

2015 Warriors' Day Parade

Honourary Parade Marshalls

Sgt Wilbert M. Back, CD **Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve**

Sergeant Wib Back enlisted in the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve on April 18 1944 just before his 18th birthday. Because of his young age he had to obtain signed permission from his Father and in addition had to present two letters of reference --Imagine all just to go to War. He served as a Torpedo man on HMCS Border Cities, an Algerian Minesweeper modified for Escort duties. He was discharged in January 1946 and shortly afterward joined the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals. Wib was awarded the CD for his service. Wib has been a volunteer with the Warriors' Day Parade Council for over 50 years in a number of capacities and for many years was Vice President Administration WDPC.

Wib celebrated his 89th birthday this year and he plans to attend the Warriors' Day Parade for many years to come.

Master Warrant Officer Leonard Pelletier, CD **Canadian Army**

Master Warrant Officer Leonard Pelletier was born in Toronto Ontario ninety-two years ago. His father was a wounded WW I veteran and his mother a British war bride. In 1942, Mr. Pelletier joined the Canadian Army and went on active service with the Lorne Scots and the Cameron Highlanders. He was honourably released in 1946. In October 1950, Mr. Pelletier joined the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals serving in the reserve unit in Toronto and October 1953 he joined the regular forces. Mr. Pelletier served his country in Kingston, Ottawa, Egypt/Gaza Strip in 1962 and 1963, in France and Belgium with Supreme Headquarters Allied Forces Europe 1966 – 1971, with his last posting serving as the Chief Clerk at Toronto Militia Headquarters where he retired in 1976.

Mr. Pelletier has been an active member of the Royal Canadian Legion for over 40 years. He is the past secretary of the Signals Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. On retirement from the Canadian Armed Forces, he served as the Office Manager of the Royal Canadian Military Institute.

A Life Member of the Warriors' Day Parade Council, Mr. Pelletier faithfully served as Secretary for over 20 years. Additionally, each year Mr. Pelletier is responsible for distributing over 22,000 Warriors' Day tickets to veterans and their families.

In 2012 Len was presented with the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation.

Captain Martin Maxwell **Glider Pilot Regiment, British 6th Airborne Division** **British Army**

Captain Martin Maxwell was born in Vienna Austria and upon moving to London England, joined the British Army at the age of 18 as a Glider Pilot. Along with five gliders he landed in Normandy the night before D-Day to capture 3 bridges including the Famous Pegasus Bridge. In September 1944 he landed in Arnhem Holland and on the last day of the operation he was wounded and taken to hospital

and later sent to a Prisoner of War Camp. From 1946 to 1948, Martin worked at The Pentagon in Washington on War crimes Investigations. Martin came to Canada in 1952.

**Flying Lieutenant (Pilot) Walter “Wally” Ward
440 Squadron
Royal Canadian Air Force**

Walter “Wally” Ward joined the Royal Canadian Air Force, completed his pilot training and was presented his wings by flying Ace Billy Bishop. During WWII he flew more than 100 missions over the European war theatre during his time as a pilot with the RCAF 440 Squadron, including on D-Day, June 7, 1944, the invasion of Normandy

He is one of only a few living RCAF Hawker Typhoon (Tiffie pilots). Wally was featured on the History Network’s three-part series titled “War Story: Liberation” which includes a half-hour segment called “Whistle for a Tiffie.”

Following the war Wally attended university, graduating with a degree in English, and began a teaching career Gordon Graydon Secondary School in Mississauga. He quickly climbed the education ladder, first as vice-principal at Graydon, then its principal, and during his long tenure at the school (1957-79), thousands of school kids became his extended family.

For his service Walter was awarded France’s Legion of Honour.

**Bob Russell
Merchant Marines**

Bob attended Leith Nautical College and the SS Dolphin Training School Merchant Services in 1952

First Ship – British Skill Tanker Co. Sailing from Falmouth as a Galley Boy to the Persian Gulf. Following that served in many Merchant Vessels covering the Baltic, Mediterranean, Atlantic Grain Run to Montreal as a Second Steward, etc. Other Ships signed on as a Second Cook and Baker. Cape boats – Cape York, United States, Australia and beyond. The Huntstfield to Vancouver; Japan and most of Asia, etc. Ben Reoch (Ben boats), Ben Avon – Atlantic runs. 1952 as a Cabin Boy, was attached to the RFA (Royal Fleet Auxiliary) wave premier. We did a full exercise with the NATO Fleet with the Carrier Eagle and the Cruiser Swift Sure as the leading vessel. Several of the frigate classes and many of the Royal Navy Ships accompanied by the NATO Fleet up to the Arctic as a full blown Naval exercise, fueling the fleet 2 at a time in hazardous conditions – quite an experience and quite a story! This was all in preparation for the wave boat auxiliary ships on their way to Korea. One of the more interesting ships was the troop ship Asturias sailing the troops to Cyprus, Famagusta on to Hong Kong & Kure, Japan. Finished up on the Orient lines on their way to Australia and in 1959, 1960 and 1961 spent the last years of my service running the coasters to the Continent as Chief Steward on small cargo/ passenger vessels.