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The INTERCOM

2015 Year in Review

January 1st, 2016

As 2015 winds down and we prepare ourselves for a busy 2016, it is important to take a few moments to reflect on the year that was. This January 2016 Intercom issue is a "*2015 Year in Review*" and I encourage you to take a few minutes to browse the articles to remind yourself of the successes and challenges faced by the entire Regimental family during 2015.

We started 2015 off on a difficult foot, losing two icons of the Regiment in quick succession: Rhett Lawson, CD, KH, KLJ, and Paul Turner, MSM, CD. The RMR family made an impressive effort in ensuring that both men who had devoted their lives to the Regiment were duly honoured in ceremonies last January.

The RMR Association (Branch 14) was especially active during 2015, starting off with the installation of a new President, Comrade Sue Guerin, in January. The RMR Association also launched two brand new bursary programs that benefit members of the Regimental family, helped restore a Canadian war monument in Italy, made a donation to the RMR Foundation to support serving soldiers of the Regiment, saw one of their members earn

a 65-year service pin, helped decorate the Field of Honour, hosted the second annual RMR Reunion Smoker, awarded Westmount with a Legion Friendship Award, and ran their most successful Poppy Campaign - oh, did I forget to mention that a former RMR soldier was recognized as "*Legionnaire of the Year*" for the entire province of Quebec? Talk about "*setting the standard*", can't wait to see what the RMR Association has in store for 2016!!

The Cadets affiliated with the RMR were also quite active in 2015, with field training, summer camps, annual inspections, mess dinners, and the RMR's Pointe-Claire cadet corps (# 2806) visited the 'home station' armoury on Ste-Catherine Street and Breakfast Television produced a series of videos titled "*Meet the Royal Canadian Army Cadets*" featuring # 2806 Pointe-Claire. The RMR's affiliated Air Cadet Squadron (# 1, Westmount) moved back in to the RMR's armoury in September. Most impressive in the "*setting the standard*" department had to be Cadet Sergeant Ioana Hanganu from the RMR's Westmount cadet corps (# 2862) who received the Lieutenant-General J.E. Vance award for being the year's outstanding cadet, the award being presented to her from the current Canadian Army Commander in August. Best of luck to all three cadet units in 2016, it is exciting to see you grow & flourish.

The RMR serving battalion ran the GPE company for 34 Groupe-Brigade in 2015. Known as "*Charlie Company*" and comprised of the RMR, the CGG and the Black Watch, with just slightly less than 50% of the Company strength being RMR in 2015. RMR soldiers participated on winter warfare exercises in the far north (and learned valuable lessons about frostbite), they deployed overseas (and some continue to remain deployed), they volunteered for aiding the Syrian refugees, and although the RMR hockey team didn't 'go all the way' in 2014-15, they're currently leading the league in the 2015-16 season. On the individual training front, 20 RMR's graduated from the Basic Infantry course, and seven

Corporals graduated from the Primary Leadership Qualification course, which led to the RMR giving itself a serious booster shot in terms of leadership with the promotion of 11 new leaders: Five new Master-Corporals and six new Sergeants were promoted by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Paul Langlais, MSC, CD in late September 2015, one of his final acts as CO before relinquishing command of the Regiment on 25 October 2015. Lieutenant-Colonel Jean-François Denis became Commanding Officer of The Royal Montreal Regiment in a ceremony that took place at the home of the RMR located in the heart of Westmount, under the presiding officer Colonel Dan Chafaï, commander of the 34th Canadian Brigade Group (34 CBG), as well as several distinguished guests, including the honourable Peter Trent, mayor of Westmount.

2015 also saw a significant milestone within the ranks of the Regiment when Lieutenant-Colonel John Zoellner, MMM, CD reached the compulsory retirement age in the Spring of 2015 - but he was still on hand to conduct the Regiment's Westmount Cenotaph service in November!

Wrapping up the RMR's Centennial year in 2015, the serving battalion issued a commemorative coin to all serving members in May 2015, and they hosted a full-blown Regimental dinner on the parade square in March 2015 with the Regiment's guest of honour being Lieutenant-General The Honourable Romeo A. Dallaire, OC, CMM, GOC, MSC, CD, (Retired).

The RMR Foundation and Canada Company hosted a movie night in April 2015 at Cineplex Odeon Forum with more than more than 150 people in attendance to promote awareness of the battle of Vimy Ridge and educate Canadians as to its significance. During the annual Church Parade in May 2015, the RMR Foundation provided cash prizes for the serving members who won awards this year (Best Soldier, Best Recruit, Top Shooter, etc.).

The RMR Foundation completed their successful *"This*

Day in RMR History" Centennial project in August 2015. Published on the RMR website, the project was precisely one year of daily posts telling the story of the RMR's first year of service. Over the course of the First World War, the RMR suffered 4,469 casualties (1,192 died and 3,277 wounded) or 71% of its total nominal roll (76% of all officers; 70% of all men). It participated in 12 major battles; won 281 decorations including 2 VCs and 12 French, Belgian and Russian decorations. RMR's serving in other units received a further 51 decorations. "*This Day In RMR History*" was a Centennial project was researched and written by Captain (ret'd) Hamilton Slessor, a former RMR officer.

To ensure the sacrifices and achievements made by the RMR and all Canadians during the First World War are not forgotten, in 2016 the RMR Foundation will be actively promoting its project of the Great War Museum and Education Centre. Based around an expanded RMR Museum, it will tell the story of Canada's role in the First World War and of Canada's coming of age as a nation. The Great War Education Centre will provide a physical and digital educational resource for the teaching of many subjects within schools across the Province. From the changing roles of women in society as a result of the war to the genius idea of a Montrealer to use urine to counteract the initial gas attacks in the trenches, the Education Centre will provide a resource for the teaching of a variety of subjects including Social Studies, Chemistry, Mathematics, Geography, and History, amongst others.

Wishing you and yours a safe & successful 2016. Please take a moment during your festivities to think of those RMR's serving overseas today who don't have the luxury of being able to ring in the New Year with their friends & family.

Honi Soit Qui Mal Y Pense.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colin', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Colin Robinson, CD.

Lieutenant-Colonel (retired)

Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel

The Royal Montreal Regiment

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