

## MAJOR GENERAL AYLESWORTH BOWEN PERRY, CMG

Inducted 2005

Aylesworth Bowen Perry was born in Violet, a hamlet in Ernestown Township on Aug. 23, 1860 to William Hawley Perry (1810-1897) and Eleanor Fraser (1818-1898). He was a descendant of Sgt. Robert Perry UE (1751-1835) and his wife Jemima Washburn (1754-1830), and also Daniel Fraser Sr. UE (1735-1812) and wife Sarah Conklin (1740-1791) all who settled in Ernestown. He was named for his great uncle Bowen Aylesworth, husband of Hannah Perry. His early education was at SS#16 in Violet, then on to Napanee High School. In recent years, Napanee District Secondary School established a Hall of Achievement for former students. One of those receiving the honour was Aylesworth Bowen Perry.



In June of 1876, he was accepted to the very first class of the Royal Military College at Kingston, Ontario, as Cadet #13, even though he was not quite sixteen years of age. Four years later he graduated and was commissioned in the Royal Engineers. A serious accident interrupted his military career for a time.

In 1882 he joined the Royal Northwest Mounted Police as an inspector. The next year he was married in Lachute, Quebec to Emma Meikle. They moved to the married quarters at the RNWMP Depot in Regina and there had a family of one son and two daughters.

Perry served during the Riel Rebellion in 1885 and after that was promoted to superintendent of the Prince Albert District, where he was to remain until 1889. He then was transferred to the Headquarters in Regina. While there he began to study law and was finally called to the Bar for the Northwest Territories, (as the region was called at that time) in 1896. The following year he took command of the Calgary District of the RNWMP.

Perry led a detachment of the RNWMP to England in 1897 to participate in the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations for Queen Victoria. At the same time, gold was discovered in the Klondike, and on his return he was given a special assignment to establish a new post in Vancouver, and then to assist in the Yukon. In 1899 he assumed full command of the Yukon following the famous Sam Steele.

In 1900 Perry was called to Ottawa to assume the role as Commissioner of the Northwest Mounted Police, the fifth person to that position. In 1911 he was again asked to lead the official detachment of the force which was representing the RNWMP at the Coronation of King George V. In 1919 it was decided that the headquarters of the RNWMP should be moved from Calgary to Ottawa, and Perry was appointed to supervise the move. By 1920, under Perry's leadership, the force became the current Royal Canadian Mounted Police, operating throughout all of Canada.

Aylesworth Bowen Perry retired from the RCMP in 1923 and was honoured with the rank of Major General. After the death of his wife, he lived with his daughter and her family in Ottawa. Perry died there on Feb. 14, 1956.

FAI - <http://www.uelac.org/education/WesternResource/409-Perry.pdf>