ROYAL HIGHLAND FUSILIERS OF CANADA REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

June 2026

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LINCOLN & WELLAND REGIMENT - ROYAL HIGHLAND FUSILIERS OF CANADA
TACTICAL GROUPING
CO LCOL J. ROBINSON CD (RHFC) – RSM T.J. FELETAR CD (LWR) MAY 31, 2026

TARTAN PATCH SPECIAL

THE TARTAN PATCH NEWSLETTER SPECIAL ISSUE

May 2026 was a historical month for the Regiment as it paraded with the Lincoln and Welland Regiment at the Change of Command, Change of Stick and standing up of the Tactical Grouping Ceremony. The parade was held May 31, 2026 at Montebello Park in St Catherines Ontario.

There is a scanned copy of the parade program in this issue of the Tartan Patch Newsletter for those that could not attend the Ceremony. The program has all the details regarding parade appointments and the bios for those who will be leading this new Tactical Grouping. We also have some photos and a link to a parade video.

In this special issue of the Tartan Patch, we also have:

- A Fusilier (RHFC) in Ottawa - deployment to Operation National Sentry (OP NS) submitted by Piper Cheon of the RHFC Pipes and Drums - now Cpl Cheon as of May 14th 2026 see Battalion Parade (Promotions) – in this issue of the Tartan Patch – Congratulations Cpl Cheon and
- Details of the May 14th Battalion Parade (Promotions) and
- Another historical find in the RHFC Museum collection – George Hespeler - submitted by Mr. Tom Fournier who is a member of our White Hackle Council

Change of Command, Change of Stick and standing up of the Tactical Grouping Ceremony

There was a large showing of support for the RHFC through Old Guard attendees, including many past RHFC Commanding Officers and numerous members of the White Hackle Council, which was greatly appreciated by the Regiment. LCol Jason Robinson CD gave a personal heart felt thank you to all those who were able to make the trip to St Catherines to witness the ceremony and support the Regiment.

LCol J. Robinson CD – Col B.D. Ashford OMM CD – LCol P. Dyson CD

CWO T.J. Feletar CD

Here is the scanned copy of the Program for Ceremony. It has all the information regarding the Parade appointments and who will be leading this new Tactical Grouping – apologies or the quality of the scan.

The Lincoln and Welland Regiment (LWR) & Royal Highland Fusiliers of Canada (RHFC)

Change of Command, Change of stick and standing up of Tactical Grouping Ceremony

The Thirty-First Day of May Two Thousand and Twenty-Six

Montebello Park

Parade Appointments

Reviewing Officer
COLONEL B.D ASHFORD, OMM, CD

Outgoing Commanding Officer
Lieutenant-Colonel P.V Dyson, CD

Incoming Commanding Officer
Lieutenant-Colonel J.A Robinson, CD

Deputy Commanding Officer
Major C. Flatman, CD

LWR No. 1 Guard Commander
Major J.S Guertin

LWR No. 2 Guard Commander
Major J.C Walker, CD

RHFC No. 1 Guard Commander
Maj D.G Corcoran

RHFC No. 2 Guard Commander
Capt. J.A.S Simoneau

LWR Regimental Sergeant Major
Chief Warrant Officer T.J Feletar, CD

LWR No. 1 Guard Sergeant Major
Master Warrant Officer S.M. Hardie, CD

LWR No. 2 Guard Sergeant Major
Warrant Officer R. Pye, CD

RHFC Regimental Sergeant Major
MWO M.C Reid, CD

RHFC No. 1 Guard Sergeant Major
MWO D.F Casselman, CD

RHFC No. 2 Guard Sergeant Major
WO M.M Adam, CD

Reviewing Officer
COLONEL B.D ASHFORD, OMM, CD
COMMANDER 31 CANADIAN BRIGADE GROUP

Colonel Blair Ashford was born in London, Ontario, and earned a Bachelor of Mathematics from the University of Waterloo and a Master of Science from the University of Guelph before joining the Canadian Armed Forces in 2002 as an armoured officer. He later returned to the University of Waterloo, earning a Master of Peace and Conflict Studies in 2021.

Promoted to Colonel in 2022, he currently serves as Chief of Staff to the Director General External Review Implementation Secretariat, overseeing the department's response to four major external reports, including the Independent External Comprehensive Review (Arbour Report) and the Third Independent Review of the National Defence Act (Fish Report). His previous key appointments include Deputy Commanding Officer of The Windsor Regiment, Commanding Officer of 31 Combat Engineer Regiment (2017-2021), and Deputy Commander of 31 Canadian Brigade Group (2021-2022).

His operational experience includes Op NANOOK (Western Arctic, 2007), Op ATHENA (Afghanistan, 2008-09), Op SOPRANO (South Sudan, 2013), Op FOUNDATION (Jordan, 2016), and Op IMPACT (Kuwait and Iraq, 2019-20). For his service in Jordan, he was awarded the U.S. Defence Meritorious Service Medal. He also received the NATO Mission Iraq Commander's Commendation for his contributions in Iraq and Kuwait.

He is married and they have two children. In his spare time, he enjoys wilderness camping and studying Newfoundland postal history.

Outgoing Commanding Officer
Lieutenant-Colonel Philip Dyson, CD

Lieutenant-Colonel Philip Vincent Dyson was born in Welland, Ontario, to Terry and Muriel Dyson of Sheffield, England. He enrolled in The Lincoln and Welland Regiment in 1994 while attending Notre Dame College School, serving with the famed D Company "Recce" Platoon—the last to parade out of the Niagara Falls Armoury.

Commissioned in 1998, he completed officer training and was promoted to Lieutenant in 2001 and Captain in 2006. Over three decades of service, LCol Dyson has held a wide range of regimental duties. Highlights include leading humanitarian initiatives—Operation Shoebox (hygiene packages to the former Yugoslavia) and Operation Pencil Case (school supplies to Afghanistan)—and twice supporting the Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Edinburgh, during regimental engagements in 2012 and 2015. He is uniquely a three-time winner of the Iron Linc trophy.

His qualifications and experiences include the Reconnaissance Patrolman Course (1995), Basic Parachutist ("Jump") Course (2001), Nuclear Biological Chemical Defence Officer (CBRN) Course (2001), patrolling in Gros Morne National Park, Newfoundland (2001), and a battlefield study to the Netherlands with WW2 veteran and regimental company commander LCol (Ret'd) Jim Dandy (2001). Drawing on his fire-service expertise, he routinely delivers Personal Fire Extinguisher Training (PFET) across 32 Canadian Brigade Group. He was appointed commanding officer of the Lincoln and Welland Regiment in September 2023.

LCol Dyson holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from Brock University (2001). He operated Dyson & Associates (2003–2007), providing shipping and consulting services in Ontario in support of Big Rush Inc. Since 2012, he and his wife have owned and managed rental properties in Welland. A career firefighter with Welland Fire & Emergency Services since 2002, he now serves as a Platoon Chief, leading a 17-firefighter shift across multiple apparatus and three stations. He is a graduate of the Ontario Fire College Company Officer program. His charitable efforts include "Hero to Hero" and fundraising for The Children's Safety Village, the local hospital foundation, and other community causes.

LCol Dyson is married to Melissa, and they have four children: Isaac (Pte Dyson), Amelia, Noah, and Hannah. He enjoys traveling across Canada, Central and South America, and Europe, and his hobbies include family time, coaching soccer, cycling, scuba diving, and fitness training.

Incoming Commanding Officer Lieutenant-Colonel Jason Robinson, CD

Lieutenant Colonel Jason Robinson was born and raised in Cambridge, Ontario. On January 15th, 1994, he enrolled as a Private in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) through a weekend Basic Military Qualification Course. He joined the Highland Fusilier of Canada, a Primary Reserve Infantry Regiment, located in Cambridge and Kitchener, Ontario. He completed his infantry training at LFCA TC Meaford and was posted to A Coy as a Fusilier (rifleman). Fusilier Robinson completed Recce Patrolman, Infantry Machine Gunner and Driver Wheel courses. In 1996, Corporal Robinson graduated from the Army Junior NCO Course which led to eight years of Class B full time employment; instructing on various courses.

In January 1998, Corporal Robinson deployed to Bosnia on Operation Palladium Rotation 2 as an M203 Gunner; part of the 1 RCR Battle Group. Upon return to Canada, he was promoted to Master Corporal. Master Corporal Robinson continued to work full time with the RHFC and as the G3 Collective Training NCO at 31 CBG Headquarters. He was employed as a unit recruiter and an instructor on Basic Training and Infantry courses. He spent numerous summers instructing courses at LFCA TC Meaford and completed Basic Helicopter Operations and Small Arms Coaching courses. In 2002 he was promoted to Sergeant and held the position of Regimental Quartermaster. Sergeant Robinson completed the Senior Leadership and DP3-Infantry Platoon 2ic Courses.

In September 2005 Sergeant Robinson was hired as a Security Response Coordinator with the Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA). He completed numerous security related courses and returned to Class A service with the RHFC. Sergeant Robinson was promoted to Warrant Officer and served as an Infantry Platoon Second in Command in B Company, RHFC. Warrant Officer Robinson attended the DP4-Infantry Company Sergeant-Major Course in CFB Gagetown and the Advanced Leadership Qualification at CMR St-Jean. Upon completion of the courses, he was promoted to Master Warrant Officer and held the positions of Company Sergeant-Major, Buron Company and Drill Sergeant-Major of the RHFC. Master Warrant Officer Robinson completed the Senior Leadership Program at CMR St-Jean and was promoted to Chief Warrant Officer and was appointed to the position of Regimental Sergeant-Major of the RHFC from 2011-2015. Chief Warrant Officer Robinson completed the Reserve Command Team Course and held the position of 31 CBG TBG RSM for a year On June 11th, 2015, he Commissioned and was promoted to Captain. He was employed as the Battalion Operations Officer, Officer Commanding with Falaise Company and Adjutant. In 2016 he completed the DP3 – Infantry Dismounted Company Commander's Course and 2017-2018 Primary Reserve Army Operations Course. He was promoted to the rank of Major in the summer of 2019 and held the positions of Regimental Major, OC Grand River Garrison for Op Laser and Deputy Commanding Officer. On 28 September 2024 LCol Robinson was appointed to the position of Commanding Officer, Royal Highland Fusiliers of Canada. On 31 May 2026, LCol Robinson was appointed to the position of Commanding Officer, The Lincoln and Welland Regiment and is now the Commanding Officer of the Tactiacl Grouping of the two units.

Lieutenant Colonel Robinson has two children, Alexander (Nineteen years old) and Andrew (Thirteen years old) and resides with his partner CWO (ret) Leann Turner CD . He enjoys hockey, backcountry camping and spending time watching his sons compete in their sports.

Incoming Regimental Sargent Major
Chief Warrant Officer T.J Feletar, CD

Chief Warrant Officer Thomas Feletar; is from Welland, Ontario. He has been a member of the Canadian forces for 21 years, joining The Lincoln and Welland Regiment, on the 22nd of September 2005 at sixteen years old. He is currently employed as the regiment's Regiment Sergeant Major (RSM).

During his time in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) he has been an instructor at the 31 and 32 Brigade Battle Schools and has deployed overseas twice; once in 2010 for seven months to Afghanistan as a Master Corporal, where he was employed as a crew commander and dismounted Section 2nd-in-command and in 2024 he was deployed for 6 months to England as part of an international mission to train Ukrainian soldiers, returning on the 8th of July.

In his civilian life he works at the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation (SLSMC), as a Canal Services Supervisor in the Operations Center.

He is married to Candace Feletar, and who has given him 3 beautiful children, Jack, Charlotte and Emma.

What a great look at RHFC DMaj WO B. Jaeckle CD with the recently commssioned Mace

Click on the link to see a video of the march pass at the Ceremony

https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1Dx5McyE63/?mibextid=wwXIfr

Piper Cheon – A Fusilier (RHFC) in Ottawa – Operation National Sentry (OP NS)

Last summer I had the honour of being tasked to one of the most prestigious positions a CAF piper could hold – Duty Piper at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the National War Memorial in Ottawa as a part of Operation National Sentry (Op NS). I was offered the position after being nominated by course staff on my QL3. Op NS is a domestic operation that brings together members of the Army, Navy, and Air Force from across Canada to honour and raise awareness of the sacrifices of CAF members and to represent Canada before foreign diplomats, dignitaries, tourists, and senior leadership.

For the Sentries, the job entails standing guard at the tomb one hour at a time, two shifts per team for eight hours of the day, from April to Remembrance Day. For us pipers, the job entails leading the changing of the guard. The heat in Ottawa can be quite brutal at times, especially with the extreme humidity, since the monument is on top of the Rideau Canal. Though bagpipes normally love humidity, they love to misbehave in this kind of humidity. The highlight of the day for me was playing the lament, Flowers of the Forest at the first and last shifts. It was just me, the monument, and the honour as the rest of the world fell away. When I play

the lament, I think back to the horrors of war I witnessed while growing up in Afghanistan and let the grief flow into the music.

It meant a lot to me to participate in this tasking for a number of reasons:

- Firstly, it marked a clear transition point in my career from training to task execution – I had spent the past year learning the job, and this was my first chance to actually do it in a major way in my own right as a piper – Especially representing my regiment in the capital.
- Secondly, I had the honour of being the first Duty Piper of Korean descent in the CAF to play at the National War Memorial. I also got to participate in the 72nd Anniversary of the Armistice of the Korean War ceremony as a wreath bearer, and in the 80th Anniversary of Japan's surrender. These events were invaluable opportunities to connect with veterans and community members – to ask questions to veterans and answer questions from civilians from all over the world. I truly felt the enduring chain of honour and responsibility that is passed on to every CAF member of the present and into the future.

In the veterans I saw the weight of sacrifice that we were carrying forward. In us, I think the veterans saw the torch held high. It is always a weird feeling to be thanked by veterans for serving, but in it I am reminded of the legacy we carry.

It was a personal moment of pride for me to be able to explain the significance of the monument, my dirk and kilt, and the bagpipes to a student group from Korea and a Korean Colonel in my native language, as well as to thank the Korean war veterans for contributing to the freedom that allows me to be standing in that spot as a Korean-Canadian and as a member of the CAF. In many ways, I am living proof of their efforts. I have been invited to return to Op NS in September 2026 through Remembrance Day, this time as a stronger piper, soldier, and Canadian.

Battalion Parade May 14, 2026

The Regiment held a Battalion Parade in prepartaion for the Change of Command, Change of Stick and standing up of Tactical Grouping Ceremony. There were promotions and in the words of the CO – “So that the promoted soldiers can sew on their new ranks in time for the Tactical Grouping parade.”

Fusilier Obeng

MCpl Ford

Cpls Cheon – Bolton – Ulturas – Delarosabil - Kenne

Early Regimental Connections to Hespeler
George Hespeler

As the museum committee for the RHFC went through its work, it was sorting a number of prints and paintings in the museum storeroom. The committee came across this striking portrait, and we could not help but feel it was worth a little investigation.

Who was George Hespeler? Born in 1837, he was the eldest son of Jacob Hespeler.

George was civic minded having held the following offices:

1863 Reeve of Hespeler

1864 Councilor of Hespeler

1865 Reeve of Hespeler

1872 Warden of the County of Waterloo

He also was active in the local militia regiment. Colonel George Hespeler held the command of "E" Company of the 29th Waterloo Battalion of Infantry.

Some more military and Hespeler connections:

In 1855, Canada passed a Militia Act creating cavalry, infantry, and artillery units, made up of volunteer, part-time soldiers. Strained Anglo-American relations during the American Civil War (1861-65) had led Britain to send 11,000 troops to protect its North American colonies. During this period, a wave of patriotism swept the nation and many young lads enlisted in "The Volunteers". Signing for three years, they were obligated to train locally and attend Military Camp for two weeks each summer.

A great many "Drill Sheds" were built as local Militia Company Headquarters. Hespeler became headquarters for "E" Company of the 29th Waterloo Battalion of Infantry.

The Drill Shed was built in 1869 on land donated by Jacob Hespeler at the "Grove" (now Milling Road). A wood frame building 52 x 88 feet, it was built without a foundation, floor or windows, but with a small annex 14 x 19 feet where the uniforms, rifles, side arms, and other necessary equipment was stored. In addition to the Drill Shed, rifle ranges were established where the Militia could practice and become proficient with military firearms. This led to the formation of local shooting associations that included military and civilian members.

George Hespeler died in 1910 in Raleigh North Carolina.

His obituary had the following dubious claim: he was formerly a member of the Canadian army, having retired some time ago. He started his military career in the French army, later he joined the English army and during the War Between the States he was transferred to Canada.

Sources: Waterloo Generations & Hespeler Heritage Centre

Submitted by Tom Fournier

In closing

There are no fees to be a member of the RHFC Regimental Association, but donations to the Regimental Trust are always welcomed. Your numbered Regimental or Old Guard Coin is proof of membership.

There are former Fusiliers that have not yet received an Association Old Guard Coin, the only requirements are that you have served with the Regiment and you are not in possession of a numbered RHFC Regimental coin - please contact us to receive your, no cost to you numbered coin. The Old Guard coin is shown below Association members "The Old Guard" have been invited to meet at a mess at the Cambridge Armoury in the near future prior to Remembrance Day - details to follow.

As per the CO's open invite, it would be grand if a substantial "Old Guard" parades with the Regiment at this year's Remembrance Day Parade in Cambridge – details for a RV and time to follow.

For the parade, all you require is a blue blazer, gray flannel pants, white shirt with tie and a Balmoral or Glengarry. Click on this link https://www.canex.ca/en/catalogsearch/result/index/?p=2&q=RHFC to purchase Regimental merchandise (including RHFC blazer crests, ties, buttons, t-shirts and much more).
To get your coin, interested in a meet and greet at the Cambridge Armoury, to parade with the Regiment on Remembrance Day or to assist in anyway, please contact us at: oldguardrhfc@gmail.com

For additional information regarding the Association, follow the RHFC Association Group on Facebook – (**RHFC Association Group (HFofC, HLIofC, SFofC, 54LAA RCA))** and please ensure that your email information is up to date with the Association to receive emails on events and other details regarding the Regiment and the Association.

OLD GUARD COIN

oldguardrhfc@gmail.com

Old Guard WO (retired) Barb Bajema MMM, CD (nee Hays) is very crafty and has a hobby making silver jewelry and has made a few silver Old Guard pins and is willing to make more for those interested. Please contact Barb directly by email at patriotacressilver@gmail.com

If you require your medals to be repaired or mounted, our friend Sgt (retired) Mary-Lou Vanrooy CD is very capable and is always willing to assist, her contact info is below.