

Lorne Scots served Canada in many wars

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the rebellion took place. Col. George Chisholm led local troops at Chippewa the following year when Mackenzie's boat was captured and the rebellion was finally ended.

A regiment was formed in Peel from the old York Militia in 1846 and Halton's militia was organized and commanded by Lt. Col. George Chisholm in 1851. The government authorized the recruiting of 5,000 Class A volunteers in 1858 to support the British military. Five thousand Class B volunteers were also recruited but they got no weapons, uniforms or accoutrements.

Infantry companies were established in Georgetown, Milton, Stewarttown, Norval, and Campbellville as well as a rifle company in Oakville.

Both the Halton and Peel militiamen got involved in repulsing the Fenians when they crossed into Canada in 1866 but Col. Barber's father who had joined the Halton group in 1861 says the Georgetown group never left the station.

"My father used to tell how he had his men all turned out at the Georgetown station ready to board the train when word came through that they weren't needed," Col. Barber said. "But he got a medal anyway for his part in the Fenian Raids."

The government to act on legislation passed in 1881 which authorized the formation of proper militia units so that training could be improved. The 36th Peel Battalion was formed Sept. 14, 1886 while the 20th Halton Battalion was formed four days later.

The Halton regiment took part in a review at the Canadian National Exhibition grounds in 1879 along with a number of other regiments and so distinguished themselves in the eyes of the reviewing officer the Marquis of Lorne who was Canada's Governor General at that point that he asked how he could reward the regiment.

The commanding officer

Col. William Allan of Acton, requested permission to use the Marquis' name and personal insignia for the regiment. This was granted in 1881 along with the Boars Head insignia and the use of the ordinary Campbell tartan, and the regiment became the 20th Halton Battalion Lorne Rifles.

Since all other Scottish regiments were infantrymen and wore the kilts but the Halton men were riflemen, there was no precedent and they had to wear the treads rather than the kilt.

When the Riel Rebellion broke out in 1885, Col. Tyrwhitt led a detachment from the area.

Col. James Ballantine who distinguished himself during the Boer War took the first group from Halton and Peel to Val Cartier and then overseas for World War I.

The Halton Rifles were re-organized in 1920 and adopted rifle drill while the 36th Peel regiment was officially changed to the Peel and Dufferin Regiment in 1923. Lt.

Col. Bro... Chisholm regretted the loss of the regiment's Scottish connection and managed to get it re-established so that in 1931 it became the Lorne Rifles (Scottish).

This enabled the regiment to again wear the Marquis of Lorne's personal tartan but it took three years before the men could appear in it because the only source of supply was the Marquis' own weaver in Scotland.

Col. Barber chuckled as he recalled the first night the men turned out in the tartan treads. They were hot enough to survive in the Arctic in them, he said.

In 1936 the government decided Canada had too many infantry regiments and amalgamated the Halton regiment with the Peel and Dufferin one. The new name was Lorne Scots (Peel, Dufferin and Halton Regiments) and it had companies in Brampton, Oakville, Port Credit, Georgetown and Orangeville.

When World War II broke out the Lorne Scots were among the six militia units chosen from across Canada to be part of the first division to go overseas. Although this was a mark of distinction to the regiment it caused controversy because the regiment was not allowed to fight as a unit. It was suggested that the regiment's commanding officer Col. Keene should have ignored the request and kept the unit in tact so they could have been called overseas later to fight as a unit. It is Col. Barber's opinion however, that the commanding officer did the only thing he could since an officer is expected to obey his orders or he has no business being part of the military.

The Lorne Scots were later given the job of being defense platoons at army headquarters all over Britain and on the continent. Since members of these platoons were allowed to replace fighting men Lorne Scots were involved in all European battlefields and earned many battle honours.

In 1943 the Lorne Scots were granted permission to wear kilts but nothing was ever done about it until 1964.

A Lorne Scots Medical Officer Major Colin Heggie won the George medal, the second highest award given to a British or Canadian soldier, for his work in aiding victims during a bombing raid in Liverpool in 1943.

Col. Barber, who knew Maj. Heggie said, he was returning from a pub with a couple of fellow officers when he passed a building struck by a bomb earlier in the evening. Police had the area blocked off since the wall appeared ready to collapse. Maj. Heggie had the men with him hold him by the feet so he could work through a break in the wall to treat people trapped in the building. When the wall did fall he was seriously injured. He spent time in hospital in England and then convalesced in Canada. That didn't stop him from returning to the war as a

medical officer on a troop ship plying the North Atlantic as soon as he was well again.

During 1952 to 1954 the Lorne Scots was the second largest, if not the largest, militia regiment in Canada, Col. Barber said.

The Lorne Scots pipe band was rewarded for its prowess in 1959 with a trip to the Edinburgh Festival in 1960 and their drum major was given the honour of leading the massed bands onto the field.

In 1975 the Duke was in Canada to present the Queen's Guineas for the Queen's Plate and the regiment's commanding officer Col. Frank Ching was made his aide de camp. He was able to ask the Duke again about becoming honorary colonel-in-chief and the request was approved in 1976. The Duke's visit a month ago was his first visit to the regiment.

Col. Barber commanded the Lorne Scots from March 1949 to December 1954.



Systems instruction co-ordinator Mike Topping and consumer relations officer Jane Langdon demonstrate the electronic scan checkout system at Miracle Food Mart's new Georgetown store. The supermarket officially opens today. (Herald photo by Donna Hall)

Local shopping joins the computer age

Georgetown food shoppers will move into the computer age with the opening today of the town's first grocery store to use the electronic screening check-out system.

Shoppers will find that the cash register they recognize has undergone numerous changes at the Miracle Food Mart store beside the Alcott Memorial Arena. There cashiers will draw items through a laser beam which registers the numbers included in the universal product code and automatically punches up the information required on the receipt.

The system is not necessarily faster according to

the chain's consumer relations officer Jane Langdon. The improvement comes in the fact that it cuts down on human error.

MARKED LABEL

The code which is marked on the label of all packaged foods includes the size and manufacturer of the product but does not include the price. This is stored in the memory bank of the computer and is triggered by the product code. The prices are recorded separately in the memory bank so that they can be changed when the need arises.

Items such as meat which are packaged in the store have a code attached to activate the computer but if it isn't picked

up properly it can be rung up manually. Produce goes on the scale first, then has to be rung up manually.

If the computer doesn't pick up the full code the light of the laser beam and the sound from it will change sufficiently to alert the cashier so that she can clear the item and run it through again.

The receipts will be highly detailed and include the number of the cashier.

Miracle Mart began using the electronic check-out system in 1975.

Bob Dudgeon will manage the store which has 150 full and part-time employees and officially opens today.

Ice rental increase meeting tomorrow

A meeting tomorrow (Thursday) night at which municipal officials will discuss town council's recent decision to increase ice rental rates with representatives of local sports groups will be open to the public and press.

Coun. Roy Booth, who chairs a special four-member committee of council which will meet the sports representatives, had initially suggested that the meeting might cover more ground if the press was not allowed to attend. Spokesmen for the groups involved, he speculated, might be inhibited from speaking frankly if the meeting was to be recorded.

Coun. Booth told The Herald last week, however, that the committee had decided to keep the meeting, scheduled to take place at the Stewarttown Community Hall, open to all interested parties.

LOCAL GROUPS

Executive members of 12 local sports groups were invited to attend the meeting by letter earlier this month. The letter referred to the meeting as an "in camera" session to which no other members of the

public would be admitted.

Invited to attend are representatives of the Georgetown Intermediate Raiders and Junior Gemmis hockey clubs, the Georgetown District Minor Hockey Association, Georgetown Minor Hockey Support Group, Georgetown Industrial Hockey, Georgetown Non-Contact Hockey, Acton Junior Sabres, Acton Industrial Hockey, Waterloo-Wellington rep hockey, Acton Legion Minor Hockey, Acton Figure Skating Club and

Georgetown Figure Skating Club.

Most, if not all the groups, share opposition to council's two-month old decision to boost ice rental rates at the town's three arenas starting in September. A joint presentation to council earlier this month demonstrated the group's solidarity, but council declined to consider the matter further at that time. Recreation director Glen Gray suggested that a special committee of council should meet the sports representatives in another forum and make a recommendation to council.

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