

# FAMILY DONATES MEMORABILIA TO ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE

(WO1) RSM JJT McManus, CD, CDN GDS

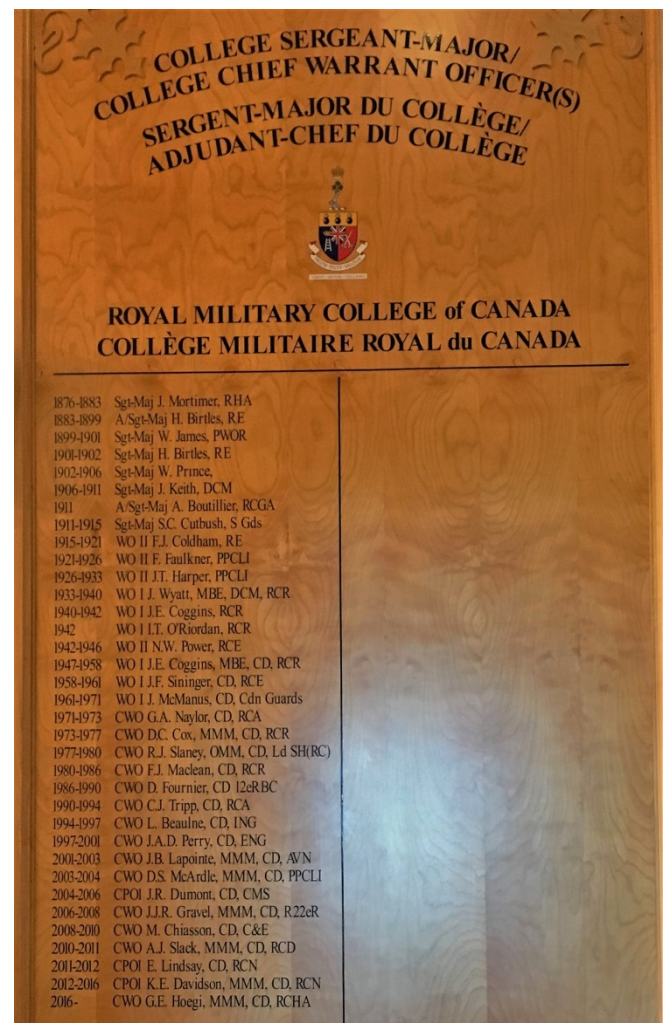
Saturday, September 24, 2016

Early this morning, on the grounds of the Royal Military College of Canada at Kingston, Ontario, as the activities of the annual Ex-Cadet Weekend were unfolding, a historic event, years in the making, transpired in the historic Mackenzie Building, beside the Memorial Staircase and across from the College Sergeant-Major's office – a ceremony that is a continuation of the CCWO Project - as the display case received its first items recognizing the contribution of (WO1) RSM JJT McManus, CD, Cdn Guards, the College Sergeant-Major from 1961 to 1971.



One of the projects to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the RMCC Club was to install a board that would record the names of the RSMs who have trained the cadets down through the years. Ex-cadets would thus acknowledge the debt of gratitude that they owe these extraordinary warrant officers who did so much to indoctrinate them into the mystique of military life and into the paramount need for the pursuit of excellence. Unfortunately, this project was never completed. Thirty seven years later, the RMCC Heritage and Museum Committee had committed to continue the research necessary to complete this work. Thanks to the committee members, most notable, MGen (Retired) Frank Norman, secretary, Mrs. Lena Beliveau, Mr. Ross McKenzie (past) museum curator, Major Mathias Joost, Directorate of History and Heritage (DND), CP01 (Retired) Keith Davidson and many others, the recognition board of RMCC Sergeants-Major and Chief Warrant Officers is now completed and a display case has been installed.

WO1 J.J. T. McManus was the College Sergeant-Major for a decade, from 1961-1971. Along with being one of the longest serving College Sergeant-Majors, he became one of the Canadian Army's youngest RSMs at the age of 24. His military career started in 1937 with the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa (M.G.). He served with the Camerons during World War II, participating in the Liberation of Holland before becoming the RSM of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Occupation Force. Upon joining the Canadian Interim Force as a WO2 at the conclusion of hostilities in 1946, RSM McManus joined the Royal Canadian Regiment and was subsequently appointed as the first RSM of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment in 1950, and served in Korea. He was also appointed the Regular Force Sergeant-Major of the Canadian Army Contingent to the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. In 1954, RSM McManus was appointed the Regimental Sergeant-Major of the Depot at Petawawa for the newly-formed Regiment of Canadian Guards, where his earlier nickname of "Rocky" changed to a title - "The Rock". It was from the Guards Depot that RSM McManus arrived at the Royal Military College in 1961.



On this 2016 Ex-Cadet Weekend, the next phase of the CCWO Project came to fruition as the display case received its first items recognizing RSM McManus. The McManus Family presented his Guards ceremonial sword, along with his career medals & decorations and other military memorabilia related to RMC. These included the plaque RSM McManus received in 1971 on leaving the College (and his retirement from the Canadian Armed Forces after 33 years of service), as well as 18K gold West Point crested cuff-links that had been a gift from his counterpart, USMA CSM Kazmerzak, during one of the annual RMC-West Point weekends. The Guards sword had been a gift to RSM McManus from the Regimental Officers, upon his departure from the Canadian Guards Depot in 1961.

Ten members of the McManus Family were present for the ceremony including his spouse Sylvia, his sons Mark (and wife Odette), Antony (and wife Louise), and Wesley, as well as four grandchildren, Rachael, Justin, Jordan and Darah. On hand to receive the donation on behalf of RMCC were the Commandant, Brigadier-General S. G. (Sean) Friday, OMM, MSM, CD; the College Chief Warrant Officer, CWO Garth Hoegi, MMM, CD; the Training Wing Sergeant Major, MWO Rideout, MMM, CD; Warrant Officer Chuck Ansell, CD; and two fourth year Officer Cadets.

During the ceremony, Antony McManus, the youngest son of WO1 McManus, who spent the majority of his career in Canada's Federal Civil Service in defence procurement, addressed the gathering prior to officially making the donations to the College. Antony shared a few recollections of his Father's time at the College, and he noted that although RSM McManus was never one to seek out recognition, he is sure his Father would have supported the donation.

BGen Friday was extremely appreciative of the donation to the College, noting the "understandable emotion in the room" and reflecting upon the "significant contribution the College Sergeant-Major makes to the life of the College" in general and the development of the officer cadets in particular - a contribution that often lasts throughout the cadets' military career and lifetime.

