

## **613 Army Cadets are going to Vimy Ridge for the 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in April 2012 on an educational adventure!**

I had a vision to go to the Vimy Ridge region since Jan 2010, but I wasn't sure where to go to plan a trip of this magnitude. I asked many people in the cadet program and I only came across a couple of officers that had attempted this venture. They all told me it takes a lot of work. Great I thought to myself but how do I get started. So, I checked a lot of websites for touring Europe, none of them had a tour for the Canadian battlefields. In June I came across the Vimy Foundation website as two of our cadets had gone to see General Rick Hillier (Ret'd) in Toronto for breakfast. He is the Honourary chairman of the Foundation. I was very excited about a possible opportunity to go to Vimy Ridge. I emailed the Foundation to find out more information on going to Europe. They encouraged me to contact EF Tours. EF Tours is the world's largest private educational organization with offices and schools in over 50 countries. EF offers language travel and cultural exchange programs for students of all ages and is dedicated to breaking down barriers of language, geography and culture.

On November 24th, 2010 I announced that I will be taking a group of cadets to explore Europe for the 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Vimy Ridge in April 2012.

This trip will be an educational experience that many of the cadets may never have the opportunity to do again. The trip will cost approximately \$2700.00 per cadet, and we are planning on taking at least 30 cadets and 5 chaperones. Cadets and parents understood that this would entail individual fundraising for their child. The cadet unit is helping to offset some of the costs through fundraising and, donations. Some of the fundraising initiatives include a letter writing campaign, selling Aunt Sarah's chocolate bars and MacMillan cookie dough. A pasta dinner is being held April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2011 at the Fonthill Legion. Doors will open at 4:30pm, dinner from 5pm – 8pm. Tickets will be available at the door. On April 8th, 9th, and 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011 cadets will be fundraising for donations in front of local businesses throughout Welland and Pelham and possibly having a golf tournament in September.

The cadets will have the opportunity to experience the Beaches and Battlefields from WW1 and WW2, which is important for the cadets as Vimy Ridge was the birth of a Nation. We want to instil the importance of honour, valour, respect, bravery and how Canadians rose to the call of duty to insure the freedom of others.

This trip will provide the opportunity for the cadets to follow in the footsteps of our Canadian soldiers, creating an experiential learning experience.

The nine-day tour includes stops in the Netherlands, Belgium, and France. The highlight of the trip will be attending the 95<sup>th</sup> Vimy Ridge Memorial Ceremony which may include guest speakers such as the Prime Minister, the Minister of National Defence, and a representative from the Monarchy.

For more information on our trip to Vimy Ridge or if you are interested in donating to the cadet corps', please don't hesitate to call 905-892-8208 or email at [613captaing@cogeco.net](mailto:613captaing@cogeco.net). This is an opportunity the cadets may never have again. "This will be a trip to remember!"

LN Giovenazzo

Captain

Training Officer

613 Royal Canadian Army Cadets

141 Regional Road 20, PO Box 1303

Fonthill ON L0S 1E0