

2022: Year in Review

The Royal Montreal Regiment



27 December 2022

Greetings,

The end of the year is typically a good time to reflect upon what has been accomplished in the previous year, as well as to evaluate the impact of the changes made.

2022 was a year that started off grimly enough in Quebec, with curfews being enforced and Covid restrictions in full. Gradually they were reduced, and it is striking to note as you scroll through the stories below to see when then masks were no longer mandatory for official events like parades, training, and social gatherings. Here we are a year later and things feel pretty much back to normal, at least as far as Regimental activities go!

Please take a few minutes and look over the accomplishments of the RMR Family over the past year. Each story and image is hyperlinked to the original article on the RMR website, so enjoy browsing through memory lane. If you have any suggestions for future Intercom stories, please send them my way.

Lastly, I hope that you will be able to join us for an in-person Levée Day to welcome the New Year together. It will be held on the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, details [here](#).

On behalf of Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel David Bensadoun, the Regiment's Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Maciej Jonasz, and the Regimental Sergeant-Major, Master-Warrant Officer James Quesnel, please accept our best wishes for a Happy New Year.

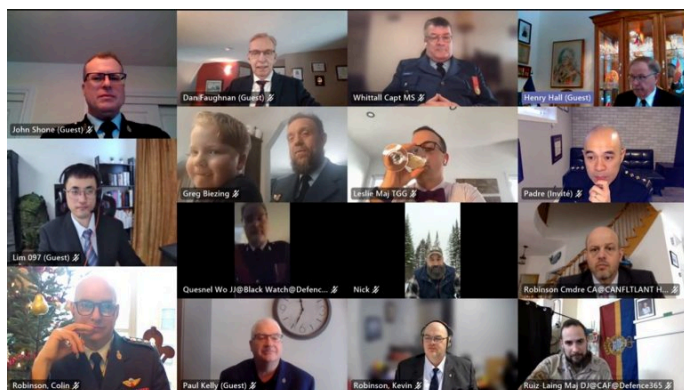
Looking forward to seeing you soon in 2023!

Honi Soit Qui Mal Y Pense.



LCol (ret'd) Colin Robinson, CD
Editor, RMR Intercom

Please read the collection of stories from 2022



VIRTUAL LEVÉE IN 2022

Due to the restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the RMR was not able to hold their annual Levée Day, so a "virtual mess" was hosted to exchange best wishes for 2022.

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month is observed in February each year, and it is a time to honour Black Canadians, both past and present - and it is also a time to reflect and learn more about their distinguished service in the RMR.

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TEWT-ing around the Plains of Abraham

RMR officers & NCO's spent time in Quebec City coming up with ideas on how to most effectively defend the plains of Abraham, were they to fall under attack from the south west. Taking the afternoon to assess and come up with a plan, they figured that using the surrounding hills to force the approaching enemy to deal with vast amounts of dead ground was our best course of action. Giving orders to our section commanders, and finished by "occupying" the defensive position.

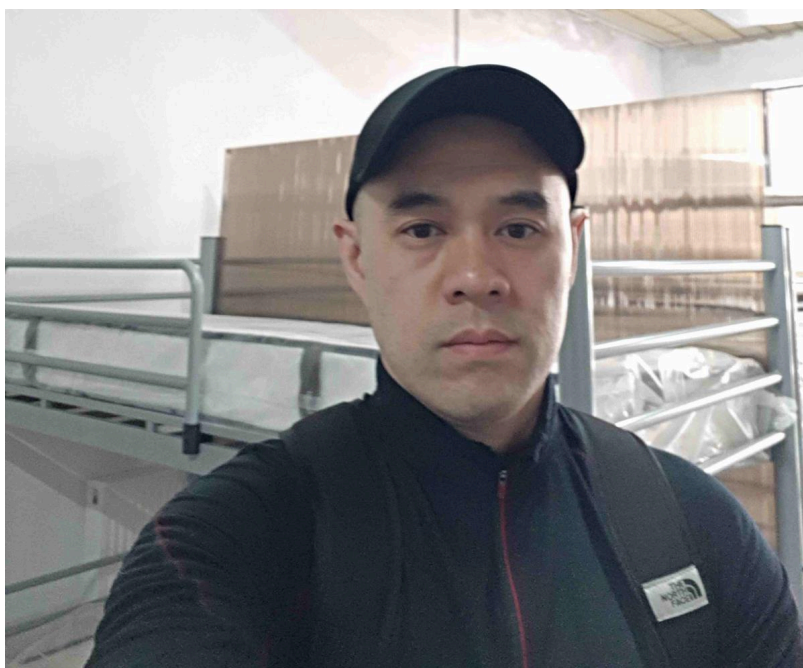




RMR Recruits visit Canadian War Museum

Private Sean Pickles wrote of the profound impact of the experience *"We were greeted at the door by three gentlemen, all of whom have made it their focus to continue the stories of those that cannot tell their own. We learned of Nine Elms, standing 20 some strong ourselves in the Memorial Hall, and how 75 Members of our very own regiment had perished while ensuring victory on Vimy Ridge. Their ultimate sacrifice uniting Canadian's and putting the responsibilities on all of us who were visiting into clear view."*

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Captain Be volunteers to help Ukrainian refugees

In March 2022, Padre Captain Rici Be volunteered with his civilian ministry (Canadian Baptist Ministry) to serve in a humanitarian mission to help millions of refugees fleeing the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

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RMR Museum "Visitor of the Year"

After a hiatus of two years due to the Covid pandemic the museum is pleased to announce the winner of this year's Visitor of the Year: Sergeant Didier Dupuis!

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International Women's Day

IWD is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality. IWD has occurred for well over a century, and is not country, group or organization specific. It is also a good time to pause, reflect and learn more about the distinguished service of women who have served or continue to serve in the RMR.

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Op UNIFIER (Ukraine)

Captain Nathalie Gareau was interviewed by the *Je Me Souviens* team about her experiences serving in the Ukraine in 2019 as part of Operation UNIFIER, to support the Security Forces of Ukraine.

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CHANGE OF COMMAND AT THE RMR

In the presence of Colonel Alain Cohen, Commander of 34th Brigade Group, The Royal Montreal Regiment conducted a change of command ceremony between Lieutenant-Colonel John Shone and Lieutenant-Colonel Maciej Jonasz on Sunday 15 May 2022.

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Change of Regimental Sergeant-Major

The Royal Montreal Regiment changed their Regimental Sergeant-Major on 15 May 2022, with Master-Warrant Officer James Quesnel replacing Chief Warrant-Officer Stephan Leroux during the traditional exchange of the RSM's Cane ceremony.

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RMR conducts Machine Gunners course

Run on behalf of 34 GBC, the Advanced Infantry training course provides soldiers with the skills and expertise required to master operating the C6 General Purpose Machine Gun (GPMG).

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McKean Trophy (Best Soldier) Corporal Vallieres

Awarded annually to the most deserving soldier who displayed the best attendance, technical ability, leadership potential, relations with peers and superiors, dress, and the extent to which he/she embodies the Regimental spirit.

Captain George McKean, VC, MC, MM is one of very few to have earned three different awards for bravery under fire: a RMR hero who led by example and set the highest standard for soldiering, leadership, and personal courage.

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RMR Sergeants at annual Church Parade



Asian Heritage Month

May is Asian Heritage Month in Canada, a time to reflect on and celebrate the contributions that Canadians of Asian descent have made and continue to make, to the growth and prosperity of Canada. Asian Heritage Month has been celebrated across Canada since the 1990's. It is also a good time to pause, reflect and learn more about the distinguished service of Canadians of Asian heritage who have served or continue to serve in the RMR. In honour

of Asian heritage month, the RMR foundation is publishing profiles of service of some of our members of Asian descent who have served (and continue to serve) in our ranks.

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RMR Trophy

Did you know that one of the trophies awarded at the prestigious CAFSAC international shooting competition is named after the RMR?

[Learn more!](#)



Hampstead Trophy

At the Regiment's battalion review parade held on 15 May 2022, Pro-Mayor Leon Elfassy of Hampstead presented the Hampstead Trophy for Community Service to Captain Rici Be. This award is presented annually to the member of the Regiment who demonstrates an exceptional dedication to civic duty.

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Sergeant Lamb earns the RSM Trophy

The RSM Trophy, named in honour of former Sergeant Yousif Butera, is awarded to the top Sergeant of the Regiment who has displayed the highest standard of dress and deportment along with excellent mentorship and coaching towards his subordinates being the epitome of what a RMR NSO should be.

At the Regiment's battalion review parade held on 15 May 2022, it was announced that Sergeant Lamb had earned the RSM Trophy for the 2021-22 training year

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104 Years of Gratitude

The town of Sains-les-Marquion, France held their annual Remembrance Day service on 11 November 2022 where they specifically honoured the RMR who had liberated their town on 27 September 1918.

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2022 - Busy summer of training for the RMR

The RMR is well represented within the 2nd Division's Individual Training systems spread across the province of Quebec. From Valcartier to St-Hubert to Farnham and a host of other smaller locations, the RMR's members can be found working hard as either candidates, instructors, or infrastructure support personnel.

In fact, at the time of writing, the RMR had 30 candidates, nine instructors, and 28 infrastructure support personnel (67 total members serving 2 Division's individual training efforts in one capacity or another). The RMR is the most represented of any Reserve unit in 34 Brigade Group, something that all members can be proud of.

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Major Barré Trophy awarded to Private Perelmutov

Awarded annually to the most deserving soldier who received the highest ranking on their Basic Military Qualification / Soldier Qualification course.

Named after Major Paul Barré who was a WW2 hero who saved thousands of civilian lives. Recipients should be very proud to have earned an award named after him.

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Canadian Army Command Team Coin for Sergeant David

In an informal ceremony while visiting 2nd Division troops conducting individual training in the battle school at Farnham, the Canadian Army Sergeant-Major, Chief Warrant Officer James Smith, formally recognized one of the RMR's leaders by awarding him the Canadian Army Command Team coin for his tremendous leadership while serving as Camp Mayor.

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C9 Light Machine Gun Live-Fire Range

ARTICLE WRITTEN BY CORPORAL RAZAVI: The C9 light machine gun (LMG) is a weapon of great importance for the infantry soldier, usually two per section; it generates most of the fire-power at the section level and about half at the platoon level.

Therefore it is important for each infanteer to qualify in said weapon and refresh/build upon their skills as much as possible. On the 22nd of October, officers LT Faiz and 2LT Ray brought the troops to the range assisted by Sgt Cowling, MCpl Pellow and Cpl Wooden to accomplish this objective.

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RIP: LCol (ret'd) John Eggenberger, OMM, CD

In late September 2022 the RMR Foundation had the sad duty to announce the death of Lieutenant-Colonel (retired) John Eggenberger, OMM, CD, PhD.

He served as the Regiment's Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel from 1985 – 1990 and



then as the Honorary Colonel from 1990 – 1994.

His obituary can be read at the link below.

[Obituary](#)



Echoes of a Proud Nation

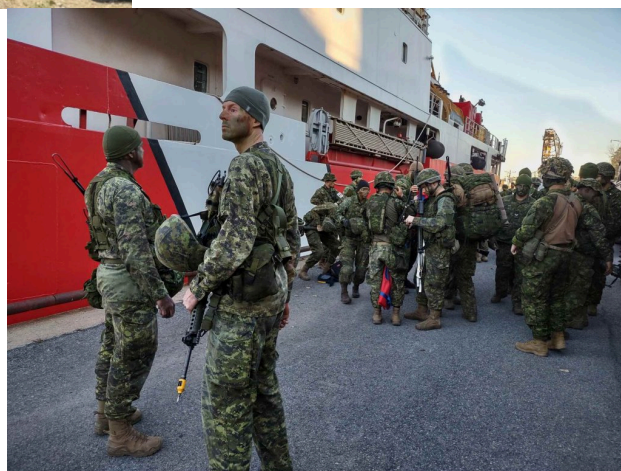
09 July 2022 a contingent from the RMR Association attended the 30th Annual Pow Wow in Kahnawake.

[Click Here](#)

RMR deploys in landing craft

The RMR deployed soldiers as part of Ex Xerus Endurci to an island in the heart of the St Lawrence river. Supported by the Canadian Coast Guard, Naval Reserve and 438 Tactical Helicopter Squadron, they practised dismounted light infantry tactics in civilian sectors with complex terrain.

[Read more](#)





Return of the annual RMR Association Reunion Smoker

The RMR Association held yet another successful reunion 'Smoker' this past Saturday, with lots of folks from all parts of the RMR Family showing up for the seventh annual event (the Reunion Smoker originally started for the RMR's centennial in 2014, but had to take a break for Covid in 2020 and 2021).

Held at the Kahnawake Marina on a beautiful sunny day, the brisk wind kept most folks out of the pool, but also kept (some of) the wasps at bay. Everyone had a good time with a roaring BBQ & charcoal smoker, a great DJ, cash bar, and lots of friends!

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Sergeant Bergeron: Top Shot 2022

The trophy for the Best Rifle Shot in The Royal Montreal Regiment (RMR) is awarded annually at the Church Parade to the soldier receiving the highest score on his/her annual Personal Weapons Test (PWT).

On 15 May 2022 it was announced that Sergeant Bergeron had earned the Best Rifle Shot Trophy for the 2021-22 training year.

[Read more](#)



Acts of Kindness

"Good morning, I have hand-made Clarence's wreath this year. It makes you reflect on things while you are doing it and is very sad for such a young life lost forever but never forget the sacrifices he made along with many others"



Thank you to everyone who volunteers to honour the memory of our fallen. Clarence Denman died aged 22-years old. 107 years after he died of his wounds, he has fresh flowers being placed on his tidied grave, a wreath honouring him at Remembrance Day, his story is still being told, and he has not been forgotten.

[Click Here](#)



RMR Association launches 2022 Poppy Campaign

The RMR Association (Branch 14, Royal Canadian Legion) kicked off the 2022 annual poppy campaign in Westmount at the kiosk outside the IGA in Alexis-Nihon plaza, officially marking the start of the 2022 campaign in Westmount.

The 2022 poppy campaign runs until the end of day on 10 November 2022. Under the able leadership of the 2022 campaign chairman, Comrade Georges Gohier, the RMR Association (Br. 14) will be operating kiosks at the IGA Alexis-Nihon, outside of 5 Saisons on Greene Avenue, as well as inside Metro Grocers on Victoria Avenue.

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RMR Museum presented 'Westmount At War'

The Royal Montreal Regiment (RMR) Museum, an institution dedicated to the preservation of the rich military and cultural heritage of the RMR, launched 'Westmount at War' in November 2022, a physical and online exhibition marking the contribution of Westmount residents to Canada's war effort, from World War I (WWI) to the present.

The physical exhibition features eight bilingual interpretive panels, reflecting Westmount's eight electoral districts, and historical artefacts including military equipment, 'home front' items – ration books, propaganda posters, etc. and photographs.

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RMR Commemorates Remembrance Day with Parades

On 06 November 2022 the RMR participated in the Pointe-Claire Remembrance ceremony in the morning and then later marched to the Westmount cenotaph, before returning to the armoury for a re-dedication ceremony. Covid restrictions having been lifted entirely for the first time in two years, and the customary wreath laying and proper order of service was followed. Cadets were allowed to march in the parade again, and the RMR Association (Br.

14) followed the band to lead the parade, with the veterans taking their customary place of precedence for this sacred ceremony.

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LCol (ret'd) Robinson recognized

As part of the annual Christmas Parade, the Regiment bade farewell to their former Honorary Colonel, Lieutenant-Colonel (ret'd) Colin Robinson, whose mandate ended this summer.

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Levée Day 2023

Start the New Year off right by reconnecting with old friends and colleagues – and make new ones! All ranks and members of the RMR's Regimental Family are welcome. Breakfast served by the RSM and Br. 14 (RMR Association) – including Moose Milk. Dress for Service Members: 1A (DEU with Ribbons) or 1C (Patrols). Dress for Civilian Guests: slacks, jacket and tie, or collared shirt.

[Click here](#)



Christmas Dinner: Junior Ranks Club defeated at floor hockey

On 17 December 2022, the serving battalion of the RMR took a break from the serious business of soldiering, and enjoyed each others company for the annual Christmas festivities, which includes a turkey shoot, a tug-of-war, a floor hockey game (with questionable refereeing), and the traditional Christmas dinner where the leaders serve the troops with Private Dibblee-Ledoux appointed "CO of the Day" to rule over the dinner.

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It is not too late!

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