

Lorne Scots have a storied history in Georgetown

The Lorne Scots have been an established institution in Peel, Dufferin and Halton for 150 years.

The Lorne Scots (Peel, Dufferin and Halton Regiment) originated in Brampton on Sept. 14, 1866, as the 36th Peel Battalion of Infantry. It was redesignated as the 36th Peel Regiment on May 8, 1900, as The Peel Regiment on May 1, 1920 and The Peel and Dufferin Regiment on April 15, 1923.

On Dec. 15, 1936, it was amalgamated with The Lorne Rifles (Scottish) and redesignated The Lorne Scots (Peel, Dufferin and Halton Regiment).

The Lorne Rifles (Scottish) originated in Milton, Ontario on Sept. 28, 1866, as the 20th Halton Battalion of Infantry.

It was redesignated the 20th Halton Battalion of Rifles on Jan. 12, 1872, as the 20th Halton Battalion Lorne Rifles on Nov. 11, 1881, as the 20th Halton Regiment Lorne Rifles on May 8, 1900, as the 20th Regiment, Halton Rifles on Dec. 1, 1909, as The Halton Rifles on May 1, 1920 and The Lorne Rifles (Scottish) on Nov. 1 1931. On Dec. 15, 1936, it was amalgamated with The Peel and Dufferin Regiment

Both units were Regiments of the Line. However, their Scottish heritage was sown with the Marquis of Lornes' visit to the Toronto Garrison in 1879 with the 20th Halton Battalion attending the parade under L.Col Allan.

They formed a pipe band in 1881 and started wearing tartan trews and diced glengarries. The 20th Halton Rifles became the 20th Halton Battalion, Lorne Rifles.

Many of today's regimental traditions date back to this historic visit.

A number of officers and men from the 20th and 36th served in composite battalions during the Northwest Rebellion of 1885 and the South African War. During the First World War, regiments as such were not mobilized, but soldiers and formed groups of men were orga-

nized and placed in numbered battalions. The 36th Peel Battalion and the 20th Halton Rifles provided 16 officers and 404 other ranks to the 4th Battalion of the 1st Canadian Division.

Subsequently, many more men from the two regiments were allotted to the 20th, 36th, 58th, 74th, 76th, and 81st Battalions.

The 126th, 164th, and 234th Battalions were raised exclusively in Peel, Dufferin and Halton Counties.

Lorne Scots Cap Badge

In 1923, the 36th Peel Regiment was reorganized to become the Peel and Dufferin Regiment. Sir Robert Peel's personal crest, the Demi Lion, was adopted as the regimental crest. It remains the key centerpiece of today's Lorne Scots cap badge.

After becoming the Lorne Rifles in 1931, permission was granted from the senior duke of Scotland, The Duke of Argyll, to use his personal tartan and his 'boar's head' crest. It can be seen in the unit's collar badges today.

On Dec. 15, 1936, The Lorne Rifles and the Peel and Dufferin Regiments were amalgamated to form the present regiment, The Lorne Scots (Peel, Dufferin and Halton Regiment).

The Lorne Scots was one of the first regiments to be mobilized in the Second World War but never served as a cohesive regiment. Instead, members of the regiment were organized into defence platoons and attached to various brigade, division and army headquarters.

Members of The Lorne Scots served in every theatre of war in which Canada fought with the exception of Hong Kong.

A platoon of Lornes served with the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada at the capture of Boulogne. Other platoons took part on the raid at Dieppe and landed on the beaches of Sicily.

Lorne Scots Regimental Association



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