



ANAVETS

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Special Points:

- 47th Biennial Convention fast approaching
- A D-Day Veteran
- Electing a new ANAVETS' Dominion President - a huge responsibility for delegates

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ANAVETS Preparing For 47th Biennial Convention in Saskatoon

Everywhere throughout the Association people are busy preparing for what promises to be an interesting, memorable and enjoyable convention in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, 11-15 September, 2004. Here in the Dominion Command Office, Deanna and I are busy with a multitude of things on behalf of President Cassels. In Saskatoon, Wayne Bourget and his organizing committee are busy making all the necessary arrangements that go into hosting a large convention like ours. The parade, the transportation, the flag bases, the banquet, the printing of brochures, etc. Wayne, you and your committee, along with many others from Unit #38 have the bulk of the work to do and we all wish you tremendous success.

The convention is a time for the delegates to renew acquaintances, make new friends and enjoy themselves. On the other hand, it is also an opportunity to conduct the business of ANAVETS and deal with some of the serious issues fac-

ing our Association. We in ANAVETS have some tough issues with which to deal. Since the convention and its delegates are the supreme ruling body of our Association, it is only appropriate that these issues be tackled at this time. The issues will be out in the form of resolutions and agenda items for the Board. Become informed and make your views known!



Here is Ivy McKnight working hard in preparation for the last ANAVETS' Convention in 2002. Many at Unit #38 will be going through the same hard work on our behalf. Best of fortune to you all!

60th Anniversary of D-Day & Battle of Normandy Commemorations



Hundreds of thousand of Canadians remembered their living and fallen heroes of D-Day & Battle of Normandy during 60th Anniversary Commemorations throughout Canada and in France in huge respectful ceremonies befitting their sacrifices. Beautiful commemoration ceremonies were held in every Provincial & Territorial Capital, in Ottawa and Normandy, France. At left, Queen Elizabeth II addresses hundreds of Canadians at Juno Beach on 6 June 2004.

A D-Day Veteran - Sergeant Roland Williams Calgary Highlanders Penticton, British Columbia - AN ANAVETS' Member

Mr. Roland W. Williams was born April 21, 1921, in Vancouver, British Columbia, and was raised in Wetaskiwin, Alberta. Before the war he was living in Slave Lake, Alberta, working in a saw mill. With low wages and work being hard to come by, Mr. Williams quit milling to enlist in Edmonton, on March 11, 1942.

Back then Mr. Williams' comrades called him "Commando". He says it was because "I jumped around like a jack rabbit and I wasn't afraid of the Germans." Mr. Williams, who was placed with the Calgary Highlanders, landed on D-Day and his troop was the second to go in-right after the Winnipeg Rifles.

To this day, he recalls losing a young man that accompanied his troop on June 6: "His name was Lieutenant Kilpatrick. We were making our way up Hill 67 – one of the worst and most notorious hills in Normandy. We told him to duck, but we lost him. He was a good guy." Mr. Williams eventually became leader of his platoon.

Sometimes the battles ceased. Mr. Williams remembers the time in Hochwald, Germany, in February 1945 when the noise of guns was silenced for a song. "Both sides stopped and not a shot was fired. The Germans were singing on one side and we were singing on the other. The Sergeant Major came and gave us a drink. It was a good day," he says.

But in March 1945, it was clear the fighting had resumed. His platoon had dwindled from 25 to 10 men and was being "beaten up" by the enemy. He ordered his men to hold fire. When the enemy was within 6 yards of them, they opened fire in a counter attack, won the battle and captured eight prisoners. For that Mr. Williams was deservedly decorated with a Military Medal (MM) for his bravery.

Mr. Williams retired from service on April 19,

1946. After leaving the Forces, he went back to the saw mills where he worked as a foreman for five years and then as a truck driver in Ontario. Eventually, he moved to Whitehorse, Yukon, where he worked for Chevron for 22 years. He retired to and still resides in Penticton, British Columbia, where he is a member of The Army, Navy & Air Force Association, the Eagles Association, and the Royal Canadian Legion.



Rollie is greeted by Governor General Clarkson at a reception in Normandy France where he was a member of Canada's official delegation.



Rollie awaits the start of a Normandy Ceremony

President's Message



Comrades:

September is just around the corner and we are closing in on the upcoming Biennial Dominion convention in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, where we will be considering a number of resolutions that will be proposed to the convention floor for your approval.

Some of the proposed resolutions will provide the dominion executive officers with the direction that you, as members, feel ANAVETS should pursue overtime through short and long term goals. Other resolutions will consist of issues pertaining to the Departments of Veterans' Affairs Canada and National Defence including the Canadian Govern-

ment's responsibility to the Armed Forces still serving today.

Remember...when deciding on ANAVETS' future, keep-in-mind to elect representatives that you perceive as capable leaders of this distinguished association who will be able to lead us into the next generation. It is also your duty to select suitable people to serve as your executive officers for all ensuing terms. We must follow this crucial path if we are to assure the survival of ANAVETS.

I look forward to seeing you at the convention, to renew old friendships and greet new faces.

Yours fraternally,

R.R. (Bob) Cassels
Dominion president

NEW ANAVETS' WEB SITE — www.anavets.ca — Visit us....

Command Office staff are trying to provide an informative and interesting site for ANAVETS members and potential members. Remember....doing business without advertising is like winking at a girl in the dark: you know what you are doing, but no one else does! As part of letting our members and potential members know what we are doing, we are in the midst of modernizing and updating our website by redesigning and restructuring to make it more effective. It has proved to be a great vehicle for communicating with our members and potential mem-

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bers at a price that makes it cost efficient for this type of service. Included in the site are news & views which contains a link to our newsletters, purpose, history, organization, membership with reasons why one should join ANAVETS, links to veteran related sites, a kitshop page complete with a listing of regalia store items and current prices, and a printable form for ordering regalia. Use it as a publicity tool by viewing it or sending potential customers to see who we are and what we are all about. We hope to have our redesigned online in early July. Check us out! Does your Unit have one? If so, please let us know. If not, why not?

Command and Unit News — “Making a Difference”

Thank you once again to those who have shared their news with the Association. See pictures within the newsletter and attached clippings that we have received about the wonderful things you great people are doing out there to “make a difference” and to make your communities a better place to live.

Our people do so much to make a difference. Please let us know of their outstanding work so we can share it with the whole Association. They deserve to be so recognized.

In Memoriam



**WE SHALL
NOT FORGET**

It is with deep sadness that I inform you of the passing of the following members of ANAVETS:

Roderick Cowie (7 May 2004)

- Royal Navy 1949-1962; Member Assiniboia #283

H.C. (Bert) Hearnden (14 May 2004)

- Queens York Rangers 1942-1945; Member Assiniboia #283

Frank Boyes (20 May 2004)

1st Medical R.C.A. Gunner 1942-1945;
Member Assiniboia #283

Lew MacGregor (22 May 2004)

Member Assiniboia #283

Syd Demond, CD (24 May 2004)

3 R.C.H.A 1952-1976-; Member Assiniboia #283

Fredrick S. Dodd (25 May 2004)

P.P.C.L.I 1941-1979; Member Assiniboia #283

Burns Currie (18 April 2004)

Charter Member, Woodstock Unit #95; recipient Minister of Veteran Affairs Commendation

George Gilbert Potter (23 April 2004)

Member Assiniboia #283

Pictures From Normandy France



Thanks to the Re-enactors from Holland & Belgium for the over 40 vehicles of all types provided to Canadian Veterans for a Cavalcade through the towns and villages of Normandy. See the vehicle below.



See left picture: People of Normandy France lined the streets to thank the Canadian veterans along the towns and villages of Juno Beach during the 60th Anniversary of D-Day.

More Pictures from Normandy France



Pictured above is ANAVETS' member and Battle of Normandy veteran Sam Reid of Ontario Lambton Unit #212 along with his wife Bernice as they await the opening ceremonies at Juno Beach in France on 6 June



Dominion President Bob Cassels prepares to lay a Wreath on behalf of all members of ANAVETS at the Caen Memorial Gardens in Normandy, France on 7 June 2004.



President Bob Cassels with some of the Cadets attending D-Day Commemorations in Normandy.



Sgt Smokey Smith, Canada's only living Victoria Cross recipient is surrounded by very interested CF soldiers at a Pub Night sponsored by ANAVETS, the Legion and VAC for the D-Day veterans and CF personnel .



At left, President Bob Cassels, wearing the trial tie & headdress confers with Mary Ann Burdett, then the 1st Vice-President of the Legion, and as of last week, the newly elected and first ever female President of the Royal Canadian Legion.

ANAVETS' Convention Should Prove To Be Interesting For All Attendees

Three time ANAVETS' President Bob Cassels has made it clear that he is looking forward to the position of Dominion Past President. Thus, the delegates at the 47th Convention have the huge responsibility of electing the person who will lead and represent our Association for the next two years. Resolutions have been received at Dominion Command, that if approved by the delegates would change the method we select the next leader. Without prejudice to any present executive, there is a resolution recommending that we do away with the seniority method of promoting our leaders and opt for a system based mainly on merit. It has further been proposed that the election would be by secret ballot rather than a show of hands. If approved, it puts the power of selecting our leaders clearly in the hands of our individual delegates (Democracy in action!). Leaders will be elected based upon their past performance, how well they present themselves to delegates at the convention, and what ideas and plans they project to deal with ANAVETS current and future issues. Delegates should be looking for a leader who is a good fit for the Association at this time. Potential candidates for the leadership positions should be prepared to work hard for the Association. As Dominion President, one can expect to be involved two to three times a week with Association issues and can expect to devote about three days a month full-time to Association business. The President should be available via email, telephone and fax. He should be prepared to travel on Association business about 20-30 days a year. On behalf of the Association, the President must be prepared to attend and speak at meetings with Cabinet Ministers and their officials, Parliamentary Standing Committees, international gatherings such as the American Legion and pilgrimages, as well as other veterans and ANAVETS' Provincial Conventions. ANAVETS' standing within the veteran related national Canadian community depends in large part on the President's knowledge and performance. Issues that arrive on the President's desk are usually rather complex in nature. Therefore, delegates should be looking for a leader who has an excellent understanding of our Association, an ability to analyse complex issues, and be decisive when required. Potential Presidents should be cognizant of the fact that, while there is a certain level of prestige in occupying the office, there is also a certain level of stress in that few of your decisions will please everyone! Becoming President of Canada's oldest veterans organization remains a considerable honour. Selecting the right person at the right time for President of ANAVETS is the biggest responsibility of all delegates at the 47th Convention. Good luck to the delegates in your deliberations and to all potential candidates who are nominated for this important position!

Thoughts for the delegates

Who can lead us to success?

Delegates should seize all opportunities to talk to and question the nominees for President to ensure they understand him and his views before voting for him.

You can't sit on the lid of progress. If you do, you will be blown to pieces.

Opportunities are often disguised as hard work, so most people don't recognize them. Will your choice be willing to work hard?

At our convention, ANAVET delegates are expected to elect a President who can lead us through a very crucial period in our existence. Such a situation reminds me of that old question: "Who ought to be President?" Isn't it like asking, "who ought to be tenor in the quartet?" Obviously, the man who can sing tenor. Finding ANAVETS' "tenor" will be the task of the delegates. It is in your hands.

If you want to succeed you should strike out on new paths rather than travel the worn paths of the past. Membership continues to fall, will our new President be progressive and not stuck in the past? Ask the nominees before you vote.

In life, the competition will bite you if you keep running; if you stand still, they will swallow you! Is your candidate in good shape?

*******IMPORTANT NEWS*********CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENT TESTING****RECOGNITION PROGRAM**

On 19 February 2004, the Cabinet approved the "Chemical Warfare Agent Testing Recognition Program" (CWATRP), which has three major components. The one that has received the most visibility to date is the award of an *ex-gratia* payment to eligible Veterans. The second is the referral to Veterans Affairs Canada of all Veterans who believe that they have incurred a service-related injury attributable to their participation in chemical warfare agent trials conducted in Suffield, Alberta and Ottawa. The last component of the program is recognition of these Veterans' efforts.

Our Veterans who took part in chemical warfare agent tests during the Second World War did so to enable Canada and its Allies to improve their defensive capability against such weapons. Their sacrifice and suffering made it possible for their comrades-in-arms to better protect themselves against a possible chemical attack or during training for same. Due to security conditions at the time of the experiments these Veterans served without the recognition extended to those who served elsewhere and without appreciation of the risks they faced.

A letter with an enclosed brochure is coming out shortly to every ANAVETS' Dominion Board Member and Unit. The Federal Government would be grateful if every Unit of the Army, Navy & Air Force Veterans in Canada Association would prominently display and distribute copies of the enclosed Chemical Warfare Agent Testing Recognition Program brochure. The Program Manager for CWATRP is Lieutenant-Colonel Brian Sutherland and he can be reached at (613) 995-1579 should you need further information or more copies of the brochure.

Further information can also be found by visiting the following website:

http://www.forces.gc.ca/hr/centre/engraph/cwatrpp_e.asp?cat=13

**Report on Long Term Care Symposium
Halifax, NS May 4-5, 2004**

Monday we had a planned tour of Camp Hill Veterans Memorial Hospital. There are seven units of 25 patients, and two units are for special dementia care. The average age of the residents is 84 years young and I had the pleasure of meeting the one World War I veteran living at Camp Hill. We also had the pleasure of hearing the veteran's choir as part of music therapy.

The main theme for this meeting was food preparation and delivery. Camp Hill is part of the Queen Elizabeth II health sciences centre consisting of four institutions. Their meals are prepared in a central location using the cook chill system and then put into the retherm units. They prepare it in bulk or tray service. The veterans at Camp Hill receive their meals in bulk for dining room service. The dining room has prearranged seating and have all the same things you would find in your dining area. They have a radio playing, dishwasher running etc. The tables are set and meals are served by trained staff.

The second subject I thought would be of interest to veterans and their families was a study by capital health services on the uses or combination of medications prescribed to our family members. The study showed that certain combinations of medications can contribute to loss of balance and even cause falls. If anyone would like to know the names of the medications, they can find them on-line at www.cdha.nshealth.ca

The third subject was the uses of restraints. Saint Ann's Hospital requires new procedures as they had a veteran whom needed to relieve himself, slipped out of restraints with nobody there to assist him. In the mean time, they propose to have all restrained patients, except when in their beds, brought to a location near the nurses station.

As there were many other simultaneous presentations that I was not able to attend dealing with support for caregivers, family support groups for families with relatives with dementia, spiritual intervention and reductions of medications I will do a follow up at my next GAC meeting in June, 2004. In attending these meetings we are able to keep the lines of communications open with health care providers and also see what changes administrators are proposing and what the ramifications are to our veterans.

Ken Henderson
Dominion Vice President (Quebec)

Will Rogers Who Died in 1935 Had Some Great Sayings

First ~ Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

Second ~ The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.

Third ~ Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me, I want people to know "why" I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.

Fourth ~ When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to youth, think of Algebra.

Fifth ~ You know you are getting old when everything either dries up or leaks.

Sixth ~ I don't know how I got over the hill without getting to the top.

Seventh ~ One of the many things no one tells you about aging is that it is such a nice change from being young.

Eighth ~ One must wait until evening to see how splendid the day has been.

Ninth ~ Being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.

Tenth ~ Long ago when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today it's called golf.

And finally ~ If you don't learn to laugh at trouble, you won't have anything to laugh at when you are old.



Above left to right: French Ambassador Guelly, Dominion President Bob Cassels, Chief of Defence Staff General Henault, and Jack Arseneault discuss Vimy Day at the French Embassy in Ottawa. The French Government wanted to hold a special ceremony in Ottawa in honour of Canada's participation in the Battle of Vimy Ridge.



On 18 April 2004, a Chapter of CA-VUNP formally thanked the Barrie ANAVETS Club for allowing them to use their facilities for their Monthly General Meetings. A lovely picture was presented to President Neil McKinnon..

ANAVETS Members at Work in Our Communities



Ontario Provincial Secretary, seen here chatting with Governor General Clarkson and Minister of Veterans Affairs John McCallum, was an honoured guest along with his wife Roby as the representatives of ANAVETS at the Asian Heritage GTA Citizen's Group in Toronto on 1 May 2004.



The mind was willing but the legs weren't....so members of ANAVETS Unit 95 in Woodstock New Brunswick made it possible for these veterans to participate in the 2003 Remembrance Day Parade. Note the Cadets provided the manpower!



Wearing his ANAVETS' uniform, the Dominion Honorary President John Hardy, addresses students of Perth District Collegiate as part of the Dominion Institute's D-Day Memory Project to have 1000 veterans talk to students in 1000 schools across Canada.



On behalf of Ontario Units 396 from Carleton Place; Unit 201 from Belleville and Unit 377 from Kingston as well as from the Ontario Command Ladies Auxiliary, Dominion Secretary-Treasurer Jack Arseneault presented cheques to the Foundation Chair of the Perley Rideau Veterans Health Centre. Such donations go a long way to assist our veterans living in such Long-Term Care facilities. Many thanks were expressed to the donors. This is but another example of the fine community work so many of our units and members do throughout Canada.

Newsletter Editor
Secretary-Treasurer Jack Arseneault

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ANAVETS



WE WOULD LIKE YOUR FEEDBACK

The Dominion Staff needs **your** help ! Four times a year we try to publish a newsletter that would be of interest to the members of the Association. Because we have not received any feedback, we are not sure if we are meeting our goal. Unlike a commercial newspaper who can judge their effectiveness in meeting their readers needs by the number of newspapers sold, we at the Dominion Office must rely on feedback from our readers. It takes a great deal of time and considerable expense (paid by your PCT contributions) to publish this newsletter. **Your** feedback in any form is requested. Let us know how **you** feel !

American Legionnaires To Be Inducted Into ANAVICUS

President Bob Cassels and his wife Lise will be driving to Nashville Tennessee in late August to participate in the American Legion Convention. In a breakfast ceremony on 29 August, ANAVICUS President Jake Comer of Massachusetts will assist President Cassels with the inducting of up to 50 new members into ANAVICUS.

For those of you unfamiliar with ANAVICUS, it stands for Army, Navy & Air Force Veterans in Canada— United States. Our close association with the American Legion goes back to 1948 when ANAVETS President at that time, Jack Wickens, was invited to their convention in Miami. The Americans most responsible for bringing us together was General Frank Schwengel and Past National Chaplain Reverend Father Frank Harrington. "Shoulder to Shoulder" relationships developed and quickly assumed important portions. Each year a selected group of American Legionnaires receive an ANAVETS Honorary Life Membership and it is considered a very prestige award. John F. Kennedy and former President George Bush have been inducted into ANAVICUS. To date, over

800 members have been so inducted.

At our coming 47th biennial convention, 22 selected members of ANAVETS will receive the coveted American Friendship Award.

These awards mean so much to the recipients because of our nation's shared history and camaraderie, in the wars our veterans fought side by side to protect the freedoms we enjoy today. Today in Afghanistan, we continue to stand "Shoulder to Shoulder" with our American allies.

Pictured to the right is Jake Comer and Bob Cassels keeping our relationship close.

