



Sabretache

THE OFFICIAL
JOURNAL OF
THE CALGARY MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

w w w . c m h s . c a

July 2015

Canada's Polar Medal

This article has been edited from a news release of July 6, 2015 from the Governor General of Canada Website.

His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, will preside over the inaugural presentation ceremony of the newly created Polar Medal on Wednesday, July 8 at the MacBride Museum of Yukon History in Whitehorse, Yukon.

"The recipients who will be honoured with the Polar Medal have helped us to better connect with Canada's North and have inspired us through their diverse contributions and efforts," said the Governor General. "They have made this integral part of our country stronger and have reinforced the resilience of its communities. It will give me great pleasure to celebrate their achievements in Whitehorse, a city rife with potential."

The new medal will be presented to 10 recipients who have rendered extraordinary services in the polar regions and in Canada's North. Part of the Canadian Honours System, the Polar Medal elevates the way we recognize individuals who contribute to northern communities and to our understanding of northern Canada and its people. It also highlights their achievements in polar exploration and scientific discoveries.

The Polar Medal celebrates Canada's northern heritage and recognizes persons who render extraordinary services in the polar regions and in Canada's North. As an official honour created by the Crown, the Polar Medal is part of the Canadian Honours System. The program incorporated and replaced the Governor General's Northern Medal, created in 2005, by then-Governor General the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson.

The Chancellery of Honours, part of the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General, administers the Polar Medal program.

Eligibility criteria and nomination process

The Polar Medal recognizes those who have contributed to or endeavoured to promote a greater understanding of Canada's northern communities and its people.

It also honours those individuals who have withstood the rigours of the polar climate to make significant contributions to polar exploration and knowledge, scientific research, and the securement of Canada's northern sovereignty.



CMHS Meeting

The next CMHS meeting will be held on

**Tuesday,
July 21st.
2015**

7:00 pm

At the
Petty Officers' Mess
HCMS Tecumseh

Continued page 2

is a non-profit registered society
which fosters the study of the
military and the police, and the heritage of
Canada, the British Empire, and the world
as well as the preservation of military
artifacts and records.

The CMHS meets once every calendar month
at: Petty Officers' Mess
HMCS Tecumseh
1820 - 24th Street SW
Calgary AB T2T 0G6

Notice of Next Meeting

The next CMHS meeting will be held on

Tuesday, July 21st., 2015

19:00 (7:00 pm)

At the Petty Officers' Mess, HMCS Tecumseh.

Members are reminded that an offering of foodstuffs for the Legion Food Bank is considered your unofficial entrance fee to our regular scheduled meetings.

The unofficial agenda of this meeting will be:

Introduction of guests, Minutes of last meeting Correspondence, Membership report Treasurer's report, Old business / New business Break, Show & Tell
The President, **Kevin Roberts** would like to invite everyone to remain after the meeting for an informal time of fellowship.

Description of the medal

The Polar Medal consists of a silver octagonal medal that is 36 mm in diameter with a suspension bar adorned with a representation of the North Star, with limbs evoking strong winds, water currents and the aurora borealis.

The obverse depicts a contemporary effigy of the Sovereign, circumscribed with the inscription in capital letters of the Canadian Royal Title and the word "CANADA", separated by two maple leaves. The edge of the obverse is decorated with small denticles. The reverse bears a representation of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police schooner *St. Roch* depicted in the Arctic near a tall iceberg and two crew members standing on the ice. The medal is suspended from a watered white ribbon that is 32 mm in width.

Each subsequent award of the Medal to the same person will be indicated by a bar, which will be in silver with raised edges and bear a centred silver maple leaf.

The design of the Polar Medal was created by the Canadian Heraldic Authority, as part of the Chancellery of Honours, based on a concept by Major Carl Gauthier of the Directorate of Honours and Recognition section of the Department of National Defence. The medal is manufactured by the Royal Canadian Mint at its Ottawa facility.

POLAR MEDAL RECIPIENTS AND CITATIONS

Michel Allard, Québec, Quebec

A researcher with the Centre for Northern Studies and a professor of geography at Université Laval since 1975, Michel Allard has contributed significantly to research projects exploring the impact of melting permafrost on the natural environment and infrastructures in Nunavik and Nunavut. His research has also examined the vulnerability of Nunavut's Inuit communities to global warming, as well as the development of adaptive strategies.

Marianne Douglas, Whitehorse, Yukon

Marianne Douglas is recognized as one of Canada's most experienced Arctic field scientists. She has helped promote a better understanding of northern Canada through a variety of public outreach work, sharing her expertise on scientific, economic, social and cultural issues impacting the North. In addition, she has conducted extensive research in the southern polar regions.

John Geiger and Ryan Harris, Ottawa, Ontario

Louie Kamookak and Gjao Haven, Nunavut

Doug Stenton, Iqaluit, Nunavut

John Geiger is the Chief Executive Officer of the Royal Canadian Geographic Society; Ryan Harris is a senior underwater archeologist with Parks Canada; Louie Kamookak is an Inuit historian; and Doug Stenton is the Government of Nunavut's director of Heritage. All four

Continued on Page 4

Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the meeting of the **Calgary Military Historical Society**

Meeting held on June 16th, 2015 at the Petty Officer's Mess, HMCS Tecumseh

Meeting called to order by President Kevin R. at 7:15 PM 19 members in attendance. No Guests present.

Minutes of previous meeting. Discussed and call for approval by Mikey C. Seconded by Bob McP.

Newsletter. Discussion of story

Membership. Report by the noble Brian H. Membership totals 45 members.

Treasures Report. Provided by our esteemed treasurer Mr. Brian H. Lists of monies collected from book auctions, donations etc. Listing of expenditures. Treasure Brian H. moves that his report be accepted as reported. Seconded by Member Mike C. Unanimous

Old Business Announcements-

Olds Gun show to take place at Exhibition Grounds March 27 and 28th.

New Business-

David G. Brings up matter of membership dues and the cost of doing and mailing newsletter. Discussion follows on methods to get newsletter to members. Some want hard copies, some say via internet is fine. Some people need it as a reminder that there will be a meeting.

Bob McP. Believes that we should email it to everyone locally and still mail to out of town people. Suggestion made to bring a few copies to meeting for those who need a hard copy.

Member Dave L makes a motion that as much as possible communication of meetings should be done via email. Motion carried.

Member Dave L. makes a motion that dues go up to \$25.00 per year. Motion carried.

Member David S. has document frames to give away to members.

President suggests that no book draw be held today as a auction for books donated by our late member John McLeod.

Member Garry R has also donated books for auction. Many thanks.

Break then auction of books

Show and Tell.

Darrel K.—GI pocket stove. WW2 Coleman heaters that ran on gasoline. Dragoon badges.

Dave L.—Stories, explanations and items of WW2 rationing.

Bob McP.—Describes tombs in England and show a rubbing of dead knight taken from his tomb.

Mike C.—Medals from Royal Dublin Fusiliers, Boer War and WW1.

Don S.— 1816 Waterloo print. Visited battlefield and talked to people living there now. Shows musket balls from both armies.

Al D.—Book 1942-1990 Court of Enquiry for HMCS Ottawa sinking.

David G. Trip to London Discusses Waterloo artifacts at Windsor castle .

Mike C. —Discusses Christopher Lee's death and his collections.

Motion to Adjourn. By Floyd S. and seconded by everyone.

Recipients named to the Governor General's new Polar Medal were honoured in Whitehorse July 8. (PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA)



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

-discovery of the wreck of Sir John Franklin's HMS *Erebus* in September 2014—and to the resolution of one of polar exploration's greatest enigmas. Their collective efforts have strengthened our understanding of Canada's North and cultivated a keen, nationwide interest in discoveries yet to come.

Shelagh Grant, Peterborough, Ontario

A historian, researcher, author, editor and adjunct professor, Shelagh Grant has taught history and Canadian studies at Trent University for 17 years. Her academic research drew her to Yukon, the Northwest Territories, Baffin Island and other remote Arctic locations. As the first historian and first woman to receive the Northern Science Award, she was active on various Inuit policy advisory committees, editorial boards and northern scholarship committees.

Gerald W. Kisoun, Inuvik, Northwest Territories

A well-respected Elder, Mr. Kisoun has worked tirelessly at strengthening the awareness and understanding of northern Canada and its peoples. As the community liaison officer in Inuvik, Northwest Territories, this dedicated community leader and active volunteer sits on a number of boards, including the Inuvialuit Harvesters Assistance Program, and acts as a liaison with local schools for science and heritage fairs.

Anne Morgan, Whitehorse, Yukon

Anne Morgan is a pillar in community recreation throughout the North. As executive director of the Recreation Parks Association of Yukon, she has significantly contributed to developing sustainable programs and services in rural and remote communities. A fervent supporter and advocate of active living, she is committed to promoting healthier lifestyles, particularly among children and youth.

Second Lieutenant Dorothy Tootoo, Rankin Inlet, Nunavut

Second Lieutenant Dorothy Tootoo is the officer responsible for sustaining the cadet program in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut. Demonstrating unwavering commitment to the program, she has enlisted the support of Elders within the community to establish a mentoring program. In addition, as the residence manager at Arctic College, she seeks out every opportunity to help students persist in their studies and achieve their goals.

Respectfully submitted by Member T.J. Popp



Second Lieutenant Dorothy Tootoo,

[A special thank you to Tim Popp for submitting this story.](#)