



## Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News Dec 2, 2014

### Wednesday Lunches

The 15 Field Officers Mess is the only Mess left still holding weekly lunches (the BCR Mess has a monthly lunch) and these lunches can only survive if sufficient numbers attend regularly. Attendance numbers have been down the last few weeks - we need your support to keep the lunches going. The Mess is back to 'winter' dress so dress for Wednesday lunches is suit/blazer/sports jacket and tie. Dress for ladies is the equivalent. Guests are always welcome.

### **Christmas Lunch break**

Last lunch of 2014 will be **Dec 10<sup>th</sup>**. Members are encouraged to bring Significant Others and guests. The first lunch of 2015 will be Jan 14<sup>th</sup>. **We are collecting for Mrs Lum's annual 'purse' at the next two lunches.**

### Commanding Officer's Tea - 2014

Sunday December 14th, 1400hrs

The cost, \$20pp, includes sherry, Mrs Lum's delicious hors d'oeuvres, as well as coffee and tea served by Regimental Ladies. The Regimental Band is sending one of its combos to entertain us as we mingle. The bar will be open for those of you who want more than sherry. Dress is suit and tie (or Regimental blazer and tie), Cocktail dresses for the Ladies. **Sign up at the bar. Or email me at [bob.mugford@shaw.ca](mailto:bob.mugford@shaw.ca) and I will put you on the list.**

### From the Journal of Capt Fred G Coxen RFA - 1914

**Nov 21<sup>st</sup>** I remained with the guns and George with the Gordons. We did considerable firing, but [with only] an occasional shell coming over, it was peace compared with the previous 17<sup>th</sup>. We were informed that we were to [be] relieved by the French. [We] were to be withdrawn and to have a rest, to refit and get made up in horses and men. I was also told that the Centre section had had a warm time. Hodges 19, my lube offman, was killed. Taylor 20, Farmer and several others wounded. We were elated at the idea of a rest, and a change from the ceaseless scrapping of the last weeks – and we sadly needed a rest.

**Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>** Left our position at dawn and marched to YPRES, the whole country was in a terrible condition, not a farm was standing – and the town itself was ruined. The beautiful buildings destroyed, how different when we marched through less than a month before. We got safely through the town and marched all day. It was very cold, [and] I walked most of the time, for my old charger could not keep his legs on the slippery roads. We arrived at night and billeted at a farm a few miles from MERRISS, where we were to stop and rest. How strange it seemed to be

away from the ceaseless roar of gun fire, etc. The sheds, barns, cow-houses in which we slept seemed to us like mansions.

**Dec 1<sup>st</sup>.** This, our period of rest, was greatly appreciated for a time, but soon became monotonous. Our Officers had short leaves, and I was fortunate, through the good graces of Major Madocks, to obtain 48 hours to BOULOGNE. He kindly gave my dear wife instructions on his arrival in England, how to get to BOULOGNE, time etc. I left camp on the evening of the 1st Dec and rode into HAZEBROUCK. [I] arrived by train at BOULOGNE 7 o'clock next morning, [and] I expected to meet my wife at 5 o'clock. [I] was delighted to see her at 11 o'clock – our stay together was short, the shortest 28 hours of my life, and to leave her next day was the hardest thing for me through the campaign. I arrived back in camp next day – and we were all getting impatient to get to business again. [We] were pleased to hear on the 11th that we were [leaving] for the firing line next day.

## **World War 2 - November 1939**

*John Thompson Strategic analyst quotes from his book "Spirit Over Steel"*

**Nov 26<sup>th</sup>** : The Soviets start denouncing the Finns in their press and alleging border atrocities – and fire seven artillery shells on their own border village of Mainila, while declaring that the Finns were responsible.

**Nov 27<sup>th</sup>** : Aren't alliances wonderful? The Soviets hand over 350 German and Austrian communists to the tender mercies of the Gestapo; and most of them die in Nazi custody.

**Nov 28<sup>th</sup>** : The Soviets renounce their non-aggression treaty with Finland and the Red Army is told to prepare to invade on November 30th.

**Nov 29<sup>th</sup>** : The Soviets break off diplomatic relations with Finland.

**Nov 30<sup>th</sup>** : The start of the Winter War. The Soviets bomb Helsinki and invade with 26 divisions in four armies in the Karelian Isthmus north of Leningrad, the north of Lake Ladoga, from Russian Karelia towards the Gulf of Bothnia and out of Murmansk. The Soviets have plentiful stocks of ammunition, artillery, tanks and aircraft. The Finns have 150,000 troops in 10 divisions, about 100 aircraft, and little by way of heavy equipment.

**Dec 1<sup>st</sup>** : Finland mobilizes and their government reorganizes itself for war. The Soviets create a puppet government for Finland under the leadership of their Communist Party boss."

**Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>** : The Soviets make amphibious landings near Petsamo."

## **The Equitas Society's Disabled Veterans' Lawsuit**

The Disabled Veterans' Lawsuit against the Government of Canada (New Veterans Charter) Continues before the BC Court of Appeal on Wednesday, Dec 3rd & Thurs, December 4<sup>th</sup>: 10:00 am. Courtroom #61, 400- 800 Hornby Street: Justices Groberman, Harris & Willcock

EQUITAS draws your attention to these Court proceedings scheduled to start on Wednesday morning concerning the lawsuit by six disabled veterans against the New Veterans Charter ('NVC' - 2006). *We urge your covering this Court action firsthand to hear the position articulated by federal Justice Department officials. Statements they made previously before the B.C. Supreme Court do not align - and are not necessarily consistent - with what political level Government of Canada representatives in Ottawa have claimed regarding Veterans compensation. For more information go to: <http://www.equitasociety.ca/index.html>*

## **Love the Military, Fail the Veterans**

*Elizabeth Renzetti The Globe and Mail Dec. 01 2014*

It should be the easiest exercise imaginable for a government that likes to march to a martial drumbeat: Treat the country's armed forces well when they're recruited, when they're serving and, especially, when they return home. They are a Conservative Party's natural constituency. Praise them on the way out and give them the help they need on their return, and reap the ensuing goodwill from a grateful country. It's as close to a win-win situation as you get with war. I'm not entirely sure why the federal government keeps falling at this hurdle. (Although, to be fair, it's hardly alone: Many governments around the world have treated their returning soldiers abysmally.) It's ironic that the men and women who survive actual combat must return home to suffer the death of a thousand paper cuts, or slow strangulation by red tape, if you prefer. The latest indignity was revealed last week in a report by the Auditor-General that found the government has been failing veterans who need mental-health treatment.

"Veterans Affairs Canada needs to do more to overcome the barriers that slow veterans' access to services and benefits," Auditor-General Michael Ferguson said. His report is instructive reading for anyone who's tried to cut through a thicket of bureaucracy, never mind who's done it while struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder or some other mental-health burden. In essence, Veterans Affairs thinks it's doing a fine job of assessing claimants for long-term care within four months – but Mr. Ferguson found that it takes many veterans eight months or longer before they're even approved for care. Sometimes, it can take years. The application is "complex and time consuming," the report found. A veteran must be assessed by a health-care professional before applying, but those consultations can take months to arrange. There are delays getting the requisite military and medical records from the Department of National Defence. For thousands of servicemen and women, it's an unconscionable delay. As the report notes, the number of veterans needing support will only increase "as those with service in Afghanistan return to civilian life."

Let's not forget that the Prime Minister welcomed back the last of those returning veterans in March with the words, "the people of Afghanistan are better off today because of Canada's investments. These are your accomplishments, your glory and, sadly, also your sacrifice." As General Tom Lawson, Chief of the Defence Staff, said at the time: "Many men and women in uniform were also injured, both mentally and physically, as a result of their work in Afghanistan. And we will pledge to continue taking good care of them." If they can wait long enough, that is. The government just announced an extra \$200-million in funding for mental-health support, which conveniently landed just before the Auditor-General's report did. The problem, The

Globe's Gloria Galloway reported, is that most of that money isn't going to be injected into the system now, but parcelled out in dribs and drabs over the "lifetime" of those needing it. We're not talking tomorrow, but up to 50 years from now. That, in technical terms, is what you call throwing an anchor to a drowning man. Or you could call it a bitterly cynical political exercise.

Canada's not alone in treating its veterans poorly. In Britain, a parliamentary report last month found that there were "shocking" delays in service people getting compensation for certain injuries, and that untreated mental health issues and alcohol abuse were rampant. David Finkel's magnificent book *Thank You for Your Service* chronicles the struggles U.S. veterans face returning to life after combat. "Every war has its after-war," Mr Finkel says, "and so it is with the wars of Iraq and Afghanistan, which have created some 500,000 mentally wounded American veterans." There are fewer of those wounded here, but that doesn't make their problems less pressing.

In a few years, we'll be celebrating the country's 150th birthday, and I have no doubt that Canada's military past, its sacrifices at Vimy Ridge and Dieppe, will play a major part in the spectacle. The [Never Forgotten National Memorial](#), that hulking, government-favoured monument to the fallen, may even be built in Cape Breton National Park. It's easier to valourize the silent dead than the inconvenient living, who came back to fight a war of a different kind

## **The Canadian Army Successfully Tests Excalibur Round**

"Smart" artillery round is unmatched for precision, range and accuracy.

*November 25, 2014*

Ottawa, Ontario — It was a ground-breaking day for the Royal Canadian Artillery when they successfully test-fired a Global Positioning System (GPS) -guided 155 mm artillery shell. The trial of the newest generation of Excalibur proved the mettle of a shell that is unmatched for precision, range and accuracy. Already used effectively to save lives and reduce collateral damage in Afghanistan, the first firing of Excalibur shells in Canada took place at Defence Research and Development Canada's (DRDC's) Suffield, Alberta Experimental Proving Ground. The Excalibur round exceeded all expectations. "The test firing was considered a success and the Excalibur round will very likely be accepted into service in the Canadian Armed Forces," said Captain Greg Keach, Director Land Requirements 2-2-2 and Project Director, Lightweight Towed Howitzer Project. "The Excalibur test rounds were amazingly accurate," said Capt Keach. "We shot three from an M777 lightweight Howitzer. Two of them struck and functioned on a 5 by 5 metre target with unbelievable accuracy, well within the range of acceptable and planned accuracy for the round. Both of them were textbook."

Another important feature that was trialed was the digitization of fire orders. The Excalibur "smart" rounds, unlike conventional rounds, need data and, therefore, the fire order method required an update. "Fire orders are still primarily sent by voice. A lot of our allies are moving to full digitization of the fire order. It's better than sending data by voice because it helps remove any potential human errors," said Capt Keach. As well, the data can be encrypted for additional operational security. Senior Army staff from across Canada attended the trial, including the

Colonel Commandant of The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery, Brigadier-General (Retired) James Selbie, who described this trial as “a momentous occasion in Canadian artillery history.” “The synergy for this test was considerable,” says Capt Keach. “Not only did we shoot the Excalibur rounds to validate the system, but this trial also included DRDC–Suffield who took the opportunity for testing a special bunker, the RCAS took pictures and video footage for training



materials related to precision munitions, and scientists from DRDC–Valcartier’s Munitions Experimental Test Centre (METC) employed high-speed images and radar tracking to verify the accuracy. We definitely maximized the training value of this trial for several agencies.”

*A close-up look at an Excalibur GPS-guided artillery shell. Defence Research and Development Canada (DRDC) hosted Excalibur firing tests conducted by the Canadian Army (CA) Directorate of Land Requirements (DLR) in the training area of Canadian Force Base Suffield, Alberta from November 2 to 8, 2014.*

*Photo by: Cpl Alex Parenteau, Tactics School, 5th Canadian Division Support Base Gagetown, New Brunswick.*

Excalibur shells can be precisely guided to targets up to more than 35 km away and yet have the built-in technology and fail-safe mechanisms to automatically switch off and not detonate if there is a failure that causes them to land outside their designated target zone. “Conventional artillery is known as an area weapon. Generally, you can’t shoot one bullet to take out a car or the corner of a building where an insurgent sniper may be firing. It’s known as an area weapon because you fire a number of projectiles to neutralize the target area,” says Capt Keach. “This round, Excalibur, is different. It allows us the opportunity – an extra tool in the toolbox, if you will – to pinpoint the sniper or vehicle. It has great range and accuracy which is what we need on the modern battlefield,” he says. Developed over a 10-year period by Raytheon Company, Excalibur’s final testing was completed in 2007 and used with success in Afghanistan and Iraq. Although more expensive than regular artillery rounds, one Excalibur can neutralize a target whereas conventional artillery would require dozens of rounds before having a direct hit on the target. “The Excalibur artillery shell represents a precision capability that enables the Canadian Army to bring to bear scalable, reliable and judicious effects at the right place and time to achieve mission objectives in the conduct of full spectrum operations,” says Lieutenant-Colonel Stewart Taylor, CO, 1RCHA.

The addition of the Excalibur round to the Canadian inventory provides commanders with an optimized inventory of lethal weapons that mitigates against the unintended consequences of collateral damage to civilian risk objects. A clear example of the value of an Excalibur round is

in urban warfare where the potential is extreme for soldier and civilian deaths along with devastating property damage when conventional artillery fire is used. Excalibur shells can be fired within close proximity of friendly troops, a critical concern when infantry comes under sniper fire in urban areas. In Afghanistan from January to November 2009, Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Dunn, Director of Land Requirements 2, was responsible for all operations that were taking place in Kandahar Province at that time. One day, a difficult scenario played out against an urban backdrop. A Canadian artillery crew was supporting Canadian and Allied troops when a pair of insurgent snipers on opposite corners of a rooftop pinned them down. The GPS coordinates were communicated to the crew and, according to LCol Dunn, “The Canadians fired and we neutralized the threat in a timely and an accurate fashion with minimal collateral damage. This specific event was noteworthy because it was probably the only time we fired two Excalibur rounds simultaneously into the same target.” “Knowing that we saved probably 100 lives out there - that really stands out in my mind. We fired a couple of other times after that but that one stands out because we saved so many that day,” he said. Excalibur, the legendary sword of King Arthur, was said to have magic and was symbolic of the responsible use of power. “Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic,” according to novelist Arthur C Clarke. Following this logic, magic is the ancestor of today’s applied science. Applied science, in the form of GPS technology, is the magic behind the precision, range and accuracy of the Excalibur artillery round.

## **Military Bands - What's the Real Story?**

*September 15, 2010 | Chief Warrant Officer 4 Glen Nardin*

*This is about US bands but it is just as applicable to Canadian bands.*

Every so many years, and timed with budget cutbacks, military bands draw a certain level of scrutiny inside and outside the Department of Defense. The standard accusation is that bands do not warrant budget assets if they do not fall under bullets, bombs or bayonets; or do not fall under a medical budget to patch those who fall victim to BBB. Those who drag up the military bands theme will normally politicize the funding of bands as they neglect to describe what the military bands actually do. Worse, a critic, masquerading as music lover, will add spin by relating what they observe of military bands performances for the public. Throughout my three decades of military service, I have never seen an argument based on the statistics or the results of their contribution to the morale of military service members. I, also, never have seen a statement of the bands’ purpose included in a news story, and I never have seen a written result of the psychological impact music has on deployed troops. In the articles of late that quote the recently published manual (Army Tactics, Techniques and Procedures 1-19,) they chose to lambast the published numbers of Army bands that currently serve, but eschew the information in the same manual that describes the purpose and results of the same bands.

These same authors do not quote the numbers of personnel that the DOD hires for the Public Affairs Offices or Morale, Welfare and Recreation which work in conjunction. They do not quote the numbers of psychologists, psycho-therapists, or building space that these people occupy, yet, bands do some of the same work to reduce soldier's stress levels. They also are not quoting the number of chapels, chaplains, chaplain assistants and social workers involved with troop

counseling and spiritual advisement. The bands supply music to services held in million dollar chapels and assist the program every day at gravesides and memorial services, unnoticed by the news writers.

Those who speak of bands or produce news articles see military bands in the public and must assume that that is all they do. They associate their personal experiences with bands through school sports, street parades or tavern entertainment and consider that as “unnecessary” in the military. I have, yet, to see a critique that was based on firsthand knowledge of bands in recent areas of conflict. I do not see one article that reports on bands' capabilities to improve the morale and contribute to the fight through the troops' psychological and mental readiness. The pundits and “spinners” will not quote facts on military bands, but I will. In 335 months of combat operations—the Global War on Terrorism—from 2003 to 2008, Army bands averaged 387 performances per month in the area of operations (AO). Total performances in the same time period numbered 8,253 reaching hundreds of thousands of American and Coalition troops. Those are only the Army band statistics. The US Air Force and Marines also deployed bands to the AO during this time who have their own statistics. I personally saw the British and Australian bands deployed and heard of other countries who supplied bands--and these are additional performances alongside the US Army.

The 335 months included 954 buglers for memorial services. I personally sent 245 buglers to memorial services in Operation Iraqi Freedom 2006 to 2008. Each of those memorial services had no less than a hundred comrades of the deceased in attendance, many of them weeping for their buddies at the final notes. The buglers, along with the seven-man team of riflemen for 21-gun salute, are a last tribute to the fallen heroes. The press normally does not report on the effects that the final moments of a memorial service has on the troops. In 16 months ending in March 2010, the Army supplied buglers for 214 services. The need for memorial services does not end as long as conflict persists. At the same time, the bands do not perform only for memorials. Bands also performed in the same 16 months for over 2,300 ceremonies and troop support events in Iraq and Afghanistan. They performed with music that fit the occasion—whether it be John Phillip Sousa marches, or music by the latest country, rock and R&B artists. This would be in addition to all USO and MWR shows and troop entertainment provide during the same period.

Military bands are the most versatile musical organizations in the world, and they strive to adapt to any genre or occasional music that can be accomplished with the talent assigned to them. Normally, civilian bands and orchestras that make recordings or perform in the public will specialize in their genre or style of music. Few popular groups can play for a parade, play the classics and also furnish the top 40 popular styles—all at short notice. They certainly are not trained for combat duty, in deployable physical condition, or are willing to die for their country for what they do! The military bands are capable and willing to do all. The periodic criticism of military bands, however, can help military bands. It brings attention to what we do and, like it is said, “Any publicity is good publicity.” Still, it would be good to see an article by someone who actually knows what they are all about.

## Who is it?



**Last Week:** The photo is of an RCA Auster, which was used by UK and Cdn Artillery Air Observers, on final approach to land aboard an air craft carrier. Pilot – Capt Peter Tees, DFC, RCA landing on HMCS Magnificent around 1954.

**This Week:** This week we pay homage to the men who manned the guns at Yorke Island. Here they are, tall, strong, broad-shouldered, square-jawed; true examples of Canuck soldiers. And not one of them has a waist size greater than 34 inches. Looking closely at the original print, one can easily make out a few of the older lads wearing World War One ribbons, while others look as if they should still be in cadets.



Two of these stalwarts, however, are not in uniform. Both seem quite shaggy, compared to their properly-turned out comrades. But, this might be explained by their being of the canine persuasion, rather than that of homo-sapiens. These loyal companions appear in many of the photos taken on that

bastion of the north, usually assisting the soldiers in their duties by inspecting that which they've just done, or eaten.

What we'd like to know is this: what were their names? If you recognize any of their human buddies, too, let us know by contacting the editor, or the author, John Redmond ([johnd.redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd.redmond@telus.net)). Arf!

### From the 'Punitary'

What do you call a cow eating grass? A lawn mooer.

### Murphy's other Laws

When you don't know what to do, walk fast and look worried.

### Quotable Quotes

Half our life is spent trying to find something to do with the time we have rushed through life trying to save. - *Will Smith*



# BCR Annual Christmas Fundraiser



## THE BRITISH COLUMBIA REGIMENT (DCO) ASSOCIATION

You are invited to the  
**2014 Annual Christmas Fundraiser**

When:	Thursday, December 04, 2014
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 November 28, 2014 \$40.00 if confirmed November 29 to December 04, 2014 Please note, cancellations after December 3rd 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 Bursaries, Cadet Development Programs, 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, November 27, 2014 to:**

Gayle Hawthorne 604-421-1521 or e-mail to: [ghawthorne@shaw.ca](mailto:ghawthorne@shaw.ca)

\*Please send any cheques to: The BC Regiment (DCO) Association Charitable Trust,  
c/o #208, 1899 Willingdon Avenue, Burnaby, BC V5C 5T1



## Hearth & Fire Concert



# HEARTH & FIRE

**British Columbia Girls Choir**  
*and*  
**Band of the 15th Field Regiment,  
Royal Canadian Artillery**

**IN CONCERT**

**Saturday, December 13, 2014**  
**7:30pm**

**Michael J. Fox Theatre**  
7373 MacPherson Avenue, Burnaby

Adults \$23; Seniors/Students \$18; Children under 12 \$13

Tickets **604-542-1698**  
or email [manager@bcgirlschoir.org](mailto:manager@bcgirlschoir.org)

# CO's Christmas Tea



*The Commanding Officer*

*LCol Brent Purcell CD*

*invites you to his*

*Annual Christmas Tea*

*to be held on*

*Sunday December 14<sup>th</sup> 2014*

*in the*

*15<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment Officers' Mess*

*commencing at Two o'clock,*

*in the afternoon*

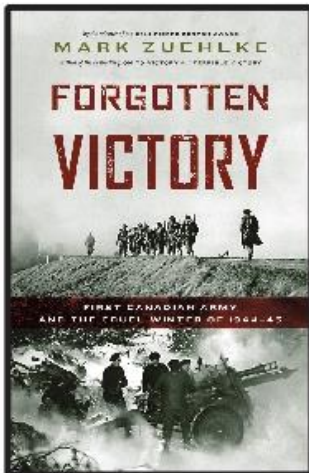
Dress: Jacket & Tie  
Cost: \$ 20 per person at the door  
Please sign up at the Bar !!



# Forgotten Victory: 1<sup>st</sup> Cdn Army and the Cruel Winter of 44-45

## WINNING THE WAR

FIRST CANADIAN ARMY'S RHINELAND CAMPAIGN  
OF FEBRUARY-MARCH 1945



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A presentation by  
**MARK ZUEHLKE**

—  
winner of the  
**2014 PIERRE  
BERTON AWARD**

▶ **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, AT 7PM**  
**Alice MacKay Room, Lower Level**  
**Central Library, 350 West Georgia Street**

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**Free!**

Seating is limited.

Drawing from his newly-released **FORGOTTEN VICTORY: FIRST CANADIAN ARMY AND THE CRUEL WINTER OF 1944-45**, Mark Zuehlke—author of the critically acclaimed Canadian Battle Series—offers an insightful, informative journey back to February and March, 1945 when our nation's soldiers launched one of World War II's most important offensives. Today little remembered, this thrust into Germany's vital Rhineland made possible the ultimate Allied victory that followed less than two months later.

For more information, email [marketing@douglas-mcintyre.com](mailto:marketing@douglas-mcintyre.com) or call the library at 604-331-3603.

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A partnership event:



Douglas & McIntyre



Vancouver Public Library

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[WWW.DOUGLAS-MCINTYRE.COM](http://WWW.DOUGLAS-MCINTYRE.COM)

# 2015 British Columbia Army Gala



## The British Columbia Army Gala 2015



### **CELEBRATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR 1945 - 2015**

Come and enjoy a unique evening of fun and dancing in  
the company of peers, comrades, long-lost-friends  
and, of course, loved ones!

Venue: Hyatt Regency Vancouver  
Date: Saturday, 28 March, 2015  
Time: 6 p.m. 'till late  
Dress: mess kit, Black Tie or equivalent



For all ticket information, including  
Early Bird Specials, please visit  
[www.bcarmygala.ca](http://www.bcarmygala.ca) or  
phone (604) 225-2520 ext 2568.

**DO NOT DELAY. LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE!**