community and unit efficiency. We have also been the recipient of the Lord Strathcona Award for Top Large Cadet Corps in the Ottawa/St-Lawrence area for a fifth consecutive year.



Mr. Rick Brown, Vice President of the Army Cadet League of Canada, presents the Colonel John H.C Clarry Trophy to CWO Ethier

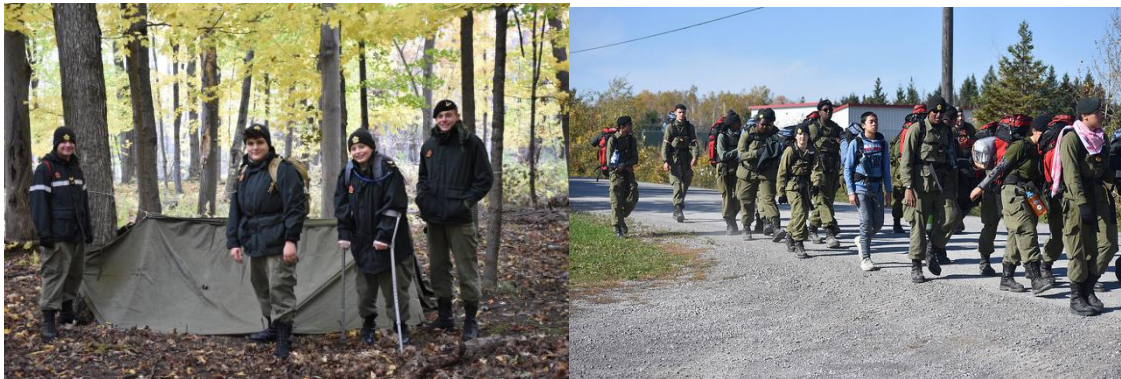
## **70th Anniversary**

We celebrated our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year by hosting a trooping of the colours. The Reviewing Officer was Colonel Paul Fleury, Deputy Commander National Cadet and Junior Canadian Rangers Support Group. In attendance were former cadets, officers, parents and special invited guests including our Mayor, Jim Watson, the Honourable David McGuinty, OPP Deputy Commissioner Gary Couture and representatives from our affiliated units. That evening, the corps also hosted a gala to reunite former cadets and officers.

## ***Training***

### **Fall FTX**

In the fall, 2332 RCACC participated in Operation Premier Craft at Connaught Cadet Training Center (CTC). The cadets worked within their star level to complete challenging training. Gold Star cadets were in charge of sections, made up of cadets from other star levels. This provided an opportunity for them to step up into a leadership role. The Green and Red Star cadets learned how to set up/pack tents, employ stoves and lanterns, and basic navigational skills. Meanwhile, the Silver Stars learned advanced navigational skills and were also given leadership opportunities throughout the weekend. Upon return to the Connaught Camp area, the cadets participated in an orienteering course to finish off the exercise. Overall, OP Premier Craft was a great success and the cadets had an amazing experience.



## Winter FTX

Operation Return to Jungle Snow provided the cadets with a winter weather experience. The cadets applied their classroom knowledge on winter survival by erecting arctic tents in deep snow, where they later spent the night. They worked together in a team and followed the chain of command. The section commanders ensured their cadets stayed warm, hydrated and on task. In sections, the cadets honed their winter navigational skills, snowshoeing and first aid abilities in a competition style course. Once all the kit was packed up and returned, they enjoyed a nice warm meal in the Connaught mess. Back at the armouries, we recognized the cadets hard work and improvement over the exercise with shout outs and awards.



## Spring FTX

2332 RCACC took up their last big challenge of the year in CFB Petawawa for Operation Greener Pastures. The main focus of their training was focused on meeting one of the aims of the cadet program: Canadian Forces (CF) Familiarization Training. The cadets faced many of these challenges through every season Canada has to offer. From rain to overcast to snow to sun, the cadets persevered through it all to grow as individuals, and as a team. They learned about proper radio procedures, environmental stewardship, survival skills and face painting practices.

Due to the hard work of two of 2332's former cadets, Reg Force Cpl Bergeron & Reg Force MCpl Ahronson, we were able to meet many interesting CF members and see valuable, restored relics at the Petawawa Garrison Museum. Overall, the exercise was a grand success due to the attitudes of our cadets and the training provided by our affiliated units. In the process, we were able to strengthen our relationship with our affiliated units. A great exercise to lead into the final weeks of this training year.

## **Competitions Team**

### **Orienteering**

Orienteering is a sport involving great cardiovascular endurance and map reading skills. 2332 RCACC has a history of being a strong contender in the Ottawa St Lawrence Area (OSLA). We participated in the orienteering competition where the cadets ran two different races: a team race of 3 people, 2 senior and a junior (score course) as well as running an individual race (line course). This year, we had one male and one female orienteering team and two individual cadets. The competitors ran a new course at Wesley Clover Park where they applied their physical training and knowledge of orienteering theory to accomplish some of their best times! While the teams and individual members did not advance to the Regional this year, they put forward a strong effort, and most of them even headed directly to our Fall FTX that was running concurrently. Congratulations to the Orienteering Team for all of their hard work!



From left to right: WO Lacasse (Team Captain), Sgt Sardelis, Cpl Hall, Cpl Shaheer (Muhammad), MCpl Luka, MCpl Rodriguez, Cpl Morris, MCpl Tibbles, Capt McNaughton (Coach)

### **Biathlon**

The biathlon team had their most successful competition season to date. At the area level competition, our two teams took both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> places and placed first in their individual categories. These results earned all four athletes the opportunity to compete at the Regional Biathlon Competition in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. There, MCpl Tibbles and Cpl Morris placed in the top ten, and Sgt Sardelis placed in the top five. MWO Hayden placed 3<sup>rd</sup> to move on and compete at the National Biathlon Competition in Brookvale, Prince Edward Island for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row. After three races at the national level, MWO Hayden finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the individual 7.5 km mass start race, 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 4.5 km patrol race, and 1<sup>st</sup> in the relay race. The biathlon team demonstrated incredible perseverance, teamwork and overall performance.



## Marksmanship

The marksmanship program at 2332 has been highly successful this year! A new approach to team selection was put in place, which has paid off. The main focus was to introduce and develop junior cadets within the marksmanship program. Past members of the competitive teams helped in facilitating the instruction, which developed some basic coaching skills.

Focusing on juniors served as a useful method to identify cadets trying out for the competitive team, and ensuring the juniors complete their marksmanship training.

In early February, the competitive team was selected based on a series of tryouts in January.

The team consisted of: MWO Hayden, Sgt McDonald, Sgt Sardelis, MCpl Awad, and Cpl Hayes. This year, we had one goal in mind: finish in the Top 10 at the Regional Marksmanship Championship. Our practices consisted of highly technical and challenging activities. Many hours have been put in by these amazingly talented individuals and we couldn't be prouder!

At the OSLA Marksmanship Competition, 2332 took the Gold medal as a team and qualified for a spot at the Regional Marksmanship Championship. Podium-level performances were also achieved, as Sgt McDonald took Gold and MWO Hayden took Silver in the Open Category. In the Junior category, MCpl Awad also took the Bronze medal. At the Regional Championship, we had a confident approach and managed to shoot very well in our first day of competition by finishing 5th place in the Prone position. The second and final day of competition was very fierce and we managed to beat our personal bests and finished 11th place overall. Great performances all around!

Lt Champagne, the Head Coach of the marksmanship program, looks forward to next year and remains optimistic that we can outperform ourselves yet again in competitions to come. The most important aspect of developing marksmanship skills is the ability to learn and grow. We only get stronger!



## Drill

After not placing at last year's drill competition, the drill team was more determined than ever to win first place. Under the coaching of Civilian Instructor Arnaud Jean-Louis, and the command of their team captain, CWO Johnathan Ethier, the drill team practiced tirelessly for 6 months to prepare for the competition. All their hard work was rewarded! The team won the Ottawa St-Lawrence Area (OSLA) Drill Competition that took place in Carleton Place on May 4th 2019.

Adding to the success of the team, CWO Ethier was awarded Top Team Captain.

The team represented OSLA at the regional competition that took place in CFB Borden on May 25th. The drill team members gave an amazing performance and placed 3rd overall.

Great job team!



## Band

The band competed for their second time at the OSLA Band and Drill Competition. Lead by Drum Major, WO Francis-William, they performed their best and were awarded Best Dressed Band at the competition. They impressed the crowd by performing hits such as Ed Sheeran's Perfect and Hey Brother by Avicii, while also paying tribute to their Royal Canadian Dragoon lineage with their regimental marches Light of Foot and Monsieur Beaucaire.



### **Summer Camp Positions**

We are in the transition phase between regular and summer training. Our cadets will be getting ready to attend summer training programs at Cadet Training Centers (CTC) across Canada. Over 60 cadets will attend a range of Basic, Instructor, Advanced Camps, and International Exchanges. MWO Abdalrahman Abu and MWO Darcy Hayden have worked hard this year and have been selected to participate in the Canadian Armed Forces Basic Parachutist course at CFB Trenton. Only a few cadets across Canada are selected for this course. Congratulations to both their continued efforts in the program!

WO Alexander Sardelis, WO Kolby Nelson Sharpe and WO Muhammad Raza will be attending the Leadership and Challenge Course at the Rocky Mountain Cadet Training Center in Alberta. WO Sherissa Francis-William, has selected to attend the Maple Leaf Exchange in United Kingdom. WO Patel will be attending the Advanced Musician Course as a part of the Military Band at Blackdown Cadet Training Center. He will be continuing to improve his musical and leadership abilities.

Many of our senior cadets have applied to staff at Blackdown and Connaught CTCs. WO Muad Farah, Sgt Sarah Pichette, CWO Scott Plamondon, WO Haider Almatni and WO Emerson Harper will be vying for different positions at Connaught. CWO Johnathan Ethier, WO Kathryn O'Malley, Sgt Masud Farah, WO Josue Diaz and WO Darian Lacasse will be staffing at Blackdown CTC. We wish the best to our seniors working hard to ensure a memorable summer for cadets across the province. Our junior cadets will experience camp life at Connaught and Blackdown, participating in Basic to Instructor level courses.

### **Support Committee Success**

We had a year of transition and look forward to more in 2019-2020. This year we had three successful outings with bowling for the juniors and senior cadets and the trampoline park. We watched our Seniors bond and be very responsible on their bowling night. The turn out for the trampoline park was overwhelming and the staff complimented our well-behaved cadets. We changed the treats with canteen and successfully collected more funds than previous years, which gave us more flexibility to contribute to trips and extra activities. Parents spoke up with how we can improve our tag days and we look forward to have that change implemented in 2019-20 year. We look forward to having more parents involved, we will have several opportunities for everyone to lend a hand.



### **Badge Ceremony/ACR**

The Badge Ceremony and ACR serves as an opportunity to recognize the achievements and hard work of our cadets for this training year. At the Badge Ceremony, a cadet from each star level was chosen as the Top Star Level Candidate. The awardees are as follows:

- Top Green Star - Cpl Marie Chahwan
- Top Red Star - MCpl Shaheer
- Top Silver Star - Sgt Bundu
- Top Gold Star - WO Alexander Sardelis
- Top Level 5 - WO Thamer Jaouni
- Top Instructor - WO Sherissa Francis-William

In addition, team excellence was also recognized as a cadet from each team was called up:

- Orienteering - Cpl Hall
- Biathlon - MWO Darcy Hayden
- Drill - Sgt Ester Luka
- Band - WO Neel Patel
- Marksmanship - WO Sophie MacDonald

At this occasion, we also hosted a Change of Appointment ceremony. CWO Johnathan Ethier handed over the Regimental Pace Stick to incoming Regimental Sergeant Major, CWO Scott Plamondon. MWO Milagross Chahwan will be the incoming Drill Sergeant Major and MWO Darcy Hayden will be the Alpha Company Sergeant Major.

Our 70th Annual Ceremonial Review took place on Saturday June 1st, 2019. The Reviewing Officer for the parade was Brigadier-General (ret'd) Peter Atkinson, CD. This was an opportunity for the cadets to demonstrate what they had learned over the year. Dignitaries in attendance were The Honourable David McGuinty, MPP John Fraser, LCol Paterson, Commanding Officer 33 Service Battalion, Capt Chris Levan, Royal Canadian Dragoons, Mrs. Janina Szmigielski, representatives from 593 Bells Corners & 614 Barrhaven Legions, LCdr Vaillancourt (previous Commanding Officer of 2332), as well as the cadets' friends and family and more.

Once again, the accomplishments of our cadets were recognized by the presentation of awards.

- Top Junior Cadet - Sgt Abigail Tibbles
- Top Senior Cadet - MWO Milagross Chahwan
- Commanding Officer's Leadership Award - WO Muad Farah
- Capt John Butterworth, CD Bursaries - MWO Darcy Hayden and Sgt Sarah Pichette
- Legion Medal of Excellence - WO Alexander Sardelis

Legion Medal of Excellence - MWO Milagross Chahwan

Lord Strathcona Medal - MWO Darcy Hayden

### **Conclusions**

This is a brief overview of our accomplishments, highlights, and successes in the past year. Everything we do, would not be possible without the generous support of our affiliated units: 33 Service Battalion, 33 Signals Regiment, and the Royal Canadian Dragoons. We are very fortunate to have amazing sponsorship from the Bells Corners Legion, Barrhaven Legion and the Trooper Frank Szmigielski WWII Memorial donation. As this year draws to an end, 2332 RCACC looks forward to another outstanding year of accomplishments and successes which bear true to our motto - we will only get stronger!

Sincerely,

*Debra Parsons*

Major Debra Parsons

Commanding Officer

2332 Major EJJ Holland VC Army Cadet Corps



“We Will Only Get Stronger”