

For Immediate Release - To all press and media

C.L.B. Change of Command C.L.B. Announces First Female Governor and Commandant

The C.L.B. has a long and proud 126-year history serving the youth of our province. On December 19, 2018 at 3:00pm our Honorary Patron, Her Honour, The Honourable Judy M. Foote, Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador, will install Colonel Gail Dick as Governor and Commandant of the C.L.B. Again, history is made today as Colonel Gail Dick will be the first female to head the C.L.B., truly an historic event in the C.L.B.'s colorful and proud history.

Also at this event, Her Honour will be presenting a number of service awards to C.L.B. members who have served for more than 40 years.

Colonel Gail Dick has been involved with the C.L.B. for over 22 years and has received numerous promotions within the organization and most recently completed her tenure as Regimental Commander. In 2009, she was a member of Mission Belize which saw a team of 33 youth members and 13 Officers travel to Belize to work on a school for the underprivileged children. Most recently, she and a contingent of youth and Officers accompanied the CLB Regimental Band on a European excursion to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Beaumont Hamel, and travel the Trail of the Caribou. Colonel Dick brings a wealth of experience to the C.L.B. especially to our youth members and officers of the Brigade. Colonel Gail Dick as Governor and Commandant has 4 main goals:

1. To work with Regimental Staff to enhance leadership training and development;
2. To work with Regimental Staff to increase membership of youth and Officers within the organization, and give them the opportunity to enhance their skills and abilities, building a strong character to make them effective citizens;
3. To give our community opportunities to visit our historic William G. Tilley Museum and Archives, and to explain the contribution that many members of the C.L.B. have given to both world wars;
4. To encourage the youth and Officers of the various Companies to go out into their community and have a stronger presence, and identifying potential partnerships opportunities between the CLB and various community organizations.

Colonel Gail Dick's professional career includes over 20 years in the hospitality industry. She is currently is the Manager and Senior Rating Advisor for the Canada Select Program. Colonel Dick is a mother of three children, and lives in St. John's.

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Our Honorary Patron, The Honorable Judy May Foote will present the following members with their service awards.

40 Year Gold Long Service Medal
Staff Sergeant John Hammond (Regimental Band)

50 Year Gold Long Service Bar
Major Stirling Pritchett
Major Barry Tucker

55 Year Gold Long Service Bar
Lieutenant Norman Littlejohn
Warrant Officer First Class Douglas Payne (Regimental Band)

65 Year Gold Long Service Bar
Warrant Officer First Class Donald Bradbury (Regimental Band)
Lieutenant Max Harris Sr

70 Year Gold Long Service Bar
Warrant Officer First Class Harold Hollett (Regimental Band)

75 Year Gold Long Service Bar
Warrant Officer First Class Thomas Snow (Regimental Band)

80 Year Gold Long Service Bar
Colonel David A. Edwards

Gallant Conduct Medal (Silver)
Captain Fred Dinham

Important Facts about the C.L.B.

- The C.L.B. has served youth in Newfoundland continuously since 1892
- The C.L.B. is one of only four groups awarded the “Freedom of the City” by the City of St. John’s.
- The C.L.B. leaders contribute 80,000 volunteer hours to the Brigade each year. Major William G. Tilley was awarded the organizations first 90-year service medal and spent an incredible 63 years as the Drum Major of the Regimental Band, he passed in 2017 at the age of 103.
- Many prominent Newfoundlanders were members or Officers in the C.L.B., including:
 - Sgt. Tommy Ricketts, a NL Victoria Cross recipient
 - Gordon A. Winter, former Lieutenant Governor of NL
 - John C. Crosbie, former Lieutenant Governor of NL
 - Joseph R. Smallwood, former Premier of NL
 - Gordon Pinsent, Actor
 - Walter Noel, former MHA
 - Bob Cole, National Sports Personality
 - Doug Grant, former NHL Hockey Player
- The C.L.B. Sports Association has been inducted into Newfoundland and Labrador Sports Hall of Fame.
- The C.L.B. has been offering its camping program since 1893.
- The C.L.B. has sponsored 2355 CLB Army Cadet Corps, the oldest Cadet Corps in the province, since 1949.
- N.L.C.C. Polynia, a Navy League Cadet Corps, has been sponsored by the C.L.B. since 1992. Considered a top Sea Cadet unit, it has brought the C.L.B. Sponsor of the Year awards.
- The C.L.B. was a major contributor to the Royal Newfoundland Regiment in both the First and Second World Wars.

THE C.L.B. (CHURCH LADS' BRIGADE) IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

The Church Lads' Brigade (C.L.B.) was founded in 1891 in London, England. Through the efforts of a young Newfoundlander, Harold Blackler, a C.L.B. Company was started in St. John's in 1892 – the first C.L.B. overseas unit. Today, the C.L.B. in NL has 14 Companies, 1 Army Cadet Corps, and 1 Navy League Corps spread across the Avalon Peninsula, from St. John's to New Harbour, and one Company on the Bonavista Peninsula in Trinity East/Port Rexton; in total over 500 members strong!

OBJECTIVE

Through educational, recreational and social activities, the Brigade aims to help youth develop the necessary skills to become future leaders.

WHO CAN JOIN?

Membership in the CLB is open to everyone. The CLB is divided into five age groups:

- Little Training Corps (LTC) – grades K and 1
- Young Training Corps (YTC) – grades 2 – 4
- Junior Training Corps (JTC) – grades 5 – 7
- Senior Corps (SC) – grades 8 – 12
- Officers – ages 19+

C.L.B. BADGE WORK

The CLB offers more than 500 courses in its badge work program. Courses are geared to the age group and interests of the youth and the award of a badge or certificate recognizes each. Topics include:

- First aid
- Drum and Bugle Band
- Glockenspiel Band
- Citizenship
- Naturalist
- Hobbies and Crafts
- Cooking
- Cycling
- Fire Fighting
- Map and Compass

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

As youth members advance into their teen years, they are encouraged to take on additional responsibilities and participate in program delivery to the younger members. Experienced training officers coach the youth in the skills to become future leaders. There are many people in this province who have achieved success in their own trade or profession who will credit the CLB with introducing them to responsibility and leadership skills. Activities include:

- Teaching basic drill movements
- Supervising sports programs
- Instructional techniques
- Public Speaking

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

This international program, which operates in more than 45 countries, has recently been added to the CLB program. It is designed to stimulate the energies of young people from ages 14 to 25. The aim of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Program are:

- Self-reliance and self-discipline
- Perseverance and determination
- Initiative and creativity
- Community involvement and social development
- Value orientation and value-oriented decision making
- The spirit of adventure
- Fitness of body and mind
- Vocational, cultural and family life skills
- International understanding and awareness

SPORTS

All sports activities emphasize participation. Each Battalion has inter-company tournaments officiated by the junior leaders and supervised by officers. Each year, the Colonels Award is presented to one individual in each unit to recognize good sportsmanship. Sport activities include:

SUMMER CAMPS

The CLB holds summer camps each year. It has been shown that members who go to camps stay on longer in the Brigade and advance through the ranks. Activities at camps are geared to the age of the participants and include:

- Swimming
- Canoeing
- Target shooting with air rifles
- Archery
- Soccer
- T-Ball
- Soccer-Baseball
- Orienteering & Wilderness Survival

PUT THE CHILD FIRST PROGRAM

The CLB is extremely proud of its involvement in piloting this abuse awareness program. Developed with the assistance of the former Chief of Police Joe Brown and the St. John Ambulance Association, the CLB continues to aggressively follow this program. The program has separate training for youth members and adult leaders and includes:

Recognition of inappropriate behaviour

Abuse avoidance

Action to be taken when abuse is suspected

Bullying intervention

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The CLB also offers a variety of activities including:

- Hiking
- Crafts
- Survival training
- Drill
- Archery
- Scavenger hunts
- Weekend outings
- Physical training
- Pyramids & vaulting

THE C.L.B. REGIMENTAL BAND

The CLB Regimental Band has a long history in Newfoundland. Started as a tin whistle band, the Regimental Band has evolved to become the flagship of the CLB. The band has served the province and established a record of achievements that is the envy of people everywhere. The CLB Regimental Band's members have served a combined 800 years! The longest serving member was William G. Tilley, who retired after serving 63 years as Drum Major. Major Tilley was a member of the CLB for 91 years! The Band performs at the Royal St. John's Regatta, the Janeway Children's Hospital Christmas Party, the Armistice Day Parade to the War Memorial, the Lieutenant Governor's Garden Party at the Government House Grounds and numerous other civic events in the Province.

THE C.L.B. ARMOURY

Located on Harvey Road in St. John's, the CLB Armoury is the headquarters of the Brigade in Newfoundland. The William G. Tilley Museum and Archives is also located in the Armoury and includes a collection of photos, newspaper articles, uniforms, medals, manuals and letters that document the history of the CLB since its beginning in 1892. The original CLB Armoury was designed by a former member of the Brigade and was built in 1910. On December 21, 1992, the Harvey Road Fire destroyed the Armoury and all its contents, as well as surrounding buildings on Harvey Road. The next morning, only the cement archway remained standing. The Marching Home campaign was quickly launched and over the next two years, enough money was raised to build a new CLB Armoury on the same site.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Brigade Council is the board of directors and oversees the administration and policies of the Brigade in Newfoundland and Labrador. The Council is responsible for Brigade finances, the CLB Armoury and the Quartermaster's Stores. The chairman is the Governor and Commandant and is the most senior officer in the Brigade. A Regimental Staff oversees the operations side of the Brigade, which includes programs, camps, W&NCO's and Officer training as well as other activities. There are two Battalions: Avalon and Trinity Conception. Each Battalion has its own staff and a commanding officer. The Battalions are directly responsible for the Companies and their programs. They are responsible for the Battalion sports program and seeing that each company carries out the required activities. There are 16 companies within the Battalions and they each have a staff of officers, W&NCO's and a commanding officer. Within the company there are four sections, including Little Training Corps, Young Training Corps, Junior Training Corps and Senior Corps. At the age of 19, members are given the opportunity to become officers. Most of the Brigade's officers have come through the ranks. Within all units, a chaplain is assigned a senior position.