

2019: Year in Review

The Royal Montreal Regiment



31 December 2019

Greetings,

The end of the year is a good time to reflect upon what has been accomplished in the previous year, as well as to evaluate the predictions of what would come. Well, so much for my bold statement made at the end of last year about a major project being the addition of our most recent theatre honour "AFGHANISTAN" to the RMR's memorial tablet. Upon closer inspection, the memorial tablet very clearly states that it is in memory of our "fallen", and given that we're fortunate that no RMR's were killed in the decade of fighting in Afghanistan, no update to the memorial tablet is required. The unit has made the formal request to update the Regimental Colour with the theatre honour, so stand by for a communication about that in the future.

Speaking of Afghanistan, the RMR Museum also put together an outstanding travelling exhibition about Afghanistan that used the video testimonial of many serving and former RMR's, and I hope you take the time to read about it (story in the links below). The exhibition was also used as the basis for the [Je Me Souviens education program's](#) latest materials.

As 2019 winds down, please take a moment to read this selection of the accomplishments of the RMR Family over the past year that are shown below. In the 40 different stories featured, there is a selection from the entire Regimental Family: the serving battalion, the RMR Association, the RMR Museum, and the four affiliated cadet units. I am honoured to be able to

serve the Regiment and the best part of my role is meeting with the bright minds who fill the ranks of all parts of the regimental family. The leadership displayed is breathtaking, be it from cadets or the serving battalion or the regimental association - strong leaders helping their teams accomplish great things together.

- The serving battalion of the Regiment is in good shape, recruiting is still the highest in the Brigade, the production of junior leaders is racing along, and solid training that is both challenging and relevant is being conducted. Physical fitness, strong battlecraft skills, and professional weapons handling are all the hallmarks of good infants - and that's what is consistently being done by the serving battalion.
- The RMR Association used the opportunity of their 100th anniversary in 2019 to set a new record for fundraising during the annual poppy campaign. They were active in supporting the serving battalion and the community, in fact many of them will spend this evening helping out at the Ste-Anne's veterans hospital.
- We added a fourth cadet unit in 2019: [588 Eric Simms Air Cadet Squadron](#) was granted affiliation in October 2019, and will benefit from the RMR's experienced leaders. All of the RMR's affiliated cadet units are strong, some at all time highs in terms of attendance - and more than 100 of their cadets were sent to summer camps in 2019.
- The RMR Museum is planning a complete physical makeover (renovation) in 2020 and is also looking for volunteers to assist with a major digital archiving project: Nearly 9,000 items have been digitized and will be available online by the end of 2020.

As we enter a new decade of service to Canada, please take a few moments to think of or utter a prayer for deployed RMR members and those of our 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, Master-Warrant Officer Stephan Leroux, please accept our best wishes for a Happy New Year.

Looking forward to seeing you soon in 2020!

Honi Soit Qui Mal Y Pense.



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

Please read the collection of stories from 2019



LEVEE 2019

2019 was kicked off in fine fashion at the RMR with traditional moose milk served to the approximately 100 visitors who came throughout the day.

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First Stand of Colours: 1919

The RMR received their first set of Colours precisely 100 years ago: Presented on 04 January 1919 at Unter Eschbach, Germany, making the RMR the first regiment in British Empire history to have received their colours on foreign conquered soil.

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"Visitor of the Year"

On 16 January 2019, In a dignified but lighthearted ceremony held within the armoury, the RMR Museum presented their "Visitor of the Year Award" to Second-Lieutenant Jan Dobrosielski who was the most frequent visitor throughout 2018.

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EX FIGHTING WARRIOR 2019

In January 2019 the RMR sent a rifle platoon to participate in the Brigade collective training exercise held in Fort Pickett, Virginia.

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Ex BRASS MONKEY

February 2019, RMR soldiers learned winter survival skills on civilian land.

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RIP Colonel Hart

The Regiment lost a good friend in March 2019 when Honorary Colonel David Hart, MM, CD of the 34th Signals Regiment died at 101 years old.

He had been awarded the Military Medal for bravery on the battlefield as a young Sergeant at the battle of Dieppe in 1942 before being commissioned as an infantry officer.

He was the longest serving Honorary Colonel in the Canadian Army, and had been a good friend of the RMR since the early 1950's.

We will remember him.

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URBAN OPS TRAINING

In early March 2019 "B" Company conducted professional development training under the supervision of their NCO's and a guest instructor from Tier1SOF, a Canadian military contracting company.

Casualty care & extraction as well as techniques in approaching, entering and securing a building were taught, rehearsed, and evaluated throughout the

weekend.

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Spring Break for Air Cadets

In a Spring Break trip to remember, nearly 100 cadets from # 1 Montreal West Squadron spent a week in March touring the maritimes. Activities ranged from tours of military bases, familiarization flights in a CP-140 Aurora maritime patrol aircraft, and even time for skiing!

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RMR'S HELPED OUT IN THE 2019 FLOOD RELIEF

In April 2019 soldiers from the RMR deployed as part of the flood relief operations in Quebec, named Operation LENTUS.

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103rd "YPRES DINNER"

The Royal Montreal Regiment Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess hosted their 103rd annual 2nd Battle of Ypres Dinner on Saturday evening 13 April 2019.

His Worship John Belvedere, the Mayor of Pointe-Claire, was the guest of honour for the dinner.

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RMR returned home 100 years ago

A detailed history of the RMR's victorious return to Montreal at the end of the First World War was published on the 100th anniversary, 20 April 2019. Major-General Sir A.C. Macdonnell, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., G.O.C. the 1st Canadian Division, paid a tribute of which the Battalion could ask no higher: *"During the years of my command" he wrote, "they never failed me"*.

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Ex STRIKING BADGER

At the end of March, "B" Company of the RMR hosted two specialists to teach different aspects of unarmed combat: grappling and ground fighting techniques

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Minister visits RMR troops



The Minister of National Defence, the Honourable Harjit Singh Sajjan, visited RMR soldiers deployed on Operation LENTUS (flood relief) in May 2019.

It was the second time in a month that he had met RMR troops on operations (see story below).

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MND visited RMR's in Ukraine

Canada's Minister of National Defence visited the five RMR's currently serving on Operation UNIFIER in the Ukraine on 21 May 2019. The photo of them holding the RMR camp flag was taken in Desna, Ukraine. Pictured left to right: Captain Ezedin, Sergeant Jasmine, the Honourable Harjit Singh Sajjan, Captains Gareau, Baburin, and Ruiz-Lang.

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CD's for two RMR's

As part of the annual church



parade, two Canadian Forces decorations were awarded in May: the RMR's Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Colin Robinson received a first clasp to his CD, and Warrant Officer (retired) Brent McNair received his CD medal.

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Threepeat for WO Antcil

The CO and RSM were pleased to announce at the Regiment's battalion review parade held on 05 May 2019 that Warrant Officer Andrew Antcil had earned the Colonel Trent Cup for the 2018-19 training year – **the third year in a row!**

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Captain Houle earns Brigade commendation

Citation for the 34th Canadian Brigade Group Commander's Commendation can be read at the link below.

Captain Houle was also presented with a plaque as a parting gift in grateful appreciation for his service to the RMR. He was posted to 2nd Division as part of the Operations cell in July 2019.

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Day in the life: Flood relief operations 2019

MCpl Laurent Ene was one of the RMR soldiers deployed on Op LENTUS, the flood relief operations to help out damaged municipalities. He and others such as Master-Corporal Cordeiro and Corporal Doughty sent a series of situation reports (SITREP) back to the unit in order to keep them up to date, and it provides an interesting look into the lives of RMR soldiers deployed on domestic operations, supporting and protecting their fellow Canadians.

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Soldiers Trophy 2019

Master-Corporal Kevin Cowling was deemed the most deserving soldier who made great improvements in attendance, fitness, professional competence, dress, drill, and discipline.

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MCpl Loeven top RMR soldier

THE CAPTAIN G.B. MCKEAN, VC, MC, MM



TROPHY (BEST SOLDIER) award is given 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.

The Regiment's Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Shone, and the Regimental Sergeant-Major, Master Warrant Officer Leroux, were pleased to announce at the Regiment's battalion review parade held on 05 May 2019 that Master-Corporal Alexander Loeven had earned the McKean Trophy for the 2018-19 training year.

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RMR Ethos Explained

In May 2019 Captain Alan Vincent stepped down as Officer Commanding "B" Company and penned a farewell letter. The CO requested that this letter be published as it is a good summary of the ethos and values that make up the RMR.

Photo is Captain Vincent receiving the RMR Command Team coin from the CO.

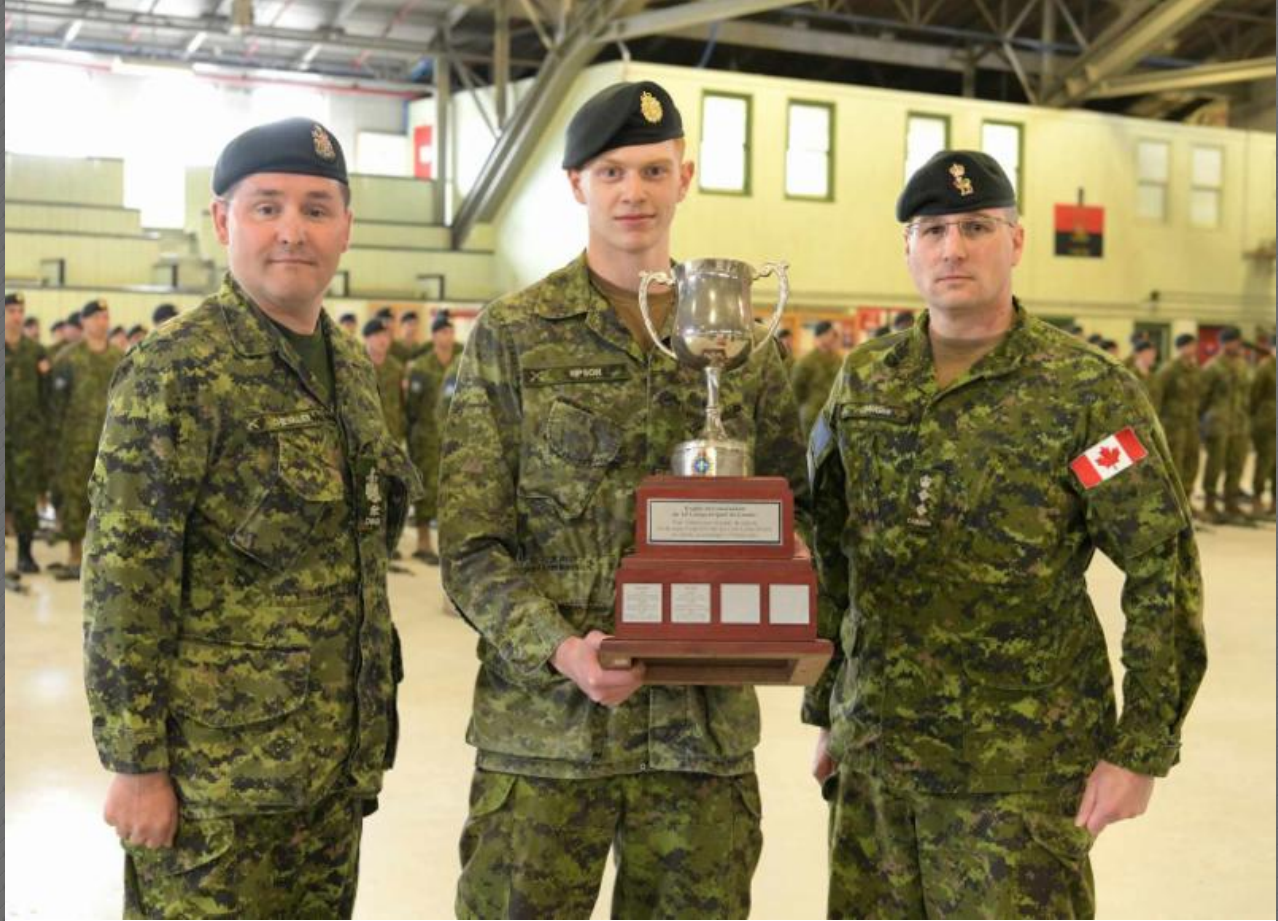
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RMR Door Gunners

2019 saw the first RMR's qualified as door gunners for the the CH-146 Griffon helicopter: Master-Corporals Christopher Lamb and Brigitte O'Driscoll.

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RMR sets the BMQ standard!

In June 2019 the RMR took all three of the top spots on the 34 Brigade Basic Military Qualification (BMQ) - as well as sharing the top shooting scores. Admittedly the odds were stacked comfortably in the regiment's favour, with all eight of the instructors and 31 of the candidates being from the RMR – talk about a commitment to recruiting & training! Photo is Private Hipson receiving his trophy for being the top candidate.

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D-Day Remembered

Two RMR soldiers represented the Regiment at the 75th anniversary commemorations in Normandy in June 2019 and wrote about their reflections.

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RMR Association's Smoker

Nearly 125 attendees showed up for the



sixth annual event held at the Kahnawake Marina in September 2019. Great event!

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CONNECTION TO CZECH REPUBLIC

Small world... Major Holt, who served with the Regiment in WW1, also happened to be the very first pilot to land at the Karlov Vary Airport in Czech Republic... 90 years ago in September 2019! A reenactment was staged to mark the occasion.

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"Call to Arms" 2019

RMR started the 2019-2020 training year on the weekend of 6-8 September 2019. It was kicked off with a BANG! (Specifically, the sound of M203 rounds hitting their targets!).

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RMR Association's 100th Anniversary Party a Success!

The RMR Association (Branch 14, Royal Canadian Legion) held a dinner dance on 16 October 2019 in the armoury to celebrate their 100th anniversary. Approximately 125 people gathered on the parade square to break bread together, enjoy each other's company, catch up with old friends, and listen to some entertaining speeches. Pictures is Comrade Sue Guerin, President of Branch 14 (RMR Association), flanked by the co-guests of honour: CWO (ret'd) Brian Colgan (left) and Colonel (ret'd) Charles Hamel (right).

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Extra Navigation Training for "B" Coy

In order to stay sharp, members of "B" Coy participated in a civilian orienteering event that took place in Ile Perrot, West Island in October 2019 to further enhance their navigation skills. Amongst the RMR participants, Maj Jonasz finished first, Cpl Randall-Coss second, and Pte Faiz third.

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Obstacle Course for Recruits

2Lt Pulliam-Therrien and his leadership cadre put their recruit platoon through a challenging obstacle course competition in Farnham in October 2019.

Section 2 won the race, but all teams gave a great effort!

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Afghanistan Remembered

The RMR Museum launched their latest travelling exhibition "REMEMBERING AFGHANISTAN: REFLECTIONS OF CANADIAN SOLDIERS" in October 2019. Produced by Melanie Presseau-Dumais, highlights of the launch were remarks given by two RMR members who served in Afghanistan: LCol George Siket and Capt Alan Vincent. They reflected on their motivations to

REMEMBERING AFGHANISTAN REFLECTIONS OF CANADIAN SOLDIERS

A RMR Museum exhibition
October 25th to November 10th, 2019



4625 Sainte-Catherine St, Westmount www.RMRmuseum.com
For group activities and for our educational activities - call 438 826-4599



serve and the lasting impact their service in Afghanistan has had on them.

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2019 Poppy Campaign

The RMR Association (Branch 14) confirmed that 2019 was the most successful year ever in their 100-year history! Due to the dedication of their members – and the outstanding support received from the members of the serving battalion and affiliated cadet units.

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New Honoraries for the RMR appointed in October 2019

Lieutenant-Colonel (ret'd) Colin Robinson, the outgoing Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel, has been appointed as the RMR's Honorary Colonel and was subsequently 'promoted' by Brigadier Mercier. Mr. David Bensadoun, the CEO of Aldo Group, was appointed as the Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel and was formally introduced by Brigadier Mercier and the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel John Shone. Photo is Brigadier-General Chris Mercier introducing the new Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel David Bensadoun (left) and Honorary Colonel Colin Robinson (right) to the Regiment in front of the RMR's memorial tablet.

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War Museum Visit

The RMR's Depot platoon (recruits) visited the Canadian War Museum in November as part of their regimental indoctrination.

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Live-fire Section Attacks

The RMR conducted live-fire section attacks in Valcartier in November 2019, and even found the time for some field promotions. Photo is Lieutenant McLaughlin being



promoted by the CO RMR, Lieutenant-Colonel John Shone.

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Unarmed Combat Training

In November 2019, "B" Company carried out 'Sambo' Unarmed Combat training, which is a Russian martial art that resembles Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) and includes various forms of striking and grappling. Developed in the 1920's for the Soviet military it merges the most effective techniques found in other martial arts.

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Ain't training if it ain't raining

"B" Company conducted offensive operations training in Valcartier in November. These exercises consisted of section attacks, reconnaissance patrols and finally, a series of platoon attacks led by the RMR's newly qualified platoon commanders, all taking place in the cold November rain. "RMR weather", anyone...?

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Georges Laraque helps serve holiday dinner to RMR troops

Former NHL player (finished his career with the Montreal Canadiens) Georges Laraque was invited by the RSM, MWO Leroux, to join the officers and NCO's in serving the troops during the annual Honorary Colonel's Christmas Parade. The customary events preceding the dinner (troops crushing the officers/NCO's team in ice hockey, tug-of-war, turkey shoot, etc.) had all been completed by noon and the rest of the day was spent enjoying dinner.

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Winter Warfare

Winter warfare training was conducted in Valcartier at the end of November 2019, with a focus on recce and fighting patrols.

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Levee Day 2020

Start your new decade off right!

The Royal Montreal Regiment invites you to join us for Levee Day, Wednesday 01 January 2020. Reconnect with old friends and colleagues – and make new ones! All ranks and Regimental affiliations are welcome.

Dress for Service Members: 1A or 1C Dress
for Civilian Guests: slacks, collared shirt and jacket (tie for the officers' mess).

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01/01
2020

Levée Day

Doors Open @ 10h00

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emailed immediately!**

www.royalmontrealregiment.com