



The Blue Beret

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Introduction and Editorial

Welcome to your first edition of the new and revised Blue Beret. It is with great pride and pleasure, that I introduce you to this publication. Because this is the first printing of the revised Blue Beret, we will endeavour to provide you with as much information as possible, in a timely manner. We will resume publishing this newsletter in January, July and October. I have indicated in the next pages, what are some examples of the type of information, that I feel might be of interest to all our readers. This first edition is solely a trial edition, and it is being presented in this format for your comments, suggestions, and ideas. We want to present a format that is giving information about what is happening within our great organization. The most important part of this publication is "you." You are the reason for this publication, and it will be you, who we will depend upon for any items printed in this newsletter. We will advise you with all information that we find, that is useful. It is your contributions that will make the difference. In order to make this newsletter a worthwhile project for all of us. Please support it. Thank you. Tom O'Keefe - Editor

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Introduction to new format
- 2 About the CPVA
- 3 New appointment for CPVA in Ottawa
- 4 Assorted items
- 5 President's Message on Remembrance Day 2013

THE BLUE BERET

PUBLICATION ADVISORY

The Blue Beret Newsletter is an official publication of the Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association (CPVA) registered with Library & Archives Canada.

PUBLISHING

The Blue Beret is published in January, July and October. We welcome all items or interest to veterans. Articles should be provided at least two weeks prior to the month of publication and be submitted in electronic format. Please address queries, comments and articles to the Editor at tjok107@gmail.com

The Blue Beret is available on the CPVA website at www.cpva.ca.

DISCLAIMER

Opinions expressed by contributors in The Blue Beret are not necessary those of the CPVA. An Editorial Review Board reviews all articles for form and content.

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THE ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1991 by former Canadian Peacekeepers and federally incorporated in 1993, the Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association (CPVA) is a national, democratic, apolitical, non-profit, veterans-only organization open to all veterans. The CPVA is neither a sect nor a paramilitary organization.



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ABOUT THE CANADIAN PEACEKEEPING VETERANS ASSOCIATION (CPVA)

The CPVA, founded in 1991, is a national, all Veteran, all volunteer, not-for-profit, apolitical organization with Chapters from Vancouver Island to St. John's, Newfoundland. It has its Headquarters in Kingston, Ontario and is not funded by the Government in any way. Our Mission Statement is: "To be a strong and leading advocate for all Veterans and to provide a forum of comradeship for Veterans". The CPVA is a true, stable, national organization and its Constitution opens the doors to membership to any Veteran from WW2, Korea, NATO, UN missions and any other related military or police operations and includes all varieties of veterans from WW 2 to Afghanistan, even with some international members.

In addition to its long-term work for Veterans, which has produced substantial gains, CPVA has a number of notable organizational strengths such as an extremely effective governance, real democratic representation of all members and a nationwide communications network which reaches virtually all veterans and a large portion of the CF. As well, the CPVA has a bona fide behavioural sciences capability and component. Below is a summary of some of the Association's achievements and capabilities

CPVA's proposal in the late 1990's led to the establishment of the VAC-Canadian Forces Advisory Council, the first forum established by VAC to allow CF (modern-day) Veterans organizations to participate equally at the table with the traditional Veterans organizations.

CPVA in its over two decades of existence has provided the Canadian Veterans community with focused, knowledgeable, innovative and cooperative leadership. This leadership has reached far beyond our own membership and has expressed itself in many ways, ways that have benefited all Canadian Veterans. The Veterans Bill of Rights, the Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal, the 1-800 VAC assistance line, the Veteran's Ombudsman and the 9th of August National Peacekeepers' Day being just four achievements of such benefits. The CPVA has also made several appearances at the hearings of the House Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs to provide input about various Veterans issues.

CPVA has consistently worked cooperatively, albeit without always being in agreement, with the Minister of Veterans Affairs and senior VAC staff providing them with innovative suggestions on a wide variety of topics. Topics such as a comprehensive method of validating VAC's statistics, rational and reasonable ideas on how to resolve the on-going issue of cash versus disability pension, and other ways to improve the NVC and VAC support to veterans. The Association has always provided strong membership and leadership to numerous VAC committees, working and advisory groups, NVC regulatory discussions, etc. At present, the CPVA is a member of the VAC Stakeholders Committee. CPVA, alone amongst Veterans associations, has taken the initiative to recognize the VAC staff for good support and service to Veterans with its outstanding national and regional service awards program.

CPVA's steady and active leadership to the Canadian Veterans community, while avoiding public confrontation with VAC, has earned it a reputation for being a straight-shooting Veterans organization that has a proven and recognized capacity to reach far beyond its own membership to influence events and activities affecting all Canadian Veterans. CPVA is a staunch member of the Veterans Consultation Group and fully supports the collective initiatives of the Group of 17 Veterans groups.

New CPVA Appointment in Ottawa

It is a pleasure to introduce Col (Ret'd) Tim Sparling, CD as a CPVA representative in Ottawa. Tim's bio is listed below. He has been appointed as Vice President External Affairs. Welcome aboard Tim, we thank you for your significant service to Canada and look for many good things to come from having you as one of us. We are very fortunate to have Tim as a member of the CPVA.



Colonel Timothy Sparling, CD (Ret'd)

Born in Ottawa, Tim Sparling received his post secondary education at Le Collège militaire royal de St Jean and the Royal Military College in Kingston Ontario, graduating in 1966. He is a graduate of the Canadian Forces Staff College (1974) and eight years later spent three years as a member of the Directing staff at the Canadian Forces Command and Staff College. He served in a variety of appointments with the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery in Petawawa, Valcartier and Lahr Germany, culminating in the command of Le 5^e Régiment d'artillerie légère du Canada. He served in a number of appointments abroad including two tours with the United Nations Force in Cyprus. He also served as Canadian Forces Attaché in Oslo with cross accreditation to Stockholm and Copenhagen, and four years with a major NATO command (AFCENT) in Brunssum Netherlands.

Prior to his retirement from the Canadian Forces in 1995, Tim Sparling was the Director of International Policy in National Defence Headquarters where he was responsible for the development of peacekeeping policy as well as bilateral defence relations with the countries of Asia Pacific, Africa and the Middle East. For his efforts in this field he was awarded the Chief of Defence Staff Commendation.

Following retirement from the Canadian Forces, Mr Sparling spent two years as Vice President of The Pearson Peacekeeping Centre. In 1997 he returned to Ottawa and became involved in a number of consulting activities in Ottawa and Kingston, prior to complete retirement in 2006. He is a Past President of the RMC Club, and a current member of the Board of the RMC Club Foundation. He is also involved on the executive of his cycling club, assisting with Seniors golf at his golf club and as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Ottawa Branch of the RMC Club. He is also a volunteer driver for the Canadian Cancer Society. He spends a lot of time on the golf course and cycling in the summer and on the cross-country ski trails in the winter. He and his wife Chris live just outside Carp ON. They have two sons, Andrew (Manon), and Rob (Sophie), and have discovered their second childhood playing with their two granddaughters and their grandson.

Branch to be re-named

Gord Rittwage, president of the Collins Bay branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, stands in front of a memorial to the Canadians killed in Afghanistan. The branch will be re-named after one of them, Capt. Matthew Dawe.



Royal Canadian Navy - Mascot



SONAR - The Royal Canadian Navy's Official Mascot, who is based on a Newfoundland dog, was "recruited" into the navy in 2010 as part of the navy's centennial celebrations. Ship's mascots, especially dogs, have been part of navies since the first ships sailed from their home ports. Used for many purposes, including security and companionship for crews, mascots are important members of any navy. SONAR acts as a proud ambassador for the RCN and may be requested to attend a variety of larger gatherings such as community parades and sporting events, and as shown above, bringing joy and happiness to hospitals.

Special note:- Request to all Chapter Secretaries, if you have any item or pieces of information that you think would be of interest to the rest of CPVA membership, we would welcome your contributions. Your support would be greatly appreciated, and I'm sure all our members would welcome what you might have. It is very important to this publication, that all Chapters and members be involved. Thank you for your future considerations.

Respectfully,

The Editor.

YOU MAY CALL ME A VETERAN

By: author unknown

HONOUR – simply put, is a veteran, whether regular forces or reserve, active or retired, is someone who, at one point in their life, wrote a blank cheque made payable to “The Dominion of Canada,” for an Amount of “up to and including their life.” That is honour..... Unfortunately there are way too many people in this country, who do not understand it.



CANADIAN PEACEKEEPING VETERANS ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ON REMEMBRANCE DAY 2013

As the dawning of another 11th day of the 11th month is nearly upon us, Veterans and other Canadians throughout this great and wonderful land of ours will gather at the 11th hour to remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice by giving their lives in the service of Canada. The fallen of the two World Wars, Korea, the over 50 years of peacekeeping, peace support and humanitarian related missions all around the world, and most recently, Afghanistan, will be commemorated with sadness. The tragedy of the loss of those for whom the unlimited liability clause became a cruel reality will weigh heavily on our minds. However, in addition to sorrow, we will also feel pride and profound respect and honour for those who died so bravely on behalf of their country.

Those who have fallen have given the most selfless and noble of gifts, their lives. It is our duty to remember and honour the courageous men and women who sacrificed their lives for the most sacred of causes, service to their country, and it is also our obligation to ensure that all Canadians do so, with dignity. We very respectfully wear the red poppy in their memory. While remembering the dead, we must not forget the thousands upon thousands of wounded Veterans who were injured when they were put in harm's way in the service of Canada.

Remembrance Day is a natural time for comradeship with fellow Veterans. Sharing can give life in our memories to those who are no longer with us. It is also a day for all Veterans to be very proud of the service that we have given to our country and the world.

Many of you have already participated in Remembrance activities such as school and Veterans hospital visits and hopefully all who are able will take part in Remembrance Day parades and services. On this Remembrance Day 2013, I take the opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude for your dedicated and invaluable work on behalf of Veterans and the CPVA. Finally, I wish you a Remembrance Day filled with a rewarding feeling and satisfaction for your service and contributions, and warm comradeship with those who share your pride in being a Veteran.

Lest We Forget

Respectfully

Ray Kokkonen