



## REGIMENTAL COLOURS

References:

### GENERAL

1. The Colours are easily the Unit's most prized possession and are a gift from the Sovereign or her representative. The Colours are the unifying symbol of the Regiment, the embodiment of our history, sacrifice, and achievements. The Colours are consecrated before being presented to the Regiment, and for that reason they must always be treated with the greatest respect and afforded the highest honours.
2. Colours have been carried by the PWOR since the 1920s when the regiment was re-designated a line infantry regiment, from its previous history as a rifle regiment. This permitted the PWOR to perpetuate the service of the 21<sup>st</sup> Bn CEF and receive into their care, the Colours of the 21<sup>st</sup> Bn. The first Regimental Colours were presented in 1935.
3. While the use of the Colours as a rallying point when soldiers fought in close formation has long since lost any tactical purpose, the colours remain the centre of the Regiment. Appointment to the Colour Party remains an honour for those select officers and NCOs.
4. The importance of the Colours is well described by Sir Edward Hamley, "A moth-eaten rag on a worm-eaten pole, It does not look likely to stir a man's soul, 'Tis the deeds that were done 'neath the moth-eaten rag, When the pole was a staff and the rag was a flag".

### QUEEN'S COLOUR

5. The Queen's Colour is the symbol the Regiment's link with the Sovereign and the covenant that exists between the military and the crown. The design of the Queen's Colour is of a Canadian Flag, with a circle inscribing the Princess of Wales' Own Regiment, surmounted by the Crown. The Colour is bordered with a red and gold fringe.

### REGIMENTAL COLOUR

6. The Regimental Colour is the embodiment of the service of the PWOR to Canada. It is royal blue with blue and gold fringe. Within the circle inscribed the Princess of Wales' Own Regiment, on a crimson background, is the gold cypher of Princess Alexandra of Denmark, our Princess of Wales' during our formation in 1863. Twelve autumnal coloured maple leaves embrace the circle, surmounted by the Crown, and bounded by the Regimental Motto "Nunquam Cede". A wreath of laurel leaves encompasses the completed centre adornment on which are borne eleven of the Regiments twenty two battle honours. In each corner is the cypher of Diana, Princess of Wales, who served as Colonel in Chief. The base of the Regimental Colour, carries the Badge of Distinction of the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders, 1944-45.



7. Subsequent to the issue of the current stand of Colours the Regiment received notification of additional battle honours awarded to the PWOR as a result of our service in Afghanistan. As well, we perpetuated the service of the area militia during the War of 1812. Subsequent stands of Colours shall have the opportunity to have fourteen of the twenty two battle honors emblazoned upon the Colours.

### **POSITIONING**

8. When a stand of Colours is carried for ceremonial purposes, the Queen's Colour occupies the position of honour on the right of the Colour party. When at rest, Colours are displayed with pikes crossed. The Queen's Colour is in front, with the Queen's Colour on the observer's left.

### **LODGEMENT OF THE COLOURS**

9. The Colours will normally be lodged in the Officers' Mess in the charge of the senior subaltern and under the direction of the Adjutant. The Senior Subaltern shall ensure the Colours are properly secured when the mess is unattended.

### **HANDLING THE COLOURS**

10. Care should be taken that the Colours are at all times shown proper respect, that they are only displayed on appropriate occasions and that they are not handled by unauthorized persons. The general rule shall be that, junior officers carry the Colours and senior NCOs guard them. Rare would be the occasion that you would find the Colours of the Princess of Wales' Own Regiment, being displayed without an armed escort of senior NCOs. Traditionally, the officers of the Colour party are selected from the subalterns.

11. The only persons permitted to handle the uncased Colours are:

- a. The Senior Subaltern;
- b. The officers of the Colour party;
- c. The Adjutant in the course of his duties;
- d. The PMC of the officers mess;
- e. The Padre in the course of his duties;
- f. The Escort to the Colours, in the course of their duties; and,
- g. The RSM in the course of his duties.

12. While some appointments are permitted to handle the Colours, it shall be rare indeed that the Colours are handled by anyone but the Senior Subaltern, the Officers of the Colour party, or the Adjutant. As an example, while it is common for the Colours to be secured in the office of the RSM immediately prior to being marched on parade, the retrieval and handling of the Colours will normally be done by the Colour officers with the assistance of their escort.



### COLOUR PARTY TOAST TO THE REGIMENT

13. The officers of the Colour party, when they have the honour of carrying the Colours on parade, shall always extend their appreciation to the senior NCOs that have the responsibility of servicing as escorts to the Colours. Immediately subsequent to the parade, the officers of the Colour party shall invite the escorts to the Colours to join them in the Officers' Mess for a toast to the regiment. This round of beverages will be purchased at the expense of the officers of the Colour party.

14. It is a long standing tradition that errors in drill by Officers of the Colour Party while on parade, are also brought to light during this Toast to the Regiment. Colour Officers shall typically purchase an additional round for their escorts as a penance for any significant lapses in drill. Expectations to hold to this penance for errors in drill are held more stringently for more glaring errors, or at more significant parades. However, the entire process shall always be conducted in a gentlemanly manner, and the tradition shall not be abused to the benefit of the members of the Colour party. The RSM and Adjutant will always hold the final say in any discussion on the quality of drill within the Regiment, including the Colour Party.



The Princess of Wales' Own Regiment