Please note that our 08 April GCC meeting will be held at the Ward Room, HMCS Prevost

- **Meet and greet 11:15 a.m.**
- **lunch service begins at 11:30 a.m.**
- **Speaker 12:00 p.m.**

**APRIL 2015 NEWSLETTER**

**Meet and Greet:** 11:15 hrs *Ward Room, HMCS Prevost*, Wednesday, 08 April 2015
11:30 hrs lunch service begins (*Please bring a guest*)

**Meeting Start Time:** 12:00 hrs meeting starts

**Speaker:** Speaker: Capt (N) Marta Mulkins
(see page 3 for details)

**Lunch Menu:**

- Feature soup OR salad 3.75
- Soup and salad duo 6.50
- Artisan premium sandwiches 5.50
- Add any side to your sandwich 8.75
- Hot entree chefs feature 10.00
- Various desserts 2.50
- Coffee 1.00

**all prices + HST**
Message from The GCC President

I am sure you are all hoping that Spring really is here with Summer soon afterwards. It has certainly been a very trying Winter, but we have been spared the multiple storms hitting the East Coast and the Maritimes.

The March meeting of the GCC saw 40 members and guests congratulate Veteran Robert Kennedy for his service as a Royal Marine during WW II as well as hearing about the Allied Mobile Force (Land) of NATO in Europe from MGen Walter Holmes who commanded it during the last years of the Cold War. A brief glance into the complexity of the command structure in such a Multi-National Force was of great interest and clearly required extensive political acumen as well as military strategy and expertise of MGen Holmes during his posting there.

The Board of Directors of the GCC meets the week before the Regular Luncheon meeting to deal with issues facing the GCC and to discuss future plans for the GCC. Recently the Membership Plan was discussed and has been made available to members for feedback and action.

The matter of designing and developing a Sponsorship Program for the Student Bursaries has been addressed and a small group is currently working on a proposal which will be brought forward to the membership in the near future.

Ever since the Starbase Program had to be terminated, there has been a significant interest in finding a suitable replacement program which would enable GCC members to resume an active role in an educational program with youth within the London Community.

Recently the Board has approved support in the form of some start up funding for the Jet Aircraft Museum Project which will provide a hands-on field trip experience for grade 6 students from London’s schools and will be designed to cover approved science curriculum units related to Properties of Air and Principles of Flight. It is expected that this program will provide the learning and educational type program similar to the Starbase Program. Our own members Doug and Marti Acton are actively involved with the Program and will be seeking other members to volunteer to assist with the program.

We heard at the March Meeting that the Garrison Garden party has been set for Wednesday, June 10, 2015 at H.M.C.S. Prevost. - [details will follow]

We all look forward to our April Meeting at H.M.C.S. Prevost and our guest speaker Capt (N) Marta Mulkins. Hope you will be able to attend and bring a friend.

Cheers
Jack
Speaker: Capt (N) Marta Mulkins

Captain(N) Mulkins is a professional landscape architect and officer in the Naval Reserve. She began her naval career in 1985 in Montreal and has since served as a Maritime Surface officer in Reserve units across the country and as a ship's officer in several classes of ships. Taking time while in university and through occasional leaves of absence from her civilian career, she served in sea-going positions of increasing responsibility which culminated in July 2003 with her assumption of command of HMCS KINGSTON. After two years in command at sea, she worked in Strategic Communications at National Defence Headquarters and in 2006 deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan for a six-month tour with Operation ARGUS, the Canadian Forces' Strategic Advisory Team – Afghanistan. Once back in her civilian career she served in other part-time appointments with the Naval Reserve Headquarters including as the Operations Branch and Maritime Surface Occupation Advisor, and assumed command of HMCS CARLETON in the summer of 2013. She was promoted to her current rank of Captain(N) in June 2014.

Captain(N) Mulkins holds a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from the University of Toronto, a Master's Degree in Defence Studies from the Royal Military College, and, after a year attending the United States Navy War College, obtained a Master's Degree in International Relations from Salve Regina University. She is currently employed as a project manager in the Parliamentary Precinct Branch of Public Works, Government Services Canada. Captain(N) Mulkins is a member of the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects and the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects.

It should be noted that Capt(N) Mulkins was the first female to ever command a Canadian Warship. She currently serves as the Regional Captain (Navy) for Central Region (Ontario).

Honouring Veterans Initiative: Art Boyle

The Honouring Veterans initiative of the Garrison Community Council (London and Region) acknowledges the service of individual Canadian Forces (CF) and RCMP veterans. As well the initiative celebrates our rich military heritage, both past and present, while continuing our traditions of Remembrance. The Honouring Veterans initiative supports the GCC’s mission to focus on building a greater understanding of the Canadian Forces within the civilian community. A summary of Art Boyle’s service is provided below.
Sergeant Art Boyle was born in the Gaspe in November of 1915. In 1938, he joined the Royal Canadian Dragoons (RCD) and began life in the army with a sword and a horse. During the early 1940’s, he trained as a Dragoon, with the 1st Hussars as part of the 1st Canadian Cavalry Regiment (Mechanised) (1CCR (M)). This unit was comprised of the RCD, the Lord Strathcona’s Horse (LdSH) and the 1st Hussars, who supplied the Headquarters (HQ) and ‘C’ Squadron.

Art entered the Second World War as a 1st Hussar. 1CCR (M) was disbanded in early 1941 and several of the Dragoons opted to stay with the 1st Hussars (now a Tank unit) rather than return to the RCD who became an armoured car unit.

In late 1941, the unit moved to Great Britain and continued training there. Art was a crew commander in a Lee tank. He eventually crew commanded a Sherman. During a fire-fight in June 1944, Art’s tank was responsible for the sixth Panther tank kill of an engagement. In the same month, he duelled with a German tank at le Mesnil-Patry (where ‘B’ Squadron was destroyed) and won the duel causing the German Squadron Commander and crew to bail out and crawl from the field. Later in the year, he would skillfully maneuver his tank to a position from where he could engage two German Tiger tanks, firing on one, causing it to burn and forcing them to retreat. For this action, he received the Military Medal. Art is also a member of the French Legion of Merit and has been awarded the medal for the Legion of Honour (Légion d'honneur) France’s highest order, or decoration. He completed his duties in the war at Breda, Holland in late 1944. Art has been President of the 1st Hussars Association, in existence since 1946 and still attends the meetings.
GCC’s March Meeting Speaker

Guest Speaker at the 11 Mar 2015 GCC meeting was MGen(Ret’d) Walter M. Holmes, MBE, OStJSB, MSM, CD. He is thanked by GCC President, Jack Scott.

Honouring Veterans Initiative- Robert Kennedy, Royal Marine

Robert Kennedy was recognized at our March GCC meeting through the GCC’s Honouring Veterans Initiative. Full details of his extensive service are available in the March GCC Newsletter distributed to members and which is also available on the GCC website. http://www.gcclondon.ca/whatsnew.htm

GCC Secretary Keith Roden introduces our Honouring Veterans Initiative guest, Robert Kennedy, and presents a certificate of recognition at the regular meeting of GCC on 11 March 2015.
More from the March GCC Meeting

President Jack Scott presented LCol(Ret) Joe Murray with his name badge and Certificate of Membership.

Jack Scott also presented Brian Glass with his name badge and Certificate of Membership.

Lt(N) Guillermo Rivera briefed members of GCC on activities of HMCS Prevost.
March GCC Meeting – the last one at WBOM

With a little melancholy, GCC Members soaked up the ambiance of the Officers Mess one last time. Thanks to Past President Jim Swan’s camera, we have a last look at our original home.
31 Canadian Brigade Group Commander’s Column

An informal view of the Brigade’s activities. This short article, normally penned by a member of the Brigade staff, will offer a casual look at ongoing activities in 31 CBG. Written with an intent to avoid heavy use of military lexicon, acronyms and abbreviations, the Commander’s Column supports information sharing to groups with diverse backgrounds and will, hopefully, offer a less formal view of the Brigade overall, or the examination of specific issues or events. I welcome suggestion of topics you would like to see covered in these columns.

K.S. Bertoia, Colonel
Comd 31 CBG
The London Headquarters: From the Second World War to the Present

31 Canadian Brigade Group Headquarters represents a heritage of headquarters for the Militia, and latterly the Reserves, located in London that reaches back to before Confederation. A brief history of the London Headquarters from its earliest days to the close of the Second World War was included in the preceding newsletter.

Effective 1 May 1947, HQ Military District No. 1 was redesignated HQ, Western Ontario Area. Later the same year, on 9 Jun 1947, Canadian Army Orders announced the authorization of new military Areas and a Command structure. In Ontario, Central Command was divided into Eastern Ontario Area and Western Ontario Area. Western Ontario Area, with headquarters at London, consisted of the Counties of Bruce, Elgin, Essex, Huron, Kent, Lambton, Middlesex, Oxford, Perth, Waterloo and Wellington.

The opening decades of the Cold War also saw a new role and new structure for Canada’s Militia. The new role was National Survival, readiness to provide security and rescue capability in the aftermath of nuclear attack. To support this role, units in geographical areas were formed into Militia Groups and these replaced the Areas formed in 1947.

In south-western Ontario, the 17th, 18th and 26th Militia Groups were formed from units in the localities as listed below.

- 17 Militia Group, comprised of units from Hamilton, Brampton (HQ), and St Catharines areas
- 18 Militia Group, comprised of units from London (HQ), Galt, Stratford, Kitchener-Waterloo
- 26 Militia Group (Formed 1959), comprised of units from Windsor (HQ), Chatham, Sarnia, St Thomas

After almost two decades, the Command structure was dismantled in 1966. Central Command ceased operation on this date and the Command’s Regular Army elements were transferred to the newly formed Mobile Command, headquartered at Montreal. Camp Borden and Kingston were transferred to Training Command (HQ Winnipeg), and the army ordnance depots at Cobourg, London and Lakeview were placed under the operational control of Materials Command (HQ: Ottawa). For the first time, regional commanders in south-western Ontario would not be responsible for all Army assets within their areas of responsibility.

The Army also established new district headquarters on 1 April, 1966, in Oakville, London and Kingston to command the Militia units in Ontario. These three locations were occupied by the headquarters for Central, Western, and Eastern Ontario Districts, respectively. These Districts would be responsible for the Canadian Army Reserves and Cadets under the Deputy Chief Reserves. Each District assumed the command of all the Militia units that were formerly commanded by Headquarters Central Ontario Area.
In December 1969, a new organization of 13 Militia Districts was announced. Of these, six would be in Ontario under the command of the Central Militia Area with its headquarters in Oakville. This major reorganization of the Militia took place on 1 September, 1970, resulting in five geographic groupings under the command of Mobile Command. These groupings were the Militia Area Atlantic, Militia Area Eastern, Militia Area Central, Militia Area Prairie and Militia Area Pacific.

The Central Militia Area covered the geographic area of Ontario, less that of units at Thunder Bay and Kenora, which were under the command of Prairie Militia Area. Central Militia Area was divided into six subordinate districts:

- Toronto,
- Hamilton,
- Ottawa,
- London,
- Northern Ontario, and
- Windsor.

The smallest of these Districts was Windsor Militia District, comprised of only four units including the District Band. The three major units which totalled, in 1977, about 300 personnel were:

- Windsor Regiment, RCAC
- Essex and Kent Scottish
- 21 [Windsor] Service Battalion

Windsor Militia District was absorbed by London Militia District in 1989. A previous attempt to close this headquarters in 1976 and merge its AOR with that of the London Militia District had been stymied by the intervention of three Windsor area members of parliament.

In 1990, London Militia District was comprised of the following units:

- 1st Hussars (London)
- The Elgin Regiment (St Thomas)
- Windsor Regiment, RCAC (Windsor)
- 56th Field Artillery Regiment, RCA (Brantford)
- Highland Fusiliers of Canada (Cambridge)
- Essex and Kent Scottish (Windsor)
- Grey and Simcoe Forrester (Owen Sound)
- 21 [Windsor] Service Battalion (Windsor)
Hamilton Militia District was absorbed by London Militia District in 1995.

London District was redesignated 31 Canadian Brigade Group on 1 September, 1997. At this time, the Brigade’s units were:

- 31 CBG Headquarters
- 1st Hussars
- The Windsor Regiment (RCAC)
- 11th Field Artillery Regiment, RCA
- 56th Field Artillery Regiment, RCA
- 31 Combat Engineer Regiment
- The Royal Hamilton Light Infantry (Wentworth Regiment)
- The Lincoln and Welland Regiment
- 4th Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment
- The Royal Highland Fusiliers of Canada
- The Essex and Kent Scottish Regiment
- The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada (Princess Louise’s)
- 21 (Windsor) Service Battalion
- 22 (London) Service Battalion
- 23 (Hamilton) Service Battalion

The Brigade’s effective strength on 31 Dec 1997 was 1903, all ranks, and the strength of the headquarters was 41.

The three Service Battalions in the 31 CBG area of responsibility were amalgamated, forming 31 Service Battalion, on 1 April 2010. Shortly thereafter, on 18 April 2010, 31 Service Battalion transferred from 31 CBG to the newly formed 2 Area Support Group headquartered at CFB Petawawa.

On 1 April 2012, 31 CBG underwent another change to the Brigade organization. This was the result of a Land Force Central Area plan to alter Brigade boundaries, in order to align Brigades with specific US states to promote cross-border activities. 31 CBG experienced the following attachments and detachments:

- Detached to 32 Canadian Brigade Group:
  - 56th Field Artillery Regiment, RCA (Brantford, St. Catherines and Simcoe, ON)
  - The Lincoln and Welland Regiment (St. Catherines and Welland, ON)
- Attached from 33 Canadian Brigade Group:
  - 49th Field Artillery Regiment, RCA (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)
  - The Grey and Simcoe Foresters (Owen Sound and Barrie, ON)
- Also attached, to the brigade’s affiliated Service Battalion (which was still under command of 2 Area Support Group):
  - Sault Ste. Marie Support Company (transferred from 33 Svc Bn to 31 Svc Bn)
The dissolution of 2 Area Support Group (2 ASG) within Land Force Central Area in December 2012 also caused a change to the organization of 31 CBG. The regrouping of support units resulted in the return of 31 Service Battalion under command of 31 CBG HQ.

Commencing in October 2013, and with a view to completion by end June 2014, Land Force Central Area executed a renaming to the 4th Canadian Division. As part of this Army plan to rebrand each of the Land Force Area as “Divisions,” 31 CBG now reported to 4 Cdn Div HQ.

Effective 1 April 2014, the units located in Sault Ste Marie (49 Fd Regt and the SSM Support Coy) were again transferred, this time to be placed under operational command of 33 CBG, which is headquartered in Ottawa.

**Significant Military Dates- March**

The list of significant military dates each month serves as background for the GCC’s Honouring Veterans Initiative. The list is not conclusive and is for reference only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 1, 1924</td>
<td>RCAF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 3, 1669</td>
<td>New France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 9, 1917</td>
<td>World War I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 14, 1944</td>
<td>World War II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 15, 1940</td>
<td>World War II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 22, 1915</td>
<td>World War I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 24, 1951</td>
<td>Korean War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 25, 1945</td>
<td>World War II</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Royal Canadian Air Force is organized with both an Active and a Reserve Force of aircraft and personnel.

King Louis XIV orders the governor of New France to organize his subjects in Canada into companies for military training - the official birth of the Canadian militia.

Vimy Ridge is captured by the Canadian Corps. Captain Thain MacDowell of the 38th Battalion, was able to disarm and capture two officers and 75 men at Vimy Ridge to earn the Victoria Cross. At Vimy Ridge, Lance-Sergeant Ellis Sifton of the 18th Battalion, C.E.F., cleared an enemy machine-gun emplacement. For his actions Lance-Sergeant Sifton earned the Victoria Cross.

HMCS Swansea and HMS Pelican combine to sink the German submarine U-448 in the North Atlantic.

No. 1 Initial Training School is opened in Toronto to provide the first training for British Commonwealth Air Training Plan students.

Canadian troops fight the Germans during the Second Battle of Ypres, and suffer their first exposure to gas warfare.

The 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry stops the Chinese at Kapyong in Korea, an action for which the battalion is later awarded the United States Distinguished Unit Citation, now called the «Presidential Unit Citation» (24-25 Apr).

Canadian bombers from 6 Group attack Adolf Hitler’s retreat at Berchtesgaden.
Support our team in the
FOREST CITY ROAD RACES
April 26, 2015
PLEASE HELP RAISE MONEY TO SUPPORT LMFRC PROGRAMS AND EVENTS
Donate to a runner online at www.forestcityroadraces.com
Click on: Sponsor a Runner and search by name.
OR
Drop off or mail in a cheque (made out to “LMFRC”)
Charitable receipts for donations of $10 or more

Preparing to Defend – Force Protection at HMCS Prevost

Members of HMCS Prevost answered the call to defend their unit, their city and their countrymen through the implementation of Force Protection EX. This annual Force Protection training weekend is not the first that has been conducted at HMCS Prevost. Force Protection is the defensive stance of a military unit, whether it is directed from NDHQ Ottawa, or at home at the units. It is not an emergency response. Instead, it is the level at which we conduct day-to-day activities, with the potential to increase our emergency response, security posture, and defensive capabilities.

Weapon drills are essential to stay sharp.
Securing the gate. From the left: AB Kim, CPO2 Korkush

Changing of the guard. In the foreground, from the left: CPO2 Korkush, A/SLt Kamal, LS Al-Hakim, AB Kim

Command, control and coordination.
Any member can be called upon, whether they are an Ordinary Seaman or a Lieutenant-Commander.

Ready and able to do what is necessary to save mitigate risks.
Veterans Classic Golf Tournament

Go to www.veteransgolf.ca for details and registration.

Thursday 11 June 2015
Registration starts at 9am
Shotgun Start at 11am

Forest City National Golf Club
16540 Robin's Hill Road
London, Ontario N5V 5C3

$100 per golfer
Proceeds shall be donated to local Veteran programs including
London Military Family Resource Centre, and
Parkwood Hospital Veterans Care

GCC Meeting Dates- 2015

Program planning for 2015 is underway. Suggestions from members are always welcome. Please contact any member of the executive with ideas. Below are the dates for January to June 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>14 January</th>
<th>11 February</th>
<th>11 March</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 April</td>
<td>13 May</td>
<td>10 June</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GCC EXECUTIVE

President: Jack Scott  
Past President: Jan Delaney
Treasurer: Lynn Coates  
Secretary: Keith Roden
1st Vice President: Gerry Treble  
2nd Vice President: Geoff Hutton
3rd Vice President: Doug Acton  
Garrison Advisor: LCol Dan McLean

Next Meeting: at the Ward Room, HMCS Prevost with lunch service beginning at 11:30 a.m., and speaker at 12:00 p.m.

Capt (N) Marta Mulkins will be our speaker