



## Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Nov 12, 2019

Newsletters normally are emailed on Monday evenings. If you don't get a future newsletter on time, check the websites below to see if there is a notice about the current newsletter or to see if the current edition is posted there. If the newsletter is posted, please contact me at [bob.mugford@gmail.com](mailto:bob.mugford@gmail.com) to let me know you didn't get a copy.

**Newsletter on line.** This newsletter and previous editions are available on the Vancouver Artillery Association website at: [www.vancouvergunners.ca](http://www.vancouvergunners.ca) and the RUSI Vancouver website at: <http://www.rusivancouver.ca/newsletter.html>. Both groups are also on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=vancouver%20artillery%20association> and <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=rusi%20vancouver>

**Wednesday Lunches -** We need your support to keep the lunches going. Hope all you regular attendees can keep coming. The Mess serves a great 5 course buffet meal for only \$20. Hope to see you all there. Guests are always welcome, and we encourage members to bring their significant others and friends. Dress - Jacket and tie, equivalent for Ladies. For serving personnel, uniform of the day is always acceptable at lunch.

**Upcoming events – Mark your calendars** See attached posters for details.

- Nov 13** RUSI Vancouver Fall Speaker Series - **Cancelled**
- Nov 23** 78 Fraser Highlanders – Feast of St Andrews
- Nov 27** NOABC Luncheon Speaker – Liberation of Holland Celebrations in Canada 2020
- Dec 07** 15 Fd Annual St Barbara's Day Special Guest Night
- Dec 15** 15 Fd CO's Christmas Tea
- Jan 01** New Years Day Levee
- Jan 11** 78 Fraser Highlanders – Garrison Robbie Burns Supper

## World War 2 – 1944

*John Thompson Strategic analyst - quotes from his book "Spirit Over Steel"*

**Nov 13<sup>th</sup>:** 3<sup>rd</sup> US Army continues to force the Germans back on the east side of the Moselle and 7<sup>th</sup> US Army drives into the high rocky hills and dense pine forests of the Vosges. The Germans evacuate Skopje as the Bulgarians draw near. US Carriers launch another raid near Luzon, sinking an IJN light cruiser and four destroyers.

**Nov 14<sup>th</sup>:** British troops launch offensives to clear up the west bank of the Maas and 1<sup>st</sup> French Army starts a drive on Belfort. The Norwegian Government in Exile announces that Norse forces are now fighting alongside the Soviets in the north of the country.

**Nov 15<sup>th</sup>:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Army makes some ground east of Metz as the Soviets close to 30km of Budapest. The small Island of Mapia north of New Guinea is wrested from the Japanese with little effort by US 31<sup>st</sup> Division. A week ago, S/Sgt Ruben Rivers of the Black American 761<sup>st</sup> Tank battalion, earned a Silver Star for his performance in his first time in combat. Today, he has a tank shot out from under him and, ignoring his wound, takes command of another tank for four days in the fighting around Guebling, France. On the fourth day, his company withdraws in the face of a German tank attack, but Rivers stays to cover their withdrawal and engages the Germans. He is killed when his tank is knocked out. He is awarded a posthumous Medal of Honor, although the award is only finally made in 1997.

**Nov 16<sup>th</sup>:** There is heavy air and artillery preparation for new attacks by 1<sup>st</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> US Armies in the wooded hills of Germany's western frontier. One technique used by the 9<sup>th</sup> Army delivered mixed results on three occasions in Normandy, but now the tactics and technology exist to make it work without shredding the Allied troops poised on the start-line as 1,204 Allied heavy bombers deluge the German defences west of the Roer with 4,120 tons of bombs. Luftwaffe night-fighter ace Heinz-Wolfgang Schnaufer becomes one of only 27 German servicemen to win the full award of the Knights Cross with Oak Leaves, Swords and Diamonds for his many successes (121 by war's end) in shooting down Allied bombers.

**Nov 17<sup>th</sup>:** 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> French Armies all make some headway today, but it is not easily done. Maintaining an offensive in thickly wooded hills on the French-German frontier during the rainy autumn months is very difficult and the Germans have learned every nuance of the defence in the last two years.

**Nov 18<sup>th</sup>:** Patton's 3<sup>rd</sup> Army finally enters Metz and British XXX Corps reinforces US 1<sup>st</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Armies near Aachen while Julich and Duren are captured.

*Essential Reading: There are enough hagiographies of George S Patton about (and the ridiculous 1970 movie has much to answer for), but the hard-charging General ran smack into a brick wall in Alsace and Lorraine and could not easily bull his way through it. For those infected by the popular view of Patton, an inoculation can be delivered via John Nelson Rickard's 1999 study Patton at Bay: The Lorraine Campaign, September to December 1944.*

**Nov 19<sup>th</sup>:** Metz is completely encircled; the French reach Belfort and Geilenkirchen is occupied as the autumn campaigns in the west continue. The Japanese lose a cruiser and three merchant ships to carrier raids in Manila Bay.

## **RUSI Presentation on Nov 13<sup>th</sup> Cancelled**

Colleagues

Due to lack of response the presentation by Tim Laidler, scheduled from 5 to 7 pm on Wednesday, 13 November has been cancelled and postponed to a future suitable date and time.

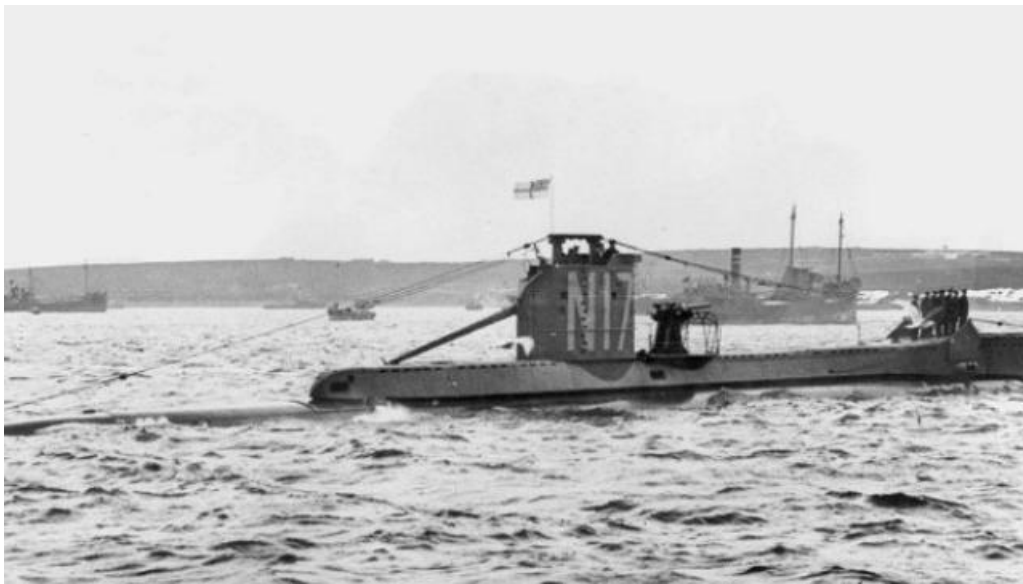
We plan to invite Tim Laidler again, to outline how the University of BC will be a "Veteran Friendly Campus" in 2020, and re-schedule his presentation to follow a regular lunch at the Bessborough Armoury. We will keep you posted.

Thank you for your interest and support.

Cam Cathcart, President  
RUSI Vancouver

## **Wreck of WWII Submarine HMS Urge Found Off Malta**

Pictures courtesy of the University of Malta, Francis Dickinson and the National Museum of the RN  
*The Maritime Executive* 2019-11-02



The wreck of the Royal Navy submarine HMS *Urge* has been identified by marine archaeologists off Malta, solving a 77-year-long mystery. Sitting upright on the seabed of the Mediterranean in over 400 feet of water, her bow is buried in the ocean floor, her deck gun is facing forward.

She is the last resting place of 44 people. The distinctive features of the submarine have been compared with contemporary photographs and the undisclosed location of the wreck compared with official records to make the identification.

HMS *Urge* is one of 19 U-class submarines lost in World War II, 13 of them in the Mediterranean. The submarines were small and originally meant to be used purely for training. They proved highly capable with *Urge*, under Lieutenant Commander Edward Tomkinson, regarded among the best in the 10th Submarine Flotilla. Her crew and captain were highly decorated for a string of successes, dispatching a German tanker supporting U-boat operations



in the Atlantic, crippling the Italian battleship *Vittorio Veneto* and sinking the Italian cruiser *Bande Nere* during 20 patrols.

*Edward Tomkinson*

HMS *Urge* left the island on her final mission on April 27, 1942 bound for Alexandria in Egypt as the 10th Submarine Flotilla moved its base to escape the Axis Powers' constant bombing of Malta. Aboard were not just her 32 crew, but 11 other naval personnel and a war correspondent. She never reached North Africa. The Admiralty concluded she ran into an enemy minefield shortly leaving the island, but the wreck was never found. That official assessment of her loss was put into question by one shipwreck hunter, who claimed to have found the *Urge* off the Libyan coast near Tobruk – far from her intended route – and supposedly sunk by Italian aircraft two days after departing Malta.



That fate – and location – has now been definitively ruled out by the combined efforts of Canadian naval researcher Platon Alexiades, Francis Dickinson – grandson of HMS *Urge*'s commanding officer – and Professor Timmy Gambin of the University of Malta's Classics and Archaeology Department and a team of students, plus the Royal Navy's official historians. Their research confirms the original Admiralty estimate – the boat did indeed succumb to a mine laid by a German E-boat; the impact caused catastrophic damage and led to *Urge* plunging out of control to the seabed. Families of the crew, led by Tomkinson's daughter Bridget, are now hoping to erect a memorial on the island and attend a commemorative service next year to mark the tragedy and HMS *Urge*'s rediscovery.

## **Legendary Carl Gustaf Took Major Step Towards New Upgrade**

Military Tech *Jared Keller* November 01, 2019



*Sapper Mathieu Riva Maille (front) and Sapper Tommy Cabana (rear) fire a round from an 84mm Carl Gustaf anti-tank recoilless rifle during Exercise RAFALE BLANCHE in Valcartier, Quebec February 4, 2016.*

*Photo: Cpl Andrew Wesley, Directorate of Army Public Affairs.*

The 84mm Carl Gustaf recoilless rifle has remained among the most beloved weapons in infantry anti-tank arsenals for decades. Recently, the Army Times offered up a glimpse of brand-new laser-guided munitions

engineered by Raytheon for the 84mm M3 Multi-Role Anti-Armor Anti-Personnel Weapon System (MMAAWS). The laser-guided Gustaf munition offers "a multi-target warhead capable of defeating bunkers, concrete, light skinned vehicles and armored personnel carriers and has a

range of nearly 2,000 meters," Marine Corps Times reports, noting that the precision round provides flexibility for service members to fire from enclosures without fear of back blast. The new round is just the latest upgrade to the iconic system. The M3A1 variant developed by Swedish Carl Gustaf godfather Saab Dynamics AB offers a titanium shell designed to reduce system weight and length. The M3A1 variant also offers the capability to fire off multiple salvos of specialized rounds — like, say, Raytheon's laser-guided munition — in a departure from the one-and-done weapons like the AT-4 anti-tank system.

*Raytheon's precision-guided Carl Gustaf recoilless rifle projectile.*  
Raytheon



Now, after years of tweaking, everyone's favorite boomstick is picking up a serious update: laser-guided precision munitions. Swedish Carl Gustaf producer Saab Dynamics AB and US defense giant Raytheon have successfully conducted "a series

of guided flight tests" of its new laser-guided munition, aptly called the Guided Carl-Gustaf Munition, the companies announced on Thursday. According to the companies, the new GCGM can reach out and hit both stationary and moving targets at a range of up to 2,000 meters, well beyond the existing effective firing ranges of its current munitions. "Three munitions were fired in total; two against static targets and one against a moving target," the companies said of the tests, which took place at the Mile High Range in Sierra Blanca, Texas, United States and at Saab Bofors Test Centre in Karlskoga, Sweden in late September. "A semi-active laser was used to guide the munitions to target impact," according to the statement. "Other seeker technologies (e.g. imaging IR) were also demonstrated as optional solutions for the final product."

First unveiled in 2018, Saab and Raytheon have billed the laser-guided Gustaf munition offers "a multi-target warhead capable of defeating bunkers, concrete, light skinned vehicles and armored personnel carriers" as Marine Corps Times put it at the time. The new munition comes on the heels of Saab's new M3E1 variant of the iconic recoilless rifle, which offers a titanium shell for reduced length and weight and the capability of firing off multiple salvos of specialized rounds compared to single-use weapons like the AT-4 anti-tank system that the new Gustaf is designed to replace. Those upgrades are coming to a squad near you sooner rather than later. In 2016, the Army vowed to deck out every infantry squad with an M3 Carl Gustaf, tripling its budget request for recoilless rifles in its fiscal year 2019 with the goal of picking up a total of 2,460 systems through fiscal 2023. Last year, a Raytheon representative told Army Times that only US Special Operations Command has an open requirement for a precision-guided Carl Gustaf round at this time. According to Military.com, Saab and Raytheon will have a chance to actually show off the system for Pentagon planners as soon as next spring

## WWI Movie '1917'

Hunted by Snipers: How Director Sam Mendes' Hero Grandad Inspired the movie

Nov 11, 2019 George Winston



The film chosen for the 71<sup>st</sup> Royal Film Performance to be held on the 4th December, is *1917* a WWI drama directed by the great Sam Mendes. The film, *1917*, is highly anticipated and expected to be a colossal money-earner. The film is based around the story of two young soldiers that are tasked with carrying a message across the lines to prevent 1,600 men walking into an ambush.

Making the story more poignant is the fact that the brother of one of the messengers is in the group that needs to be warned. The story that influenced Mendes to make this film came from listening to his grandfather, Alfred Mendes, tell stories of his life in the trenches during WWI. Alfred was awarded the Military Medal for bravery during his service in WWI.

Alfred recounted his wartime memoirs in his autobiography, *Autobiography of Alfred H Mendes 1897-1991*. In this fantastic book are stories of Alfred's courage, as well as the sexy romps in which he took part! Military records indicate that Mendes came to Britain in January 1916, and six months later, in June, he was enlisted into the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Rifle Brigade. The Brigade was posted to Oisemont, a small town near Dieppe in France where he was to train as a signaller. Alfred recounts how he did not want to be a signaller and would have preferred to qualify as a machine gunner, as he believed that would be of more use in the war.

Alfred was then posted to Passchendaele, an area pockmarked by shell craters that was both depressing and dangerous. At dawn on 12 October 1917, the British troops were sent to the Passchendaele Ridge to protect the village of Poelcappelle. It was dreadful weather with the rain pouring down, and the attack ended in disaster, with almost a third of the soldiers killed. The rest were left strewn across the brutal WWI battlefield in water-filled craters. The only way to find out where everyone was, was to send messengers to each crater in no-man's land to find them and pass on instructions. When the commanding officer asked for volunteers to undertake this hazardous mission, Alfred stepped forward. As he left the safety of the trenches, the rain stopped, making him a clear target for German snipers and machine gunners. Soon bullets were whizzing past his head. Alfred believed that the Germans were a little disconcerted at seeing a lone man wandering around in no-man's land, perhaps thinking that he was crazy. They then made little effort to actually hit him.

He located many of the survivors. After braving the gauntlet of enemy fire, he arrived safely back at the headquarters trench of C Company. Alfred was fond of recounting the story of his two wet, muddy, terrifying days in WWI in no-man's land where he stumbled into a German pillbox manned by ten German soldiers; all of whom surrendered to him! It was for these two days that Alfred was awarded the Military Cross. This episode was the apparent basis for the film that his grandson, Sam, would make. In the film, the action takes place in France just after

the Germans retreated to the Hindenburg Line at the time of Operation Alberich. Two young British soldiers, Schofield, played by George MacKay and Blake, played by Dean-Charles Chapman, are tasked with carrying a message that warns of an ambush. The British battalion of 1,600 men, one of whom is Blake's brother, must be notified, but they are on the other side of enemy lines, so the mission is fraught with danger. Included in the star-laden cast are Benedict Cumberbatch, Andrew Scott, Claire Duburcq, Mark Strong, Richard Madden, and Colin Firth. The film will be released to the public on Christmas Day in the USA and on 10<sup>th</sup> January in Europe.

## Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates

Here's the latest activities from the website of the 15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA.

First mention of a Remembrance Day salute <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1968.html>

An updated 18 pounder handbook <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/references.html>

New equipment at the 102nd Coast Regiment in 1950

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1950---102nd-coast-regt-rca.html>

Retirement-Life after the Regiment <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2019.html>

Promotions and Canadian Forces Decoration <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2019.html>

The Sky's the Limit – Girls Fly Too <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2019.html>

Check out the Calendar of Events

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/calendar-of-events>

Keep those stories, calendar events and pictures coming! [president.vcrgunners@gmail.com](mailto:president.vcrgunners@gmail.com)

## Who (or What) Is It?



**Last Week:** It is an Auster MK VI, tail number "582" piloted on 24 April 1953, by then Capt Peter Tees (his dad, Brig Tees, was long associated with 15<sup>th</sup> Field/Coast Bde between the wars). Capt Chick Sills (later LCol Sills) is flying as a passenger with Peter and acting as the "bombardier". The occasion is 1RCHA's departure from Korea. Peter being the tiger he was, decided to provide an appropriate send off for the regiment. Rolls of toilet paper were ejected out the side window of the aircraft at low level by "bombardier" Sills apparently with great accuracy. The rolls unfurled as they fell, and the streamers bounced and criss-crossed the vehicles in the convoy. In Peters words "the Horse Gunners had been properly donked". The account can be found in Canada's Flying Gunners, page 210.

**This Week:** For the second week in a row, we feature an aeroplane (and another flying machine on the tarmac to one side). This one, unlike last week's, belongs to our mighty neighbour to the south. No, not El Salvador, it's the United States of America. That we are close military partners now is a given, but this has not always been the case, as keen historians and history buffs can attest. It wasn't so long ago that Canada had a war plan involving the invasion of the land of the doodles (as our 19<sup>th</sup> century predecessors often called them). This

plan, “Defence Scheme No. 1”, might have actually worked, given that it relied on the might of the Imperial Forces. However, that is another story.

This week’s story involves those who fly. Many of you have done so, and others maintain an



interest in ships that fly. Given that, can you identify the two flying machines in the photo, and who flew them? As a bonus, can you identify the base? Our sole hint is that it hasn’t existed for over fifty years. Note the date on the photo: 1961.

Let us know your thoughts by sending them to the editor, Bob Mugford

([bob.mugford@outlook.com](mailto:bob.mugford@outlook.com)), or the author, John Redmond ([johnd.\\_redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd._redmond@telus.net)). Chimo!

### **From the ‘Punitary’**

Where do fish sleep? In the Riverbed.

### **Murphy’s Other Laws**

When in doubt, mumble; when in trouble, delegate.

### **Quotable Quotes**

But the freedom that they fought for, and the country grand they wrought for, is their monument today, and for aye. *Thomas Dunn English*





## **Fort Fraser Garrison**

Please join us as we celebrate the Patron Saint of Scotland at our annual

# *Feast of St. Andrew*

**Mess Dinner**

**Saturday, 23 November, 2019**

**in the Officers' Mess, 15<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment RCA  
2025 West 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, BC  
1800hrs for 1900**

RSVP by 19 November to [jobarb@shaw.ca](mailto:jobarb@shaw.ca)

*In the spirit of the season the garrison collects donations of gift cards and cash for those less fortunate than we; please help out. Donations of monies to the UGM and Angel Tree will happily be accepted and tax receipts for donations in excess of \$100 will be available.*

*Proceeds of our Christmas Bottle Raffle will go to support the Union Gospel Mission's food program.*

Tariff: \$65.00 per person. \*RSVP requested [jobarb@shaw.ca](mailto:jobarb@shaw.ca) or 604-522-5766

Dress: Highland Evening Dress, Mess Kit or Business Attire.  
Ladies equivalent.

yours aye,

James Barrett CD, Major  
Officer Commanding



# NOABC Luncheon Speaker



The Naval Officers' Association of British Columbia  
Founded 1919

Luncheon Speaker's Series organized by NOABC

Wednesday, November 27, 2019  
Officers' Mess, 15<sup>th</sup> RCA Bessborough Armoury

## The Liberation of Holland celebrations in Canada and Metro Vancouver in 2020



The Liberation of Holland in 1945 was brought about primarily by the Canadians, a monumental struggle of service and sacrifice in the pursuit of democracy & freedom. Canadians signed up from across our country, joining forces to sail across the Atlantic Ocean to liberate a people they did not know. As many Dutch people of that generation will say, "thank God they came." Meanwhile, back in Canada, the Dutch royal family found refuge in Ottawa, where Princess Margriet was born in 1943.

The Dutch people have never forgotten the Canadian liberators. Each spring the Dutch government sends 100,000 tulips to Ottawa, a heartfelt gesture gesturing an unbroken friendship. Now, 75 years later, there will be a number of celebrations to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Holland, and this enduring connection between our two nations. Consul-General Henk Snoeken in Vancouver will share with us the activities that will take place in Metro Vancouver to mark this special anniversary.

### Speaker's biography



Henk Snoeken is Consul-General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Vancouver. He had various positions in Dutch ministries, from which the latest were: Deputy Director for National Spatial Planning (2010-2014) and Deputy Director for International Relations (2014-2018) at the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment. As a policymaker he has been working in the field of spatial planning, water management, logistics and sustainability. In the field of international relations his focus was on climate policy, public-private cooperation and economic diplomacy.

### CV

2014-2018 Deputy Director International Affairs, Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment  
2012-2013 Acting Director for National Spatial Planning, Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment  
2011-2013 Deputy Director for National Spatial Planning, Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment  
2002-2011 Program Director Civic Integration Policy Ministry of Justice  
1998-2002 Head Integration Policy Ministry of the Interior  
1992-2002 Various positions at University of Amsterdam and University of Tilburg

**If you plan to attend the lunch and presentation please respond to David Reece  
by Sunday, November 24, 2019**

At either [dreece@telus.net](mailto:dreece@telus.net) or call/text at 778-227-8203 so that he can advise the caterer.

# 15 Fd Regt Officers Mess St Barbara's Day Special Guest Night



**The Commanding Officer**  
*Lieutenant Colonel J.P.P. Lajoie, CD*  
*and the Officers*  
*of*  
*15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment*  
*The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery*

*request the pleasure of your company*  
*at their annual*

## **ST BARBARA'S DAY SPECIAL GUEST NIGHT**

*to be held at the*  
**BESSBOROUGH ARMOURY**  
*2025 West 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, BC*

*on*  
*Saturday, the 7<sup>th</sup> of December, 2019*  
*at*  
*six o'clock in the evening*

*Dress. Mess Kit, DEU, or Formal attire, with decorations.*

*Tariff. \$120 – Seats will be reserved when payment is received. There will be no tickets available the night of the event.*

*If paying in person, please notify VPMC, Lieutenant Chris Purdon at [mess15rca@gmail.com](mailto:mess15rca@gmail.com) and payment to be paid at the door on the night of the event.*

*Cheques payable to "Officers Mess 15 Fd Regt"  
2025 West 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver, BC V6J 2C7*

*RSVP by 20 November 2019 to  
[mess15rca@gmail.com](mailto:mess15rca@gmail.com)*



Fort Fraser Garrison



I request the company of our Officers, Miladies and Guests at our annual

## Garrison Burns Supper

to be held in

The Officers' Mess at Bessborough Armoury,  
15<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment RCA  
2025 West 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, BC

Saturday, 11 January, 2020

1800hrs for 1900hrs

Dress: Scarlets, Highland Evening wear, Black Tie or Business Attire

Tariff: \$78 per Person

**RSVP to [jobarb@shaw.ca](mailto:jobarb@shaw.ca) or 604-522-5766**

**ASAP! (before 6 January)**

Places will be allocated on the sequence (date & time) of RSVP emails received  
at [jobarb@shaw.ca](mailto:jobarb@shaw.ca)

Members have priority, but please RSVP soonest as this event is  
usually oversubscribed.

Looking forward to seeing you there

*James Barrett, Maj.* Officer Commanding