



# 2136 Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) ROYAL CANADIAN ARMY CADETS



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## NEWS RELEASE

## COMMUNIQUÉ

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### TEENAGED ARMY CADET PIPER CARRIES HISTORIC BAGPIPES AT CEREMONY

VICTORIA, B.C. – Sixteen-year old army cadet Joshua MacDonald, Cadet Pipe Major of the 2136 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps (Princess Mary's) Pipes and Drums of Victoria carried the pipes of Victoria Cross winner James Richardson when they were repatriated to Canada in a ceremony at the B.C. Legislature at noon today. A grade 11 student at Victoria High School, Cadet Pipe Major MacDonald is the son of Paul and Laura MacDonald of Victoria. He enrolled in Army Cadets four years ago and has become an accomplished piper as well as the leader of the cadet corps band of pipes and drums. 2136 RCACC (Princess Mary's) is affiliated to Victoria's Reserve Army Canadian Scottish Regiment that perpetuates the 16<sup>th</sup> (Canadian Scottish) Battalion of the First World War. Cadets often parade with their affiliated regiment. MacDonald is one of several young people present at the ceremony.

This year marks the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of the Somme where Piper James Richardson of Chilliwack was awarded the Victoria Cross posthumously for his actions in piping his company of the 16<sup>th</sup> (Canadian Scottish) Battalion "over the top" at a crucial moment in October 1916. Having survived the assault, the 20-year old piper was assigned to escort a wounded comrade and prisoners when he realized he had left his bagpipes behind. He returned to the battlefield to recover them and was never seen again. It was recently determined that a set of mud-covered bag pipes on display for seven decades at Ardvreck School in Crieff, Perthshire, Scotland were Richardson's missing pipes. Maj. Edward Bate, a British Army Chaplain and eventually teacher at the school had found them on the Somme battlefield.

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