

**Supplementary Radio (SUPRAD) System Oldtimers Association
Annual Reunion - 'Service of Remembrance' – Addendum
30 June 2021**

Introduction

Once again, because of the on-going Government of Canada COVID-19 imposed restrictions, our June 2021 Canadian Forces Supplementary Radio (SUPRAD) System Oldtimers Association Annual Reunion had to be cancelled. Regrettably, we were not permitted to gather at the Gloucester Cairn for our annual Sunday morning Service of Remembrance. This was the second time in the history of the SUPRAD Oldtimers Association that we have had to cancel our reunion. Even though we may not be permitted to participate in our Service of Remembrance, it is still important for us to take some time to remember our family members and friends who have passed away since June 2020.

I have always said, and will continue to say, that our SUPRAD Annual Reunion Service of Remembrance is the most important event of the reunion week-end. We are life-long friends who care about each other and this gathering gives us the opportunity to lovingly remember, and to celebrate the lives of SUPRAD Life Members, family members and friends who are no longer with us. Even though they have passed, because of the strong bonds of friendship that we share as members of our SUPRAD family, we will always cherish the precious memories of the enjoyable times that were shared with them.

Our Association - 'Friends Forever'

Since 2005, members of the SUPRAD Oldtimers Association have been attending Services of Remembrance at the site of the Gloucester Cairn. Before 2005, it was held at the Legion in the Village of Manotick.

For the past twenty-seven years, since 1994, thanks to the dedication and leadership of our very good friends, Wayne Moore, Butch Whitlaw, Lynn Wortman and Dave Berry, we have been privileged to be members of the

SUPRAD Oldtimer's Association. We should never forget the amount of work they do for us from year to year. There is no doubt in my mind, that we sincerely appreciate their friendship, loyalty and dedication.

Sometimes we have a friend and we sense that our souls are very closely connected. We know that the connection is above time and space. We know that wherever we are in our lives we will always remain friends. Even if we do not see each other for years, we are able to pick up right where we left off. This is what people mean when they say 'Friends Forever'.

It's because of our Association that we have been able to keep in touch with one another from coast - to coast - to coast, and to continue to enjoy each other's valuable gift of friendship. Our website at 'Online Oldtimers' was started by Irv Finkleman, and managed for many years by Jim Troyanek. Recently, it was taken over by Dave Berry, who has done a tremendous amount of work to upgrade the site. If you have not been a regular visitor to this site, you should be, because it is a great resource for keeping up-to-date on what's happening within our SUPRAD family. As well, Dave designed a 'Locator Map' for all of the Oldtimers Association Life Members and it can be found on the 'Online Oldtimers' website.

All military and civilian personnel who proudly served a tour in the Canadian Forces Supplementary Radio System (CFSRS) or the Canadian Forces Information Operations Group (CFIOG) are eligible to become Life Members of our Association. When the SUPRAD Oldtimers came into existence, we started with a membership of around 600 Life Members. As of today, Butch told me that he has on his mailing list – 484 Life Members, 145 non-members and 20 widows. I am sure we all know someone who served with us, who for one reason or another, has not yet become a Life Member. I would encourage you to please take some time to invite them to join our wonderful Association.

During our years of military service, we were posted to several isolated and semi-isolated communities. These included Gander, Coverdale, Masset, Ladner, Bermuda, Inuvik, Aklavik, Whitehorse, Frobisher Bay, Churchill and out of country postings under the umbrella of the United States / Canada Personnel Exchange Program. Additionally, some of our personnel spent time at sea as Electronic Warfare (EW) operators and Special Ops personnel in support of naval operations. By becoming Life Members, we continued to remain united as brothers and sisters. We started, and

completed, most of our Radioman Special trades training, as operators and as technicians, at HMCS Gloucester. In addition to our limited posting opportunities, we proudly volunteered to serve as members of Alert's 'Frozen Chosen' at the northern tip of Ellesmere Island. This small SIGINT listening post has been given the Guinness Book of World Records distinction of being the northernmost permanently inhabited place in the world.

The official motto of our Association is 'Friends Forever'. Ralph Waldo Emerson said, 'the only way to have a friend is to be one'. As members of the SUPRAD Oldtimers Association, we have LOTS OF FRIENDS! And better yet, and I say this every year because it bears repeating every year . . . when we proudly say that we are 'Friends Forever', we don't just say it, we truly and honestly MEAN IT! We are FRIENDS FOREVER!

We are affectionately called 'Oldtimers' for a good reason. Many of us can go can back thirty, forty and yes, even fifty plus years. It goes without saying that the members of the SUPRAD community are a very close-knit family. In addition to getting together during our Annual Reunions at Canadian Forces Station Leitrim, the SUPRAD Home Station, we have celebrated each other's birthdays and anniversaries and extended best wishes to those recovering from an illness. We have shared in the excitement of becoming parents, grand-parents, great grand-parents and some even GREAT-GREAT grand-parents.

The Gloucester Cairn was built in memory of our comrades and family members and it was entirely funded through donations from the members of our SUPRAD Oldtimers Association. Mr. Van Geffen, who was born in Holland, constructed the cairn. He respected Canadians for their heroic efforts in freeing Holland in 1945. To recognize this, he placed a Canadian 1945 nickel, that he had been saving for years, in the cairn.

With Ren Molnar, acting as the Master of Ceremonies, the dedication of this Cairn took place on the 25th of June 2005.

For all those who have not read the inscription on the plaque, it reads as follows:

Opened in 1943 as a Naval Radio Station utilizing High Frequency Direction Finding to aid in the combat against German U-boats in WWII, Gloucester evolved into a military Signals Intelligence communications and training establishment. This monument is

dedicated to the men and women who trained and served at this site. Their many contributions to the security of this nation must never be forgotten. In War, or in peace, it matters not, the mission does not change.

Now, let's remember the SUPRAD Oldtimers Association Life Members, friends and beloved spouses, who have passed away since the 21st of June, 2020. For those who may not know, all those who were Life Members of our SUPRAD Oldtimers Association, are marked with small crosses on copper leaves of the Life Member Tree that is displayed in the foyer of the All Ranks Mess at Leitrim. Thank you to Lynn Wortman, and Butch Whitlaw, for the creation and installation of our SUPRAD Life Member Tree.

Since June 2020, seventy-three of our family members and friends have gone to be re-united with their ancestors. Twelve were Life Members and sixty-one were non-member friends and spouses. Some of the names are of members and friends who passed several years ago, but we just recently found out.

Life Members (13)

Atkins, Ambrose
Brydon, Earl
Daggett, James 'Jim'
Garrett, Howard 'Roy'
Longmire, Jim

Low, Bill 'Whip'
Molnar, George 'Ren'
Newell, Steve
Norris, Barry
O'Brien, Clare

Thompson, Joseph 'Joe'
Warmington, Dave
Peachey, Kathryn

Non-Members & Family Members (63)

Armour, Norm
Barr, Paul
Bedell, Russell Byron
Bell, Janet
Bennett, Bernard 'Bernie'

Berry, William 'Bill' John Vernon
Bottrill, Leith
Brewer, Fred
Cara, Lloyd Philip
Cogdon, Joan

Daniels, Sylvia
Darris, Otis James 'OJ'
Davidson, Philip H
Doucette, Joyce
Dunbar, Ethel Marie

Ezard, Dale
Fairley, Jim
Faulkner, Carl Alexander
Francis, Paul Hartley
Fraser, Carmen

Gerry, Patricia 'Pat'
Godden, Roger Allan
Henderson, Donna Pearl
Hewson, William 'Bill'
Joslin, Harold 'Hal'

Joyce, Cedric James 'Jim'
Kinoshameg, Charles William 'Bill'
Labelle, Daniel 'Dan'
Lane, Caleb A (Gander civilian)
Langford, John Calver

Lemay, Carmella
Love, Timothy Glen 'Tim'
MacAskill, Neil J 'Mac'
MacNeil, Roderick 'Cam' Camillus
Madigan, Stephen Patrick

McKiel, Kelly Ann
McClean, Dougald
Norman, Bill
O'Neil, Scott
Plakholm, Donald Clement

Porter, Lise M
Purcell, Joseph 'Joe'
Rathier, Jean 'Joe'
Renaud, Maurice
Rose, Donna Alexandria

Russell, Fran
Sampson, Rose
Seguin, Larry
Shumovsky, Natalie
Simenac, Melvin 'Mel' William 'Bill'

Simmons, Ernest 'Bucky' (Bermuda civilian)
Steed, James
Steel, Ian
Steeves, John
Strachan, Pauline

Terris, Darryl
Thivierge, Larry
Turcotte, Richard 'Dick'
Walker, Gloria
Watkins, Wayne

Wells, Judith 'Judy'

**More, Randal Leslie Hughes (2016)
Vogelsang, Rodney (Rod) (2008)**

In memory of this year's SUPRAD Oldtimers Association Life Members, friends and spouses who are no longer with us, I would like to share this poem that was written by David Harkins:

You can shed tears that they are gone
Or you can smile because they lived

You can close your eyes and pray that they will come back
Or you can open your eyes and see all that they have left

Your heart can be empty because you can't see them
Or you can be full of the love that you shared

You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday
Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday

You can remember them and only that they are gone
Or you can cherish their memory and let it live on

You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back
Or you can do what they would want: smile, open your eyes, love and go on

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done
On earth as it is in Heaven
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us
And lead us not into temptation

But deliver us from evil
For thine is the kingdom
The power and the glory, Forever and ever. Amen

Final Comments

In life and in death, the bonds of our strong friendships will never be broken. We were saddened by the loss of so many good SUPRAD friends during this past year, and we were saddened that we were not able to physically gather together to remember them with stories of the enjoyable and cherished times that were spent with each one of them. Hopefully, things will be different next year and we will once again be able to gather at the site of the Gloucester Cairn for what is the most important event of our annual reunion week-end.

'Friends Forever'

Ray Lebeau