

**AIRBORNE SOCIAL CLUB
NORTHTOWN PO, BOX 71034
9308 - 137 AVENUE
EDMONTON, ALBERTA T5E 6J8
APRIL 2021**



EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Over the years being associated with our club, I have been given the fortunate opportunity and pleasure of representing the club. One recent occasion while talking to Chad Davis, Ron-No-Neck Davis' son and daughter-in-law and when I asked about his mom was told, "mom is doing great, in fact she turns 97 tomorrow". Chad went on to say his mom, Jean had recently suffered a minor stroke, spent some time in hospital and recovery centre and is now back home and doing exceptionally well with no real adverse effects from the stroke.

Ron and Jean were dedicated supporters to not only our club but to the airborne world and their community. Both were mentors and in Jean's case "mom to many" be it PMQ kids, kids at the local arena, hockey teams or just someone their met in the local CANEX. I, on occasion would visit Ron at the Kipnes Centre where he resided prior to his death.

No matter what day or time of day I visited Ron, Jean always seemed to be at Ron's side.

On March 4th the day before Jean's birthday, I delivered her a bouquet of birthday flowers and card on behalf of the club, with the well wishes from all of us. Jean was surprised but exceedingly happy for this gesture and asked that I thank everyone for remembering her on her special day.

LAST POST



This edition may have missed notices of airborne comrades who passed since last publication. We try to acknowledge those who have passed. Regretfully, though, full details are not always known or available

at time of publication.

**JAMES ABRAHAM (ABE) DONEY
JUNE 14, 1952 - JANUARY 16, 2021**



I took this photo of Ron and Jean the day Ron had his glass block dedicated on the Wall of Pride at the Kipnes Center.



Abe passed away peacefully, on January 16th, 2021 after hard fought battle with cancer. Abe lived in Powell River BC for the last few years of his life and enjoyed it there. He was predeceased by his father James, mother Arvena and sister Emily. Abe leaves behind his sisters Arvena and Wendy; brother Marvin; uncle to Stacey, and nephew Eli, niece Amy.

Abe began his military career with The Royal Hamilton Light Infantry after which he transferred to the regular forces as an Infantryman with The Royal Canadian Regiment. Throughout his career he was posted to Germany, did UN tours in Cyprus and the Middle East and a tour with The Canadian Airborne Regiment.

Rest easy brother, you may be gone from our lives... but your spirit will live forever. *PRO PATRIA...AIRBORNE!*

**WILLIAM (WILLIE) MARCIPONT
NOVEMBER 1937 - JANUARY 2021**



William "Willie" Marcipont at the age 83 of New Glasgow, formerly of Stellarton passed away on January 11, 2021 in the Aberdeen Hospital, New Glasgow. Born in Stellarton, Nov 23, 1937 he was a son of the late Hector and Ann (MacKay) Marcipont. He was a member of Stellarton Air Cadets and received his pilot's license at the age of 16. He delivered groceries for Earl Cameron's Store when he came out of school. He joined the RCR in 1958 and served until 1993. He served in Ipperwash and London Ontario, Germany, The Canadian Airborne Regiment in Edmonton, Cornwallis, Nova Scotia and Gagetown, New Brunswick. While in Gagetown he did two tours of Cyprus.

He was a life member of RCR Association Airborne Social Club, life member of Branch # 28, RCL Stellarton where he served as President and Service Officer. Willie was a member of the Masonic Lodge for over 40 years.

Willie became involved with the veteran's unit in Pictou. He was on the committee for the

sun room, and the bus fund. He was on the committee for the memorial wall in Stellarton and the committee for the military museum.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years Evelyn (Haley) Marcipont, sisters Alice MacKay, Muriel Pitts, many nieces and nephews.

Willie was predeceased by brothers Hector and Leonard, sisters Mary MacLean and Jean Lees.

**TERRENCE WILLIAM (TERRY, TW) SMITH
JUNE 1942 -MARCH 2021**



Terrence William (Terry, TW) Smith passed away on March 20th, 2021 at his home in Margaree, Nova Scotia. Born on June 13, 1942 in Sydney to the Late William and Frances (Lewis) Smith. Terry joined the Canadian Army in 1962 and served over 20 years, in Edmonton, Victoria, Calgary, Germany and Cyprus.

He served with both 1st and 2nd BN PPCLI and was a very proud member of the Canadian Airborne Regiment. Terry was an instructor at the Canadian Airborne Centre where he taught Parachuting, rappelling and student instructors.

Upon leaving the army he made his way home to Cape Breton where he was employed as a Fishery Officer for 16 yrs. He was also a member of the Legion for 42 years.

Surviving Terry are his wonderful partner Cheryl Milburn; Son Stephen (Shelly), Victoria; Daughter Nancy, Calgary; Granddaughter Breanne (Scott), Vancouver;



Holly (Chris), Amherst; Great Granddaughter Hazel, Amherst; Brother Brian (Brooke), Winslow, PEI; Brother Leigh (Linda), Margaree; Brother Kevin (Anne), Point Edward.

Terry was predeceased by his Father William, his Mother Frances and infant sister Nancy.

A cremation has taken place, a memorial service will follow at a later date.

REMEMBERING OUR DEPARTED WIVES AND PARTNERS

Not only do we remember our departed airborne brothers and sisters, we also acknowledge the passing of wives and partners who, over the years stood by us as we ventured off to parts known and unknown. Most often, they were mother and father, nurturer, educator and disciplinarian. Many times these independent women moved themselves and families from one location to another during our absences. Where would many of us be today if it were not for these stalwart women, and for that, we honour their memory.

ANNE ELIZABETH MARR SPOUSE OF RSM (RET'D) JOHN MARR

It is with heavy hearts that we announce that Anne passed away peacefully with John, her husband of 59 years, and daughter, Beth-Anne, at her bedside on December 28, 2020, in the palliative care unit at the Saint John Regional Hospital. Born in Saint John, New

Brunswick on May 27, 1939, she was the daughter of the late Norman and Elizabeth (McNulty) MacKinnon.



Anne graduated from Saint John Vocational School in 1957 then proceeded to graduate with a Radiological Technologist Diploma from St Joseph's Hospital in 1959.

Anne who valued education went on to obtain her Diploma in Registered Nursing from Algonquin College in Ontario in 1981 becoming a Critical Care nurse at the Pembroke, Ontario Hospital and on to St Joseph's Hospital in Saint John in 1984.

Anne graduated with her Bachelor of Nursing Degree from the University of New Brunswick in 1992 and retired from the Saint John Regional Hospital Dialysis Unit in January 2001. Anne became an active member and advocate with the New Brunswick Kidney Foundation and was honored in 2009 with the Charles Levesque Volunteer of the Year Award for her work with the Foundation.

Anne loved life and believed in doing what you can for others and that we travel the road of life only once. She held dear, her relationships she developed throughout her life. Anne was a military spouse who had the opportunity to work and live across Canada, Germany and Egypt resulting in lasting memories and friendships being developed from around the world. Most enjoyable for Anne and John, was the time spent in the Sinai Desert where they developed close relationships with their Kiwi friends whom later hosted them to a memory filled holiday throughout New Zealand.

Though Anne experienced the devastating loss of her son and health issues of late, she still met each day with a smile and genuine zest for life.

Family time was thoroughly enjoyed including time spent at the lodge on Cassidy Lake and cruising the Caribbean with her husband, daughter and son in law, as well as golfing in Sussex, Hampton and her month long vacations at the Villages in Florida with Alice.

In addition to her husband and daughter, Anne is survived by her son in law Michael Ernst; brother Calvin MacKinnon (Nancy) of Saint John; sister-in-law Joyce MacKinnon of Saint John; sister-in-law Reby MacKinnon of Summerside, PEI; brother in law Bill Marr (Gail) of French Village; and several nieces, nephews, and great-nephews and nieces.

In addition to her parents, Anne was predeceased by her beloved son John Whitfield and brothers Norman and Ian MacKinnon.

To ensure the health and wellbeing of family and friends, a graveside service at Fernhill Cemetery and a celebration of Anne's life will be held at a later date.

**GONE FROM US, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN
IN MEMORY OF DEPARTED MEMBERS OF
1ST CANADIAN PARACHUTE BATTALION,
BILL TALBOT AND WALT ROMANOW**



With 2020 having been the 76 anniversary since Normandy, and as time would have it both Bill and Walt also aged as left our presence.

However, for both of these inspiring men age seemed not stop their desire to ensure the legacy of 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion was not forgotten. Over the years both travelled, lectured and wrote of their personal

stories of their time as members of their legacy battalion.



From the very first ceremony at Siffleur Falls to the last time when their health allowed them to parade with us, both men were always eager to share their experiences and promote the history of their famed Parachute Battalion and it's battle honours. Regrettably, both of these men departed our presence during 2020. However, as noted above, "they may be gone from our presence but they will not be forgotten" Airborne Bill and Walt, Rest in Peace your legacy will not be forgotten.

**WILLIAM (BILL) TALBOT
FEBRUARY 1924 - MARCH 2020**

I personally remember Bill as a very interesting man who, when he attended Siffleur or a Reunion was always keen on wanting to talk to the young soldier of today. I once heard him say to a young paratrooper at Siffleur, "*back then was our time, which was very different than that of yours today, but one thing we have in common, we are both paratroopers which makes us the same today*".

I received notification of Bill's passing from his daughter Susan Wilson, via the below letter, which I now share with all of you.

To: Airborne Social Club (Edmonton)
March 4th, 2021

Dear Members of the Airborne Social Club:

The family of Bill and Helen Talbot of Ontario are sad to report the passing of our parents during March of 2020. mother left us



unexpectedly on March 24th and father passed away four days later on March 28th.

Father was very proud of his membership in the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion with its important contribution to the Second World war, and later in life welcomed the opportunity to participate in ceremonies commemorating the Airborne.



He was pleased that the Airborne provided him with the chance to socialize with other veterans the their families, and mother delighted in the opportunity the Airborne provided them to travel amongst new and old friends.

Although he made many memorable trips with the Airborne, father particularly enjoyed the ceremonies at Ex Coelis Mountain knowing that the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion would forever be honoured by such a massive and lasting monument. On his part, he tried to ensure that his own memories of the

Airborne would continue as he related his stories to younger generations. Hopefully these stories will endure.

We realize the importance their continued connection to the Airborne was to our parents during their lives. They appreciated your work, and our family wished continued success to your members.

Yours truly, Susan Wilson

Private Bill Talbot enlisted with the Canadian Signals Corps in 1942. Later the same year he transferred to the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion and completed his parachute



course at Fort Benning Georgia, November 1942. Bill parachuted into Normandy on June 6, 1944 and was one of the many who missed the drop zone by several miles. He and others had to find their way to their objective.

During his time with the Parachute Battalion overseas, he served in A, B and C Company's and later as a member of HQ Coy's Anti-Tank Platoon. Bill was wounded by a sniper's bullet on June 29, 1944 that ended the war for him.

**WALTER IVAN ROMANOW
APRIL 1924 - DECEMBER 2020**

Walter (Spike) Romanow passed away peacefully under a radiant Cold Moon in Edmonton at the age of 96. He was deeply respected man of many accomplishments.

In Saskatoon at age of 18 enlisted in the 1st

Canadian Parachute Battalion and parachuted with his brothers-in-arms into France the night before D-Day. In spite of heavy casualties, these brave souls successfully secured the Merville battery and were active in battle across northern Europe until the war's end.

After the war, he obtained a BA, helped establish and become station manager CFQC-TV, Saskatoon. In 1964, he moved to Windsor for a MA in English; taught at U of Windsor, set up and became the first Head of the Department of Communication Studies.

In 1974 he earned a Ph.D. After additional teaching and extensive academic publications, he became a two-term Dean of Social Sciences, then Dean of Student Affairs at U of Windsor prior to retiring as Professor Emeritus.

In 1992 he retired to Edmonton, took charge of the designation and establishment of the Ex Coelis mountain monument and cairn at Siffleur Falls to honour his Parachute Battalion.

In 2013 he was awarded the Queens Diamond Jubilee Medal.



His most prestigious award came in 2015 when France awarded him the Napoleonic Medal (Knight of the National Order of the Legion of Honour) for his WWII contribution.



Walter was predeceased by his loving supportive wife Yvonna and dear grandson Brendan. He is survived by children Oksana Stewart (Wayne), Martin (Sandy), Lydia, Stephen. Walter was "Didi" to grandchildren Evan (Pascale), Brian Beaudry (Jenn), Brett (Nicole) and great grandchildren Evelyn, Mira and Elias.

He was humble, generous, loving, wise, and much beloved by his extended family and friends.



A Celebration of Life Ceremony to follow when COVID restrictions ease.



RECORD OF CYPRUS 2024 STRAPHANGERS' UPDATE MARCH 30TH, 2021

From: James & Anne Holsworth
<jaholsworth@cogeco.ca>
Date: 2021-04-01 13:12 (GMT-07:00)
Subject: Record of Cyprus 2024 'Straphangers'
Update 30 Mar

Colleagues: Straphanger Update 30 March had a quorum of David Burke, JP Hill and Jim Holsworth.

David will push Cyprus 2024 on the CME net to find Engineer veterans and stories (especially from the deployment at the Airport). Jim will try to find David Harries.

Main request, right now, is from Ron Bragdon bragdon.rp@gmail.com who is planning the battlefield tour and trying to find 'the guys who were there' to give their accounts of the events of 1974. Ron will be reaching out to Cam Ross, Marc Caron, Ian Nicol and several others (in particular, needs Arty, Engr, Svc Sp vets) to knit together the various talks and site visits. Please contact Ron, if you can help.

Zoom Updates, has been put on hold until the Fall. SITREPs, updates and surveys will continue to be posted on Facebook *Cyprus2024*. Please contact the organizing committee (Cced) with any questions, suggestions or offers to help.

The committee is progressing our 'cunning plan', contacting UN partners, opening channels with government and diplomatic authorities, creating a wonderful program and battlefield tour, and writing a business plan with fundraising goals.

Le comité fait progresser notre 'plan astucieux', contactant les partenaires des NU, ouvrant des canaux avec les autorités

gouvernementales et diplomatiques, créant un merveilleux programme et visite du champ de bataille, et rédigeant un plan d'affaires avec des objectifs de collecte de fonds.

The Committee truly wants your input and, most importantly, to find the veterans to tell their stories.

Le Comité veut vraiment votre contribution et, surtout, trouver les anciens combattants pour raconter leurs histoires.

Looking forward to better times...
Dans l'attente de temps meilleurs

Regards, keep safe,
Jim Holsworth
jaholsworth@cogeco.ca
613 539 5095 cell

Kit Shop

Kit shop and other related airborne items; prints, books and items are available through Bill Dickson. A special commemorative coin minted to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Dedication of the 1CAN PARA Memorial Cairn (Airborne Monument) located at Siffleur Falls Alberta is also available.

There is a limited number of coins for sale, so purchase is on first come basis. Costs for coin \$20 a piece or \$25 shipment by postal. Purchase of coins through Bill Dickson only at (780) 459-0947 / abn339@shaw.ca

77TH ANNIVERSARY D-DAY CEREMONY JUNE 5-7, 2021 SIFFLEUR FALLS ALBERTA



It has not been a great year for any airborne happenings, that is for sure! No club meetings, no Reunion Committee meetings, basically no gatherings of any kind since lockdown. For those of us who have been jabbed, there may be a feeling that the so called, light at the end of the tunnel is near. But it is not a certainty. However, it does give us hope that we may be able to have a relatively normal D-Day Ceremony, at Siffleur this year.

I have been in touch with the David Thompson Resort (DTR) and it still is their plan to open for business on 1st May 2021. The reservation process at DTR will start a month earlier, on 1st April. Our previous Newsletters have outlined the procedure for reserving our event **under AIR21**. For the benefit of those who did not get this information, the procedure to register is included in this Newsletter again.

Our experience from last year's D-Day and Anniversary events taught us that because of the increased traffic in the Parks and Wilderness Area, we need to plan ahead for our ceremony. In fact, if newspaper reports are correct, the current activity in these areas, by visitors camping and trekking, has not diminished. More likely, it has increased. That said, I submit that with the planned opening of DTR in May, the Resort will also be heavily booked, both in the Resort proper, and in the campsite areas, because of this increased activity.

Therefore, Airborne Social Club (Edmonton) members, actually the whole Airborne Brotherhood the opportunity for us to finally have another Airborne Ceremony with some semblance of normality stands before us this June! **Our block booking period with the DTR ends on the 5th of May 2021.** Please consider registering for this D-Day ceremony again and do it now before it is too late!

Bill Dickson
Coord 2021 D-Day Ceremony
Siffleur Falls, AB

The following are cost arrangement settled on for the 2021 season for the Airborne community.

Rooms are \$139/night plus tax for a total of \$155.68/night. This rate is based on a 2-night stay. So, with meals (not including lunch on the 6th June) for two guests for the 2-night stay, the package as follows:

The room is \$311.36 and meals for two would be \$232.20 for a total of \$543.56

The rates for the campground sites are \$36.75/night plus tax \$39.69

The Meet & Greet will take place on the evening of June 5th and the BBQ will take place on the evening of June 6th, with both events taking place in the Bubble Tent, as in previous occasions.

The DTR has placed a block-booking period for the Airborne until May 5th, 2021. After which there is no guarantee, and you are on your own to book accommodation, if available.

Reservations may begin anytime through:
booking@davidthompsonresort.com or
www.davidthompsonresort.com

The Group code to use: **AIR21** and should be identified in the Special Request Section. DTR phone lines will reopen on April 1st, 2021. To make reservations **1-403-721-2103 (or) 1-888-810-2103.**

If the winds of change come up and we get a "Stop Drop"...so be it, in the meantime, all are encouraged to get behind this plan and make your bookings. The recent 20th Anniversary Ceremony of the Dedication of the Cairn was a huge success. We need to ensure we do not let those our brothers and sisters, who went before us, down by making this year's ceremony a success too!

THE VETERANS ASSOCIATION FOOD BANK



The Veterans Association Food Bank was created in August 2018 following the abrupt closure of the Royal Canadian Legion's Veteran food bank. The loss of this support system was felt by many

in the Veteran community.

Marie Blackburn, a former employee of the now-closed food bank and Veteran family member, saw the loss felt by the Veterans she had come to know throughout her time at the previous food bank. The risk of hunger, homelessness and isolation was too great for those Veterans left without a support system. Marie let that be her driving force. Something had to be done to replace the void left by the closure of the Veteran food bank.

Founding the Veterans Association Food Bank was the first step towards rectifying to closure of an essential service to Veterans and filling the gap. Consulting with the Veteran community was integral to address all other challenges and gaps in support faced by Canadian Veterans. This became a pillar initiative within the Organization – Veterans Helping Veterans.

The initiative, Veterans Helping Veterans, helps develop programs best suited to the support of fellow Veterans and Veteran families. We all want to get to a better place. A place of security, camaraderie, empathy and purpose – together.

Today, we are expanding our facility, networking into new communities, growing our programs and reaching out to more Veterans than we thought possible. Our tremendous growth and success in providing assistance to Veterans and Veteran families is thanks to our donors, hardworking staff, volunteers, and Association Members.

The Veterans Association Food Bank's program includes:

- food hampers and gift cards
- peer support

- Soup Wednesday and weekly meetings
- intake support
- VAC claims and medical referrals
- disability tax forms, CF1, and military ID cards
- veterans dinner and quilt presentations
- training programs in first aid, mental health first aid, and in-house warehouse training

Your support and contributions helps to provide food, programs, services and support for Veterans. Contributions can be made through the following link:

<https://veteransassociationfoodbank.ca/>

VETERANS VOICES OF CANADA



Every year Veterans Voices of Canada in conjunction with Host Community Partners raises 128 full sized Canadian flags in our host communities, representing the 128,000 Canadian military and

RCMP killed and missing in action service personnel lost in service from the Boer War to current missions. Plaques of Honour can be in tribute to past or present military or First Responder servicemen and women and because of the current Covid-19 Pandemic crisis, we feel it's important to honour our front line medical personnel heroes. Ceremony locations and sponsorship information can be found at the following link:



<https://vetvoicecan.org/flags-of-remembrance-2/>

CLUB MEMBERSHIP

In accordance with Club By-Laws once, a membership reaches end-December for that year, paid-up period that membership will have until end-June the following year to either renew or have their name placed on an inactive listing, i.e. end-December 2021/June 2022 Membership is open to paratroopers, former or current. Membership dues remains at \$10 yearly.

As the club secretary and membership representative, I endeavour to keep our membership contact information up-to-date. Our normal method of contact is through email, less mailing of cards. If you have moved or had a postal or email address changed since last contact please let me know so I can make corrections. In addition, if you know of any member who may have moved or are not receiving the newsletter contact me at dr.paris@shaw.ca

HUMOUR CORNER

A man in a hot air balloon realized he was lost. He reduced altitude and spotted a woman below. He descended a bit more and shouted, "Excuse me, can you help me? I promised a friend I would meet him an hour ago, but I don't know where I am."

The woman below replied, "You're in a hot air balloon hovering approximately 30 feet above the ground. You are between 59 and 60 degrees north latitude and between 107 and 108 degrees west longitude."

"You must be an engineer," said the balloonist.

"I am," replied the woman, "How did you know?"

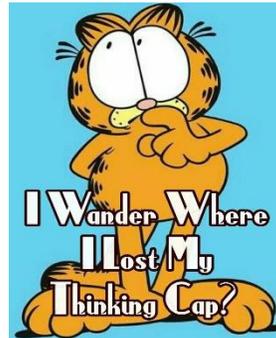
"Well," answered the balloonist, "everything you told me is technically correct, but I've no idea what to make of your information, and the fact is I'm still lost. Frankly, you've not been much help at all. If anything, you've delayed my trip."

The woman below responded, "You must be a politician"

"I am," replied the balloonist, "but how did you know?"

"Well," said the woman, "you don't know where you are or where you're going. You have risen to where you are due to a large quantity of hot air. You made a promise, which you've no idea how to keep, and you expect people beneath you to solve your problems. The fact is you are in exactly the same position you were in before we met, but now, somehow, it's my fault."

THE OLDER WE GET



Brains of older people are slow because they know so much. People do not decline mentally with age, it just takes them longer to recall facts because they have more information in their brains, scientists believe. Much like a computer struggles as

the hard drive gets full, so, too, do humans take longer to access information when their brains are full.

Researchers say this slowing down process is not the same as cognitive decline. The human brain works slower in old age, only because we have stored more information over time. The brains of older people do not get weak. On the contrary, they simply know more.

Also, older people often go to another room to get something and when they get there, they stand there wondering what they came for. It is NOT a memory problem, it is nature's way of making older people do more exercise.

SO THERE!

I have more friends I should send this to, but right now I can't remember their names. So, please forward this to your friends; they may be my friends, too.