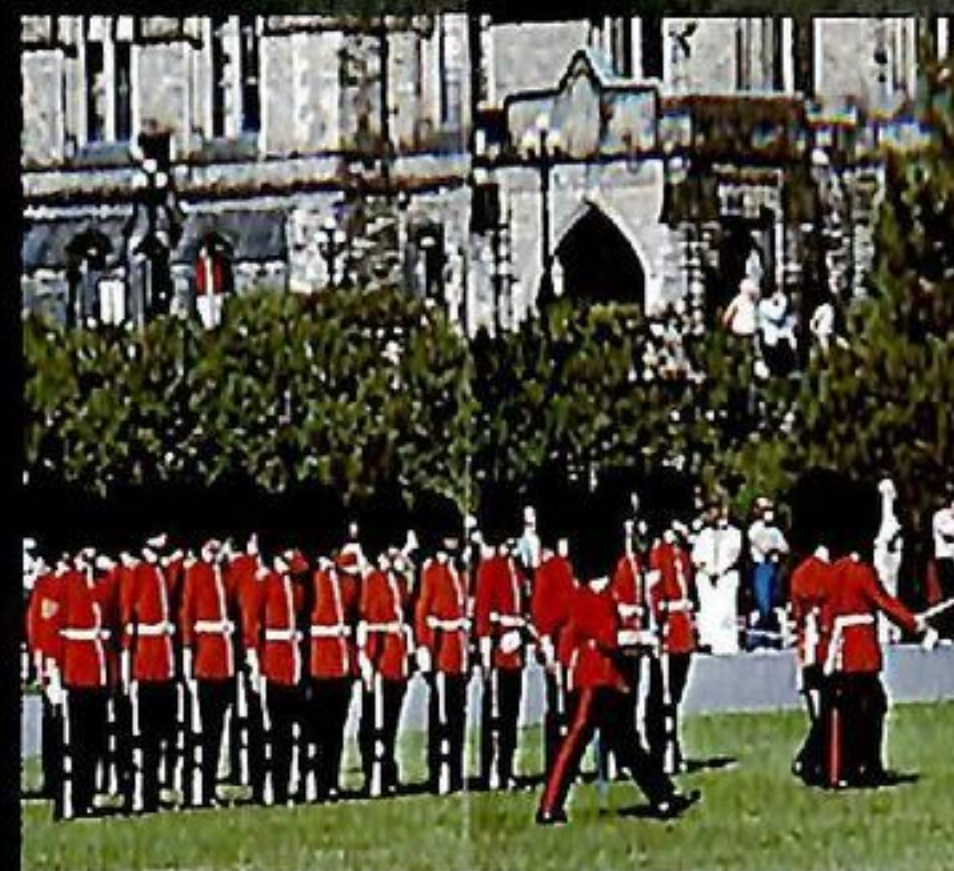




# Changing the Guard

## The Ceremony



One of the outstanding attractions in Canada during the summer months is the colourful Changing the Guard ceremony, presented daily on the beautiful lawns of Parliament Hill. The 30 minute ceremony starts at 10:00 a.m., and offers an unrivaled combination of tradition, pageantry, colour and military precision.

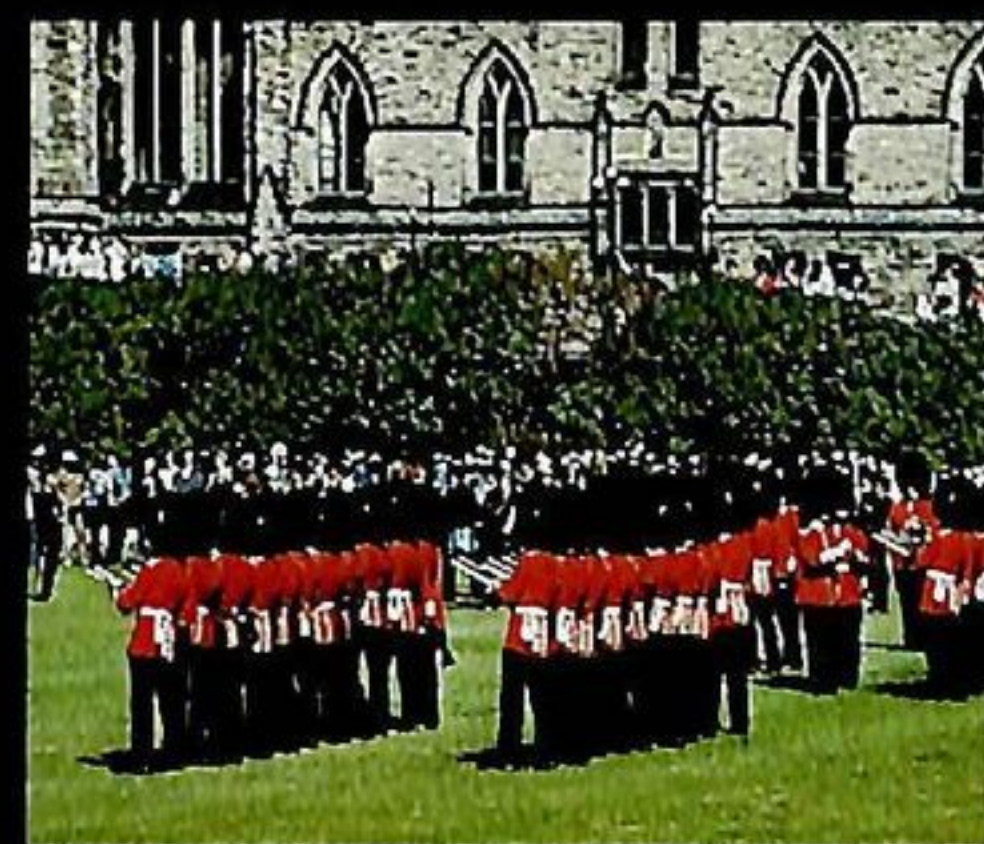
Two Guards take part in the ceremony, the Old Guard and the New Guard. Each Guard consists of one officer and 40 non-commissioned officers and guardsmen divided into two divisions. The New Guard and one division of the Old Guard will be on parade while the second division of the Old Guard remains on sentry duty at Rideau Hall, the residence of the Governor General of Canada.

In addition to the Guards and a Colour Party, which escorts the Queen's Colour or the Regimental Colour, the Band of the Ceremonial Guard will be on parade. Altogether, 135 soldiers take part in this colourful spectacle. The Guards, the Colour Party and the Band form up at the nearby Cartier Square Drill Hall. At 9:45 a.m. daily they move off and march to Parliament Hill. As the Band plays appropriate martial music, the Adjutant will inspect the

"Duties", thereafter referred to as the New Guard, and then the Old Guard. Following the inspections, the officer commanding the New Guard takes his place on parade and the Colour is "trooped" or paraded through the ranks of the New Guard, arriving at a central position between the two divisions. The Old Guard will now pay compliments to the New Guard by presenting arms, and the New Guard returns the compliment. The Guard Commanders

will move forward and the key to the guardroom will be turned over to the Commander of the New Guard. The Guards are now ready to move off. On the command "Slow March" the Guards, preceded by the Band, leave Parliament Hill, changing into quick time at the gate. From Parliament Hill the New Guard proceeds to Rideau Hall where the relief of sentries takes place. Up to this time, the sentries are from

the Old Guard, and following relief they are dismissed until their next duty. Guardsmen on sentry duty are forbidden to converse with or acknowledge any person except in the line of duty. Sentries at the main gate and main entrance to Rideau Hall are changed on the hour, between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.



## The Colours

Colours such as those carried on parade have their origin in early times when Standards or flags were used to show the position of the Commander and to form a rallying point in battle. A regiment could suffer no greater dishonour than to lose its Colours to the enemy. Each Infantry Battalion has

two Colours, the Queen's Colour and the Regimental Colour. The Queen's Colour is carried on parade only in the presence of Royal personages, and Vice-Regal representatives, while the Regimental Colour is carried on other occasions.

## History of the Regiments



The Governor General's Foot Guards (G.G.F.G.), located in Ottawa, was formed in 1872. This unit sent detachments and formed several active units to participate in the Nile Expedition (Egypt) of 1884; the Northwest Rebellion (Saskatchewan) of 1885 and the South African War of 1899-1902. In the First World War the unit provided a large number of officers and men to form the 2nd Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force (the "Iron Second").

In the Second World War the Governor General's Foot Guards was placed on active service as a complete battalion and was converted into an armoured regiment for the duration of the war. Following service in the defence of Britain it landed in Normandy shortly after D-Day and fought in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. Among the Foot Guards' 22 battle honors are "St. Julien" (the first gas attack, 1915), "Vimy, 1917" and "Passchendaele."

Second World War honours include "Falaise" and "The Rhineland." The Canadian Grenadier Guards are located in Montreal. Designated as a Guards regiment since 1912, it has a long history through variously named units dating from 1807 when it was called the 1st Battalion, Montreal Militia. Four companies of this battalion saw active service during the War of 1812.



Like the Governor General's Foot Guards, the Grenadiers sent a detachment to the South African War and detachments to the First World War. For the latter it also raised the 87th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force (C.E.F.), which retained the name Canadian Grenadier Guards as well as its C.E.F. number. In the Second World War the unit served as a complete battalion in Britain, later fighting in France.



Belgium, Holland and Germany. It was converted to an armoured regiment for the duration of the war. Among the Grenadiers' 21 battle honours are "Ypres 1915, 1917", "Somme 1916" and for the Second World War they include "The Lower Maas" and "The Hochwald".

Her Majesty the Queen is the Colonel-in-Chief of both regiments and Governors General (while in office) are Honorary Colonels.

## Other Details

The Guard for His Excellency the Governor General is provided by a composite unit called the "Ceremonial Guard," made up of one company from The Governor General's Foot Guards wearing red plumes in their bearskin caps, and another of the Canadian Grenadier Guards distinguished by their white plumes, plus the Band of the Ceremonial Guard composed of Reserve Force musicians from across

Canada. The Ceremony's season normally begins on National Armed Forces Day, which is celebrated four to six days prior to Canada's July 1st birthday. It continues daily until the last Sunday in August.

