



Pacific Coast Branch

The Great War - 1914-1919

Remembering - Honouring - Learning



2018 Seminar 9, 10 and 11 March 2018



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Dinner Theme:

A Tribute to the
Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry
(PPCLI)



Established: 10 August 1914



Pacific Coast Branch



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2018 Seminar Program

Officer's Mess, Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's)

Bay Street Armoury, Victoria B.C., Canada

www.wfapacificcoast.org

Friday, March 9 – Evening

18:00 – 21:30 Check-in, Social Gathering, and Silent Auction/Show and Tell Setup

Saturday, March 10 – Day

08:30 – 09:00 Check-in (Coffee, tea and refreshments served)

09:00 – 09:10 Greetings, introductions and moment of silence: John Azar

09:10 – 10:00 The Kaiser's Battle: Scott Usborne

10:00 – 10:50 Churchill and Fisher: Dr. Barry Gough

11:00 – 12:00 Forty-Seven Days (Meuse-Argonne): Dr. Mitch Yockelson

12:00 – 12:59 Lunch: Silent Auction bidding and the CScotR Museum will be open

13:00 – 13:50 Mobility and the "100 Days": Rollie Keith

14:00 – 14:50 Firing Lines: Debbie Marshall

14:50 – 14:59 Coffee Break

15:00 – 16:00 **Annual General Meeting:** Welcome by Branch Chair. Presentation of Executive Reports. Nomination and election of Executive committee members for 2017 – 2018. New Member Introductions.

16:00 – 16:30 Socializing, Silent Auction bidding, and membership renewal

Updated: 2018 February 4 – Program Subject to Change



Pacific Coast Branch

Saturday, March 10 – Evening

Mess Dinner: Theme: A Tribute to the Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry

Jackets and ties or mess-kit for gentlemen, suits or dresses for ladies

18:00 – 18:50 Cocktails and Silent Auction Bidding. The CScotR museum will be open.

19:00 – 21:00 Dinner

Keynote Speaker: Brigadier General (Ret’d) JEL (Larry) Gollner

21:00 – ☉ Socializing in mess bar, Silent Auction payment and pickup



Sunday, March 11 – Morning

08:30 – 9:00 Coffee, tea and refreshments served

09:00 – 09:50 Three Women “Just Doing Their Bit”: Bart Armstrong

09:50 – 10:40 The Sidney Rich Project (Documentary): Cliff Caprani

10:40 – 11:20 The Burial of Private Reginald Johnston: Sergeant Dan MacKenzie

11:20 – 11:55 The 2018 Armistices: John Azar

2019 Possibilities: John Azar

11:55 – 12:00 Farewells

12:00 Group team-building clean up

Updated: 2018 February 4

Program Subject to Change





2018 Seminar

Presentation Outlines and Speaker Bios

Saturday, March 10th

The Kaiser's Battle: Scott Osborne

Germany was facing a critical strategic problem in 1918... how to win the war? This presentation covers the German 1918 offensive aiming to defeat the British and French before the Americans could arrive in significant numbers. Germany was to employ innovative tools and tactics in this March, 1918 offensive in order to attempt a breakthrough of the Western Front. This included the development of a new tactical doctrine that continued to influence German warfighting even until the Second World War.

Scott Osborne is a retired artillery officer who, during his career, served in various postings across Canada and overseas. Memorable positions include as an Instructor-in-Gunnery at the Field Artillery School in Gagetown, New Brunswick, and also a final posting as a staff officer at National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa. Overseas service included tours with the United Nations in Africa and the Middle East, as well as with NATO in Afghanistan.

Churchill and Fisher: Dr. Barry Gough

This enthralling book by an eminent Canadian naval historian is a work of profound scholarship and interpretation concerning two very remarkable figures of twentieth-century British history.

Jan Morris, Times Literary Supplement

<https://www.the-tls.co.uk/articles/public/clash-and-clatter/>

Based on his new book *Churchill and Fisher*, Barry Gough's presentation describes the decisive roles of young Winston Churchill as political head of the Admiralty during the First World War. Churchill was locked together in a perilous destiny with the ageing British Admiral 'Jacky' Fisher, the professional master of the British Navy and the creator of the enormous battleships known as Dreadnoughts. Upon these 'Titans at the Admiralty' rested British command of the sea at the moment of its supreme test – the challenge presented by the Kaiser's navy under the dangerous Admiral Alfred von Tirpitz.

This dual biography, based on fresh and thorough appraisal of the Churchill and Fisher papers, is about Churchill's and Fisher's war – how each fought it, how they waged it together, and how they fought against each other, face to face or behind the scenes.

Barry Gough: prize-winning and acclaimed historian and biographer, is a Fellow of Kings College London and Archives Fellow of Churchill College Cambridge. His *Pax Britannica* won The Mountbatten Literary Award of the British Maritime Foundation and he is author of numerous studies of sea power

and imperial affairs. Gough is an Emeritus Professor at Wilfrid Laurier University and a resident of Victoria, BC.

Forty-Seven Days (Meuse-Argonne): Mitch Yockelson

From September to November 1918, a hard-fought battle pitting green, poorly equipped American doughboys against combat-hardened German troops saw the U.S. military come of age in just 47 days in the brutal, devastating clash known as the Battle of the Meuse-Argonne. This story includes the cast of remarkable individuals, including America's original fighter ace, Eddie Rickenbacker; Corporal Alvin York, a pacifist who nevertheless single-handedly killed more than 20 Germans and captured 132; General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing; Lieutenant General Hunter Liggett; artillery officer and future president Harry S. Truman; innovative tank commander George S. Patton; and Douglas MacArthur, the Great War's most decorated soldier.

Mitch Yockelson directs the National Archives and Records Administration–Archival Recovery Program where he leads investigations of thefts of historical documents and museum artifacts. His work has been featured in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and the *Los Angeles Times*, and he has appeared on 60 Minutes, Fox News, PBS, and the History Channel. He is the author of two books on World War I: *Forty-Seven Days: How Pershing's Warriors Came of Age to Defeat the German Army World War I*, and *Borrowed Soldiers: Americans under British Command, 1918*,

Additionally, Mitch is a professor of military history at Norwich University, as well as the chief historical adviser to the U.S. World War One Centennial Commission, Mitch regularly leads tours of World War I battlefields for the *New York Times* Journeys and frequently lectures on military history. He lives in Annapolis, Maryland.

Armour and the "100 Days": Rollie Keith

Mobility was fundamental to the breaking of the German defences on the Western Front! Although mobile forces existed and new ones were evolving, until 1918 they had been ineffective. In the "100 Days" a unified coalition, including the British Expeditionary Force, created new mobile "All Arms" formations and units. Applied in an offensive strategy it restored mobile offensive action and Victory!

Rollie Keith is a 35-year veteran of the Cold War and peacekeeping in the Canadian Army. He is a retired soldier from both tanks and armoured reconnaissance units and he has six years airborne service. His postings took him all over Canada, the Middle East, Western Germany and the United States.

Rollie studied history and spent a few years as a college history instructor. He also was politically active for more than twenty years.

Firing Lines: Debbie Marshall

The stories of three Canadian female journalists stationed in England and France during the First World War: Mary MacLeod Moore (*Saturday Night Magazine*), Beatrice Nasmyth (*Vancouver Province*) and Elizabeth Montizambert (*Montreal Gazette*).

The reportage from these three women presents an insightful, moving, funny, and compelling body of observations of a devastating conflict, from underrepresented points of view. *Firing Lines* is based on the

letters, articles, and books they wrote, as well as the records of those who knew them. The book offers a fresh perspective on a war that touched nearly every Canadian family and changed our sense of ourselves as a nation.

Debbie Marshall is a writer, editor, and playwright with a special interest in women and the First World War. Her work has appeared in local and national magazines, on-line publications and anthologies such as *Dropped Threads II* and in magazines such as *The Beaver*. She is the author of *Give Your Other Vote to the Sister: A Woman's Journey into the Great War* and co-author (with David Cheoros and Karen Simonson) of *Her Voice, Her Century: Four Plays about Daring Women*. She lives on Gabriola Island, British Columbia.

Saturday, March 10th Dinner

The Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI)

The Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) is one of three Regular Force infantry regiments of the Canadian Army. The Regiment was raised in Ottawa in 1914 and was the first Canadian infantry regiment to enter the theatre of operations on 21 December 1914. Twenty-two Battle Honours were accumulated during the Great War and three members were awarded the Victoria Cross. The Regiment also served in the Second World War (20 Battle Honours), Korea, Afghanistan and numerous NATO and United Nations missions. The 2nd Battalion was awarded the United States Presidential Unit Citation for its action during the Battle of Kapyong in Korea.

The 3rd Battalion was stationed in Victoria at Work Point Barrack from 1970 until 1992. Many PPCLI members have retired to Greater Victoria where they are active in military and civilian organizations including the Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) and the WFA-Pacific Coast Branch.

Brigadier-General JEL (Larry) Gollner was PPCLI Colonel of the Regiment between 2006 and 2009.

Larry joined the PPCLI as a private soldier in 1956, became a non-commissioned officer in 1957 and was commissioned as an officer in 1959. After commanding 2PPCLI he went on to a distinguished career covering various National Defence Headquarters roles. After retirement, he has been active in numerous community and advocacy initiatives including the Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association and Veterans Ombudsman Advisory Council.

Larry is also an active member of the Victoria Sketch Club and most recently, he was president of the society that created the BC Afghanistan Memorial.

<https://vicafghanistanmemorial.ca/>

Continued ↓

Sunday, March 11th

Three Women “Just Doing Their Bit”: Bart Armstrong

Beatrice, Lehna and Madelaine ‘did their bit.’

They were but a few in the many thousands of women who did their bit in the Great War. But they returned wearing the Croix de Guerre with Palm, the Royal Red Cross, the (US) Navy Cross, the US Army’s Distinguished Service Medal, the Military Medal, the Purple Heart, and a handful of other medals. Their names are preserved in North American military history forever – as they should be!

Bart Armstrong grew up in a family with a lengthy tradition of military service and public advocacy. His military heritage led him to serve in three Canadian Armed Forces Reserve regiments over a period of 17 years. He served in military and civilian police forces and with private sector security firms. Moving on to journalism, Bart had over 1,000 articles published that focused on advocating for issues faced by his readers.

Bart combined his military and research/writing background to identify and promote unsung military heroes. His blog www.canadianmedalofhonor.com is the primary outlet for his work on identifying and commemorating Canadians who have been awarded the American Medal of Honor. When he began this work the known number of Canadian MOH recipients was 54 – his research has brought this number up to 117.

Bart is a member of the Victoria Genealogical Society and the Medal of Honor Historical Society of the United States. In August 2016, Bart was awarded the Sovereign’s Medal for Volunteers in recognition of his many years of community service.

The Sidney Rich Project (Documentary): Cliff Caprani

How a plaque on a wall led to a film-making pilgrimage to Flanders.

Learn about the making of the 2017 documentary about Sidney Rich, a BC man who fought and died in the Great War. This journey began at All Saints Church in Ladner, BC and took Cliff to Victoria, and then on to England and Belgium. The film took two-and-a-half-years to make, and was not without its challenges: early in the process, a key discovery almost scuppered the whole endeavour.

Cliff will talk about the research process; about the crowdfunding campaign; about securing the necessary crew and cooperation to make the project happen.

Cliff Caprani has been making films since 2000, when he decided to make a documentary about his father, for presentation to him on his eightieth birthday. Since then he has made films about such subjects as walking the Camino in Spain; a choir trip to Prague & a documentary about his great-grandfather Giuseppe Caprani.

He makes films for Mountain View Cemetery in Vancouver; the Anglican Diocese of New Westminster and a number of other agencies. Countdown To Sanctuary Wood is his second film about the Great War

The Burial of Private Reginald Johnston: Sergeant Dan MacKenzie

On 15 August 2011, a French construction crew in the village of Vendin-le-Vieil uncovered the remains of what appeared to be a Canadian soldier. Extensive forensic research and DNA testing determined the remains to be those of Private Reginald Joseph Winfield Johnston of Winnipeg, Manitoba. Winfield had joined the 79th Cameron Highlanders of Canada which was one of the four killed highland regiments that formed the 16th Battalion (Canadian Scottish), CEF. The 16th Battalion is perpetuated by The Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) (CScotR).

A CScotR burial party, led by Sergeant Dan MacKenzie, participated in the interment of Private Johnston's remains on 24 August 2017 in the Loos British Cemetery in Loos-en-Gohelle. Sgt. MacKenzie will recount the burial party's experience and explain the impact it had on those who participated.

Dan MacKenzie, originally from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, served as a reservist with the North Saskatchewan Regiment, the Royal Regina Rifles and now the Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's). He is also a veteran of the Afghanistan conflict.

The 2018 Armistice: 11/11/11, 1918, and 2019 Seminar Possibilities: John Azar

As well as the Western Front, the Armistice of 11 November, 1918 also dealt with the war at sea and the Eastern and African fronts. The Armistice went through three prolongations before the Treaty of Versailles took effect 10 January 1920. It was also preceded by the Armistice of Mudros which ended hostilities in the Middle Eastern theatre between the Ottoman Empire and the allies on 30 October 1918, and the Armistice of Villa Giusti that ended the war between Italy and the Austria-Hungary. This presentation will review the lead-up to and the terms of the armistices and preview the events of 1919 and beyond. This will lead to a discussion for the proposed theme and program for our 2019 seminar.

The outcome of the Treaty of Versailles (1919) and other First World War-related agreements, have had impacts that continue to resonate to the present. Under the theme of "Relevance and Legacy," for the WFA-PCB 2019 seminar, John will propose one variation to the standard seminar format and open the topic for discussion.

John Azar's interest in military history was influenced by his father who had served in the Second World War, worked in the Canadian Army Directorate of History during the writing of the official histories of the Second World and Korean Wars and, after his retirement from the army, was assistant curator of war art at the Canadian War Museum. John was 14 when he began helping index military history books

John is the current chair of the WFA-Pacific Coast Branch and was the founder of the **CEF100** Commemoration Society dedicated to remembering, honouring and learning from the people and events of the First World War.

Updated 2018 March 1



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Enlist Now!

2018 Seminar and Membership Registration

Seminar fees include membership.



Personal Information

Personal information is for the use of the WFA Pacific Coast Branch and is only shared with members.

Please check here if you do not wish your name to be added to the member list

Name (s):			
Mailing Address:			
City:		Province/State	
Country:		Postal/ZIP Code:	

Telephone:		E-mail	
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Seminar/Membership Registration 9 – 11 March 2018:

Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) Officers Mess, Bay Street Armories, Victoria, BC, Canada

	No.	Cost	Amount
Full Seminar & Membership: Sessions, breaks, lunch & dinner		@ \$90. =	
Full Seminar & Membership: Couple		@ \$150. =	
Full Seminar & Membership: No Dinner		@ \$60. =	
Full Seminar & Membership: Student		@ \$30. =	
Mess Dinner Only: Member or Guest		@ \$40. =	
Sunday Only & Membership		@ \$30. =	
Membership Only: Single or Couple		@ \$30. =	
Membership Only: Student		@ \$10. =	
Name Badge: First time or replacement		@ \$10. =	

Payment Due: (Please make cheque payable to: WFA Pacific Coast Branch)	
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Please mail completed form and cheque or money order to:

Note New Address: WFA-PCB Registrar, 1210 Haultain Street, Victoria, BC, Canada V8T 1V7

Tel: 250-385-8010

E-mail: registrar@wfapacificcoast.org

(WFA-PCB Updated: 2018 January 02)

