ROYAL HIGHLAND FUSILIERS OF CANADA REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

September 2026

www.RHFC.ca

EX. ARROWHEAD GUARDIAN 2026 GRAYLING MICHIGAN AUGUST 2026

TARTAN PATCH ISSUE 6

THE TARTAN PATCH NEWSLETTER

The above photos are absolutely worth a thousand words. These photos were taken at this year's major summer exercise in Grayling Michigan – EXERCISE ARROWHEAD GUARDIAN 2026, an exercise that some of us in the Old Guard "fondly" remember as "CAC" or "MILCON". The top photo shows the 31 Brigade Group, while the bottom Photo shows the Tactical Grouping of the Lincoln and Welland and RHFC Regiments.

The Lincoln and Welland fielded 70 soldiers who were joined by 83 soldiers from the RHFC. This brought the grouping to a total strength of 153 soldiers – the largest troop presence at the exercise – well done!

Take a closer look at the Tactical Grouping photo, you will notice a number of plaques and trophies being displayed. Someone needs to tell us about the "hardware" that has been awarded to our soldiers.

Welcome back to what is shaping up to be another very busy training year for the Regiment in the 2026 -2027 Calendar Training Year. A busy year for our Officers, NCOs and Soldiers, who will always be supported by the work of our Honorary Colonel, the White Hackle Council and Association members.

'ONCE A FUSILIER ALWAYS A FUSILIER'

In this September 2026 issue of the Tartan Patch, we have:

- Information regarding the most recent mortar training course
- We have photos and details of the recent Rank Qualification Infantry Private Course (RQIP) conducted at the Cambridge Col JA MacIntosh Armoury with field work completed at CFB Borden and 4CDTC Meaford and
- Details of an absolutely fantastic RQIP Graduation Parade as shown through plenty of photos and

- An impromptu Infantry Section Commanders Course (ISCC) graduation photo showing who from the RHFC was promoted and
- Another interesting historical find regarding the 1st Armoury in Galt ON - submitted by Mr. Tom Fournier who is a member of our White Hackle Council
- An update from our Honorary Colonel and
- An update from our Commanding Officer

Mortar Training

A basic mortar course – Basic Mortars 0285 04-20 June 2026 was conducted and hosted by the RHFC in Kitchener ON with instructors from the RHFC, 11th Field Artillery Regiment RCA and 4RCR with the range work conducted at Caen Pad at 4CDTC Meaford ON.

Basic Mortars 0285 04-20 June 2026

Caen Pad 4CDTC Meaford Ontario June 2026

Photo by Cpl Josh Cheon

Basic Mortars Group 0285 04-20 June 2026

Row 1 left to right: Cpl Montgomery, Cpl Bolton, Cpl Kirkham, Bdr Snider, Cpl Burton, Cpl Howie, Cpl Tieleman, Cpl Hobden, Mcpl Boyd
Row 2: Fus Barko, MBdr Ward, Cpl Qazi, Fus Padfield, Fus Noonan, Fus Grossi
June 2026 4CDTC Meaford ON

Photo and information provided by Cpl Josh Cheon

Rank Qualification Infantry Private Course

The Rank Qualification Infantry Private (RQIP) serial 0088 was a full-time infantry qualification course conducted at the Cambridge Col JA Macintosh Armoury, CFB Borden and 4CDTC Meaford.

Instructors included personnel from the RHFC and the LWR. Candidates were also made up of recruits from both the RHFC and the LWR Regiments. The majority of the candidates were from the most recent high school co-op course. The course started 05 July ran through to the graduation parade held 18 August.

Throughout the course, candidates were taught and practiced everything there was to know about how to be an effective infantry soldier. Skills learned included, but not limited to marksmanship with various CF small arms and machine guns, fragmentation grenades, and advanced fieldcraft including - cam and concealment, personal hygiene, living in the field over extended periods and many other required soldiering necessities.

Despite encountering blistering heat, pouring rain, fatigue, and flooded trenches, they persevered and completed the course and were celebrated in their achievements at a graduation ceremony on 18 August at the Cambridge Armoury attended by instructors, staff, unit members and many family and friends.

Congratulations RQIP Serial 0088 Candidates and Staff - Field

Photos and information provided by Cpl Josh Cheon

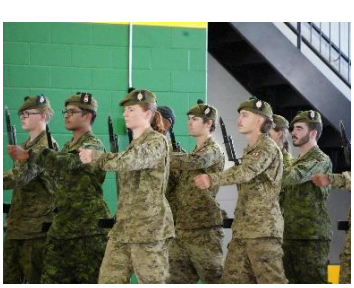
Rank Qualification Infantry Private Course Graduation Parade

On Tuesday August 18, 2026 140+ guests witnessed the graduation of 45 fusiliers/privates for the Royal Highland Fusiliers of Canada and the Lincoln and Welland Regiments at the Cambridge Col JA MacIntosh Armoury. In attendance were many family members and friends of the graduating soldiers and many of the Old Guard from the RHFC and the LWR were also on hand to support the newly qualified soldiers.

These new soldiers excelled at their drill on the parade square in front of a great crowd that gathered to witness their graduation. The professionalism displayed on the parade square was a great testament to the quality of the new soldiers and of their instructors.

Many of these soldiers went onto participate at Exercise Arrowhead Guardian 2026 in Grayling Michigan, not only to test their new found abilities, but to build on them. In the near future and in the coming years, they will no doubt carry on with various other military trade and leadership courses, of which there are many options.

Congratulations Fusiliers and Privates!



Photos provided by Cpl Kirkham

Fus Zulauf - Top Candidate Fus Gilbert - Top Esprit de Corps Fus Pinellis - Most Improved

Photos provided by Cpl Kirkham

CO LCol Jason Robinson personally presents each soldier with their new rank and cap badge

CO LCol Jason Robinson officially recognizes the Regiment's newly qualified Infantry Soldiers

Congratulations RQIP Serial 0088 Candidates and Staff - Garrison

Photo provided by Cpl Kirkham

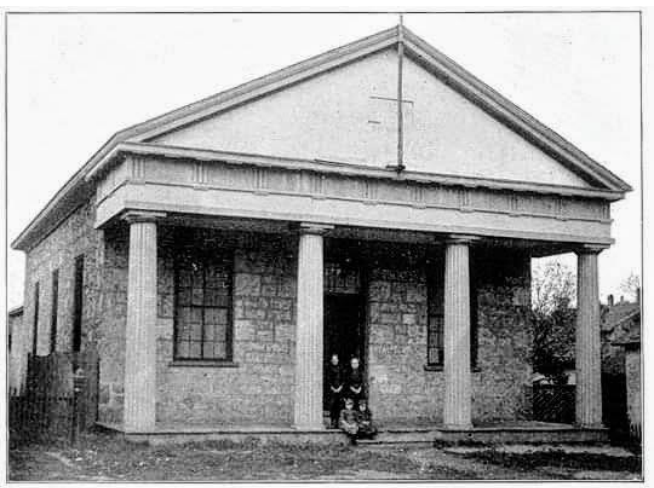
ISCC Graduation at 4CDTC Meaford 2026

Congratulations to Goertz, Hodgkins and Webster-Powley on their promotions to Master Corporal

Photo provided by LCol Jason Robinson

The First Galt Armoury!

Submitted by Mr. Tom Fornier (White Hackle Council Member)



29TH REGIMENT ARMORY FOR GALT COMPANIES.
(FORMERLY GIRLS DEPT. OF G. C. I.)

Did you know that there was an armoury in downtown Galt that predated the current Colonel J.A. McIntosh, DSO, ED Armoury?

Not only was there an earlier armoury at a different location, but that building came with its own fascinating history!

In the early history of the Galt Collegiate Institute, it attracted students not only locally but also from Hamilton, Toronto, Montreal, Quebec and Halifax. There were also students who had come from the United States. The Ontario Department of Education was formed in 1871, and the Galt school was one of six in Ontario designated as a Collegiate Institute (local college). It was by far, the largest of the six.

It had a big problem. It was exclusively for boys. New regulations specified that collegiates had to accommodate both boys and girls.

There was a rather interesting approach to this problem. In 1872 the Galt Board purchased the Wesleyan Chapel and created an all-girls school. It operated as an independent school until the Board decided to make the main Collegiate co-educational. The former Wesleyan Chapel was sold to The Crown for $750, and it became the Galt Armoury from 1881 to 1914.

This would have been the home to a Galt company of the 29th Waterloo Battalion of Infantry.

There is also mention of a Galt High School cadet drill company which may have used the building as well.

There are various addresses for its location given as North Street (currently known as Thorne Street) and also 58 Ainslie Street North which would give its location as approximately where the Cambridge Martial Arts Academy stands.

A publication from the Waterloo Historical Society in 1958 included an article by Andrew Taylor which suggested the building was still standing at that time and included a plea for its preservation. Is it the Martial Arts Academy? It would be interesting to confirm!

From the Desk of the Honorary Colonel

Service, Connection and Momentum

From welcoming new recruits at the Armoury to Army Modernization, Council work and community outreach, the Tartan Patch gives me the opportunity to reflect on a summer of connection with the Regiment and the broader Canadian Armed Forces family.

The past several months have continued to reaffirm what makes it so meaningful to serve as Honorary Colonel: the opportunity to support our soldiers, strengthen our regimental family and help connect the RHFC with the wider Canadian Armed Forces community. From summer gatherings and recruiting activity to upcoming Army Week engagement, the pace has remained steady and purposeful.

A Busy Season with the Regiment

It has been a full and rewarding summer with the Regiment, with several moments that reminded me why this role means so much. In June, I attended the Empire Club speaker event featuring Lieutenant-General Michael

Wright, Commander of the Canadian Army, where the Royal Highland Fusiliers of Canada were recognized with a “shout-out” from the General in front of more than 1,000 people. A week later, I joined Council at the Kitchener Armoury to serve soldiers at the annual stand-down BBQ. Those less formal chances to spend time together are always meaningful, and they help keep the connection between Council, the soldiers and the broader regimental family strong.

Over the summer, I was able to spend time at the Armoury with new recruits, attend an RHFC lunch in Kitchener that included milestone birthday celebrations for our CO and Owen Lackenbauer, and attend the stand-down of 4th Division at Denison Armoury. That event was both historic and moving, but it also carried a sense of optimism as the Army continues its modernization efforts. September is also shaping up to be busy, with the Foresters’ Change of Command and 160th Anniversary in Barrie, the RHFC Council meeting, the Honorary Colonel Townhall during Army Week, and the stand-up of 2nd Division in Montreal. Taken together, these events reflect the depth, pride and momentum across the Regiment and the broader Canadian Armed Forces community.

Council, Community and Connection

This month’s RHFC White Hackle Council meeting will begin another important cycle of work. With committee confirmations and membership discussions on the agenda, Council will continue to strengthen the structure behind our support for the Regiment. This work may not always be the most visible part of regimental life, but it is essential to keeping our efforts organized, sustainable and focused.

I have also been invited to appear on B2B, the radio show hosted by the Cambridge Chamber and the Greater Kitchener-Waterloo and area Chamber. We will be taping the interview on September 17, and I will share the link in the next Tartan Patch.

Community outreach remains a priority as well. I am looking forward to speaking at two Rotary Clubs, one in November and another in January, about the RHFC, the role of the Regiment and the importance of continued community support. These opportunities help build understanding beyond the Armoury, strengthen local relationships, create potential employment connections for soldiers and open the door to broader sponsorship support for the Regiment.

Looking Ahead

In the months ahead, my focus remains on strengthening relationships across the Regiment, supporting Council and committee work, and continuing to build connections between the RHFC, local employers and the wider Canadian Armed Forces community. I remain grateful for the professionalism of our soldiers and the leadership that guides them. The momentum is real, and there is much to look forward to.

Defence not Defiance

HCol Jane Klugman

It’s a GREAT day to be a Fusilier!

From the Desk of the CO

Friends of the Regiment,

As we transition into the fall training cycle, I am incredibly proud to look back on a historic and highly productive summer for the Royal Highland Fusiliers of Canada. Our soldiers, and leadership have demonstrated exceptional dedication, navigated major structural transformations while maintaining peak operational readiness.

First and foremost, the summer marked a massive milestone in Canadian Army modernization. We have officially stood up our new Tactical Grouping, combining operational forces with our partners in the Lincoln and Welland Regiment. This strategic evolution enhances our overall training efficiency, readiness, and battlefield effectiveness.

Alongside this, our recent Change of Command and Change of Stick parades signaled a smooth transition of leadership, allowing us to hit the ground running for the 2026–2027 training year.

On the operational front, our primary focus has been heavy engagement with the 31 Canadian Brigade Group. Our personnel recently deployed to Grayling, Michigan, for Exercise ARROWHEAD GUARDIAN 26. This exercise targeted modern defensive operations, testing our troops in drone force protection, tactical battlespace management, digging in, and complex obstacle preparation. I am pleased to report our soldiers excelled in both defensive strategies and vital offensive patrolling, showing exactly what a highly prepared primary reserve infantry unit looks like.
Our Pipes & Drums had an exceptionally demanding and high-profile summer as well. From national tasks in Ottawa to performing at Canada Day celebrations, the Meaford Change of Command Parade, and the legendary Fergus Scottish Festival, our musicians have been outstanding ambassadors for the White Hackle.

Closer to home, our community presence remains ironclad. Honorary Colonel Jane Klugman continues her tireless outreach within the Waterloo Region, while the White Hackle Council and Regimental Museum team have made great strides in maintaining our heritage.

Looking forward, we have welcomed a wave of new members through our active recruiting initiatives. As our newest Fusiliers begin their drill and ceremonial training, and our affiliated Cadet Corps in Cambridge and Kitchener stand up their training years, the future of this regiment looks bright.

Thank you all for your continued service, resilience, and support.

Defence Not Defiance

Lieutenant-Colonel Jason Robinson, CD
Commanding Officer
The Royal Highland Fusiliers of Canada

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.

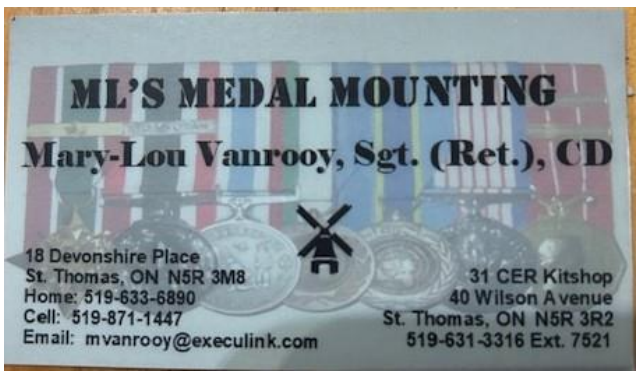
There are former Fusiliers that have not yet received an Association Old Guard Coin, the only requirements are that you have served with the Regiment and you are not in possession of a numbered RHFC Regimental coin - please contact us to receive your, no cost to you numbered coin. The Old Guard coin 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 (HF of C, HLI of C, SF of C, 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 **OLD GUARD PIN**

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.