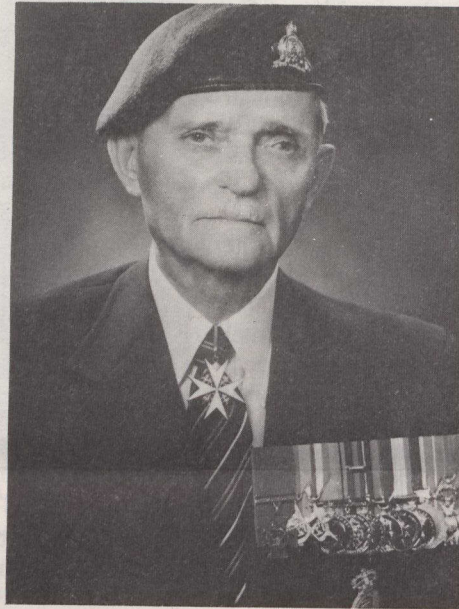


Victoria Cross winner dies

Brigadier-General Paul Triquet, who won the Victoria Cross for his part in the battle of Casa Berardi in 1943, died August 4 in Quebec City at the age of 80. Following the battle at Casa Berardi he was knighted Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur by the French government.

Brigadier-General Triquet enlisted in the Canadian Army in 1927. He was regimental sergeant-major in the Royal 22nd Regiment (Van Doos) and went overseas with that unit at the outbreak of the Second World War. Brigadier-General Triquet left the regular forces in 1947 but continued to serve in the militia.

In September 1956 he was promoted to the rank of brigadier and in 1959 after his retirement from the militia was appointed honorary aide-de-camp to former Governor-General Georges P. Vanier.



Brigadier-General Paul Triquet

Indian agricultural program gains momentum

The Saskatchewan Indian Agricultural Program (SIAP) was established five years ago in order to promote interest among Indians in agricultural activities, develop viable farms on Indian reserves and increase the productivity of reserve land. Another and equally important aim, was to enhance feelings of dignity, respect and self-sufficiency among Indian people involved in agriculture.

The Saskatchewan Indian Agricultural Program was originally a project of the federal Department of Indian Affairs; two years ago, the organization was incorporated as a non-profit organization, funded by grants from the Department of Indian Affairs. The organization's board of directors is made up of six representatives of reserves in the province and one each from the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians, the Department of Indian Affairs, the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture and the farming community. Provincial agricultural representatives and field workers from each of the six districts provide liaison with the head office of SIAP in Regina and offer advice and assistance to farmers.

Objectives surpassed

At its annual meeting held in March, Ken Thomas, the program administrator, said that SIAP had not only reached most of its objectives, but had surpassed them.

The organization submitted an application for financial assistance for a further five-year period; funding for at least one year has already been approved.

In 1972, there were approximately 45 viable farming operations on Indian reserves in Saskatchewan. Today, Mr. Thomas estimates that there are about 340, slightly less than the 1980 target of 360. The farms vary in size between 360 and 4,000 hectares (10,000 acres) and the farmers live off this land. In addition, there are 150 farms operated on a part-time basis.

Income rises

In 1971, the average income of Indians operating farms was \$3,560, or 30 per cent of the provincial average income, which was \$11,711. Mr. Thomas pointed out that last year, the average income of Indians involved in the program rose to \$25,419, 72 per cent of the provincial average income of \$35,310. The total value of yields from reserve land went from \$1.2 million in 1971 to \$8.6 million in 1979.

SIAP offers courses to Indians which last from one to three weeks on subjects such as financial management, animal care, the production of various crops and machine operation and maintenance. At the request of Indian people, workshops are held on reserves; they are run by resource

persons from the College of Agriculture at the University of Saskatchewan and from the agricultural sector.

SIAP encourages Indian farmers to take the two-year, general agricultural course offered by the School of Agriculture at the University of Saskatchewan; each year it gives financial aid to six farmers who enrol in this course.

In northern Saskatchewan, where the possibilities for agricultural production are limited, SIAP has established a program to help farmers to improve their wild rice crops.

SIAP recently organized the first Indian agricultural show, which took place in Yorkton in August.

Endangered species list grows

The Right whale, the Bowhead whale and the Furbish lousewort have joined the whooping crane and the wood bison as endangered natural species in Canada.

The designation was made in the annual report of Tony Keith, chairman of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada.

It is the third annual report since the committee was formed in 1976 as a function of the Federal-Provincial Wildlife Conference.

Animals and plants are classified by the conference under three separate lists: endangered, threatened or rare.

The Right whale was added to the list of endangered because "its populations have been seriously depleted and are extremely low due to the past extensive commercial harvest", Mr. Keith's report says.

He said the Bowhead population "has been depleted and may still be declining", because of the extensive commercial harvest. In the eastern Arctic, he says, the population has been reduced to a few hundred.

The Furbish lousewort, which has been reduced to only about 1,000 plants in both Canada and the United States, is in greatest danger from flooding for hydroelectric developments.

Added to the threatened species is the Ferruginous hawk, whose range and numbers "have been greatly reduced".

The rare species list grew with the addition of the shortnose sturgeon, the speckled dace and the giant stickleback among fish and the eastern mole among mammals.