

RRC Heritage Group Newsletter



Sir William Stephenson

The Man Called Intrepid, and the Spymaster's Other Life

by Dale Watts

On Thursday, April 17, an appreciative audience of approximately 35 Heritage Group members were treated to a presentation on Canada's spymaster and one of its most successful entrepreneurs—Sir William Stephenson—by Col (retired) Gary Solar, President of the Intrepid Society.

William Stanger was born in the Point Douglas area of Winnipeg in 1897. He was adopted by an Icelandic family when his parents could no longer care for him and took the name Stephenson. He left school at an early age, worked as a telegrapher, and subsequently joined the Winnipeg Light Infantry of the Canadian Expeditionary Force in 1916.

He transferred to the Royal Flying Corps in 1917 to fly a Sopwith Camel biplane. He scored 12 victories, which made him a flying ace. He was shot down, captured by the Germans, and became a prisoner of war, but escaped in 1918. By the end of WW I, Stephenson had earned the Military Cross and Distinguished Flying Cross.

Following the war, Stephenson moved to England and became a successful businessman. In 1924, he and partner George Walton patented a system to transmit photographic images by wireless. The invention earned him approximately £100,000 annually (\$12 million per annum in today's currency value) over the duration of the 18-year patent. In 1924, he also married a tobacco heiress from Tennessee—Mary French Simmons.

Subsequently, Stephenson diversified his businesses in several manufacturing areas including radio (the General Radio Company Limited), aircraft (General Aircraft Limited), car bodies (Pressed Steel Company), and concrete and cement as well as film (Shepperton Studios—the largest film studio in the world outside of Hollywood).

While on a business trip to Germany to buy steel for his company in the mid-1930s, Stephenson observed that Nazi Germany was rebuilding its military in violation of the Versailles Treaty and informed Winston Churchill who endeavoured to warn the British parliament against the appeasement

policies of Neville Chamberlain.

After WW II started, Stephenson was appointed by now Prime Minister Churchill to establish the British Security Coordination unit at Rockefeller Centre in New York City. The BSC represented British intelligence interests in North America, one goal of which was to organize isolationist American public opinion in favour of providing aid to the British.

Stephenson became an advisor to and intermediary for both Roosevelt and Churchill. He mentored Col (Wild Bill) Donovan in establishing the Office of Strategic Services which evolved subsequently into the Central Intelligence Agency in 1947.

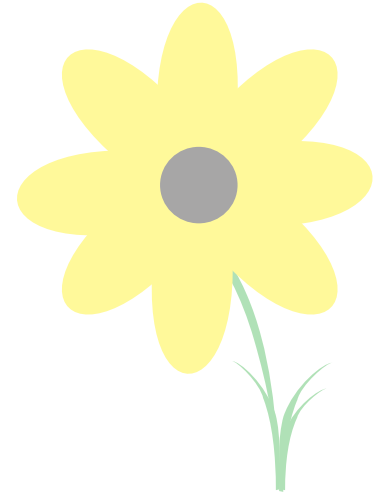
Stephenson established the British Imperial Censorship unit in Bermuda, which employed 1200 censors to examine letters for secret communications. He hired hundreds of Canadians, mostly women, to staff his organization there and in New York and paid them mostly out of his own pocket.

He established Camp X in Whitby, Ontario—the first training school in clandestine operations—which trained approximately 2,000 Canadian, British and American operatives between 1941 - 45 to participate in covert operations behind enemy lines.

For his contribution to the war effort, Sir William was knighted by King George VI in 1945, received the Medal for Merit from President Harry Truman in 1946, and was made a Companion of the Order of Canada in 1979.

In addition, Sir William is credited with other accomplishments such as: the development of Tucker's Point Club in Bermuda, construction of the Lion's Gate Bridge in Vancouver, establishment of the first radio station in Winnipeg, which was the forerunner to the CBC and the model for the BBC, and appointment as Chair of The Manitoba Economic Advisory Board in 1959. He also gifted an endowment of \$100,000 to the University of Winnipeg which established annual scholarship awards in his name that are still distributed.

Sir William died in Paget Bermuda in 1989.



Karen Wall, Chair of Nursing, Retires

On April 4th the Voyageur Dining room was crowded with colleagues, friends and family to pay tribute to Karen Wall. Truly during her 36 years of service at Red River College, Karen made significant contributions to the Nursing Program.

Karen joined RRC in 1978 as an instructor in the diploma program. In 1984 she became curriculum coordinator, a position she held until 1998 when she was appointed chair of the nursing program. During that time she wrote and published articles in the Canadian Nurse and Nurse Educator journals. As well, she wrote 2 chapters in a textbook on Pediatrics. She also implemented several successful initiatives with a focus on student success. In 1998 she also completed her Masters of Nursing at the UM and was awarded the Qualitative Thesis of the year, by the Manitoba Nursing Research Institute.

In 1998 the only Nursing program offered at RRC was the JBN. It had fewer than 100 students and 30 faculty. Shortly after becoming chair, Karen found herself in the middle of the largest nursing education controversy this province had ever seen. However, Karen successfully waded through the controversy. She design and developed a new program. She negotiated advanced standing for DNA grads in the Post RN-BN degree at the UM and also supported the development of the LPN-DNA program. Her models drew the attention of other provinces. BCIT began a program based on Karen's model years before RRC's degree started.

While managing two nursing programs, increasing enrollments Karen had responsibility for Health Care Aide, the Nursing refresher program , the partnership with WTC for the Rehab Assistant program and the new bridging program for

Internationally educated nurses and the rural nursing program.

Karen's vision for what made sense for students were the basis for every decision. In 2009 RRC became degree granting. This meant Karen finally had the chance to develop the new nursing degree program she had dreamed about for years, a program which is unique in Canada in approach, time, flexibility and curriculum.

Today RRC admits 225 students a year and has a staffing complement of around 125 people and still maintains excellent results on the nursing licensing exam. Under Karen's leadership as chair, the program has grown unbelievably in size, scope, reach and impact. She leaves RRC knowing her vision has been a success.

Karen, may you have a long, fulfilled, retirement. Stay healthy. Keep up your humor.

New Health Benefits Package for M.A.R.G.E Members

The Manitoba Association of Retired Government Employees (M.A.R.G.E.) has collaborated with Johnson Inc, a national benefits provider, to provide a voluntary benefit plan available to M.A.R.G.E. members.

Health, Dental and Travel coverage is available to MARGE members in good standing who are recipients of the Civil Service Superannuation Fund. Note that one must be a MARGE member (\$15 annual membership fee) to access these benefits. This benefits plan appears to apply to RRC retirees currently covered under either Blue Cross or Great West Life who are also MARGE members.

This is information about an opportunity for those retirees who might be interested, not necessarily an endorsement by the HG Executive. For additional information, go to www.johnson.ca/marge or call 1.877.989.2600 (toll-free) or pbservicewest@johnson.ca.

Staff Golf Tournament June 3, 2014

This year's staff golf tournament will be held Tuesday, June 3, 2014, at Kingswood Golf & Country Club in La Salle, MB. (Rain or shine.) Lunch will take place from 11:00am - 12:15pm, followed by a shotgun start at 12:30pm.

The tournament is open to RRC staff and retirees only. Significant others and/or friends will be placed on a waiting list, and accepted only if the tournament is not full.

Register early! (Maximum of 144 spots available.) Your payment MUST accompany your registration form to reserve your spot. Please note: post-dated cheques will not be accepted.

Call Elena @ 204-631-3324 for further details.

RRC Heritage Group

Editor:

Michael Gale, mrgsoto@gmail.com

Chair:

Dorothy Derksen, dorothygd@mts.net

Assistant Chair:

Dale Watts, dalewatts@shaw.ca

Secretary:

Mary Hayes, mhayes@mts.net

Past Co-Chairs:

Gerry Varnes & Ron Blicq

Founders:

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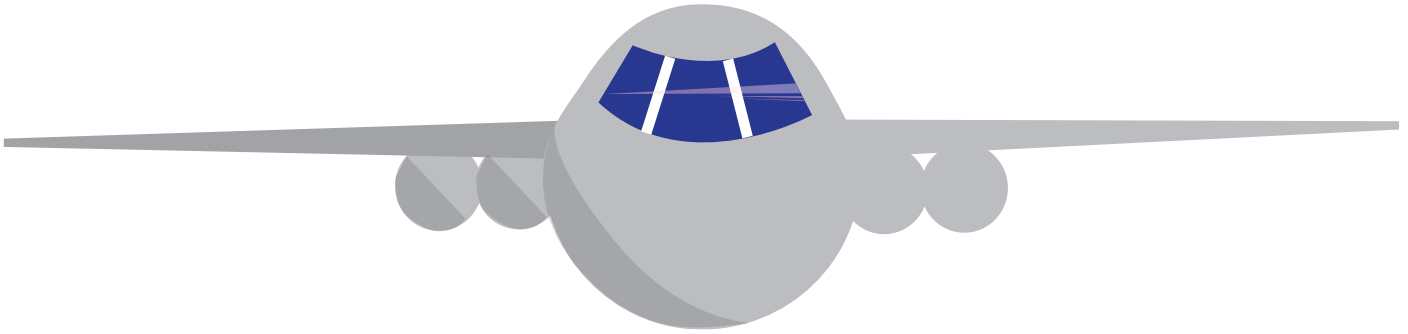
Red River College Group Liason:

Elena Grinshteyn
egrinshteyn@rrc.mb.ca
204-631-3324

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Red River College
2055 Notre Dame Ave., Winnipeg, MB, R3H 0J9

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2014 Heritage Group Wind-Up

Tour of the Western Canada Aviation Museum

- Date:** Thursday, 22 May, 2014
- Where:** Western Canada Aviation Museum, Hanger T2, 958 Ferry Road.
- When:** 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Activities:** There will be a talk on historical aviators and cold weather flying commencing at 9:30 a.m. on the Flight Deck followed by a tour of the Museum and lunch.
- Lunch Menu:**
Caesar Salad
Penne Alfredo
Grilled Chicken Breast
Roasted Root Vegetables
Garlic Bread
Dainties
Coffee & Tea
- Tickets:** Spouses/partners are welcome.
Tickets: Price is \$25.
Entrance fee, coffee and lunch are included in price.
Tickets should be purchased in advance from Elena Grinshteyn, book stores at both campuses, at the Heritage Group meeting.

Deadline to buy tickets is May 15th.