



Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News Nov 26, 2013

Wednesday Lunches

Note: Christmas stand down for local units has been set and the Armoury will be closed through that period. Last lunch (*see note below*), which is always a Ladies' lunch, will be **Dec 11th** and the first lunch of 2014 will be **Jan 8th**.

Guests and visitors are always welcome. People these days, especially civilians, don't think about dress much and, if not pre-warned, will show up in very casual dress so, to avoid embarrassment, please make them aware of the dress requirements (suit/blazer and tie, equivalent for ladies) before they come.

NOABC Monthly Lunch Speaker - 27 November

This month we will welcome LCDR Ralph Underhill, RCN - Canadian Detachment Commander of Naval Ocean Processing Facility Whidbey Island. Ralph will talk about his detachment of RCN sailors, who are part of the Integrated Undersea Surveillance System providing "timely and accurate acoustic cueing" to Theatre ASW Commanders. This detachment is a continuation of the involvement in undersea surveillance that Canada has been involved in for half a century, but has only been on Whidbey Island for 23 years. For the majority of the time that this work has been done, it's been so secret that the world wasn't told it was going on and even the military nearby didn't know it was happening. LCDR Underhill will talk in a bit more detail on November 27th.

Upcoming events at 15 Field Regiment

CO's Christmas Tea- The annual Tea will take place on Sunday, Dec 15th. Always a great event - cost **\$20pp**, Mrs Lum's fantastic hors d'oeuvres are featured and the Band is sending the Quay Winds to give the event some class. This event is Semi-formal so Suit/Blazer and tie required for the men, cocktail dresses for the ladies.

NOTE: *Mrs Lum needs a good idea on numbers attending the last lunch and the Tea so we have put a sign-up sheet at the bar and ask that anyone planning to attend these events put down their name and the number in their party. If you won't be in to sign up before the event, please email me the details and I will put you on the list*

New Year's Day Levée Messes open to receive visitors at 1100hrs. A light lunch will be served starting around noon.

A Purse for Mrs Lum

Every year in December, we collect from lunch attendees to create a 'purse' for Mrs Lum. This is traditionally presented on the last lunch of the year. Anybody wishing to contribute can see me in the Mess and sign a Christmas card, to be presented to her with the purse.

St Barbara's Day Special Guest Night. 7 Dec. The RSVP deadline for this dinner was a couple of days ago. If you want to attend and haven't replied, you had better quickly contact Capt Baxter -(604) 666-4372- and talk really nice to him (and keep your fingers crossed).

'Closure' At the Jericho Arts Centre

The play 'Closure' is about a Canadian flyer who had been sent to the UK during WWII and had a liaison with a local girl. He came back to Canada not knowing he has fathered a child. This is a story of anger, denial, and eventual acceptance of this particular quirk of fate for Gordon Devereaux, who had very early on closed the book on the War.

The play, on now, runs Thursday through Sunday until Dec 1st, starting at 8:00 pm. That last Sunday is a 2:00pm matinee. The tickets are very reasonable at \$16 or \$18, adult or senior Thursdays and Sundays, and \$18 or \$20 Fridays and Saturdays. Veterans get \$2 off.

More information available on the website : www.jerichoartscentre.com

Veterans burial fund has more money, but access still restricted:

budget office By Murray Brewster, The Canadian Press November 4, 2013

OTTAWA - Despite changes made last spring to a federal fund meant to give impoverished veterans a dignified burial, the agency is expected to spend less than a third of what it was allocated in the last budget. A new report by the parliamentary budget office estimates that only \$18.4 million of the \$65 million set aside for the Last Post Fund, which is overseen by Veterans Affairs, will actually be handed out. The government was put in an embarrassing position last year when it was revealed that the fund had rejected 67 per cent of the requests put before it in the previous five years.

The last federal budget increased the amount of money available for funeral expenses, but did not loosen the eligibility criteria, which have not been revised in decades. The rules essentially exclude many modern-day soldiers who served in the Cold War and Afghanistan and impose a means test that says a qualifying veteran's annual income must have been less than \$12,010 per year. Since the program is geared towards a dwindling population of Second World War and Korean veterans, the spending will be much less than what has been budgeted. The budget office estimates the changes will mean an incremental bump this year of \$3.6 million for the fund. It will plateau the following year and begin to decline.

"A slight increase in the number of projected mortalities is anticipated to increase the incremental costs to the Last Post Fund in 2014-15, followed by a steady decline in veteran mortalities and total costs to the fund," said the report, which was prepared at the request of the Liberals.

The fund has faced an increasing number of requests to bury poor ex-soldiers who don't qualify under existing regulations and it took to private fundraising to order to help in some cases. Since it began canvassing for donations two years ago, the fund has used \$93,000 to bury 29 ineligible vets. In a fundraising letter, retired lieutenant-general Louis Cuppens, a past

president of the fund, pointed out that Corrections Canada pays for the funerals and grave markers of dead inmates. "A veteran is not a convict and deserves our gratitude," wrote Cuppens. Often, the fund gets requests from municipalities looking to bury homeless veterans. In its recent throne speech, the Harper government promised to pay closer attention to ex-soldiers who end up on the streets. Before the changes last spring, the federal government only contributed \$3,600 toward the funerals of destitute ex-soldiers, a figure that is substantially lower than what some social services departments pay for the burial of the homeless and those on welfare. The current entitlement can run up to \$7,376, depending on a veteran's income. Other expenses, including the provision of a casket or urn, ceremonial services, death notices and transportation costs, also became eligible for reimbursement, according to the new report. Joshua Zanin, a spokesman for Veterans Affairs Minister Julian Fantino, said 57 per cent of applicants will qualify for the maximum benefit under the program. "Our government continues to work with stakeholders in order to ensure funeral programs continue to meet the needs of veterans and their families," Zanin said.

Analysts in the budget office want to see a full accounting of these "other" entitlements. "At the time of the publication of this report, a complete list of eligible program expense items was not available," said the report. "(Veterans Affairs) indicates eligible expense categories will be clarified in the program's policy, yet to be published."

CBSA Being Issued with New Beretta Handguns

ACCOKEEK, Md., April 23 /PRNewswire/ — Beretta U.S.A. today announced it has been awarded a multi-year contract from the Canada Border Services Agency effective immediately. This government-to-business contract will provide the soon to be armed Canadian agency with the Beretta Model Px4 Storm semi-automatic pistol in 9mm, double action with tritium sights. The contract's initial order is for 2,400 units, with additional options allowing orders of up to 6,400 total units. As part of the contract, Beretta USA will train the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Armourer Section to become a warranty center for the product in support of the Canada Border Services Agency. The Beretta Px4 Storm offers a number of unique features including interchangeable back straps that make it adaptable to different hand sizes, an ambidextrous manual safety lever ideally positioned on both sides of the slide for easy access by all shooters and a reversible magazine release button that can be mounted on either side and can quickly be replaced by a smaller or larger size button depending on the users preference. The interchangeable back strap and the ability to easily customize the Px4 Storm for individualized comfort and use make the pistol a versatile choice for law enforcement departments that have firearm users with a wide range of hand sizes. In addition to the product features of the Px4 Storm, this Beretta semi-automatic pistol offers unsurpassed reliability in the field. During the CBSA evaluation, the Beretta Px4 Storm dramatically exceeded reliability and adverse test conditions, including testing at -40 degrees Centigrade. According to Jeff Reh, Vice-General Manager for Beretta USA Corp, "We are honoured to have been chosen for this prestigious contract by the Canada Border Services Agency. The Canadian Government has chosen a state-of-the-art pistol to match the increasingly challenging mission of providing

border security. We look forward to working with the CBSA to satisfy the needs of this important department.”

These pistols are being built in the US, and all benefit goes to Beretta, USA. CBSA officers are receiving their shiny new Berettas now. Meanwhile, the CF is using pistols that are roughly between 20 and 65(!) years old. They reached the end of their service life when soldiers serving today were little. Yet, like so much else of our equipment, we are squeezing more life out of them.

It is past time that our current service side arms are replaced. The Army’s Browning Hi-Powers date from WW2 and are notorious for magazines falling out while firing (which is a problem if you find yourself in a situation where your life depends on that sidearm), and the Navy’s and MP’s SIG-Sauer P225s (from the 1970s) are worn out to the point that the springs crack or break, rendering the weapon inoperative until replacement.

On Oct 17, 2011, The Ottawa Citizen reported that the P&A for new Army handguns had been cancelled because potential suppliers objected to its requirement to supplying proprietary details to Colt Canada. No suppliers regarded this small order as worth surrendering industrial secrets.” Now, the above is a matter of record; it is (somewhat) known that the selection was down to the SIG-Sauer P226 or the 4th-generation Glock 17, at which point the government informed the suppliers that the design would have to be licensed to Colt Canada, to allow 10,000 pistols to be built in-country.

In this day and age, the phrase “Industrial & Regional Benefit” is tossed around a lot. Basically, the idea is to provide economic benefit to Canada for any government procurement (another example is the National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy). So, the CF cannot have new handguns until they are built in Canada. Why, then, is the Canada Border Services Agency, another federal government agency, allowed to arm their officers with 6,400 Beretta PX4 Storm pistols purchased in the US? These pistols are being built in the US, and all benefit goes to Beretta USA. CBSA officers are receiving their shiny new Berettas at this time. Meanwhile, CF personnel are using pistols that are roughly between 20 and 65(!) years old. They reached the end of their service life when most serving soldiers were little. Yet, like so much else of our CF equipment, more life is being squeezed out of them. It is unfortunate that this seems to be one of those issues where a CF member must be hurt or killed before something changes. At what point does IRB become worth it?

If this government really cares about its military, it must relax some of its inflexible rules. Providing economic benefits to Canada is well and good, but the effectiveness of the equipment and receiving it in a timely manner should take priority.”

Satellite imagery reveals mystery 'supergun' in Chinese desert

Sean O'Connor, Indianapolis - IHS Jane's Defence Weekly [13 November 2013](#)

Satellite imagery has revealed two unusually large artillery pieces, measuring about 80 ft and 110 ft respectively, at a test centre for armour and artillery northwest of Baotou in China.

The two pieces, which are horizontally mounted, are mounted on a concrete pad that appeared between September 2010 and December 2011, when the two pieces were first captured by satellite imagery. Images provided by Astrium confirmed that the objects were still in place in July 2013.



Astrium imagery dated 19 July 2013 shows two objects under testing at an armour and artillery test complex near Baotou, China. (CNES 2013, Distributed Astrium Services/Spot Images)

The 2011 imagery clearly depicts a series of what appear to be targets in front of the 110 ft piece, suggesting some kind of penetration testing for high-velocity

projectiles. China has historically shown interest in large calibre, long-range artillery. It experimented with the Xianfeng 'supergun' in the 1970s as part of Project 640 anti-ballistic missile programme. Approximately 85 ft long, Xianfeng may be the smaller of the two objects retained for experimental use after its cancellation in 1980. In the 1990s it was revealed that China had built a long-range 'supergun' technology test bed similar to the Iraqi Project Babylon supergun designed by Gerald Bull. *IHS Jane's Land Warfare Platforms: Artillery & Air Defence* notes that Bull was heavily involved in designing long-range Chinese artillery systems for Norinco in the 1980s.

The larger Baotou artillery piece outwardly resembles the Project Babylon 'supergun', which was theoretically capable of extreme-range artillery barrages or of targeting orbiting satellites. Bull's 'Baby Babylon' test bed measured 150 ft in length, compared with the 105 ft-long larger piece at Baotou.

Comment from Defense Weekly: Although the Baotou pieces appear similar in design to the Bull 'supergun' concept, it seems unlikely that they are intended for long-range artillery barrages or anti-satellite operations given China's extensive long-term development of ballistic missiles for both of these missions. Alternatively, the devices could also be railgun prototypes, although this appears unlikely as there is no significant external power routed to the test pad and a lack of environmental protection. The other possibility is that China is simply reusing the legacy systems from its long-range artillery programmes from the 1970s and 1990s as part of a projectile test range - a view that is supported by the presence of what appears to be 'used' targets on the northwest side of the pad.

In 1942, he flew down the Champs-Elysees at 30ft

Wing Commander Ken Gatward flew down the Champs-Elysees at 30ft to leave the French Tricolour over the Arc de Triomphe. The pilot then attacked the Gestapo headquarters with 20 mm shells.



Inspiring: Wing Commander Ken Gatward became an international hero after dropping the French flag on the Arc de Triomphe in occupied France.

The incredible story of how a RAF pilot flew down the Champs-Elysees to drop a French flag over Nazi-occupied Paris has emerged after his medals were put up for sale. Wing Commander Ken Gatward managed the 'impossible feat' of flying his Bristol Beaufighter down the Champs-Elysees at 30ft before dropping the French Tricolour over the Arc de Triomphe. The daring act was a symbol of hope to the occupied French as the Arc honours those who fought and died for France in the French Revolutionary and the Napoleonic Wars. The British pilot then headed towards the Gestapo headquarters which he littered with 20mm shells - helping to boost morale in Paris when it was most needed. The attack sent the German SS troops running for their lives, to the delight of the

Parisians who had seen them as an invincible enemy up until that point.

Daring: Ken Gatward needed to fly his Bristol Beaufighter at 30ft down the Champs-Elysees for the mission.



The brave pilot volunteered for the dare-devil mission to boost the morale of the French and put the wind up the Germans. Wing Commander Gatward's inspirational antics were celebrated in British newspaper cartoons and raised the hope and morale among the British and French. One of the cartoons depicted his aircraft

doing a loop around the Eiffel Tower, with the word 'Hope' written in the sky using his trail smoke.

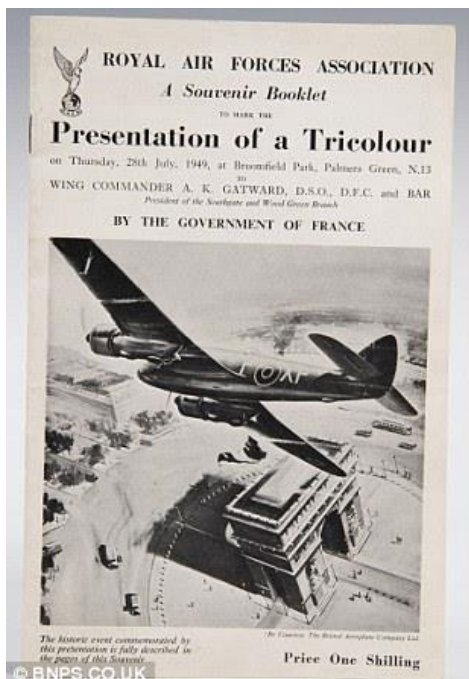
He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and, after the war, he was hailed a hero by the French government who presented him with a huge bottle of Champagne and a Tricolour in Paris.



Wing Commander Gatward's medal set, that includes his DFC with bar and a Distinguished Service Order, have now been put up for auction after the recent death of his widow.

The incredible feat in June 1942 gave a much-needed boost to French morale and was celebrated in the press with cartoons similar to the one shown above.

Being sold with it are the pilot's log books and the wooden commemorative Champagne case inscribed with the words 'In Remembrance of Your Flight Over Paris'. A souvenir booklet featuring a sketch of the moment Wing Commander Gatward and his observer dropped the Tricolour over the Arc de Triomphe with German army trucks on the ground is also being sold. James Grinter, of auctioneers Reeman Dansie of Colchester, Essex, said: 'Ken Gatward's act of bravery is a real Boy's Own story.'



Honour: Ken Gatward was presented with a Tricolour by the grateful French in 1949.

“He was asked to volunteer for the ‘unsafe mission’ which was aimed as boosting the morale of the French and British people as well as undermine the Germans. This is June 1942 and the real dark days of war for the French and this was to demonstrate that the Germans weren’t invincible.”

“Wing Cdr Gatward was chosen for the sortie as he had demonstrated a skill for accurate flying during low-level attacks on enemy positions after Dunkirk. The British had been informed the Germans held daily parades down the Champs-Elysees and he was asked to strafe the parade. He

and his navigator, Flight Sergeant George Fern, took off from Thorny Island, near Portsmouth, on June 12. After reaching Paris, he flew at just 30ft before Flight Sergeant Fern released the flag down the flare chute and over the Arc de Triomphe.”



Auctioneers Reeman and Dansie are selling Gatward's medal set.

Mr Grinter said: "It is an amazing story - one of those that makes the hairs on the back of your neck stand up. He flew down the Champs-Elysees at second floor window height. It was an incredible act of bravery and a real audacious attack. He attacked the Gestapo HQ and SS troops were seen to run for their lives. As he turned for home, the Germans came out and shook their fists at him."

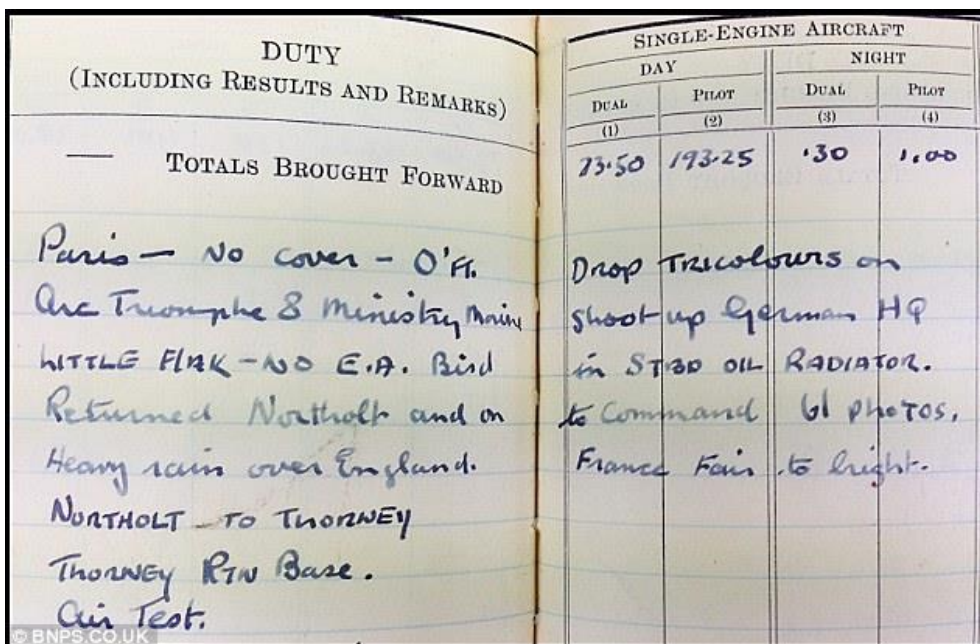
incredible act of bravery and a real audacious attack. He attacked the Gestapo HQ and SS troops were seen to run for their lives. As he turned for home, the Germans came out and shook their fists at him."



Helping the war effort: Ken Gatward's audacious flight significantly helped the morale of the French.

The attack gave Parisians one of the greatest thrills of the war and had a huge effect on the morale of the French and at home. When Wing Commander Gatward returned, he entered a very bland entry into his log book to record the daring raid. Wing Commander Gatward was awarded a second DFC in September 1944 for taking part in an aerial attack on a German convoy in Norwegian waters. He spent 30 years in the RAF before retiring. He lived in Frinton-on-Sea,

Essex, with wife Pamela and died in 1998 aged 84. His medals and other items were expected to sell for 8,000 pounds at auction.



Understated: Ken Gatward's bland log book entry for 12th June 1942 reads 'dropped Tricolour on Arc D'Triomphe, shot up German HQ, dead bird in radiator...'



In remembrance: Ken Gatward was also presented with a crate of Champagne by the French government.

The Rhythm of History Concert – LAST CALL!

Please see attached poster for our upcoming "THE RYHTHM OF HISTORY" Concert at Massey Theatre to celebrate 150 years of Music with The Royal Westminster Regimental Band. The concert will also feature special guest appearances by Entertainer Gillian Campbell and violinist Spencer Tsai. Please feel free to circulate this poster, or post it to your websites, Facebook etc, as you consider appropriate. It will be a wonderful evening of music to help celebrate the Regiment's 150th Anniversary Year.

Advance Tickets are on sale now at the Massey Box Office for \$10 (these advance tickets will qualify for a door prize draw). Call 604-521-5050 or purchase tickets online www.masseytheatre.com

All Military Personnel along with a family member will enjoy FREE Admission. All Children under 12 are FREE. This includes serving and retired members of the Canadian Armed Forces, all Legion Members, Regimental, Air and Naval Association Members and all Cadets. Please enter through the Military Gate with appropriate military ID. Everyone is welcome.

For more information about this concert and all our 150th Anniversary Year events, please visit the Celebration 150 Website of The Royal Westminster Regiment: www.150.royal-westies-assn.ca

Kind regards ,
Col Karen Baker-MacGrotty
Honorary Colonel The Royal Westminster Regiment

Who is it?

Last Week. The mystery photo was taken at the Yakima Firing Center, on 10 April 1982, during the regiment's post-exercise Smoker. It shows the Regimental Headquarters Team, in a borrowed US jeep, in a competitive Rodeo in which the blindfolded driver, relying on verbal instructions, navigated between tires in a race against the clock

Front L-R WO (later RSM) Mark Jackson, MCpl Laura (later married to Noel Dykes) Ritchie, Cpl Jennifer Ritchie driving (eventually Sgt and wife of Mark Jackson).



Rear L-R Cpl ?, Bill Amos (soon to be RSM), Cpl May from 5th Fd. Hanging on to the antenna mount is MWO Patterson from 7th Toronto Regt, who served with us for a few years when his employer moved him out here.

This Week's picture

This week's photo shows up in our archives twice, having been donated by two different people in two different years. It is, as is instantly obvious, a professionally shot photo. The lighting is perfect and the poses are what one expects from this style of photograph. All but one (second from left, no rank on his epaulette) are officers and all are wearing the RCA gun badge. The majors are wearing the king's crown on their shoulders and all the badges appear to have the same, dating the photo before



the reign of our current monarch. Everyone is intently observing something to the right, save for the major on the left who seems to have had his eye caught by something rather amusing to the left, out of view. The map in the middle of the photo is obviously what has got everyone, save for Major Bludnaught, focussed.

The terrain looks very much like that of Albert Head or Mary Hill, but who are these intrepid gunners? Do you know

them? Can you help us add some life to this little piece of history? Answers and ideas can be sent to the editor, or to the author, John Redmond ([johnd. redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd.redmond@telus.net))."

John Donald Redmond, LC, BA, MEd. Assistant Curator 15 Field Regiment, RCA, Museum and Archives

From the 'Punitentary'

What is the difference between a frog and a cat? The frog croaks all the time – a cat, only 9 times.

Murphy's other Laws

Laziness is the mother of nine invention out of ten.

Quotable Quotes

I'm a great believer that any tool that enhances communication has profound effects in terms of how people can learn from each other, and how they can achieve the kind of freedoms that they're interested in. - *Bill Gates*



THE BRITISH COLUMBIA REGIMENT (DCO) ASSOCIATION

You are invited to the

2013 Annual Christmas Fundraiser

When: Thursday, December 12, 2013

Time: 11:30 AM – Doors Open

Lunch: **Served from 12:15 to 12:30 PM**,
followed by Silent Auction and Raffle

Where: The Drill Hall
Home of The British Columbia Regiment (DCO)
620 Beatty Street,
Vancouver, BC

Tickets: \$35.00 if confirmed by Dec 5, 2013
\$40.00 if confirmed Dec 5- 12, 2011
Please note, cancellations after December 5 will be invoiced

Menu: Turkey - With all the trimmings!

- Silent Auction!
- The usual valuable lucky prize draws!
- If you can't attend, a donation is welcomed.*
- Funds raised help us to fund Association Bursaries, Commemorative events and numerous other projects of The BC Regiment (DCO) Association Charitable Trust.
- Enjoy great company, good food & have fun while helping a worthy cause.



RSVP by Thursday, December 5th, 2013 to: Gayle Hawthorne 604-421-1521 or e-mail to: ghawthorne@shaw.ca. * Please send any cheques to: The BC Regiment (DCO) Association Charitable Trust, c/o #208, 1899 Willingdon Avenue, Burnaby, B. C. V5C 5T1



150 YEARS OF MUSIC

WITH

The Royal Westminster Regimental Band

**SATURDAY
NOV. 30TH**

AT
**MASSEY
THEATRE**

Pre-Concert Reception

6:00 pm

Concert

7:00 pm

Advance Tickets: \$10

Advance Tickets include draw prize

Or Donations at the door

Children under 12 Free

Tickets available @ Massey Theatre

Box Office Phone: 604. 521. 5050



Visit: 150.royal-westies-assn.ca

LET'S SALUTE OUR MILITARY!

All Canadian Armed Forces, active and retired, including Legion members, Cadets and their families, will be honoured.

Free admission for military personnel.
Please show your military ID at the gate.

SHOW YOUR CANADIAN PATRIOTISM!

Wear uniforms, regimental blazers or wear red and white for Canada!

**SPECIAL GUEST
APPEARANCES**

Entertainer
**Gillian
Campbell**

and violinist
**Spencer
Tsai**



Korea

Curry Lunch



Hosted by:
*The British Columbia
Regiment
Officers' Mess*

Coordinated by:
*The BC Regiment
(DCO) Association*



- Date:** Thursday, November 28, 2013
- Time:** 11:45 am - 1:30 pm
(bar opens at 11:45am)
(presentation at 12:01pm)
(lunch starts at 12:20pm)
- Location:** Officers' Mess - The BC Regiment
620 Beatty Street, Vancouver, BC
- Dress:** Business Attire (jacket & tie, ladies similar)
- Price:** \$30/person (\$5 discount for those that confirm attendance by November 22, 2013)
- RSVP:** For more information or to register, please contact Bill Diamond at Bill@DukeaBear.com or 604.618.3607 (Please advise of any dietary needs with your RSVP)

Payment by cheque or cash will be accepted at the door
Cheques are payable to: The BC Regiment (DCO) Association
No cancellations after November 22, 2013

NEXT PLANNED LUNCH: Thursday, December 12, 2013