

# After half century of service, Mayor Jack Harrison retires

After five decades of military service, Major Jack Harrison can sum it all up in seven words.

"I loved every rotten minute of it," he said as he reflected on his 50 years in the British and Canadian armies.

Harrison joined the Royal Army Cadet Corps of the West Yorkshire Regiment when he was 13. Fittingly, he finished his career as the Region Cadet Advisor for Central Ontario following six years as Commanding Officer of the #676 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps Georgetown.

He said his career has given him many unique opportunities such as meeting Queen Elizabeth II in 1984 and traveling to Europe to visit allied regiments.

The army was a natural choice for Harrison, whose father was a soldier in the British army for 30 years. Now his family is following in his footsteps. His son has been in the Canadian army for 21 years and his grandson is in his third year in the Georgetown Army Cadets.

Harrison served as a soldier in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. It didn't take long for him to get back involved in the army life after moving to Canada in 1957.

"I just saw an ad in the newspaper and I thought, 'Hell yeah, that's something I know how to do.'"

He immediately joined the Canadian Armed Forces Reserves

and served in the Royal Canadian Artillery in Peterborough and the 4th Ordnance Battalion in Toronto.

In 1961, he moved to Brampton and was transferred to The Lorne Scots (Peel, Dufferin and Halton Regiment). There he progressed through the ranks of Regimental Sergeant Major, Sergeant Major for the Hamilton Militia District and Area Sergeant Major for the Central Militia Area.

He was commissioned to the rank of captain in the Cadet Instructor Cadre in 1988 and was appointed commanding officer of the #676 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps Georgetown four years later. Last year he was promoted to Major and appointed Region Cadet Advisor for Central Ontario.



MAJOR JACK HARRISON

"It's been a complete cycle," he said. "Starting as a cadet and finish as a major and a commanding officer."

In that time, Harrison has seen many changes. "When I was a cadet we used to fire heavy weapons," he said. "Of course, that's not allowed anymore."

Harrison said funding cadet activities has become difficult as it becomes an increasingly self-funded operation. Locally, the Optimist Club and the Royal Canadian Legion help support training but the cadet corps still has to try harder than in the past to secure sponsorships.

Even though he's now officially retired, Harrison continues to contribute to both the cadets and the

Lorne Scots. He will still act as a liaison officer, checking in on cadet corps in Oakville, Georgetown, Orangeville, Brampton and Milton and is a member of the Lorne

Scots' millennium committee.

"It's something I enjoy or I wouldn't have done it all these years," he said.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer



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