

# CANADA SALUTES THE ARMY

## Varied Program of Events to Mark Observance of Army Day September 21st

A MESSAGE FROM EASTERN COMMAND

by Major-General E. C. PLOW, C.B.E., D.S.O., C.D. General Officer Commanding Eastern Command



The Canadian Army is now playing a more important role in the daily lives of all than ever before in peacetime. The trend of international affairs during the past ten years has made the maintenance of a strong defence force as vital as the fielding of an effective army during times of war.

In almost every community across the nation now can be found a soldier of either the Regular Force or Militia. In high schools and other institutions of learning from coast to coast are boys of the Royal Canadian Army Cadets.

As another move to bring the soldier and his community into closer understanding, we are holding on September 21st a national "Army Day".

"Army Day" is what the name implies. It is a day set aside to show the public our troops, our training, our establishments, equipment and many of our traditional ceremonies. While we must look to the future, I feel that we should never forget the great traditions and glory of the past from which the modern army has arisen.

The Canadian Army has been called "one of the finest of the world's small armies." This tribute is due primarily to its great record of achievement in the past. "Army Day" gives us all an opportunity to review that record.

In the Atlantic Provinces the size of the Army and the defence investment has risen steadily during the seven years I have been privileged to head Eastern Command.

At the present time the armed forces and their employees contribute nearly one-third of the income and economy of the Maritimes. The payroll of the Canadian Army and civilian employees in Eastern Command now totals more than \$20 million annually.

Many millions more are being spent on new construction for the Army each year throughout the Maritimes. Development of the great Gagetown Camp and adjoining townsite of Oromocto in New Brunswick involves an expenditure of nearly \$100 million dollars.

As one of the major training areas for the Canadian Army, Eastern Command each summer becomes the temporary base for thousands of soldiers of the Regular Force.

This annual contribution by the Army to the economy of the Atlantic Provinces has a direct bearing upon almost every business.

It is a most gratifying situation and I am pleased that the defence investment in the East has grown to such proportions in the seven years I have been General Officer Commanding. The Maritimes have consistently produced more volunteer recruits on a per capita basis for the Canadian Army than any other comparable section of Canada. This support of the Army is not dwindling.

In July and August of this year, recruiting in the Maritimes again led the country and our own intake for these two months was double that of the same period last year.

The Militia, too, has grown and developed.

In the Militia component of the Army we have our strongest link with community life and citizens in general. Those of us in the Regular Force are able to establish much closer ties with civilians and civilian organizations through the Militia, and thereby, we hope, encourage their support.

All this is in keeping with the spirit of "Army Day". It is a day on which we would like to answer any questions from the public and to show as much as possible of our activities.

I have asked all Army units under my command, both regular and militia, to make a special effort on "Army Day" to stimulate interest in their activities and, wherever feasible to open their doors to the public. Elsewhere in this newspaper will be found a program of events that have been planned for you.

The Canadian soldier today is provided with the finest living conditions, pay and allowances and general terms of service of any in the world. It is fitting that we should make a determined effort to show and explain this to the general public whom we serve.



SOUND MILITIA TRAINING AT HOME

## A Chance to see your Army in action



... READY FOR ACTION WHEN THE NEED ARISES

### PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

You, your family and friends are cordially invited to see the following demonstrations and displays by units of the 2 Militia Group, Eastern Army Command:

**17 (PEI) RECONNAISSANCE REGIMENT** will provide an interesting display of armoured vehicles, modern weapons and equipment for your inspection.

**5 SIGNAL REGIMENT** will provide displays to make you more familiar with the intricate equipment used by the Army in communications work.

**5 MEDICAL COMPANY** of the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps will carry out a realistic demonstration of medical evacuation in the field. Don't forget the date - - -

# SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21st

# BRIGHTON COMPOUND, CHARLOTTETOWN - 2:30 to 6 p.m.

REGIMENTAL BAND OF THE 17 (PEI) RECONNAISSANCE REGIMENT WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE THROUGHOUT THE DAY.

• In the event of bad weather, displays will be held in Charlottetown Armoury.

# SATURDAY IS ARMY DAY AT CHARLOTTETOWN

