

NEWS & ANALYSIS

# Montreal's Black Watch celebrates its 150th anniversary



By P.A. Sévigny  
The Suburban

It's always a good day when a Canadian regiment can call upon three generations of its own to come celebrate its 150th anniversary in the company of no less than the nation's Governor-General.

Following last Saturday's parade on Fletcher's Field in front of the Royal Canadian Grenadier Guards armory on Esplanade Street, three generations of soldiers marched in front of Canada's Governor General in much the same way as they did on the same field 100 years ago when the Duke of Connaught took the regiment's salute.

"We have our cadets on parade, we have our veterans on parade and we have of course our current soldiers," said Daniel O'Connor who is the regiment's honorary colonel.

While there's much about Canada's military which has changed since the

regiment first formed its ranks in 1862, a lot has remained the same as the regiment took the time to remember all of its officers and men who fought (and sometimes died) in Canada's battles up to and including the nation's recent hot and bloody decade in Afghanistan. Following Saturday's parade in which the regiment 'trooped' its colors which are covered with battle honors stretching all the way back to the part Canada played in the British Empire's South African wars, His Excellency David Johnson received the regiment's salute after which the soldiers carried out a 'feu de joie' which is a military custom in which all of the soldiers fire their weapons to celebrate the event. While parade organizers made a big effort to assure the audience that the soldier's automatic rifles were loaded with blanks, the assembled weapons made an ominous CRACK which could be heard throughout the Mile End district.

Once the parade was over, the regi-

ment's famous Pipe and Drum Corps led the parade down the street back to its Bleury Street Armory where the Governor-General proceeded to declare the building to be a national historic site. Built in 1905, the armory is meant to resemble a Scottish baronial castle with its massive doors, its twin turrets and its massive chains. Designed by architects

Samuel Findley and David Jerome Spence, it should be noted that most of the money required to build the armory was raised by several of the city's wealthier families who used to dominate most of the nation's commercial and economic affairs during a time when Montreal defined the nation's economy and commercial life. ■

## GSL doing well with compost: Erdelyi

By Joel Goldenberg  
The Suburban

Côte St. Luc's compost collections of kitchen and garden waste have done very well since the program started as a pilot project in 2007, Councillor Steven Erdelyi told a meeting of District 4 residents at the Waldorf residence recently.

"We've done very well as far as the tonnage, we've - and we've done this for the past several years - reached over 1,000 tons of organic waste, and what we've managed to do is reduce the amount of garbage going to landfill by 38 percent, so think about that - 38 percent in five years. That's keeping in mind we still don't offer organic waste collection to multi-family dwellings. We don't offer it yet to condos, townhouses or seniors residences, but it's something we're looking at this year.

"Most likely, we'll be piloting it in a few townhouse complexes. That's the next step. We'll be the first on the island, and probably the first in the province, so we want to keep pushing it."

Erdelyi added that other cities have consulted Côte St. Luc as to how it reduced its garbage tonnage to the extent it has.

However, there have also been a couple of problems that are being dealt with.

"We've had some problems with defects in some of the bins," Erdelyi explained. "We're working on replacing those that are cracked. I was just on a conference call with the company trying to figure out how they're going to get us the replacement bins. We've already received some, but they're going to give us more. They've been doing it so far free of charge, because of the defect."

The other problem relates to bags. "When we started the program, we gave residents a choice of bags they could use - either compostable or paper bags. The provincial government has requested that we don't use the compostable bags anymore. We're still discussing it with them, but for the moment, we're asking residents to use only the paper bags."

He explained the provincial government's concern is that methane is produced when compostable bags are sealed, because of a lack of oxygen.

"Our feeling is as the bags are compostable, they break down within a week or two, and because they're breaking down so quickly, the amount of methane produced is almost negligible. We're still discussing this with them, and we hope they will understand our point of view. Other provinces are accepting compostable bags and, for some reason, Quebec is not." ■

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## MoWest councillor takes proactive approach against traffic violators

By Joel Goldenberg  
The Suburban

Councillor Dino Mazzone encouraged residents concerned about traffic law violators - such as those who don't stop at stop signs - to take a proactive approach to counter them.

During the late September council meeting, Mazzone said he constantly sees motorists driving in the town who view stop signs as "suggestions" and not

requirements.

"As a father of three children, it's amazing how these violations are egregious, particularly in areas bounded by schools and parks," the councillor added. "I took it upon myself to videotape them. I videotaped a lot [of traffic violations] and, two weeks ago, I made a point of calling Station 9 and raising this issue with them. They actually sent a police officer to a [vio-

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