

Lieutenant-Governor salutes cadets on first visit to Aurora



By Brock Weir

With a blow to the jaw from a brother-in-arms, a member of the Queen's York Rangers Cadet Corps dropped to the ground, while other members of the Corps rushed out with a stretcher to bear him to safety. As they lifted his limp body onto the tightly wound canvas, they rushed him to the side ? but not before the patient mustered enough energy to sit upright as he was whisked by the Lieutenant-Governor to give her a final salute.

The salute was returned with a nod and a laugh by the delighted Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, who paid her first visit to Aurora on Saturday morning, serving as reviewing officer for the 49th Annual Ceremonial Review Parade, which was held at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex (SARC).

The annual parade pays tribute to cadets who are passing out of the ranks, going onto post-secondary education, often continuing their military training, while recognizing exceptional members of the Corps in areas ranging from fundraising to overall performance.

Saturday's ceremony had a particular poignancy for the cadets, dignitaries, parents and teachers in attendance, falling on the 71st anniversary of the D-Day Landings. Such anniversaries are particularly meaningful for members of the Corps as they continue their fundraising efforts ? including the sale of chocolate and commemorative pins ? to fund their trip to France next year to mark the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, the decisive Canadian victory of the First World War.

?I would like to recognize the many cadet leaders here today and thank them for their tireless service to the community and their selfless dedication to the development of our youth,? said Councillor John Abel, representing the Town of Aurora at the ceremony. ?Canada has a strong [Cadet] program, each with a long, distinguished history of service. Being a cadet is a prestigious honour which affords tremendous opportunity to be leaders, team builders, and strong Canadian citizens. Each of you should be proud for the work you put into cadets. Building a foundation of leadership and solidarity takes a great deal of time and patience and this is true about cadets and cadet leaders.?

The Lieutenant-Governor also paid tribute to cadets and the cadet leaders as building the leaders of tomorrow. As Colonel of the Regiment, a position in which she was formally invested in February, she says she is particularly proud of the links between her office and the local Regiment, and watching the demonstrations, whether demonstrations of military might, tactical training or physical fitness, only served to bolster this pride.

?Individual achievement is remarkable, but the mark of a unit is exceptional,? she said. ?C.S. Lewis once remarked ?the next best thing to being wise yourself is to live in a circle of those who are.' I am sure you realise we are living in such a vast, interconnected world with so many challenges, be they environment, economic, or matters of human security, and each of you will be called upon to play a part in that world. To do so effectively, you will require knowledge and technical skills to be sure, but most importantly,

what is going to be required of you is an understanding of others: how to work as a team, how to engage with others to achieve your goals.

?The world will need your contributions to society as intelligent and well-rounded citizens. Whatever your future plans, I know that cadets offered you a unique set of opportunities and experiences unmatched by any program in the country and I strongly encourage all of you to make the most out of it.?