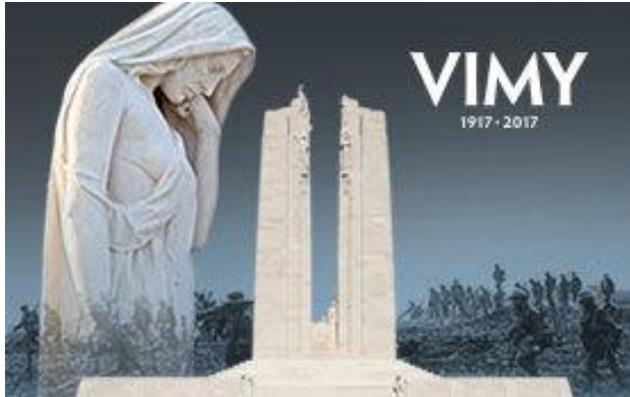




## RCHA HERITAGE NEWSLETTER APRIL 2017

### Canada Remembers The Battle Of Vimy Ridge



April 9, 2017 marked the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the historic Battle of Vimy Ridge, recognized as a defining moment in the shaping of our nation's character and significant event in Canada's progress to full independence from Britain.

Thousands of Canadians gathered at Vimy Ridge on April 9<sup>th</sup> to recognize and pay tribute to the sacrifices made during that epic four day battle. Included in that group was our own Bob Chamberlain LCol. (Retd), who participated in a 14 day battlefield trip that included battlefield sites from both of the World Wars.

On the morning of April 9, 1917, four Canadian Divisions, fighting together under Canadian command for the first time, left the trenches and attacked a 7km stretch of high ground in northern France known as Vimy Ridge. Canadians captured most of the ridge on the 9th, and the remaining portions by the 12th. The battle preparations by the Canadian Command, and the skill and determination of the Canadian troops have been noted keys to victory when other attempts had failed.

The cost of victory was high however with over 10,000 young Canadian casualties, including 3,598 lives lost; sacrifices that will never be forgotten.

*(With files from Veterans Affairs Canada, the Canadian War Museum, and the Vimy Foundation)*

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**Royal Canadian Horse Artillery (RCHA) Brigade Association**  
**193 Ontario Street, Kingston, ON K7L 2Y7 613-542-8152**  
**Website: [www.rcha.ca](http://www.rcha.ca) Facebook: [KingstonRCHA](https://www.facebook.com/KingstonRCHA)**

## **Editor's Note:**

Our Newsletter began with recognition of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. As a defining moment in Canadian history, I felt it appropriate to place it front and centre in this issue.

I hope the arrival of spring finds all members and your families well and that we can enjoy the summer ahead of us. This issue will provide an update of Club activities, Committee Reports and important dates to remember moving into the summer. We will be anxiously awaiting Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 1<sup>st</sup> !

Please note the Annual Member's General Meeting, May 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. This is an opportunity for members to hear reports from the Board of Directors and give feedback on various aspects of the Club.

It looks like we have some great music and events to look forward to in the coming months. Hope to see to at the Club.

*Bill Sheppard* email: [ganpa175@hotmail.com](mailto:ganpa175@hotmail.com)

## **RCHA Board of Directors**

*Ken Edgcombe, Board Chair*

The weather is warming up and friends are returning from Southern retreats, the May flies are out, boaters are preparing their boats for the water and the RCHA Club is gearing up for a great summer.

I hope everybody enjoyed the winter no matter and we look forward to seeing you at the Club.

We have a great line up of entertainment and as the weather gets warmer, air conditioning!

All the best!  
Ken

## Historical Committee

*Submitted by Carol Whyman*

Many thanks to Bob Chamberlain, LCol. (Ret'd), RCHA Life Member, for arranging to have the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery Pennant cleaned, framed and installed on the wall on the third floor. The Artillery Pennant (short form), was authorized by King George VI in 1946. It is flown by all Regiments in Canada when our Captain General, Queen Elizabeth II visits; or her representative in Canada (Colonel Commandant) is present, may also be called "The Queen's Pennant".

Bob also cleaned up & polished the buttons on the RCHA Mannequin on the third floor. Another of the many generous contributions Bob has made to the RCHA Brigade Association over the years, including the brass coffee table on the second floor and the plaque by the front door.

Although there are 7 ex RCHA Gunners as RCHA members, only Bob & Don Scott are active volunteers, as Bob says, "Assuring that the RCHA Heritage, Traditions and History shall prevail." Keeping the history alive is important to Bob who notes: "My Dad served in the RCHA in WW1 and WW2 for 34 years; I served in the RCHA for 38 years; and my Son Bob (Jr) is a Colonel now about to deploy to Baghdad as the Military Attaché. That is 104 years plus for the Canadian Forces and the RCHA, thus my interest in the Club."

**UBIQUE** The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery has two mottoes: "Ubique" (Everywhere) and "Quo Fas et Gloria Ducunt" (Whither Right and Glory Lead).

## Membership Update

*Carol Whyman, Membership Chair*

A warm welcome to the following new members: **Sheila Menard, Jack O'Brien, Tony O'Loughlin, Jeffrey Schamehorn, Dan Hogan, David Hurley, Bob Tennant, Roland Billings and John Trudeau** who have joined the RCHA since the last newsletter. This brings the new member total to 19 for this membership year.

For new applicants, membership dues are prorated based on the date of joining and after May 1 will be \$50.

Members are exempt from the entertainment cover charge, get a discount on most ticket events and can participate in Member Advantage/Discount program – getting discounts at several businesses (restaurants, hotels, golf and theatre) in the Kingston area. List posted on the Bulletin Board. We would welcome suggestions for other businesses who would like to participate.

Total contributions to the Capital Improvement Fund for this membership year \$3060. We are most grateful for your generous support.

Many thanks to the membership committee, Kevin Bleeks, Sharon McLaughlin, Gord Brown and Cathy Sheppard who are always willing to assist in a variety of ways.

## **RCHA MEMBER'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Monday May 29, 2017 at 7 pm on the 3rd floor**

All Honorary, Life, Active Members, Associate and Corporate Associate Representatives are encouraged to attend and participate in the meeting.

Only Life and Active members may make motions and/or vote.

If you have been as Associate member for at least 2 years (1 year for Military), we encourage you to apply for Active membership. Application forms are in the document box.

Elections will be held for 3 positions on the Board whose terms have expired.

Nominations will be listed on the Bulletin Board.

To date we have the following nominations: Chris Whyman (re-election) and Phil MacKenzie (previously appointed).

Nominations of Life & Active members are encouraged and may be submitted now & by 7 pm On May 27, 2017.

*A form, available in the document box, must be completed, signed by 2 voting members and submitted in a sealed envelope to Carol Whyman, Board Secretary, via the Bar Staff.*

## **Promotions/ Special Events/ Thursday Entertainment**

*Linda J Cameron, Chair* e-mail: [lcameron10@cogeco.ca](mailto:lcameron10@cogeco.ca)

### **Promotions**

Promotions has always been and continues to be a very important part of shining a light on who we are as a Club and a social community where new membership is encouraged. Both military and non-military men and women are invited to join through promotional and personal invitation. The great variety and selection of live entertainment--from Thursday through Sunday—plus the many special events open to the public, options to rent our attractive and reasonably priced spaces for birthdays, anniversaries, and all kinds of celebrations need to be promoted to increase attendance and to provide information about rentals to help the bottom line.

The museum aspect with the many displayed artefacts showcasing the military history of the artillery and gunners in our community is a great public draw also which needs continual promotion.

Since our building is a historic heritage building, it is always in need of repairs and improvements to maintain, restore, and improve the building. Promoted fundraisers help to grow the capitol fund to help with these costs. Though there is some cost to promotions, it is well worth the expense to grow the membership, increase attendance at events, and to help rent the spaces.

Events are promoted through media, Facebook, our own website, print posters, banners, pamphlets and of course word of mouth.

One member of many years, who passed several years ago and loved the Club, Jim Sinclair, wisely said often: “The RCHA is a hidden gem in the downtown.” It is our job as the promotions team and club members to promote to bring awareness of the many great aspects of our very special community. More volunteers are always welcome.

### **Special Events & Fundraisers**

The value of special events to the enjoyment by members, guests and visitors to the Club is substantial and should not be underestimated. Fundraisers bring in monies

to achieve improvements to the building, to help improve the bottom line and to help with special capital expenditures and goals to improve the Club experience.

This takes many volunteers to help make these events happen.

It all starts with planning, organizing, developing a timeline, promoting and finally implementing the event. Often it is a labour of love for volunteer members who enjoy creating an event that is successful while raising money. It is great satisfaction to have an event that is enjoyed by all.

### **Thursday Entertainment**

Thursday evenings from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm provides an enjoyable opportunity for members and visitors to the Club to enjoy an early evening out of live and varied entertainment. It is also a great promotion night to feature the Club to downtown hotel guests and visitors to Kingston looking for live music.

#### **The Thursday line up for each month features:**

Easy listening or Jazz style entertainment the first week of the month. The second Thursday of the month features The Kingston Ceili band performing and singing traditional and contemporary Irish, Scottish and East Coast music. It is always a very popular night. The third Thursday features Country and Folk music in a jam format hosted by local artists. The last Thursday of the month provides an opportunity for would be singers to perform on our Karaoke night.

The Thursday entertainment has helped improve the bottom line while showcasing the many offerings at the RCHA. It appears to be growing in popularity.

**\*\*To make this Promotions, Special Events, Thursday Entertainment area more efficient and effective, I have divided it into separate committees to achieve the various goals in shorter order and in a more concise manner.**

If you are interested in being part of any one of these committees listed above please write me at my e-mail address as shown. Have a happy spring and become a part of our great growing RCHA Community.

## Entertainment Report

*Frank Warnica, Entertainment Chair*

Coming up in the spring, we have two great new bands:

**The Limestone Rock 'N' Roll Revue (featuring Michael K. Myers) and Up Jumped the Blues.**

**We are also welcoming the return of Grant Heckman and the Blue Monday band for two shows in June.**

Last year both shows sold out, tickets are available now!

Some great out of town bands soon to be at our club:

**Soulstack (Toronto), Chris Antonik (Toronto) Clint Everson and his six piece band (Ottawa) and Lucas Haneman (Ottawa).**

The 29th of July marks the fourth anniversary of the hugely successful Big Phat Horn Band. We are looking forward to another great Limestone Blues Festival at the end of August. Watch for future information!!

## Coming Events

### Homegrown Live Music Festival

Once again the RCHA will be Blues venue for Homegrown, Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup>. Proceeds go to the Joe Chithalen Memorial Musical Instrument Lending Library (better known as Joe's MILL). For more information about the Festival:

<http://www.downtownkingston.ca/enjoy/2017/home-grown-live-music-festival>



### Artillery Day at the RCHA Friday May 26<sup>th</sup>

In 1952, the Colonel Commandant, Major-General H.O.N. Brownfield, sought and received permission to adopt the Royal Artillery birthdate (26 May 1716) as Artillery Day for The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery. This is now celebrated every year with our RCHA military friends, both active and retired, often meeting at the Club.

### Doors Open Kingston 2017

The RCHA will be participating on Saturday June 17 Celebrating Canada 150.