



DISPATCHES

THE ROYAL UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE OF NOVA SCOTIA

Edition 03/11- September 2011

RUSI NS Fall Program

Day, Date	Time	Location	Remarks
Wed 21 Sept	1200 - 1300	RA Park Air Force Room	<i>Distinguished Speaker Series</i> –Journalist-Author Jay Underwood discusses on his book – “Built for War – Canada’s Inter-Colonial Railway”
Wed 19 Oct	1200 - 1300	RA Park Air Force Room	<i>Distinguished Speaker Series</i> – Army 2013 – the Army of the Future – MGen SJ Bowes, MSC, MSM, CD
TBA -November	1830 -1900	RA Park Dining Room	Annual Remembrance Day Mess Dinner

ASHBURN DINNER A SUCCESS

On the evening of Tuesday, June 21st, 50 RUSI members and their guests enjoyed a delicious dinner at the Ashburn Golf Club. The evening honoured BGen Ned Amy, a long-time member of RUSI. The tribute to Gen Amy was done by Colonel John Boileau, currently the Honourary Lieutenant-Colonel of the Halifax Rifles, recently re-activated due in no small part to the tireless work done by BGen Amy to have this historic regiment once again on the Canadian Army order of battle. The dinner was presided over by Dan Tanner, Vice President representing Tom Birchall who was enjoying an extended vacation in Alaska and other northern venues. I am sure at some point he will discuss his adventures with you.

The RUSI board would like to thank Mike Kelly his work in making the evening the success it was.

“ROYAL” HAS BEEN RESTORED TO THE NAVY AND THE AIR FORCE, THE CANADIAN ARMY IS ONCE AGAIN.

On Sunday, August 14th, I received a call from our President asking if I could attend an “event” at the Dockyard on Tuesday. The “event” turned out to be the announcement by the Minister of National Defence, the Honorable Peter McKay that Canada was restoring the historic identities of the Royal Canadian Navy, the Canadian Army and the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Tom Birchall drummed up RUSI support for attendance at this event and long time stalwarts FSgt Mike Kelly and LCol Russ Comeau were front and centre in receiving the traditional Army and Air Force ensigns from the minister.

Also in attendance were Colonel Tom Pile, Commander Len Canfield and Colonel Murray Lee, your editor, and of course, our president Tom Birchall.

To review our history, on February 1, 1968, the government of the day amended the *National Defence Act* to unify the Canadian Forces. In that process, the identities of the Royal Canadian Navy, the Canadian Army and the Royal Canadian Air Force ceased to be used and were replaced by Maritime Command, Land Force Command and Air Command. The announcement made on



16 August restores the original historic identities while retaining the organizational benefits of unification.

By reinstating the RCN, the Canadian Army and the RCAF, the Government is restoring a central component of Canada's military heritage. Dating back to the first half of the 20th century, these were the names of the services that fought and emerged victorious from the First World War, the Second World War, from Korea and also contributed to deterrence and defence in Europe and North America from the early days of the Cold War in which most of us participated. With this decision, these historic identities will return to official use, reminding us of the Canadian tradition of service and sacrifice that today's men and women in uniform proudly continue.

JAY UNDERWOOD TO OPEN THE NEW DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES ON SEPT 21st

Our first in the fall series of speakers for our new Distinguished Speaker Series, the old "Loonie Lunch" will take place at noon on Wednesday, September 21st in RA Park. Our guest speaker will be Mr. Jay Underwood. Mr. Underwood lives in Elmsdale NS and has had a life-long connection with the military and the railways. Born in Changi, Singapore in 1958, son of an RAF non-commissioned officer, he earned his diploma in journalism from Holland

College of Applied Arts and Technology in Charlottetown PEI. He was city editor of the Truro NS Daily News, and served for several years as the information officer for 1st Battalion, the Nova Scotia Highlanders (North), Canada's largest militia infantry battalion.

He joined the Halifax Daily News as senior copy editor and a member of the editorial board. Mr. Underwood is currently president of the Nova Scotia Railway Heritage Society and is a contributor to Canadian Rail, the journal of the Canadian Railroad Historical Association. He will speak to us on *Built for War-Canada's Inter-Colonial railway system*.

His biography which is listed on our web site details the books and works he has published – a true Canadian railroad buff. Remember to look in the Current Activities section at www.rusi.ca.

MAJOR-GENERAL STEVE BOWES, MSC, MSM, CD TO SPEAK TO RUSI NS

On Wednesday, October 19th, MGen Bowes will participate in the Distinguished Speaker Series at noon at RA Park. The title of his talk to us will be Army 2013 – The Army of the Future. MGen Bowes, enrolled in the Canadian Forces in 1985. He served in a variety of position and locations during his formative years, first with the 8th Canadian Hussars

(Princess Louise's) through tours in Petawawa, Germany and Moncton. He also served in Gagetown with the Armour School and finally with the 12e Regiment Blindé du Canada in Valcartier as a Squadron Commander. Promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel in 2000, he was employed as the G3 of CTC before taking command of the Armour School in 2003, and also serving as Deputy Director Armour Corps.

MGen Bowes was promoted to Colonel in April 2005 and subsequently appointed the first commander of the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team. He deployed to Kandahar on Operation ARCHER Rotation 0 from July 2005 to February 2006 under an Operation ENDURING FREEDOM mandate. In May 2006, he was appointed Deputy Commander Standing Contingency Force in Halifax and participated in the Integrated Tactical Effects Experiment (Sea-Land-Air) culminating in a LIVEX along the Atlantic seaboard in November 2006. In June 2007, he assumed formation command and was appointed Commander Combat Training Centre Gagetown.

In September 2009, he was promoted to the rank of Brigadier-General and appointed Deputy Chief of Staff Plans and Projects for the standup of the new International Security Assistance Force Joint Command HQ in Kabul Afghanistan. He returned to

Canada and in September 2010 assumed command of Land Force Atlantic Area and simultaneously, Deputy Commander Joint Task Force Atlantic, overseeing CF participation in OP LAMA, a domestic humanitarian relief effort to the province of Newfoundland following Hurricane IGOR. In June 2011, he was promoted to Major General and appointed Commander of Land Force Doctrine and Training System.

Major General Bowes graduated from Acadia University in 1981 with a BA in History, and in 1982 with a BA Honors in Political Science. In 1985 he graduated from Queen's University in Kingston with a Master of Arts in Political Studies. He is also a graduate of the Canadian Land Forces Command and Staff course and the Canadian Forces College Command and Staff Course.

MGen Bowes has been awarded the Meritorious Service Cross, the Meritorious Service Medal, the US Meritorious Service Medal, a Chief of the Land Staff Commendation and was presented the US Bronze Star medal.

RUSI Nova Scotia looks forward to welcoming him back to Halifax and hearing his talk to us on October 19th – mark your calendar!

**RUSI BOARD WILL MEET
ON SEPTEMBER 21ST**

The first RUSI Board business meeting of the “fall season” will take place on Wednesday, Sept 21st. We have several orders of business to deal with in addition to the normal reports provided by our committees.

The items which may interest you will be a discussion on the succession planning for the Institute as we will need a new slate of officers in February; a discussion on the wearing of mess kits to military functions by former members of the Canadian Forces; finalizing the details for our annual Remembrance Day Mess Dinner so we can get the information out to you and finally, looking into the possibility of having RUSI NS receive a number of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for rewarding service to our long serving members.

The reason I am bringing these discussion points up is that perhaps, you, our members, would like to see some issues you feel strongly about discussed on your behalf at future meetings.

The Board normally meets on the third Wednesday of the month. If you wish to send an email detailing your concerns, send them to your secretary, the address is: murray.lee@ns.sympatico.ca.

FALLEN COMRADES

Over the summer, we were informed of the following

members of RUSI NS who recently passed away:

LCdr Max Corkum
Mr. John W. Primrose

May they rest in peace.

