

Royal Canadian Horse Artillery (RCHA) Brigade Association
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RCHA Heritage Newsletter- June 2016

Editor's Note:

I'm sitting at my desk typing another letter of “news” for the month of June, but it feels more like July or August because of the heat wave! We are in for a long and hot summer this year, so be sure to cool off at the RCHA Club often. The building has air conditioning and many cool drinks available for purchase to enjoy while listening to great live music nightly, from Thursday-Sunday.

The RCHA Club's top floor has nice water views (beside the dance floor) where you can watch the boats go by, or you can look out to Ontario Street and watch the crowds, especially great during festivals like Buskers. In the new beautifully refurbished lounge on the second floor, you can sit back and relax with friends. It's also a great place to host a family gathering, business function, or Birthday party. Room rentals are available for either floor, at a very reasonable rate for a downtown venue! Please keep this in mind when planning your next special event.

I will be taking a break as editor for the summer and will have the next issue out for you in September. In this extended issue, you will notice I've included some dates of events coming up in July and August, but did not include everything, so make sure you view the monthly calendars available at the club (beginning each month), or check the RCHA website www.rcha.ca.

I'd like to acknowledge and thank a few of you who have helped make the RCHA Heritage Newsletter a pleasure to create for the first half of the year. To the Board of the RCHA (Ken Edgecombe, Chris Whyman, Mike Nimeh, Carol Whyman, Frank Warnica, Linda Cameron and Frank Ketchington), thank you for contributing your committee updates in a timely manner, to the volunteer photographers, new members Cathy Sheppard and Dave Marshall for your on-going photo submissions, to member Beare Weatherup for your written report on the 2nd Floor Restoration Committee in March's issue. Thank you to J.W (Bill) Fitzell for your editorial contribution as featured in January's issue and to his daughter, new member Gaylan Fitzell who has contributed to this month's issue. Last, but not least, thanks to those of you who have contacted me with your comments and suggestions, please continue to provide your feedback, they assist me in making improvements to the newsletter every month.

In closing of this note and in celebration of all Fathers this month on June 19th, Happy Father's Day!

Susie Edgecombe, Editor

Quote of the Month: “In summer, the song sings itself”
-William Carlos Williams

Chair's Message:

Summer has arrived with a heat wave in May that has filled the patios and pushed boaters and cottagers to get things in order. We have great entertainment over the summer and for those seeking a break, drink specials are available at the RCHA Club rooms to cool you down!

We at the Club hope to see you during the summer but if we don't we wish you all a safe and relaxing summer!

As usual, I have to thank the many volunteers who do so much to keep the Club running and people informed. This includes other members of the Board who too often do not get thanked.

Have a great summer!

Ken Edgecombe, Chair of the RCHA Board

This Month:

Thurs. June 16: **Bloomsday** at the RCHA Club is a day to celebrate the life, love and writings of James Joyce's Ulysses. There will be music, readings and food to enjoy (see poster for more details).

Sat. & Sun. June 18-19: **Blue Monday** performs at the club. A “do not miss” event! (Note: June 18th is sold out, but tickets are still available for Sunday's show)

Tues. June 15: **First Capital Day**

Sun. June 19: **Father's Day**

Mon. June 20: **The First Day of Summer (Summer Solstice) 2016!** Have a safe and happy one!

Fri. June 24: **The Big Phat Horn Band**, a 10 piece band featuring **Michael K. Myers**, performs with special guest **Dympna McConnell**.

If you're at the club, pick up a hard copy calendar for a full month of entertainment dates (located on the third floor beside the elevator) or visit the RCHA website: www.rcha.ca.

Letters to the Editor:

If you have any comments or suggestions, or would like to contribute an article to the “Featured Article of the Month”, please submit to the RCHA Heritage Newsletter Editor: susie.edgecombe@gmail.com. (Note my email address has changed from previous newsletters).

“Featured Article of the Month”: (Editorial contribution by new member, Gaylan Fitzell)

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RCHA and THE ARTILLERY?

As answered at AGM May 2016 by Don Scott (Major Ret'd) edited by Gaylan Fitzell -full history available upon request.

Formation of 2 regular batteries formed for the “care, protection, maintenance of Forts, Magazines, Armament & Warlike Stores in ON and QC. The Royal Canadian Horse Artillery is the direct descendant of these two batteries.

1871 A Battery at Kingston and B Battery at Quebec

1880 Both schools designated Royal Schools of Gunnery

1887 C Battery formed

1889 Second Canadian contingent for South Africa, Canadian artillery gained measure of experience from prestige and self- confidence from performance.

1900 A and B Batteries trained as horse artillery to act with cavalry brigades.

1905 Became known as horse artillery.

1938 RA Brigades renamed Regiments with 1 million men serving 960 gunner regiments.

1947 Queen announced in honour of her father, troop to remain named “The King’s Troop”

1971 The Royal Canadian Horse Artillery celebrated 100 years of unbroken service . Today the regiment continues to serve in Canada and in Europe with Canada’s ongoing contribution to UN peace-keeping.

The Freedom of the City was exercised by the 2nd Regiment, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery in Kingston in 1983, 1996 and 2012.

Today the regiment proudly continues to serve in Canada, in Europe with NATO and as part of ongoing UN peace-keeping.

The Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, which has always had separate traditions, uniform and insignia, still retains a separate identity within the regiment. Two separation Badges will be described in a future report.

In Other News:

The Annual General Meeting was held on Monday May 30th at 7pm. In July, members may, on request, review the Minutes of the meeting that will be filed in the Minutes binder behind the bar. The next Member's General Meeting will take place at the end of October 2016.

I (Editor) will be sending out a brief e-survey to the membership over the summer regarding newsletter feedback. It would be very helpful for me to know what you would like to see in your clubs' newsletter. It is my goal to accommodate your feedback/interests for a more enjoyable and informative read. If you wish to remain anonymous, hard copies will be at the club (on the third floor) with a box to put your survey in. This will be done at the same time the e-survey goes out later this month or in July. Thank you in advance for your participation.

A note from member Susan Warnica: “Fund raising will begin soon for a much needed second floor walk in cooler. If you like cold beer, this is a cause you can support!!”

Coming in July and August...

Fri. July 8: “**Southern Ale**”, a new band performs (country rock) for the first time at the RCHA.

Sat. July 30: **The Phat Horn Band's 3rd Anniversary Celebration**, red carpet style and champagne! (Get your tickets early!)

Sun. Aug. 7: **RCHA Golf Tournament at Garrison's Golf and Country Club** (Mark your calendar for this fun day!) Call the club for more details.

Fri. Aug. 19: **Turpin's Trail CD release party.**

Thurs.-Sat. Aug. 25-27: **Limestone City Blues Festival** in it's 19th year (visit website for more info.)

(**Reminder:** Look for full monthly entertainment details **every month** on the RCHA website: www.rcha.ca , or visit the club to pick up your hard copy).

So much to look forward to this Summer! (photos from: www.almanac.com/content/first-day-of-summer-2016-summer-solstice, www.examiner.com, www.dreamstime.com, www.intrepidcottager.com.)

