



Fort Henry Welcomes New Honorary Guard Commander

Major-General Lewis MacKenzie (Retired) brings prestigious continuity to national historic site

January 18, 2021 10:00 A.M.

Kingston, Ontario — Distinguished Canadian, Major-General Lewis MacKenzie, CM, CMM, OOnt, MSC, CD (Retired) is set to carry on a long-standing tradition by becoming the official representative to Fort Henry National Historic Site as its new Honorary Guard Commander this month, with a farewell to the Honourable Hugh D. Segal, OC, OOnt, CD, Fort Henry Guard #4, who has held the position since 2006.

With a striking repertoire of accomplishments and after a 36-year career in the Canadian Armed Forces, Major-General MacKenzie's courageous leadership and perseverance will be significant to the morale and esprit-de-corps within the ceremonial life of the dedicated Fort Henry Guard.

A graduate of Xavier Junior College of Sydney, Nova Scotia and the University of Manitoba, he is celebrated for his lessons on leadership, years of expertise on conflict resolution and delivery of humanitarian aid under the most difficult of circumstances. During his military career, he served nine years in Germany with NATO forces and commanded peacekeeping tours of duty in the Gaza Strip, Cyprus, Cairo, Vietnam, Central America and most prominently known for his committed efforts in Sarajevo in the former Republic of Yugoslavia under the United Nations Protection Force in 1992.

He has received worldwide publicity and acclaim for his personal involvement in organizing and directing the delivery and distribution of humanitarian aid brought into Sarajevo during this period, while at the same time negotiating between the warring factions on behalf of the United Nations. This ultimately enhanced the reputation of both the United Nations and Canada.

For his lifetime achievement in protective services, Major-General MacKenzie was named a member of The Order of Canada, the country's highest honour. He became the first Canadian, military or civilian to be awarded a second Meritorious Service Cross. He earned the respect and appreciation of many nations for his uncompromising commitment to operations, accomplished leadership, and spirited cooperation. He retired from the Canadian Armed Forces in 1993.

His book, *Peacekeeper: The Road to Sarajevo*, was a #1 bestseller, and the award-winning documentary based on it, *A Soldier's Peace*, has aired in over 60 countries. His follow-up book, *Soldiers Made Me Look Good: A Life in the Shadow of War* was released to critical acclaim.

He will be serving as a role model to preserve and promote both the Fort Henry Guard and Fort Henry. A Change of Command ceremony will be streamed on Facebook Live.

Date: Thursday, January 21, 2021

Time: 5 P.M. – 5:30 P.M. EST

Link: www.facebook.com/forthenry1832

Attendees will include the former Honorary Guard Commander the Honourable Hugh Segal, Chair of the St. Lawrence Parks Commission (SLPC) Board of Commissioners the Honourable Bob Runciman, SLPC General Manager and CEO Hollee Kew as well as the Fort Henry Guard Club of Canada President Michelle Foxton.

Fort Henry in conjunction with the Fort Henry Guard Club of Canada extends their sincere appreciation and gratitude to the fourth Honorary Commander of the Fort Henry Guard, the Honourable Hugh D. Segal for his dedication and contributions throughout the past 14 years of commitment.

Quotes

“Fort Henry is proud to have Major-General MacKenzie as the Fort Henry Guard’s Honorary Guard Commander. He has truly demonstrated the remarkable ability to assume these responsibilities and prevail in challenging circumstances, all while exuding exemplary leadership. We are privileged and grateful to have an inspiring Canadian Armed Forces veteran lead as representative of our national historic site.”

- Geoff Waycik, *Director of Historic Sites*

Quick Facts

- Formed in 1938, the Fort Henry Guard (FHG) was created under the vision and leadership of Dr. Ronald L. Way, supervisor of site's restoration.
- When Fort Henry opened as a living history museum during this year, the FHG was formed to interpret the historic site.
- The FHG is a group of men and women united by the common purpose of re-enacting the lives of British soldiers at the Fort at the time of Confederation.
- British and Canadian military regiments have a long tradition of appointing royalty, senior military officers and other distinguished citizens to honorary positions within their unit. Honorary appointees both promote and support the unit to the wider public.
- Ronald L. Way, the restorer of Fort Henry and founder of the Fort Henry Guard, initiated the concept of an Honorary Guard Commander in 1954 with the appointment of General Lemuel C. Shepherd, Commandant of the United States Marine Corps who became FHG #1. General Shepherd was a significant force behind fostering the unique relationship between the Guard and the Marine Corps.
- The Honourable Henry N.R. Jackman, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario became the second Honorary Guard Commander, followed by the Honourable Peter Milliken, Speaker of the House of Commons and Member of Parliament for Kingston and the Islands. In 2006, the Honourable Hugh Segal, a distinguished Canadian and Officer of the Order of Canada, who had been a member of the Senate of Canada, was appointed as Honorary Guard Commander and FHG #4.
- Today, the FHG is made up of Canadian university and college students who have no modern military affiliations. Diligent training and discipline ensure that 19th-century British military drills become second nature. To complete the picture of garrison life at Fort Henry, non-soldier roles such as soldiers’ wives are recreated by Domestic Interpreters.
- The FHG has earned local, national and international recognition while fostering relationships, such as the one with the United States Marine Corps “8th and I”, the Oldest Post of the Corps.
- The FHG is a cultural ambassador for the province of Ontario and welcomes tourists from around the world.

About St. Lawrence Parks Commission

The St. Lawrence Parks Commission, an agency of the Government of Ontario, operates facilities stretching from Kingston to the Quebec border, including Upper Canada Village, Fort Henry National Historic Site of Canada (part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site); Kingston Pen Tours, Skywood Eco Adventure, Chrysler Park Marina, Upper Canada Golf Course, Upper Canada Migratory Bird Sanctuary and 14 campgrounds and beach day-use picnic areas including the Long Sault and 1000 Islands Parkway.

To learn more, visit www.parks.on.ca.

About The Fort Henry Guard Club of Canada

The Fort Henry Guard Club of Canada was incorporated in 1987 by a group of former members of the Fort Henry Guard. The Club's primary objective is to promote and support the current Guard and to gather and preserve records and artifacts relating to the history and traditions of the Guard. Membership is open to all former members of the Guard and staff from the Fort. The Honorary Guard Commander is selected by a joint committee of members of the Club and the St. Lawrence Parks Commission.

To learn more, visit www.forthenryguardclub.ca.

Media Contact

Rosalyn Gambhir
A/Communications & Media Relations Officer
St. Lawrence Parks Commission
Rosalyn.Gambhir@parks.on.ca

Krista Doyle
A/Director of Marketing
St. Lawrence Parks Commission
Krista.Doyle@parks.on.ca

Michelle Foxton
President
Fort Henry Guard Club of Canada
president.FHGCC@gmail.com

John Grenville
Secretary/Treasurer
Fort Henry Guard Club of Canada
john.grenville@cogeco.ca

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The Fort Henry Guard Club of Canada

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