



HAMILTON GAULT MEMORIAL FUND

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

The Hamilton Gault Memorial Fund (HGMF) is named after Brigadier Andrew Hamilton Gault, DSO, ED, CD, Founder of the PPCLI. It is a registered charitable organization that supports the Regiment and the Regimental Family.

Our major fundraiser for the year was the *Into the Summit Expedition* that descended into Rat's Nest Cave near Canmore, Alberta on 13 April 2025 and raised \$20,472 for the HGMF in support of mental health initiatives. The funds raised from this expedition were be donated to the Citadel Canine Society for the provision of a service dog for a struggling veteran. Our special thanks to Christian Stenner who led the expedition and the 15 other participants for their participation and fundraising efforts. A special shout out to 2554 PPCLI Cadet Corps, led by Captain Jeanelle Narayan, that provided several of the participants and whose sponsoring committee donated \$5,000 to the campaign.

The 2024/2025 Cadet Corps Trophy competition wrapped up in the spring. On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the HGMF and the PPCLI Association and, we extend our collective congratulations to all members of the 2757 (Ferne) PPCLI Cadet Corps on their win. The recently refurbished trophy and keeper plaque were presented on May 29th along with a cash prize of \$2,000.

The HGMF Bursary Selection Committee sat on Friday, 15 August 2025 at the St Albert Legion. The Selection Committee consisted of Kevin Raper, George Arndt, Malcolm Thompson and Pete Hofman (Bursary Vice-Chair) as voting members. Tim Penney, and Derek Prohar (Bursary Chair) were also in attendance as administrative support. A total of 32 applications were reviewed with the following six bursaries being awarded:

Devyn Nichols: The Hamilton Gault Bursary – Founder - \$4,500;
Gabriela Portlog: The Princess Patricia Bursary - \$4,000;
Braeden Swanson: The Lady Patricia Bursary - \$4,000;
Jorn Skubovius: The Hamilton Gault Memorial Fund Bursary - \$3,000;
Owen Prohar: The Apeldoorn Bursary - \$2,500; and
Elizabeth Mazsa: The NW Europe Bursary, 1945: \$2,000.

Congratulations to all bursary recipients and a special thanks to the Bursary Selection Committee members for their participation in this important endeavour.

The HGMF decided to perpetuate the PPCLI Foundation's *For the Soldier Legacy Fund*. Funds received from the PPCLI Foundation for this purpose have been deposited into this account. A significant bequest from the estate of the late Robert Peacock, a smaller bequest from the estate

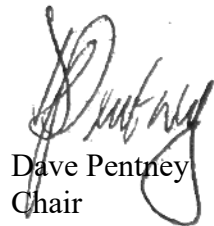
of Colin Bokovay and contributions from the For the Soldier Institute and the First in the Field Board have grown this endowment fund to over \$400K by the end of 2025. The investment income from this fund will enable the HGMF to expand our programs.

Regrettably, the Mike Levy Commemorative Battlefield Tour to South Korea that was planned for 18-27 April 2026 had to be cancelled because of insufficient registrations to make it viable. Thank you to Paul Hale for his dedicated effort in planning this event.

As reported in the past, numerous Legacy Stones and pedestals have been damaged in Patricia Park by frost upheaval and snow removal. This year 16 damaged stones were replaced, and 8 new ones were laid, and work was done to re-level spokes within the memorial where the stones are placed. It was also determined that an additional 53 stones are damaged and will be considered for replacement in 2026 along with work to reset the pedestals previously knocked off horizontal by past snow removal.

The Balkans 35th Commemoration is continuing to gain interest. The commemoration website <https://www.balkans35.ca/> provides much more detail. It is already gaining traction with surveys on the Return to the Balkans as well as oral and written histories now being submitted. This project has an ambitious \$2 million budget. There is an opportunity to donate through a link on the website.

The signature project is conducting Audio Visual interviews of 1,500 Balkans Veterans so that their experiences and accomplishments can be captured. From these stories six Interactive Displays will be produced by January 2027. These will be shared with Museum of Regiments, National War Museum and other military museums such as the National Air Force and Royal Canadian Navy. The Committee also plans to produce four short documentaries on the Balkans by October 2027. Project 44 has contacted the planning committee and is very interested in adding digital content on the Balkans to their website.



Dave Pentney
Chair
Hamilton Gault Memorial Fund