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## Internet Links

### Contact Us

<http://www.wnsr.ca>

WNSRRA

PO Box 6, Paradise, NS  
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### Like us on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/wnsr](http://www.facebook.com/wnsr)

**We only have 383 "Likes", but you can change that.**

**WNSR page on Facebook is called: West Nova Scotia Regiment**

**If you got your newsletter by mail, we don't have your e-mail address.**

**Please help us save paper, printing and postage costs by sending the editor your e-mail address. Thanks.**

## 2015 Reunion Report

Feedback from the 2015 Reunion is that everyone who attended enjoyed the experience. Several things made the 2015 Reunion different, successful, and memorable.

- This was the second year for the Friday evening barbeque, and it was well attended and ran pretty smoothly. Over 76 people attended, and many had the pleasure of meeting



friends whom they hadn't seen for years, including the West Novas in the picture here: Kim Ward, Peter Bailey, Wendel Hazelwood, Laurie Arnburg. Gary Saunders, Al Bigelow, Willie Salsman, Garry Randall, and Myles MacEachern. It's great to see that happen because that's what reunions are really about.

- Andre Edmunds, on his own initiative, set up a Skype link in Borden Hall so that people who couldn't attend were able to talk to those who were there. What a great way to set up a virtual reunion for those far away, although John Gary White was in attendance from Edmonton for the whole weekend.

- Our top saleslady, Helen Clark, made our two 50/50 draws quite successful; and, to make it even better, the winner on Friday night put his winnings on the bar and the winner on Saturday donated her winnings to the Regimental Association. We certainly have generous and fun-loving members.

- Our special raffle this year was for a beautiful 10" diameter WNSR brass badge, mounted and framed by Gerald "Duke" Davidson. This special item was won by our lucky Honorary Colonel John Leefe.



- The display of military uniforms and equipment had three components. The major portion was displayed by the Atlantic Canadian Living History Association. A welcome addition was made by Gordon Johnson who had a lot of items on display. A third group was the newly formed History Committee which set up a display based on the WNSR snipers. All together, they provided a military display second to none.

- The 2015 Reunion Banquet sat 92 people, the largest number for the banquet in the last decade. It is also important to note that there were a significant number of members who had obtained Regimental blazers, crests, and ties which makes the difference from just being there and being actively engaged in your Regimental Association.

- To all who helped to make the 66th Annual WNSRRA Reunion a success by attending or organizing, thank you.

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## Commanding Officer's Message

Hello, to the Regimental Association from myself and RSM Mills. I am very pleased to contribute to this edition of the Association newsletter.

The Regiment has again been very busy since the last newsletter. The training year is in full swing. Some highlights of the past few months are as follows: The Regiment organized and trained the 36 CBG Canadian Patrol Competition team which competed in November of last year. They finished fourth nationally overall, but first nationally as a reserve team. This is also significant as they were also the only reserve team to finish high enough to earn a medal standing which resulted in a Pennant being personally delivered to them in Halifax by the Army Commander, LGen Haines, CMM, MSC, CD.



In January the Regiment organized and conducted a Joint Exercise with the Princess Louise Fusiliers and other members of the 36 CBG in Aldershot. There were 144 all ranks, and even the affiliated Cadet Corps sent cadets to be part of the civilian force. The Division Commander visited and was quite impressed with the numbers and different Units involved in the exercise.

On 12 Feb the Regiment Presented Clerisy Entertainment a Command Team Commendation and coin for their great work on a documentary called *The Citizen Soldiers* about the Regiment's battles in the Italian Campaign. It is currently showing on Eastlink "On Demand", but arrangements are being made to get DVDs for sale.

Some upcoming events: Unit Advanced Shooting weekend where the soldiers will learn to shoot from longer distances than they normally do, and our annual celebration of Italy Day is 28 May this year (details to follow). I look forward to seeing everyone at Italy Day in May and hope you have a great Spring.

LCol Todd Harris, CD  
Commanding Officer WNSR

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## Canadian Tire donates Regimental Watches



Late last year, Robin, of Time Is Ticking, arranged for Canadian Tire Corporation to donate 20 Regimental watches for distribution to selected WNSR veterans of World War Two and the Korean War.

On 13 April at the Borden Hall Combined Mess in Camp Aldershot during the regular monthly meeting of the Valley Memory Club, the first recipients were presented with their watches by the Commanding Officer, LCol Todd Harris, and Canadian Tire Manager, John Schofield. There was an excellent turnout of fellow West Novas to witness this presentation to recognize the service in peace and war of these fine Canadian soldiers to whom we owe so much. The presentation was followed with a light lunch and an opportunity to speak with the recipients and other fellow West Novas.

The unit will make arrangements to present the remaining watches to selected West Nova WWII and Korean War veterans in the near future.

The picture shows Korean veterans standing and WWII veterans seated: Back: John Schofield, Manager of Canadian Tire, New Minas; Bob Schofield, Arnold Burbidge, Mike Ricketts, LCol Harris. Front: Hubert Sullivan and Gordon Hansford.



## WNSR Army Cadet Annual Cadet Reviews

It's Annual Ceremonial Review (ACR) time again. As always, any former or serving members of the Regiment are welcome to attend any of the ACRs. Members of the Regimental Association are encouraged to attend in Regimental Blazer with medals in order to demonstrate support for the cadets and their leaders. If you plan to attend one of these parades, please arrive a minimum of 15 minutes early in order to be seated. It's great to get out and see these fine young Canadians demonstrate the skills they have acquired during their training in the Army Cadet Program.



2016 ACR Details for West Nova affiliated Cadet Corps	
603 Weymouth and 1714 Annapolis Royal	Sat, 04 June, 1300 at Sissiboo Landing, Weymouth 603 and 1714 Corps are combined for this parade
686 Bridgetown	Sun, 29 May, 1330 at the 4H Bldg Bridgewater Exhibition Grounds
2688 Bridgewater	Sat, 04 Jun, 1400 at the Bridgetown Arena
2444 Kings County	Sat, 04 June, 1400 at Camp Aldershot

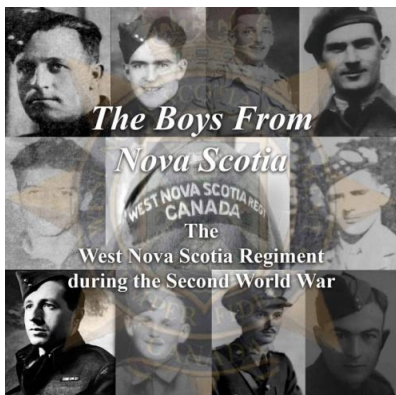
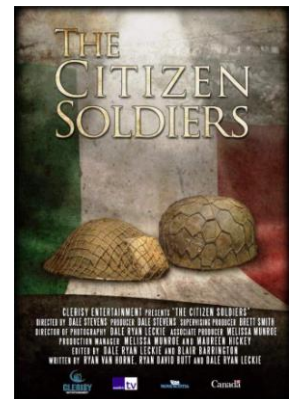
## WNSR Historical Videos

Here is some information on two excellent video documentaries about the West Nova Scotia Regiment during the Second World War with specific emphasis on the Italian Campaign. If you enjoy history and want to learn about the West Novas in WWII from people who were there, these are videos you'll want to see.

Last year, we were waiting for the release of "The Citizen Soldiers" made by [Clerisy Entertainment](#) and produced and directed by Dale Stevens who was our guest speaker at the 2015 banquet.

It is a locally made, professionally produced, hour long documentary on the West Novas in the Italian Campaign. West Novas who were there tell their stories about what it was like. Interviews are included from Victor Dukeshire, Burlington, ON; Hugh Cuvelier, Mahone Bay; Doug Strickland, Sydney; and Major Harry Eisenhauer, Calgary, who took the Regiment back from England in 1945.

The documentary showed first on Eastlink TV in January 2016 and is still available "On Demand" for those with Eastlink cable service. The company has just produced copies on DVD for those who were not able to see it otherwise. These will soon be available on the [Kitshop website](#) by the end of April.



In March, we were made aware of "The Boys from Nova Scotia", another locally produced documentary of the West Novas in Italy. Produced in 2004 and published on Youtube in 2016 by Mike Dobson of Lunenburg, it's very well done and runs for 43 minutes. Available at [www.Youtube.com](http://www.Youtube.com) by searching for "The Boys from Nova Scotia" it has great footage and photos from WWII and features interviews with many West Novas including Art Doucette, Oren Foster, Gordon Romkey, Harold Wolfe, Bill Thexton, Carrol Pothier, Max Forsyth-Smith, Alex McGuinness, Leo O'Meara, Ralph Rafuse, and Abel LeBlanc.

Mike told me that he had DVDs made and will sell them at cost plus shipping because his goal is to tell the story of these brave men of the WNSR. You can contact him at 902-766-0126 or by email at [mindmediaworks@yahoo.ca](mailto:mindmediaworks@yahoo.ca) to order. Within the next month or two he will also have a graphic novel of the story available for sale as well. Copies may be obtained using the same contact information.



## WNSR Army Cadet News

submitted by 1714 RCACC

### 1714 RCACC Celebrates 75th Anniversary

On 20 November 2015, 1714 Annapolis Royal Regional Academy RCACC achieved a great milestone. Cadets and staff were proud to celebrate the Corps 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. 1714 RCACC is the oldest affiliated West Nova Scotia Regiment cadet corps. In true 1714 fashion, cadets and staff had an anniversary BBQ in the field along with a wonderfully decorated commemorative cake. The Commanding Office, Capt William Wallace, provided cadets with old photos, scrap books and a depiction of the unit's history. Fellow staff, who all were former Annapolis Cadets, passed on their proud memories from their time as cadets. 1714 RCACC shares a long and proud history; even the current CO of the West Novies and some serving members can honestly say they had played a part.



### Howard Medal Awarded to 2444 RCACC Cadet

by Lt. Charles Huntley, Assistant Training Officer 2444 RCACC

The Major General Howard Award is given to the top Army Cadet in each province at the start of every training year by the Army Cadet League of Canada. The Nova Scotia recipient this year is cadet Sergeant Skyler Richardson from the 2444 Army Cadets in Kentville. To receive the Major General Howard Award, the winning cadet must have completed three years of training, be active in community volunteerism, be an excellent leader, and be one of two top cadets in the province in the fourth-year training program.



Skyler is regarded by his fellow cadets as a natural leader and is known for his devotion to the cadet program. What some may not know however is that he volunteers a lot of his spare time at his school and in his local community. He helps to maintain and groom the gardens at his school and volunteers his time to tutor students that need assistance with their studies.

He feels that volunteering his time to make his community a better place is important, "You may start things as an individual, but in the end you will always end as a team." Sgt Richardson says he lives by this motto every day. His time spent volunteering is also expanding; in the near future he plans on volunteering at the local food bank as well.

On hand to present the medal at the Corps parade at the Drill Hall in Aldershot in November was Colonel Eric Meisner, Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of the West Nova Scotia Regiment.

### Nova Scotia Cadets Take Part in Epic Adventure

by Lt. Charles Huntley, Assistant Training Officer 2444 RCACC

Kentville's Skyler Richardson and Port Williams' Jesse Clark traveled to Goose Bay, NL to take on the Regional Army Cadet Winter Expedition: EXERCISE SUB ZERO, March 19 to 26.

The two are members of 2444 Kentville Royal Canadian Army Cadets and will be keeping warm during the frigid expedition which consists of snow shoeing, pulling and pushing equipment-packed toboggans, camping out overnight and learning everything they can about winter survival.

"This is going to push us both mentally and physically," said Jesse, a Cadet Warrant Officer at the Corps. "I think the biggest challenge is dealing with a dry cold instead of a wet cold... Preparing myself mentally is going to be the hardest part."

EXERCISE SUB ZERO takes place every year in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. Youth are selected from across Atlantic Canada and represent some of the region's best army cadets. Cadets are taught the skills and given the equipment they need to survive in the cold. They hike three days and spend two nights in the backcountry, surrounded by wilderness. They have to learn to work together quickly in order to complete the trek; teamwork and perseverance is the only effective way to get



through this expedition.



Skyler Richardson knows what it takes, "I have been working out at the gym and building myself up for the long days in the cold." The Cadet Warrant Officer had been training hard for the opportunity, but then it's not just the physical fitness aspect that will be difficult. "The hardest challenge for me will be adjusting to the cold; I never like the frigid cold!"

EXERCISE SUB ZERO is part of the larger Army Cadet Expedition Program, a premier part of Army Cadets that challenges youth to use their skills and aspire to goals. The exercise is a regional-level expedition, acting as a qualifier for those cadets looking to take on the challenge of a national-level expedition in Canada or abroad. To be selected, each army cadet must be 15 years of age, participate in at least one local area adventure training weekend, and obtain a Silver Star qualification in the Army Cadet Fitness Test.

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## Regimental Kitshop is Online



- The RA Kit shop is online at [wnsr.ca/catalog/24](http://wnsr.ca/catalog/24) and you can order kit at any time. Many members plan to attend the Reunion in the proper RA Kit (Blue blazer with crest, white or light blue shirt with Regimental tie, and gray trousers with black shoes).
- We still have some copies of *West Novas*, by Thomas Raddall.

The Kitshop now operates online in a hassle-free, convenient way to get the kit you want without hiccups or snags. All items we have in stock are included with photos and descriptions. We have Blazer crests, Regimental ties, genuine brass cap badges, crested ball caps, licence plates, and much more.

**Go online and order your kit today.** [wnsr.ca/catalog/24](http://wnsr.ca/catalog/24)



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## Re-dedication of 112th Battalion Colours



After the outbreak of the First World War, authority was granted to raise an infantry battalion in the area of Windsor in November 1915. The push to raise the 112th Bn CEF was led by a Windsor lawyer and the MP for Hants at that time, Lt.Col Hadley Tremain. Within six months, the unit was at full strength, and the battalion left for England 23 July 1916. By 20 October, 374 other ranks had been sent to reinforce the 25th Bn CEF (Nova Scotia Rifles), and the remainder of the 112th Bn also served as reinforcements for other units at the Front including the Royal Canadian Regiment.

The West Nova Scotia Regiment perpetuates the 112th Battalion CEF, and that's why we will be participating in the Re-dedication of the Colours of that unit on Sunday, 12 June 2016, 100 years after the Battalion was authorized.

At 1030 hours 12 June 2012, the re-dedication Ceremony will take place in Christ Church, Windsor where the Colours of that Battalion were laid up. The Regiment will provide a "Corporal's Guard" without arms for the service. The Regiment will have representatives on hand for the service, and members of the Regimental Association are also invited to attend. Dress for RA members is RA No.1 as in the WNSRRA Constitution (Beret, Blazer, Tie, Medals). Several re-enactor groups have also been invited to attend. This is an opportunity to recognize the efforts of our predecessors who fought in World War one and earned the Battle Honours from that conflict that emblazon our own West Nova Colours. Looking forward to seeing RA members at this centennial commemorative service.



## West Nova WWII Sniper Exhibit

For years, various elements of the Regiment have been discussing the possibility of having a WNSR museum; unfortunately, we don't have the resources to make this a reality. So, we've decided to put our efforts into displaying some of our photos and historical artifacts at museums that already exist. It's one way to get our story out there to educate the public about our Regiment.

Most people don't know it, but for the last year, a small group of RA members have volunteered time and energy to preserving the history of the West Novas. They've met and researched what must be done, and they've discussed the best ways to do it. Then, they sorted and catalogued a great number of Regimental photos, documents, and newspaper clippings. They've also devoted plenty of time and effort toward using uniforms and artifacts from WWII to create an excellent West Nova exhibit to display in local museums.

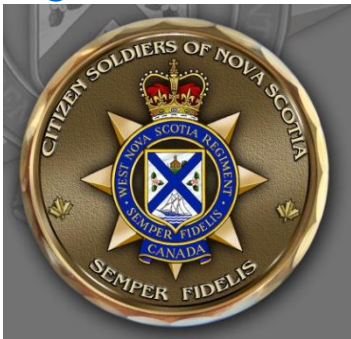


They've met with local museum curators and have gotten advice and information as to how to create an exhibit. Then they developed a plan to display their exhibit locally.

It has happened; we have an exhibit called, "*Sightings: Exploring the Scope of the Canadian Sniper in World War Two*" in Kentville at the [Kings County Museum](#) (KCM). The exhibit will be on display from 18 April to November 2016 focussing on the history of WNSR snipers. The plan is currently to display a similar but expanded exhibit at other Valley museums, starting with the MacDonald Museum in Middleton in the same time period (Apr-Nov) during 2017.

The picture shown at the above is of a rehearsal for the exhibit which was shown at last year's reunion. The picture to the left is a portion of the current display. The display has been significantly expanded and enhanced for the exhibit in the KCM. Arrangements have been made to make the display available during the 2016 Reunion, but if you're in the area, please drop in and see the WNSR Sniper Exhibit. Association members who helped get this exhibit up and running include: Jo Bishop, Garry Randall, Duke Davidson, Gord Johnson, Donn Myles, and myself.

## Regimental Coin



Actual size 1 3/4 inches

will not be used a second time. Additional coins may be purchased by any member.

Of course, all former West Novas are encouraged to join the Regimental Association to help support soldiers who have served or are serving. To join, go to [www.wnsr.ca/ra/docs](http://www.wnsr.ca/ra/docs), complete and send the application.

Every member of the Regimental Association receives a Regimental Coin as part of his or her membership. However, you can also purchase coins for friends and family for \$25 each without joining the Regimental Association.

There are three variants of the coin: Memorial, Blank, and Cadet. To date, we've purchased 252 engraved coins to commemorate the sacrifice of West Nova soldiers who died during WWII. Those soldiers include surnames from "Alcorn to McLaughlin". We will have the remaining names engraved as soon as funding will allow. If there is a special soldier whom you wish to honour by the purchase of his Memorial coin, you can send a request by email to [bertf@eastlink.ca](mailto:bertf@eastlink.ca). Our plan is to order the requested coins when we place our next order. Memorial coins will each be one of a kind; that is, a soldier's name



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## Looking for WNSR History Items

In an effort to better tell the story of our Regiment, we are constantly looking for documents, photos, recordings and artifacts that would help to preserve the memories of those who have worn the uniform of the West Novas before us. Most of the veterans of the Second World War have passed on, and it becomes more difficult to preserve their stories.

If you have items that you think would help us preserve the history of our Regiment, we'd be very pleased to hear about them. We are particularly interested in the medal groupings of West Novas who served in WWII. The medals would be displayed with the name of the soldier who earned them. It would help us to educate the public and to give a nod to the achievements of those who have gone before us.

The Regimental Association welcomes the contributions of any Second World War artifacts and stories the public may have. We invite you to [contact us](#) if you have any artifacts to donate.



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**WNSR Rings** - DM Reid Jewellers in Kentville is the supplier of official West Nova Scotia Regiment rings. To the right, you can see a gold and a silver Regimental Ring. Mr. Reid has made generous donations to the Regimental Association in the past when people have purchased West Nova rings from his store. Support local business, show your pride in the Regiment, and give him the opportunity to serve you by visiting DM Reid Jewellers in Kentville or on their [website](#) for further information.



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## Army Museum Halifax Citadel

The [Army Museum](#) at the Halifax Citadel is a well maintained and frequently updated museum for the display of Canadian Army memorabilia. Since 1953, the Army Museum at the Halifax Citadel, a private, non-profit institution, has been faithfully preserving and promoting Atlantic Canada's military heritage. The items on display come from a vast collection of more than 70,000 military artifacts. It is a member of the Organization of Military Museums of Canada, operating with the assistance of the Nova Scotia Museum and Parks Canada.



Its exhibits are realistic and educational. Anyone who has an interest in the Canadian Army, especially with a Nova Scotia focus, needs to visit this museum.

Currently, there is a new exhibit on the Second World War with emphasis on Nova Scotian regiments and the contributions made by their members of various ethnic backgrounds. Two West Novas are featured in particular: Private Howard William Pelley, MM, a decorated African-Nova Scotian soldier and Lieutenant JA "Blackie" Blanchard, an Acadian officer from PEI, killed in action at Castel di Sangro.

If you're in Halifax and have a chance to visit the Halifax Citadel, don't forget to visit the excellent displays at the Army Museum and see our famous Regiment represented among the best.

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## Afghanistan Veterans

In our last Newsletter, we listed the names of 28 West Novas who had served in Afghanistan, and we had a feeling that the list was not complete. We apologize for missing six names and would like to add them now to the list of those soldiers who were part of the Regiment's being honoured with the awarding of the battle honour, "Afghanistan" by serving in that theatre while in the West Novas.

MCpl AD Millar, Cpl JV Cress, Cpl RS Price, Cpl JR Smith, Cpl TR Stevenson, Pte CC Withers



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## Thexton Book

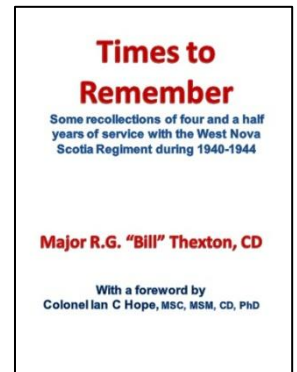
"Times to Remember" is a book written by a West Nova WWII veteran, Major Bill Thexton. Bill was an officer with the WNSR throughout his time in the war, and he served as a PI and Coy Comd in active combat in the Italian Campaign.

His outstanding memory comes into play when he writes this book about his experiences and those of other West Novas from 1940 to 1944. This is the true story, told by a man who was there. It's an eye witness account which tells of the successes and hardships of the soldiers of the Regiment from their years of training in England and Scotland to the years of sustained combat in Sicily, Italy, and later Holland.

After the war, Bill continued to serve in the Canadian Army until he retired to Wolfville where he worked for 20 years as Business Manager at Acadia University.

He was a faithful and active member of the Regimental Association and served as President for 10 years. Bill printed a dozen or so copies of his book for friends and family in 1996.

The WNSR Regimental Association feels that this book needs wider distribution and decided, with family permission, to reprint Bill's excellent book so that as many West Novas as possible can have their own copy. The project is underway now, and, as you can see, we're still working on designing a cover. The book will be available for purchase at the 67th Annual Reunion in Aldershot and Kentville 16-18 Sep 2016.



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**The Regimental Watch** is a fundraising project initiated by the WNSR. The Regiment is pleased to partner with *Time is Ticking Inc.* which has a long and honourable history of creating watches which reflect our nation's historic military milestones.

To help show your continued pride in the West NSR and its illustrious history, we're pleased to offer a Limited Edition West Nova Scotia Regiment watch. Your cost is only \$78.00 plus sales tax and postage. The watch is being sold far below its retail value of approximately \$200.00.

The slim-line watch has Seiko movements, 24K gold plating on its face, an engraved case back and a designer Speidel leather strap which is being offered in black, red and blue. This limited edition commemorative watch will make an excellent gift. All sales are final.

The West Nova Scotia Regiment receives money from the sale of each watch. To order your West Nova Watch, please go to: [West Nova Watch](#) and complete the order form.



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## Join the WNSR Regimental Association

Hopefully, you can see that the Regimental Association is more active than it has been in previous years as we attempt to preserve the past, support the present, and prepare for the future. We can do this together, and the task will be easier if we have greater strength.

There are still plenty of former West Novas who haven't received this newsletter and don't know what their Association is doing. If you know of someone, feel free to send a copy of the newsletter and encourage him or her to join the Regimental Association.

Even if you're not able to attend the Annual Reunions, you can help support the projects of the Regimental Association to preserve the memory of soldiers of the West Nova Scotia Regiment by joining the WNSRRA and paying your annual dues of \$30. Go to [www.wnsr.ca/ra/docs](http://www.wnsr.ca/ra/docs), complete the application if you're not already a member, and pay your dues online.

If you're on Facebook, you can join an excellent group of 478 members in the West Nova Scotia Regiment group, and you can sign up to the West Nova Scotia Regiment Regimental Association page which has 383 members and "Like" us.

*Semper Fidelis*