

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



## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

This summer is virtually over but unlike the summer of 2020 many of us were able to get over some of the COVID restrictions and hopefully take in some "what used to be normal" routines, such as spending time with family and friends and travel. Our club has begun to get back into routines and planning stages for upcoming events. With that, barring any imposed restrictions we will be holding what will be our first official meeting at 1000 hrs, September 18<sup>th</sup>, at the St Albert Legion. This will be followed with a next day, get-together at the St Albert Eagles Club. Specific details on these events will be forthcoming.

After some COVID restrictions were lifted here in Alberta this summer, Reunion 2023 Committee got together in person and confirmed June 2-4, 2023 as the dates for the next reunion. Reunion 2023, as previously will be held at the Edmonton Inn (Ramada). "**Edmonton - The Airborne Story**" has been chosen as the reunion's theme.

Reunion 2023 bulletin is in the process of making and will be widely distributed. In meantime mark your calendars, talk to your airborne brothers and sisters out there and plan on attending.

Keeping with our dedication of commemorating D-Day 1944, the club once again held a memorial at The Airborne Monument, at Siffleur Falls. In addition to Bill Dickson's report below, we are very fortunate to have a special article written by Brett Romanow, grandson of Walt and Yvonna Romanow who carried ashes of his grandparents' up the mountain to once again be joined together by the love they so dearly cherished over the years.

### **D-Day Siffleur Falls 2021 The Pandemic Parade Re-Run**

By Bill Dickson, Coord/MC 2021 D-Day Ceremony

To paraphrase Forrest Gump, the Siffleur Falls D-Day Ceremony is like a box of chocolates, "you never know what you're gonna get", and I will elaborate on that, as I go along.

The preparation for this year's D-Day Ceremony certainly had its frustrations. Provincial restrictions related to the pandemic made it questionable if we could even have the ceremony. But then, we did it successfully last year with

similar restrictions, so we said let's go for it. David Thompson Resort (DTR) had indicated early on they would open for the season this year, so we



advised the membership accordingly to book early for the event. In the end, we had seventeen rooms and some camp sites booked, a slim number to make the Meet & Greet and BBQ a success.

Earlier, the military commitment by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn PPCLI was approved for a Climb Team for June 5<sup>th</sup> and a contingent for the parade on the 6<sup>th</sup>, that was good news. A not so good news message from AB Parks received end of May, requested we apply for a permit, for our event, with a liability insurance requirement attached. That was a curve we never had to action in the 21 years we have held this ceremony. Turns out it was related to the Rocky Mountain Horse Artillery Gun Crew planning to attend again, in support of the ceremony. Also, our liaison with AB Parks personnel made it clear civilian activity in the Siffleur Wilderness Area continued to grow, especially on the weekends. A subsequent recee a week prior to the event, confirmed work to expand the Staging Area at Siffleur had begun. A follow up meeting in Rocky Mountain House with Parks contact to discuss parking lot clearance support, and to scrub this permit requirement, were both successful. Now we just needed a piper, and good weather. The bugler, Flag Party, Legion reps, military contingent, Padre, programs, sounds system and DTR bookings were all falling into place, albeit slowly in the latter case!

Two days prior to leaving for DTR I received a message from the CO 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn that "higher" had denied their participation in the parade due to the Provincial restrictions of gathering numbers, but the Climb Team was still a go. A disappointment

for sure, and I still didn't have a Piper. Then, Mike Mussolum got word from AB Parks there was a high fire hazard rating in the area, so nix on the Gun Crew firing at the ceremony. Maybe next year guys?

On the June 4<sup>th</sup>. Bill Johnston also confirmed the pickup of the sound system, so I packed up and got ready to head out to Siffleur a day early. Just prior to leaving, I received a message from Greg Ottway, AB Parks staff and member of the Rocky Mtn House Legion, telling me he had a Piper for me. Did I still want one? You know, it is nice when things fall into place occasionally, even at the last minute. With that note, Nancy Gilbert from Winfield, AB, became our Piper. The ride down to Siffleur felt much better now.

I checked into the DTR, followed by Claude Villeneuve, the Fletcher's, Brochu's and the 3PPCLI Climb Team members. Chit-chat followed and we confirmed the RV times for the climb the next morning. The Farrow family had also arrived and after meeting intros we covered the procedures and timings for their part in the climb. The weather was up and down, there were a lot of wind gusts and some rain. A quick recce of the Staging Area confirmed AB Parks were preparing to block off the parade area. Another spot of "good news" for a change! Normandy Peak had a bit of snow, but not enough to cause a problem. A few small group relaxation and therapy sessions took place that night back at the Resort. But thinking of the early morning RV, it was a quiet night for all.

Claude and I RV'd at the monument about 0745 hours on the 5<sup>th</sup>. It was a beautiful clear morning, and with the sunny background, you could see there was no snow left on the peaks. Dave Prouse our Padre arrived, followed shortly after by the Farrow Family and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn Climb Team members.



After few photo, blessing of the ashes and a briefing to the climbers by Climb Team Leader WO Blake Berggren, Mtn Coy 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn everyone prepared themselves to set off for the climb. While this was going on, Claude and I decided to take Joe Drouin's ashes and headed out across the Fredrick Topham Suspension Bridge. It was Claude's Idea

"to take Joe across the river," so to speak! A final task for a friend. When the Climb Team met up with us, I passed Joe's ashes to LCol James Thamer, CO 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn PPCLI, who was also along for the climb. After the group departed, Walt Romanow's grandson Brett came running across the bridge with his grandfather's ashes and caught up with the rest. The Climb Team was complete now, twelve would make the ascent. Claude and I headed back to the DTR.

Because of the small numbers booked into the Resort, the DTR staff asked if we would using the restaurant patio for the Meet & Greet and BBQ functions,.

On one hand this seemed a reasonable suggestion, however all the members I talked to wanted to go up to the Bubble Tent like we have in the past. In the afternoon, Claude and I decided to have a beer on the patio. While they were setting up the table umbrellas, the manager was still pressing for a decision on the location for the functions. Suddenly there was a lengthy wind gust that came straight down the front of the Resort, and it blew all the tables and fixtures, including Claude and I all over the place, so much for having a function on the restaurant patio! Bubble Tent here we come.

About 1530 hours I noted the Farrow boys had returned to the Resort from the climb. We asked about the rest of the climbers, and they said they were about three hours behind? The boys had broken away from the pack and made it down the mountain in two hours and twenty minutes; this had to be a record. The boys said everything went all right, and the team leader would stop in to debrief us, when they got back. As we prepared for the Meet & Greet, the weather was a mixed bag of cloud, sunny breaks, and wind around the Resort.

It was not our usual gathering at the Bubble Tent, only 31 members and guests signed in. In the past, we have seen three rows of tables set the full length of the tent. But anyway, it was great to finally spend time together as a group. The DTR put on their typical finger food buffet style meal, and yet considering the small numbers, we kept the bar busy!

The military members of the Climb Team arrived and briefed us on the climb. They said weather systems had surrounded them, most of their time at the top, so the spreading of ashes by the team members was done quickly. They wanted to start the decent before any serious weather stuff happened. RSM Pickard commented on the "run down" by the Farrow boys as quite a feat! Both the CO and WO Berggren concurred. They all expressed their disappointment again, that they could not stay for the ceremony on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Major



Adams, OC Mtn Coy, commented that it would be nice if they could have a large group attend this event, and stay in situ the whole time. There was a vibe that next year we can count on that to happen. The party did not last too long at the Bubble Tent. Once the meal was over, and the troops left, most members drifted away into their own little gatherings.

Breakfast on the 6<sup>th</sup> was at the restaurant patio. Nice touch, except it started to rain, and the wind did not help either. Eat fast, or head back to your room was the order of the moment. As the morning went on, things did not look too good for the parade weather-wise. About 1000 hours, Bill Johnston and I decided to go down to the monument site and do a recce. As we drove towards the Preachers Point campsite, and Kootenay Plains area, the highway was dry, and Mt Ex Coelis was clear. AB Parks personnel had blocked off the parade area and had attendants on site. Our request to have AB Parks make this arrangement, was an innovative idea! It was an optimistic feeling as we rode back to the DTR.

Our efforts getting organized for the parade began with its usual mix of trying to get ready, amidst the gab sessions and early photo ops by those not involved in the set up. In their usual supporting role, DTR Staff arrived with the chairs and flag poles. Wreath stands got sorted out. Tim Penny was seen hustling around trying to get the Colour Party together. The weather patterns were a mixed bag, circulating around us in sort of a punch bowl bubble. Overall it was sunny with light winds, so we agreed to set up the sound system. With so many fingers in the mix, I can never figure out why we can only get one speaker to work! Guess it is better than just my voice. Members and guests were signing in as the roar of our own Veterans Paratroopers Motorcycle Club members arrived. Turns out they would form the nucleus of the parade. It was time!



Art Brochu got the parade formed up and Tim Penny marched on his ad hoc Colour Party. In the absence of our Parade VIP, the task of taking the

Salute fell to our senior member in attendance Bill Fletcher.



Todd Gow, our bugler from Calgary, played the National Anthem. Our Padre Dave Prouse did the Invocation and Michelle Laframboise read the Airborne Prayer.



I read out the Roll Call of the Guardians of the Mountain, the list is now over forty names!. It was also an honour to read out a D-Day Tribute for Walt Romanow, sent to me by an old veteran colleague of his, Dr. Stuart Selby, Professor Emeritus of Communication Studies, University of Windsor.

Our Last Post, Two Minutes Silence, Lament and Reveille were led by bugler Todd Gow, and our guest piper Nancy Gilbert Tim Penny read Binyon's Verse and then the wreath placements began. DVA (Bill Fletcher), Province of AB (MLA Mark Smith), British 6<sup>th</sup> AB Div (Gerry Gerenschner/Bob Spisak), 1<sup>st</sup> Can Para Bn (Isobel Allan/Constance McCall), 3Bn PPCLI (Johnny McGee), RCL 2369 Winfield/RCL 269 Drayton Valley (Tom Fougere/MLA Mark Smith), CAFA, CAR, ABSC (Edm) (Michel Crepeau), Aboriginal Vets of AB (Tim Ryan), UN (Ross McGregor), 2/75<sup>th</sup> Rangers (Bob Copeland) and Veterans Voices of Canada (Al



Cameron). Our list gets longer each year, but recognition is due.



Al Cameron had asked me earlier if he could address the crowd before the parade dismissal. Anything to accommodate a friend! Had I known he was going to embarrass me by making a presentation to me on behalf of VV of C for “my dedication to the Siffleur Falls Memorial, etc”.



Might have vetoed that request, had I known earlier. Do not get me wrong, while I was honoured to receive this plaque, my position is and always has been, if I am here and capable, I will staff this event. That said, it is about time the Club got activity in the “Bull Pen” started!

Closing remarks included thanking the various members and organizations who helped, and supported, the event this year. I won't go over them all again here, most of you know who you are, and what you did, and you have been thanked for that support. If I missed anyone, or any group, my apologies. SIU! But I would like to say once more, my thanks to the staff of the AB Parks for their support this year - because without that support, I believe we would not have been able to have held our ceremony, and that is worthy of saying “thanks again.” Would also like to thank the family members of the “departed” for attending. Hopefully, we have been able to present you with a memorable ceremony in honour of your loss. It is hoped that an element of closure has been achieved for you and the memory of this occasion will remain with you forever. Know, your departed now join the others, as they watch over the Cairn for all time. They served well before, and they continue to serve now. To that we say, God Bless, Airborne!

I am sure you all realize it was difficult preparing for this year's ceremony. As I said on parade, given the situation and the circumstances and restrictions surrounding the various rules, we may have been wrong to hold the ceremony this year. Maybe we were, but if we were, I am glad we did. So did the five members we carried up Normandy Peak on the 5<sup>th</sup>. And I am sure the hundreds of our Airborne Brothers that bailed out in the dark on the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> June, and the thousands of our comrades who landed at Gold/Juno Beach 77 years ago, are glad we did too.

Art dismissed the Parade. The group photo op was cancelled due to the restrictions. Small group shots were the order of the day, as we slowly took down and packed up the kit for another year. DTR staff arrived on site to pick up the flag poles and chairs, taking them back for safe keeping until next time. We had 67 members and guests sign in at the ceremony, but I know a few late comers missed signing in, so I would say we had about 85 in attendance. *However, what is really significant this year – this is the first time since we began these annual D-Day ceremonies that we never had an original 1 Can Para Bn member on parade!* Now everyone was departing, with those of us that were booked into the DTR heading back for the BBQ. And guess what, as I left it started to rain!

Like the Meet & Greet, the BBQ was small in attendance. The bar was busy and when the steaks were ready it was not long before the munching and chatter started. You know, I even heard from one source, they said these were the best steaks they ever had here! The BBQ session did not last too long, and in fact some goodbyes were said before everyone departed, and the DTR Staff gave

“Last Call.” After, there were a few post BBQ party gatherings in the camp sites, and room locations. But overall, it was a quiet finish to the weekend. Would we do it again, for sure, I would say so. I thought about the comment made on the June 5<sup>th</sup> about the military being “full in” next year. That I would love to see.

It was a quiet night really. There are many channels to search on the TV with the updated rooms at DTR now. But it was noticeably quiet in



the morning, for unknown reasons. When I opened the door of my room, I was staring at about 10cms of snow on my van, and the snowflakes coming down were the size of beer decals. Can you believe it! It was time to skip breakfast and get out of here. The snow lasted thru to the Stony Reservation area, and then turned to torrential rain thru to Rocky Mountain House.

Remember what I said at the beginning of this dissertation...with the weather at DTR and the Siffleur area during the D-Day events, you will never know what you'll get!

So, here's on to 2022...stay well people.

***GONE FROM US, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN***

***IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED***

**LAST POST**



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

***MWO (Ret'd) Clint R. McGregor, MMM CD  
October 20, 1947 - May 5, 2021***



As his father before him (Sergeant Don McGregor RCAF), Clint at the age of 18 would enlist in the Royal Canadian Navy in February 1966 and begin what is now four generations of McGregor military legacy expanding 41, plus years. From the time he was an Able Seaman Clint began a career of adventure. He would go on to serve HMCS Protecteur, Magaree, Cornwallis and Hochelaga Although wearing a Navy uniform, Clint's sense of adventure would have him serve in Army and Air Force Units and Elements such as Canadian Airborne Regiment, CABC Edmonton (2 postings), RSS Essex and Kent Scottish Windsor ON, ATCHQ Trenton, CFSAL Borden, PNO St John NB. During this time Clint would do two deployment to Cyprus. Being adventurous, Clint trained in scuba diving, parachuting and mountain climbing (he climbed Mt Robinson 3 times, a feat not many can say). All of these he excelled in by becoming a diving instructor, static-line and freefall parachutists, and jumpmaster. Many younger servicemen during his career were lucky to have had Clint as a teacher and mentor in these areas. Upon his retirement from the Forces, Clint and spouse Sheelagh spent 14 winters in Yuma AZ. When they were not exploring the desert, golfing or playing shuffleboard, they volunteered in many resort activities.

Clint's son CPO2 Troy McGregor and granddaughter MS Kita MacPherson (nee McGregor) continue to extend into the fourth generation of McGregor military legacy with their current service.

Clint is survived by his spouse Sheelagh, 3 children, 6 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. Clint enjoyed his life to the fullest, he did it all. He simply did not want to say “I wish I had of done that”. *The Military was not what Clint did it is who he was.*



**WO (Ret'd) Ignatius Henry (Nish) Clarke  
1941-2021**



**CWO (Ret'd) Joseph Phillipe Drouin, MMM CD  
January 11, 1942 – May 12, 2021**



Nish passed away May 15, 2021 after a short battle with cancer. Nish served his country with pride; he served with 2 Battalion Canadian Guards Petawawa, both within the battalion and as an instructor at the Guards Depot for six years. While there he did an initial UN tour of Cyprus during this time. He then moved to Edmonton in 1968 and began serving with the newly formed Canadian Airborne Regiment where he served as a paratrooper with the Regiment and as a parachute instructor at the Canadian Airborne Centre.

During his time with the airborne, he again did a second UN tour of Cyprus during the Turkish Invasion in 1974. Upon his retirement as a Warrant Officer in 1976 he accepted a position as security director of the precious metals company, Johnson Matthey in Brampton where he worked for 31 years. Nish was predeceased by his parents Michael and Bell Clarke and two of his beautiful sisters, Mary (Lloyd) Brunton and Dole (Gerry) Clouthier. He leaves behind the love of his life and soul mate of 44 years Elaine Boland Clarke, his adored children Nyshea (Jeff) Brown and Jeffrey (Heather) Clarke as well as his beloved grandchildren: Quinn Brown, Kehanah Brown, Kiefer Clarke, Kolby Clarke, Korah Clarke and his step-grandchildren Hannah, Deliah and Ellis, and his former daughter-in-law Destinee Clarke; his brothers John (Renee) Clarke, Jim (Elinor) Clarke, Tom (Jeannette) Clarke and sister Marie (Art) Cummings; his brothers-in-law John (Colleen) Boland, Fred (Mona) O'Quinn and sisters-in-law Kathleen (Ray) Bartlett, Rita (Ewart) Rose, Marion (Walt) Normore, Frances (Jerry) Sweeney and Mona (Fred) Vreeland and Chrissy (Dave) Boland. For the past 14 years Nish and Elaine wintered in Florida where they became part of the Paradise Shores family who always welcomed them with open arms.

*Nish enjoyed life to the fullest and had no regrets.*

Joe passed away suddenly but peacefully at the Buckingham, Quebec Hospital on the 12th of May 2021 at the age of 79. He was predeceased by parents Josaphat Drouin (1978), Irene Toupin (1994), son Andre Drouin (2020), and sister Jocelyne Drouin (2020). Joe leaves behind his beloved wife and best friend of 37 years Marlene and son Luc Drouin. Also survived by siblings Jacques, Jean, Jean-Marc, Joane and many nieces and nephews as well as step-daughter Petra and step-granddaughter Virginia.

Joe joined as an Apprentice Soldier (RCASC July 1958) and went on to have a full and varied career for the next 37, plus years in both the Regular and Reserve Forces. His varied postings and tours included such as - Fort Chambly, Germany, two tours of Cyprus (the second tour was with the Canadian Airborne Regiment during the 1974 Turkish Invasion), the Golan Heights, the 1976 Montreal Olympics, 408 Tactical Helicopter Squadron where he was a contributor to the development of the Squadron Museum and was instrumental in the recovery of one of the Squadron's original Lancaster Bombers KB 994, CFLA and CFSAL Borden, NDHQ.

In August 1992, Joe retired from the Regular Force briefly after 34 years of service and moved to Gatineau, Quebec. In September that year he joined 28 (Ottawa) Svc Bn as CSM and in November 1993 he appointed RSM. He later retired from the Reserve Force April 1995 at which time he formed his promotional company "Joe Drouin Enterprises Ltd." In January 1996, He was appointed D/Prov Commissioner of St. John Ambulance and in June appointed the Aide de Camp to the Governor General his Excellency Romeo Leblanc and later her Excellency Adrienne Clarkson until November 2001. As a member of The Order of St. John for over 23 years, he accumulated well over 25,000 hours of volunteer service to his community.

With his company, Joe dedicated his work to the Cdn AB Regt, the RCASC, CAVUNP, Logistics Branch, the Navy, Army and Air Cadets, Police, Fire, Paramedics, and many others. In November 2019, after 27 years, he sold his company and retired for the final time. Tremendous thanks to his wife and former employees who made the company a success and helped to make the name of the company known around the world.

When it is safe to do so, a Memorial Gathering will be held for Family, Friends and Colleagues at Beechwood, Funeral, Cemetery and Cremation Services, Ottawa.

**WO (Ret'd) Ronald (Ron) Doane Pieroway, CD  
1940-2021**

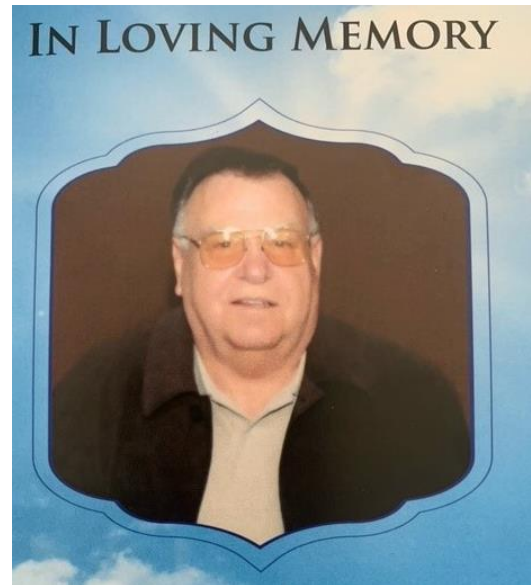


Ron passed away July 29, 2021, at the age of 80, Ronald Doane Pieroway of Pasadena, Newfoundland, born in Marys Harbour, Newfoundland passed away. He was predeceased by: his siblings, Evelyn, Lorraine, Donny and Danny; and his sisters-in-law, Joan Hulan (Robert) and Judy. Ron is survived by his wife Vina of Pasadena; his daughters, Dena Wight (Rick) of Pasadena and Lana (Jean Guevremont) of Ottawa; his grandchildren, Dylan, Marleigh and Yannick; his siblings, Roy, James, Shirley White (Jack), Carolyn, Connie and Donna (Mark Gleeson); and his siblings-in-law, Rona Cross (Harold), Rose Snow (Charlie), Robert Alley (Elaine), Eric Alley and Frank Crummey. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews and close friends.

Ron joined 'B' Company, 2nd Battalion RHC in 1959 in Gagetown. He remained with B Coy through Germany 1962 – 1965 and Cyprus 1966 but was reassigned to HQ Coy for the Battalion's final Cyprus tour in 1968/69. In 1970 he re-badged to 2RCR and later served a tour with the Canadian Airborne Regiment. In the late 80s, Ron was the RSS Warrant Officer with 2nd Battalion, The Royal Newfoundland Regiment.

A graveside service was held August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at the St. David's Anglican Church.

**Maurice (Moe) James Thorne  
October 6, 1946 - February 1, 2020**



Moe passed February 1, 2020, at his home in Calgary, AB, at the age of 73. Because of COVID restrictions during the past year the family held a memorial for Moe on August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Moe will be loved and forever remembered by his sisters, Kathy (Ed) and Eileen (Bernie); brother, Phil (Elayne); nieces, Mischelle (Lonnie), Naydene, Rondine, Nichole and Krista and by nephew, Arlond.

He was predeceased by his daughter, Shawn O'toole; his father and mother, Percy and Rose Thorne; his sister, Beverly Tremblay and his nieces, Julia and Robin Thorne.

The family wishes to extend their thanks to Moe's friend, Ernie and to extended family for all of their support.

Moe had a very successful career in the Canadian Armed Forces. He started his career with the Canadian Guards. He went on to become a paratrooper with the Airborne Regiment, he then remustered to the Royal Canadian Airforce, where he was an Aero Engine Technician in 419 Squadron.

After 21 years, he retired from the Armed Forces. He then went on to work at Electrolux for numerous years and then went to work at the Corps of Commissionaires.

Moe was very highly thought of by family, friends and coworkers. Respect, loyalty and devotion with his continued excellent performance reflect his character and demeanor.



**Ernest "Ernie" Fenton**  
**January 30, 1927 - July 3, 2021**



Ernest "Ernie" Fenton passed away peacefully of natural causes on Saturday, July 3, 2021 with his daughter Denise by his side.

Ernie lived a life of travel and adventures. His adventures were first provided while he was with the British Army (Irish Guards, Paratroop Regiment) and then with the Canadian Army (Canadian Guards, Airborne, PPCLI). His travels continued after he retired from the army with Veterans Transfer. Ernie especially enjoyed travelling many miles particularly around Europe with his wife for 64 years "Tommy" (predeceased in 2014).

In addition to his daughter Denise, Ernie is survived by his nieces and their families in England and Australia.

**Ghislain ("Gil") Bellavance**  
**December 24, 1935 - May 13, 2021**



Gil passed, at the age of 85 passed May 13, 2021 at St. Paul's Hospital, Saskatoon, SK after a brief and sudden illness. Prayers and the blessing of the body were held May 16, 2021.

A Funeral Service was held July 21, 2021. Interment followed at the Town of Battleford Cemetery.

**Norman Edward Walsh**  
**April 2, 1925-July 22, 2021**



Norm passed away peacefully after living a long and happy life of 96 years. Predeceased by his wife and best friend of 66 years, Sheila (Grace Shields) and leaving to cherish his memory are daughters Patti (Rod), Lori, Susan, son Greg, grandchildren, Karli (Jereme), Travis (Mia), Jesse, and great-grandchildren, Reese and Mya. A celebration of Norm's life was held at Eden Brook Memorial Gardens and Funeral Home on August 3, 2021. Dad was a proud veteran of WWII, a member of the 1st Canadian Battalion Paratroopers.

**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.

*A GREAT SOUL  
A Great Soul serves everyone,  
All the time.  
A great Soul Never Dies  
It brings us together,  
Again,  
And Again.*

*Maya Angelou*



## Pauline Zakaluk - August 10<sup>th</sup> 2021



Pauline Zakaluk, beloved wife of 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion veteran Private Morris Zakaluk passed away peacefully on August 10, 2021. During her 95 years on earth, Pauline touched so many lives with her kindness, generosity and loving spirit. She will forever be cherished, loved and missed by her extended family, friends and colleagues.

Born in Calgary, Pauline was working as a secretary at the CPR when she met Morris, the love of her life. Morris, had served with the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion in World War II. He parachuted into France behind enemy lines on June 6, 1944. Reported missing in action for 80 days, he fought alongside the French Resistance and eventually with the Americans. After recuperating in England, Morris and his unit parachuted over the Rhine and into enemy territory on March 25, 1945. There were many battles and casualties, but Morris and his unit led the Allied Forces to Wismar on the Baltic where the Germans finally retreated, and they met the Russians.

Following the War, Morris became a Bridge and Building Master with the Canadian Pacific Railway. It was there that he met Pauline. Early in their marriage, they were transferred by the CPR to Revelstoke, then Vancouver, eventually settling in Surrey, BC. Pauline and Morris loved to entertain and they formed lasting friendships with neighbours and other people they met through their work with the Canadian Pacific Pioneers Association and the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion Association.

Their home was their sanctuary and anyone who entered, immediately saw how talented Pauline was because her creative touch was everywhere. Her magnificent oil paintings depicting her early life on the prairies hung on the walls, her ceramic creations reflecting her love of horses were on display, along with the beautiful antiques she carefully brought back to life. She loved to garden, sew beautiful clothing and draperies, reupholster

furniture, knit and crochet. She was also an amazing carpenter and even in her later years wasn't afraid to fix a fence or use a jackhammer while repairing her front stairs.



Pauline used her excellent communication skills as the "Social Secretary" of the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion Association to keep members of the Bornewest, the BC Paratroopers, the Edmonton Social Club Paratroopers and other members in Ontario informed of upcoming gatherings and Remembrance services.



She was presented with a maroon Airborne beret, which she wore proudly whenever laying a wreath at Siffleur Falls or at other services in BC. Pauline was honoured by the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion Association on Monday August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021, when she was laid to rest in Surrey, BC. She never served in Canada's Military but her passion and enthusiasm for our country's Paratroopers was apparent to everyone who met her. Pauline has now earned her "wings" leaving a legacy of kindness, friendship and service to Canada. Rest in Peace Pauline, for you have earned it. Airborne!

### A GRANDSON'S TRIBUTE

It was a whirlwind weekend full of emotions, but I thought I'd share a few details and photos of where my grandparents, Yvonna & Spike joined me for one last hike together.

Yesterday morning, I joined six members of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) at the Monument dedicated to the 1st Can. Parachute Batt. near Siffleur Falls, AB. Our objective was to reach the summit of Normandy Peak (part of Mt. Ex Colis - meaning "Out of the Clouds"). At the summit, there is a small cairn dedicated to paratroop members who have passed away. This, as it turns out, is an absolutely stunning location for a final rest.

Our route followed the Siffleur Falls hiking trail, across both bridges and a long wooden boardwalk for several km's, and then veered left (NE ish) along a decommissioned fire access road to the gully between Normandy and Ardennes peaks.



We then proceeded directly up a rocky drainage covered with fallen trees, overgrown alder, and many, many thistle bushes. This is where I began to regret not wearing pants for the hike. This bushwhacking continued for approximately 2 hours as the trees thinned out and the pitch steepened. The mossy/grassy ground transitioned to loose shale as we reached the mid-way point (4km of 8km)... however we had only completed approximately 1/3 of the vertical (350m of 1,050m total). The next chunk of the climb would be very steep, very loose shale, with several "pucker factor" moments built in.

The quickest way to the top was to go directly up a steep drainage that would normally be the ideal avalanche terrain trap, had there been any snow left. However, this still meant that we had to be wary of the climbers above and below, as a misjudged step would send a slew of rocks tumbling downwards at the other climbers.

I spent the next two hours gaining two feet in elevation at a time and sliding back down one. Over, and over again. Occasionally, someone above would yell "ROCK!" loudly, and that was a gentle reminder to get the hell out of the way before the bouncing shale found you first.



We reached the summit of Normandy Peak at noon. There were moderate winds, broken



sunshine, and large black clouds moving directly towards us from the West. We knew we only had approximately 10 mins at the summit before we'd have to leave.

The PPCLI members lay out their Camp Flag just below the cairn, and briefly spoke about the



meaning of this day. The Warrant Officer then recited the Airborne Creed from memory:



**What manner of men are these who wear the maroon beret?**

*They are, firstly, all volunteers and are toughened by hard physical training. As a result they have that infectious optimism and that offensive eagerness which comes from physical well-being. They have "jumped" from the air and by so doing have conquered fear.*

*Their duty lies in the van of the battle; they are proud of this honour and have never failed in any task. They have the highest standards in all things whether it be skill in battle or smartness in the execution of all peace time duties. They have shown themselves to be as tenacious and determined in defence as they are courageous in the attack. They are, in fact, men apart - every man an Emperor.*

*Of all the factors which make for success in battle the spirit of the warrior is the most decisive. That spirit will be found in full measure in the men who wear the maroon beret.*

He then motioned that it was time to spread Yvonna & Spike's ashes on the cairn.

Although I have never had the opportunity to spread ashes before, I *have* watched the movie 'The Big Lebowski' and know what **not** to do. Suddenly, the winds calmed down and the sun seemed to feel just a little bit warmer on my back as it poked through a crack in the clouds.

I took a moment to pause, and look around at the stunning scenery. I thought about how Baba & Didi touched the lives of SO many over the years. I thought about how many wished they could have joined us at the mountain summit, but were unable to. I thought about how this last year had forced the members of this family to be apart, and had ultimately kept us from being with Spike in his final moments. I thought about how hard this last six months has been on Oksana, Lydia, Stephen, my Dad, and countless others. There were a thousand prophetic things I *could* have said to wrap this all up in a neat little bow up there - but yet no words in my vocabulary could appropriately express what we have **all** been thinking and feeling.

But finally somehow... through this deluge of emotion... I managed a slight smile as I thought about how happy my grandparents would be knowing that they were *finally* back together.  
**"Fair winds and soft landings, jumper. Airborne!"**

The descent followed roughly the same route, and brought us back to the Siffleur Falls parking lot just after the rest of the Romanow/ Stewart/

McLean/Wowk clan finished their hike. The whole trip was approximately 16km long, took 8 hours, and had over 1,050m of elevation.

It was quite the privilege to join the PPCLI to the summit of Ex Coelis. Those guys were truly a class-act, and represent the maroon beret to a tee. The Warrant Officer met Spike several years prior, and was incredibly professional in ensuring the ashes received the care and respect they deserved.

I've included a link (below) to some photos that might help show the journey a bit better. I wish you could have all been there in person, but I know that you were with us in spirit. It makes one question how that black storm cloud missed us, while absolutely pummeling every other mountain range in the vicinity. Thanks for keeping watch over me, Baba & Didi!

Rest peacefully. We'll take it from here.

By: Brett Romanow -

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/QuvHEKNchN2L1Bcu7>

**Quilts of Valour - Canada Society**

<https://www.quiltsofvalour.ca>

Jacqui Wojcichowsky, QOV Alberta Representative was on hand following the official ceremony and presented a Quilt of Valour to several veterans with a QOV "hug of love and gratitude". Each quilt has a sew on official QOV label which provides the veteran's name and the names of those who helped make the quilt. The following inscription is contained on each label:

*Handmade with love, respect and gratitude for your sacrifice to Canada. May the hugs stitched into this quilt give you comfort, strength and love.*



## 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. This year's ceremonies will take place September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at locations across the country.



As done previously, Airborne Social Club (Edmonton) once again sponsored a plaque for the Sylvan Lake Alberta ceremony and encourages other associations, clubs or individuals to do likewise to a ceremony in your location. Ceremony locations and sponsorship information can be found at the following link:

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

### **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 20<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:abn339@shaw.ca)

## 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, Canadian or International. 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](mailto:dr.paris@shaw.ca)

### **HUMOUR CORNER**

*This one comes from, St Albert Legion Bulletin Editor Gerry Verccammen*

One evening, a husband, thinking he was being funny, said to his wife, "Perhaps we should start washing your clothes in Slim Fast, maybe it would take a few inches off your butt"

His wife was not amused and decided that she simply couldn't let such comment go unnoticed.

The next morning the husband took a pair of his underwear out of his drawer. "What the heck is this", he said to himself as a little "dust" cloud appeared when he shook them out.

Maria, he hollered into the bathroom, "why did you put baby powder in my underwear"?.

She replied with a giggle... "it's not baby powder...it's *Miracle Grow*".





Members and Guests sign-in to the COVID register



Veteran's Motorcycle members on parade



Padre Dave Prouse



RCL 269 Drayton Valley Member Tom Fougere





Robert (Bob) Copeland lays wreath on behalf of 1FSSF and US Ranger Association



Allan Cameron on behalf of Veterans Voices of Canada



John McGee on behalf of 3PPCLI



MLA Mark Smith on behalf of Alberta Government





Ollie and Ruthann Weeks



Bugler Todd Gow and Bill Dickson



Gerry Gerenscher and Bob Spisak on behalf of  
British 6<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division



Romanow Family with plaque  
***"IN LOVING MEMORY OF SPIKE AND YVONNA"***



JACQUELI WOJCICHOWSKY WRAPS QUILTS OF VALOUR



Dave Paris



Michel Crepeau



Alex Diaz



Roy Comeau