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## September 2021

*The INTERCOM is the RMR family's newsletter, which originally started as "The Bugler" in 1914 on the troopship carrying the 14th Bn (RMR) overseas. Censorship quickly squashed the initiative, but the RMR tried again in 1916 with "The Growler" (which was also squashed!).*

*In WW2 the RMR had two battalions, one overseas from 1939-45, and a Home unit stationed in Westmount. In an effort to boost morale and keep the lines of communication open between the two battalions, the "Intercomn" ("n" intentional) was born.*

*The current "Intercom" (masthead from the the 1950's) is published monthly and is intended to keep the friends & family of the Regiment up to speed with the accomplishments of the current serving members of the Regiment and all affiliated organizations.*



*RMR Camp Flag being raised in Potton, Quebec on Sunday 29 August 2021. Left to right: Sergeants Christopher Marchand, Alexey Oleshko, and Christopher Lamb, Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel David Bensadoun, and Captain Roman Baburin. Photo Credit: Honorary Colonel Colin Robinson.*

Greetings,

As usual, the RMR started their training year with a 'bang' last weekend, conducting their first live-fire range of the training year as part of our annual "Call to Arms" weekend. They did a heck of a lot more than that (which you can read about below) - in true RMR fashion they crammed as much training as possible into a weekend.

Admittedly the annual "Call to Arms" exercise is one of my favourite weekends of the year, and it is because I am invited to badge the recruits who toughed it out through their Infantry training this summer and now stand proudly awaiting their RMR cap badges. There is nothing quite so refreshing as meeting a new batch of keen, motivated, strong, capable, and confident people who have pushed themselves and discovered that their limits are actually much further than they ever thought possible.

One thing that I always like to tell civilians, particularly those of a 'certain age' who are concerned about the future and grumbling about younger generations, we've got nothing to worry about. Stop watching the news and get out and meet some actual young people: they're demonstrating leadership and making things happen everywhere. Every September I get to meet a new batch of soldiers who have passed their Infantry training and are ready to be formally badged into the Regiment. These impressive young people come from every background imaginable: they are strong, courageous, networked, intellectually curious, and have a strong drive to help their communities while developing their leadership skills. Of course, I am in a privileged position of dealing with some of Canada's brightest and best, but let's not pretend for an instant that they're only limited to the ranks of the Canadian Armed Forces. Young people are serving their communities and demonstrating true leadership all across the spectrum of private and public avocations, and from my extremely biased position as the Honorary Colonel of the RMR, I can say to all those who are fearful for our future: RELAX. This next generation is much smarter than we were, they are much more conscious of their impact, and they want to solve problems rather than shrug and go along. In short, they are leaders.

Speaking of leadership, Major (ret'd) Dan Faughnan has been instrumental in spreading awareness and helping evacuate and resettle the Afghans who helped the Canadian Armed Forces during our time spent fighting and reconstructing in Afghanistan. He sent out an appeal in early August and in case you missed it, [please click here](#). There are thousands of Afghan refugees who need our help and Dan's appeal letter explains how you can help.

As well, our CO, LCol John Shone, threw down a challenge to the serving battalion and all of our affiliated cadet units to organize a fundraising run this September that would be a team-building activity that strengthened the links between the RMR and it's affiliated Cadet units while providing them with an opportunity to fundraise for their activities. With a month to go, the campaign is just shy of 50% of it's goal. If you'd like to learn more or to contribute, [please visit here](#).

Please take a moment to read this selection of the accomplishments & news of the RMR Family over the past month that are shown below. As well, please take a few moments to think of or utter a prayer for deployed RMR members and those of our extended regimental family who are battling illness or disease.

On behalf of Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel David Bensadoun, the Regiment's Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel John Shone, and the Regimental Sergeant-Major, Chief-Warrant Officer Stephan Leroux, please accept our continued best wishes.

*Honi Soit Qui Mal Y Pense.*



LCol (ret'd) Colin Robinson, CD  
Honorary Colonel  
The Royal Montreal Regiment

## Articles from the past month:



## WELCOME TO THE REGIMENT: BADGED & PROMOTED

Westmount, Quebec – 30 August 2021: In a light rain that gave the near perfect conditions for a gentle version of “RMR weather”, The Royal Montreal Regiment held a traditional ceremony on the Farnham rifle range where 16 new RMR soldiers were officially badged into the Regiment and promoted to the rank of Private. The Honorary Colonel, Lieutenant-Colonel (ret’d) Colin Robinson, gave a brief history of the regimental cap badge and then individually replaced each soldier’s generic ‘cornflake’ (Canadian Armed Forces cap badge) with the RMR’s cap badge, telling each soldier *“Welcome to the family, we are proud of you. Just remember to never dishonour this badge, for I assure you that it will never dishonour you”*.

[Learn more by reading the full article here.](#)

## RIP: MWO (RET'D) ROBERT CLERK

Westmount, Quebec – 28 June 2021: The RMR Foundation regrets to inform readers of the passing of a former member of the regiment, MWO (ret’d) Robert Clerk, who served in the RMR in the 1960’s and 1970’s. He is best known for **being the first RMR to have won the Queen’s Medal for Champion Shots in the Military Forces.**



[Read obituary and see images here.](#)



## RMR MUSEUM RENEWAL ACCELERATING

Westmount, Quebec – 14 July 2021: In another promising sign that the pandemic restrictions are easing, the RMR Museum renewal project is picking up speed again, aiming for a launch in the autumn. The museum is getting brand new custom made displays and floor to ceiling interpretative panels. The display cabinets will have drawers that can be opened to securely display artefacts ‘under glass’. Humidity protection is built into the designs to further safeguard the RMR’s artefacts and ensure a long life.

[Read the full article and see photos here.](#)



## WELCOME TO THE REGIMENT, WARRANT OFFICER DOUCET!

Farnham, Quebec – 28 August 2021: On the CO’s parade held in a light rain on the Farnham rifle range today, Warrant Officer René Doucet was officially badged into the RMR. WO Doucet served for 24-years in the Regular Forces with the Royal 22<sup>ième</sup> Regiment, and he spent the last four years of his career serving as the Operations Warrant at the RMR, where he was fully immersed in regimental life, particularly in the Warrant Officers’ and Sergeants’ Mess where as the PMC he oversaw a significant redecoration and revitalization of mess life (before Covid!).

[Read story and see images here.](#)



## CAREER ADVICE FOR RMR SOLDIERS

Potton, Quebec – 29 August 2021: After an “invigorating” morning spent conducting the Canadian Armed Forces ‘FORCE’ test (forced march, shuttle run in fighting order, sandbag lift, etc.), the soldiers of the RMR were invited to Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel David Bensadoun’s property in Potton, Quebec for leadership training and a BBQ. The leadership training was centred on lessons learned from some top business leaders in Quebec who volunteered their Sunday to share their expertise with the RMR’s members. In his role as Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel, David Bensadoun understands all too well that we need our soldiers to succeed in their civilian occupations so they can continue to actively serve the Regiment throughout their working lives and eventually rise to senior leadership positions.

[Read story and see images here](#)



## AFGHAN PARTNERS: SAVING THOSE WHO HELPED CANADIANS

Following the horrific terrorist attacks on the US in September 2001, a coalition of allied nations intervened in Afghanistan, temporarily driving out the Taliban and bringing much needed stability and development to a country torn apart by war for over forty years. Canada itself sent over 40,000 soldiers, sailors and aircrew to that country, and over 1,000 civilians engaged in diplomatic, security and development efforts for well over a decade. These many Canadians were in turn supported by hundreds if not thousands of Afghans who provided interpreter and other logistical and administrative support – often at great cost to them and their families. We could not have accomplished much without these brave and hopeful people by our side.

With the end of allied engagement in Afghanistan, the Taliban are now once again on the ascendant, and many, many of those Afghans who provided direct and personal support to Canadian operations are now in mortal danger – all for the crime of helping us.

[Read the appeal letter here](#)



### AWARD + PROMOTION FOR MCPL ALI KHOMEHSEIFI!

Farnham, Quebec – 28 August 2021: It was a double whammy for Master-Corporal Ali Khomehseifi today! First he was presented with an RMR Certificate of Appreciation recognizing the excellent contributions that he has made, and continues to make, to the Regiment). Then, when he thought all the excitement was over, he was subsequently called back up in front of the parade and promoted to the rank of Master-Corporal.

Congratulations Master-Corporal Khomehseifi!



## READ ALL ABOUT IT: INTERCOM BACK ISSUES NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE!

Westmount, Quebec – 04 July 2021: The RMR Museum has completed digitizing all 111 copies of the RMR's newsletters that it has in its collection, and has made them available online. Special thanks to MWO (ret'd) John Frezza for donating his copies of editions from the 1980's to the early 2000's, and to Melanie Presseau-Dumais who completed the digitizing project. All can be found online at <https://rmrmuseum.com/our-collection/>, where a distinct 'Intercom' tab has been created to consolidate them..

[Learn how to search the Intercom back catalogue here.](#)

## About the RMR Foundation



The RMR Foundation is a non-profit incorporated body with charitable status, designed to *"Serve the best interests of The Royal Montreal Regiment and accept such tasks designated by the Trustees to help any member body of the Regimental Family."* Donations help with providing emergency financial assistance to RMR soldiers identified by the chain of command, and providing relief to veterans of the RMR.

Beyond direct veteran support, the RMR Foundation provides assistance for the needs of the RMR family, advises on request, the CO of the RMR or any of its affiliated units, promotes the role of the Reserve Forces within the Canadian Armed Forces and the Regiment's affiliated municipalities, lobbies for the promotion of a more effective Canadian Defence Force, funds the operation of the RMR Museum's annual exhibitions, and supports the *Je Me Souviens* education program which provides free materials to supplement Quebec's history curriculum.

**Please DONATE to support the RMR Family**

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