

**Old Friends
and
Gunners
A Short History
of the
RCHA Brigade Association
1947 - 1997**

PREFACE TO THE 1997 EDITION

As part of our participation in the 50th Anniversary celebrations for the Association, the Historical Committee felt that one of the most appropriate projects would be the updating of the History of the Association. Doug Tyrrell's excellent booklet 'Old Friends and Gunners' had been reprinted in 1978, but this is the first update of the History to bring us up to the present.

This is not intended to be a definitive history of the Association, but as Doug mentioned in the original preface, it tries to cover the main points. We have tried to keep the same format and style of the original. My first inclination was to 'clean-up' some of the spelling and punctuation from the original edition, but we felt that, to para—phrase Oliver Cromwell, it should be re-copied 'warts and all'.

As we head into the next 50 years, we hope you enjoy this short history of the first 50.

SM
Sep/ 97

PREFACE TO THE REPRINT [1978]

This history of the RCHA Brigade Association, charts the trials and tribulations of the Club over its first 21 years (1947-1968) with particular emphasis on its origins.

The RCHA Brigade Association Historical Committee was appointed by the Board of Directors in November 1977. While the reasons for appointing a Historical Committee are varied (the Aims) are printed inside the back cover) *p.10*

one of the main reasons is—

To create, foster and maintain interest in the
history of the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery
Brigade Association...

Just as Doug Tyrrell was concerned that "a large percentage of the members have no idea of how it (the Club) started" the Historical Committee with the same concerns has had Tyrrell's history reprinted. It is the intention of the Historical Committee to have the history revised, updated and reprinted in the near future.

A Short History
of the
**R.C.H.A. Brigade
Association**

Jan. 1947 - Jan. 1968

as written by

D. Tyrrell

Preface

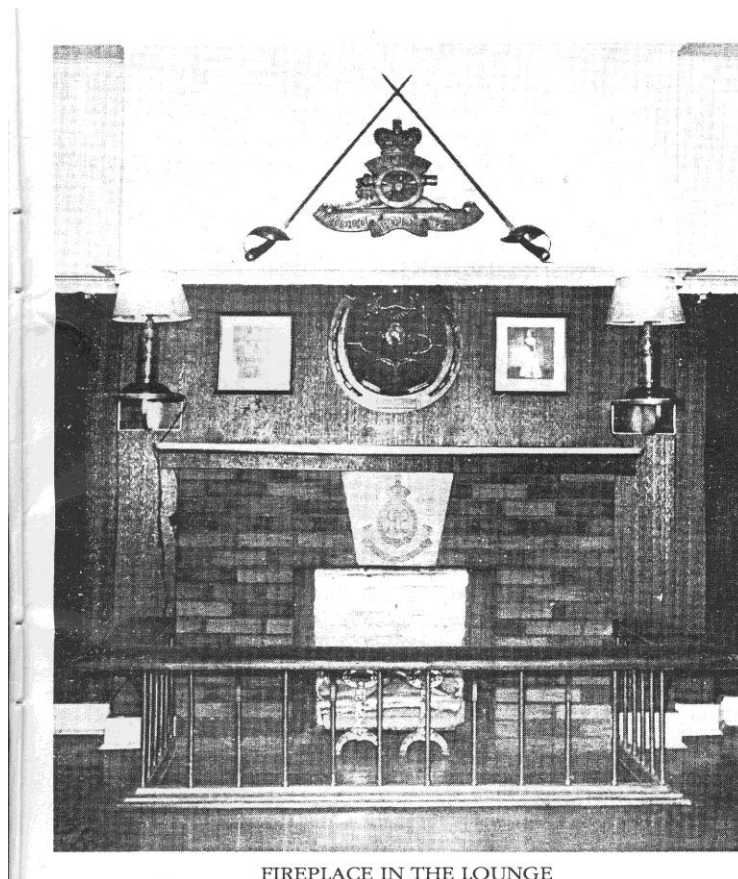
In writing this short History of the R.C.H.A. Club, I have used the excellent Diary, kept by Gnr. S. Taylor, of the day to day events for the first year; the Minutes of all the meetings held during the years and my own memory of things that happened, both humorous and sad. Like in all histories, a lot of incidents have been left out; but, I have tried to give you the main events as they happened.

As the Membership of the Club has increased over the years, a large percentage of the members have no idea of how it started; or of the work and time it has taken to build it up to its present standard.

A special mention should be given to Gnr. J. Belwa who, as President, was responsible for the rebuilding of the Club after the disastrous fire in 1951; Gnr. J. Irwin for negotiating the purchase of the present building and seeing that the mortgage was paid off during those difficult years. And to Gnr. G. Giles for his untiring efforts as Treasurer, who, during the past ten years, has been responsible for the financial affairs of the Club.

It is my sincere hope that the Club will continue to grow and prosper during the coming years and always be a credit to those few pioneer members who worked so hard to get it started.

D. Tyrrell



FIREPLACE IN THE LOUNGE

Royal Canadian Horse Artillery Brigade Association

Organized in January, 1947
by the following

CHARTER MEMBERS

President

CAPT. Henry Bernard Haylock

Vice—President

BDR. Norman Sydney Taylor

Secretary

B.SM W011 Douglas Tyrrell

Members

CAPT. James Sydney Burns

MAJOR Allen Naismith Risk

W011 Don Clifton Harper

SGT. Lenard Tritsch

This Association was originated by the following members of the Regiment: —Barney Haylock, Syd. Taylor, Jimmy Burns, Don Harper, Len. Tritsch, A. N. Risk and myself, over a few beers in the Prince George Hotel.

Our aim was to provide a place where all the ex-members of the Regiment could get together and enjoy mutual friendship over a few glasses of cheer. This organization was to be non-profitable: All the revenue was to go back into the building of a Club.

As a start we placed an Ad. in the local newspaper; requesting all ex-members of the R.C.H.A. Brigade to gather at the P.W.O.R. Armouries on Saturday Jan. 19, 1947; to discuss the possibilities of reorganizing the R.C.H.A. Brigade Association, which had closed down when World War II broke out. Forty members attended this meeting. Barney Haylock acted as Chairman and explained to the members the aims and hopes of renewing the old Charter, which Gnr. Clarabut had kept as former Secretary.

A temporary executive was set up, consisting of Gnrs. B. Haylock as Pres., N.S. Taylor - 1st Vice-Pres., Don Harper - 2nd Vice-Pres., B.A. Mellon - Sec, Sec. L. Tritsch – Treas., J. Burns and D. Tyrrell as members; to look into all aspects of the Association, checking to see if the old Charter could be renewed, looking for a suitable place to hold our meetings, and in general laying the foundation for a future Club. As we had no money, 25 cents was collected from the members present and the modest sum of \$10.00 started us on the road. After the meeting we were invited to the P.W.O.R. Band Room for refreshments for which each member paid.

We had several Executive meetings in either the Frontenac or the Prince George Hotel during the next two weeks. I was asked to form a one man committee to look for suitable accommodation for the Association.

Our next general meeting was held in the Armouries on Sat., Feb. 12th, 1947. This meeting was not as big a success as we had hoped for as a result of the general misunderstanding over what comprised the R.C.H.A. Brigade. We therefore included the members of 3rd Med. R.C.A. and 4th L.A.A. and the fact that we now had written permission to use the Armouries.

A general outline of what the executive had accomplished was given to the members present, and our hopes for continued support for the future. After a general discussion and another collection of 25 cents was made from the members present, to help defray the costs of stamps and advertising, the meeting closed.

The weekly meetings of the Executive were held in either one of the Hotels, Fort Frontenac Officers' Mess or Len Tritsch's house on Princess Street, during these meetings the old Constitution was revised. Our Lawyer, Wm. Nickle, after checking over the old Charter, advised us to get a new one as it would be cheaper. Col. deL. Panet, J. Burns and myself were to propose a permanent slate of Officers for the year at the next general meeting.

During this time I was busy checking over several possible buildings which might be suitable for the Association; such as the Old Sailors' Institute on the Market Square, two old Masonic Halls down town and two or three other places, one of which was the present building. Barney Haylock, Syd. Taylor, Jimmy Burns and I had at look at the

top two floors. The excellent view of the Harbour from the top floor window decided us to take it, even though it was in a deplorable state and had not been used since the First World War, when it had been an Army Medical Centre. With the co-operation of Maj.-General Constantine and Col. deL. Panet, Mr. Lingham consented to rent the two top floors to us for \$50.00 a month. After we explained our financial position to him, he consented to cancel the rent for three months on condition that we would be responsible for the cost of all renovations.

At the next General Meeting held in the Armouries on March 12, 1947, with fifty members present, Gnr. Haylock outlined the progress made in finding accommodation, getting membership cards printed and sending out application forms to all known members to join. The fee was five dollars, one dollar on joining and one dollar quarterly if the member did not have the five dollars. The decision to apply for a new Charter, which would be cheaper than the renewal of the old one. It was proposed by Col. deL. Panet that the present Executive be nominated as permanent officers for the year. Accepted. Gnr. Haylock then called for volunteer workers to assist in getting the proposed Club rooms cleaned up and ready for use. But it is sad to say that one look at the task ahead discouraged all but a very few from giving much of their time and energy to get the place in shape. As usual the burden was placed on J. Burns, S. Taylor, F. Dunseith, Don. Harper, Trunkey Hunter myself and a few others who gave an hour or so of their time occasionally. We usually retired to the Prince George after a dusty few hours work for a few beers. Trunkey Hunter was given the job of keeping the fire going in the fireplace and the water hot. All the water had to be carried up to the top floor from the cellar in milk cans. He kept the fire going with the broken boards from the partitions we had to take out and a few large pieces of coal we managed to get.

The next three months were a night and day struggle for the executive. We were having meetings every few days, working down at the Club and at our own jobs. For myself, I was not home one night a week until midnight and I am sure the rest of the executive were the same. But we had our light moments, like the time Jimmy Burns and Trunkey Hunter tried to wash the floor sizing and wondered why it was so slippery. Trunkey had heated up the two pails of water and forgot which one had the wall sizing in it.

To help with our finances, we rented what is now the Dart Room to a firm of Dutch Weavers for about four months until they acquired a more suitable place further up town.

I think it only right to mention a few ex-members whose services were invaluable: —"Dad" Wilson (a one armed paper hanger) his two sons and George Barton who were responsible for the paper hanging and decorating.; Jim Harris, who did all the electrical wiring; Jimmy Burns and numerous others who were responsible for the dirty, hard, work of knocking off old plaster, taking out partitions and cleaning up in general, and Don Harper for his ability to locate cleaning supplies and large articles such as the large wooden fridge and the three piece sink which was brought in early one morning by a few of us from certain surplus military stores. However, the joke was on us as we eventually had to pay \$50.00 for the sink as it belonged to one of the Breweries. To get the fridge up the stairs we had to pull down the banister that had been put there the day before. Barney Haylock kept things going with the odd case of beer to which we all donated. In my spare time, I managed to get 8 or 10 barrack room tables, a number of folding chairs and quite a few rolls of surplus battleship for the floors, from a good friend of mine who was buying up old Army Huts and pulling them down. We were prepared to start out with any kind of furniture we could get for next to nothing.

Maj. J. Risk came down one afternoon to see how we were getting along; saw the furniture we had; and decided we would have to get something better. He told us to go to one of the furniture stores and buy what we needed up to three thousand dollars worth, and he would pay for it when it was in the Club. Although we offered to pay him back over the years, he refused to accept it.

In the midst of these busy days we took time out to entertain Maj.Gen. Murchie and a few other Senior Officers who came down from Ottawa to attend the RMC Graduation. We had a couple cases of beer so we were able to offer them a few drinks. Although they had to stand up or find something to sit on, it was an enjoyable hour's break from the work of cleaning up and, incidentally, quite profitable. Our President was a very good talker and managed to get a donation of one hundred dollars from Maj.Gen. Murchie before he left the Club. We found out afterwards that he had to borrow enough money from Col. deL. Panet to get back to Ottawa. That was a good indication of the methods we had to use to get money and equipment to start the Club. Another good friend gave us a freezing unit for the fridge and had it installed.

Our next meeting was held on July 9th, 1947 in the Club Rooms; when committees were set up. Membership – Gnrs. J. Burns, J. Smith, L. Latimer; Entertainment - Gnrs. S. Taylor, Papiatt, Marshall; Property - Gnrs. Tyrrell, Dunseith and Dervent. This was a big day for us as Haylock, Harper and a couple more with our Lawyer, Ben Cunningham, had been down to the Liquor Control Board hearing held in Brockville and secured our new Charter and Lounge Licence, which arrived from Toronto a few days later.

During the proceeding months a Constitution and By-Laws were drawn up which allowed three associate members for each active member. Also, a few honorary members were admitted for their service to the Club. I often thought it was a good thing we had a few quartermasters and others who worked in stores at this time. It was amazing where the bits and pieces came from to help us get started.

Our Official Opening Night was July 18, 1947. It was one to be remembered as most of the Club was cleaned up, all the new furniture was in place and we could begin to enjoy the benefits of our three months labour.

During July, August and September the profits from our bar sales enabled to pay off some of our creditors. During the October meeting we were able to give the members a fairly good financial statement, although we were still in the red. Gnr. G. Spry was appointed Chairman of the Welfare Committee. For the next nineteen years he gave his time and service willingly to help those members who were in hospital with smokes, flowers and a friendly smile.

By the time our November meeting came around, we were beginning to see the results of our work and our financial statement was about out of the red. At the December meeting, it was moved by Gnr. J. Irwin that an outside Auditor be appointed to look after our accounts and Mr. Fortier's appointment was approved. He remained as auditor until 1957.

During the previous months we had set up a Benevolent Fund, which enabled us to purchase Christmas Presents for all the small children of our members and give donations to the Orphanages and Welfare Homes in the city. This became part of our welfare work for many years. An Easter dance was mentioned and a committee set up to arrange it. A new slate of officers was nominated: to be elected and installed in the new year.

In the January meeting 1948, with Gnr. B. Haylock presiding, the financial statement was read out by Gnr. L. Tritsch, and, after a general discussion, was passed. The election of the members nominated for office was conducted and the following officers were installed for the year:

PresidentGnr. J. Irwin
Vice-PresidentGnr. S. Taylor
SecretaryGnr. D. Tyrrell
TreasurerGnr. L. Tritsch
MembersGnr. G. Barton, Gnr. F. Hunsdale, Gnr. B. Traynor

This was a good year for the Club. New members were coming in, our finances were in good condition and the bar showing a good profit. During the latter part of the year, wild life pictures were shown one night a week to stimulate interest. Also, billiard and dart tournaments were organized. These activities were carried on for years.

In January, a new slate of Officers were elected. with Gnr. J. Belwa as President. The ex-President was to remain as adviser to the incoming officers. During this year, many new things were started, under the able direction of the President, which improved our financial position. Also, Gnr. J. Irwin and I were delighted to raise sufficient money to bring our Memorial up to date, with two bronze plaques inscribed with all the names of those who had payed the supreme sacrifice during the Second World War.

We sent out hundreds of letters to ex-members all over Canada, requesting donations. After months of work, we had collected about twelve hundred dollars; enough to pay for the two Plaques and for having them installed. The Plaques were dedicated in October, 1950, when Lord Byng, then Governor General of Canada, and most of the Senior Artillery Officers from Headquarters in Ottawa were present. All monies collected for the Plaques were placed in the Royal Bank under the joint names of Gnrs. J. Irwin and D. Tyrrell. This account remained open until the fall of 1967, when the last forty five dollars was taken out and the account closed.

During the early part of Feb., 1951, the Club sustained a serious loss by fire which was caused by an over-heated oil stove, of which there were three; two on the top floor and one on the 'second. This rendered the Club Rooms useless, so our next general meeting was held in the P.W.O.R. Sgts' Mess. During this meeting, I placed a motion before the members; that we should purchase the building, which the owner was willing to sell for \$30,000, as he was seriously thinking of going out of business, and start off as we had in the first place. After a discussion the motion was turned down; and it was decided to rebuild. Mr. Lingham, the owner, who held the fire insurance on the building, gave the amount over to the Club to help in the rebuilding. The Contract for rebuilding was given out to a local firm. For the next several months, our meetings were held in the Armouries.

By Oct., 1951, the Club was rebuilt and back in business: Thanks to the hard work of the Committee, who remained in office until January, 1953.

In January, 1953 Gnr. F. Wright was voted in as President with a new slate of Officers. As our financial position was rather critical, it was decided to raise some money by selling Life Memberships in the Club for ten dollars, this brought in several hundred dollars. We managed to hold our usual Children's Christmas Party and to aid various other welfare organizations.

In January 1954 Gnr. J. Belwa was again appointed President, with a new slate of Officers. During the next few years, the general meetings were held quarterly instead of monthly. A movie projector and T.V. were installed. Various Tournaments were held and fund set up to assist needy families at Christmas.

In 1955 Gnr. J. Irwin was again voted in as President with a new slate of Officers and remained President until Dec., 1962. In 1957 the building was purchased for \$54,000 from Mrs. Lingham, with a 15 year mortgage which Mrs. Lingham held. The Club also guaranteed that the wholesale business on the bottom floor, taken over by Mr. T. Graham, would be allowed to remain at a nominal sum of Ten Hundred and Twenty Dollars a year for the next 15 years, with the option of renewal.

Gnr. G. Giles was appointed Treasurer and has served faithfully ever since. During the next ten years our monthly financial statement was often in the red; what with keeping the Club up to par and paying off the mortgage. In 1959 a donation of One Hundred Dollars was taken from the general fund, to assist the Salvation Army in building their new Citadel. In the March meeting, a Plaque, showing the names of the Charter members, was presented to the President, Gnr. J. Irwin, and accepted by him for the Club. It was to be displayed in a suitable place.

General Meetings were again held monthly. This continued until 1962 when a Permanent Board of Directors, under the Chairmanship of Gnr. K. Atkins, was set up to handle the affairs of the Club. This Board of Directors was set up because it was impossible to get a quorum of permanent members to attend the monthly General Meetings; and they had to be cancelled. The Board is to report to the Club members at a General Meeting held twice yearly.

Members are appointed to this Board for life, or until such time as they wish to retire; when they will be replaced by other permanent members in good standing. Several new members have been appointed through the years, to replace those who have resigned, for various reasons. This Board consists of a President, two Vice Presidents and nine members. The Treasurer and Secretary of the Club attend all meetings but have no vote.

The Board of Directors has worked out satisfactorily for the Club.

In 1965 Gnr. L. Bastien was voted in as President of the Board; which position he held until he resigned, in 1967, to become chief Steward for the Club. He has done an excellent job of looking after the bar and creating a happy relationship amongst the members.

Early in 1966, Gnr. J. Irwin offered to loan the Association Fifteen Hundred Dollars to clear off our mortgage to Mrs. Lingham. The Board accepted the offer. Gnr. L. Richardson, who had served the Club as Secretary for a number of years, resigned in 1966 and Gnr. M. O'Neill finished out the year. He was replaced by Gnr. Don Roblin in 1967.

That same year, the Club had the opportunity to borrow Ten Thousand Dollars, on a first mortgage, to cover the cost of extensive renovations. A new and larger Bar was built; the washrooms were completely overhauled; the outside walls were sand-blasted and repaired; and new furniture was purchased, to bring the Club up to its present standard.

On the night of May 24, 1968, we had quite a party to celebrate the burning of the mortgage. The ashes were placed in a steel box, suitably inscribed, and placed in the Board Room Show Case.

One other member who gave valuable service to the Club was Gnr. M. Fisher who was janitor and Handiman from 1951 to his death in 1968. His skill as a repair man saved the Club a lot of money over the years.

And Ben Cunningham who has given us valuable legal advice over the years, and still remains our solicitor.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1968

Gnrs. Gord Valleau - President
Don Haylock - Vice President
Doug Tyrrell
Gord Burns
Fred Wright
Elmer Kelsey
Henry Vermette
William Wood
Don Gordon
Syd Taylor
Gerry Good
Gerry O'Shea

1969-1997

As the sixties ended, we saw the start of a tradition which has been maintained to this day. As part of the 1969 Kingston Winter Carnival, a Historic Hockey series was organized between Queen's and RMC, to commemorate the first game of hockey in 1886. 4RCHA provided the first team from the Regiment in this contest, but upon the 4th's disbandment, the honour has been maintained by 2RCHA. The competition for the RCHA Brigade Association Trophy has provided some very interesting games over the last 28 years.

The seventies started with the Reunion of the RCHA Brigade. A large number of former members gathered in Kingston for a weekend of memories and activities. A service was held at the RCHA Memorial and the march past was led by Ginger Guy.

The neighbourhood was also to see some changes at the start of the decade. With the shutting down of the major industries on Ontario Street, William Teron, a developer from Ottawa, came up with a plan for a large redevelopment scheme stretching from Confederation Park to the yacht club; our property included. At first, the offer made for the Association's building was not agreeable, but Don Haylock and committee spent a lot of their free time negotiating with Teron and finally came up with a workable arrangement. Unfortunately, due to the publicity at the time, when Teron pulled out of the project, a number of people in the city felt that it was the Association's fault that an opportunity had been lost.

We carried on though. The Association has had its ups and downs over the years, and still has some. As our Treasurer, Gord Burns remarked one day, "This place is a non-profit organization, but we don't have to work so frigging hard at it."

As mentioned earlier, the mortgage was paid off in 1968, but we didn't have full control of the building until the balance of the lease with Toye's Wholesale was bought out in 1973.

This year was more memorable and earth-shaking with the RCHA's participation in the Tercentennial celebrations of the City of Kingston. To celebrate the 300th Anniversary of Kingston, 2nd Regiment fired a 300 gun salute from Point Frederick. During the organizational meetings prior to this, the Regimental representative mentioned that the guns would be pointed out across the lake. Someone naively commented that the guns should be facing the city, because, after all, the salute was in honour of Kingston. A very simple reply; 'How much glass is there in the city?'

We were remaining as one of the last bastions of male-only society in the city. This wasn't a total ban, however, as once every year wives and girlfriends were allowed in to celebrate 'Ladies Day'. Tables and chairs were passed from the truck through the second floor windows, and every spare bit of space was set up for dinner. George Saunders and his crew provided some excellent meals from our cubby hole kitchen on the second floor.

The normal 'No Women' policy did cause some uncomfortable moments for Don Haylock, one New Year's Levee. Some officers from the garrison arrived to accept the New Year's Day hospitality, female included. Some welcomed her and others wanted to throw her out; poor Don was caught in the middle.

Entertainment was fairly active. The annual Fishing Derby attracted a fair crowd and among some of the crew that went out the night before to get set up, rising and shining, and getting out on the water as soon as possible may not have been high on the priority list. The Christmas Turkey Draw was very popular, with all income from ticket sales going into the purchase of turkeys and hams. Some members were very active sales agents, and on Draw nights had their own tally board to see who sold more winners. The Turkey Shoot was also well attended and for years we had the support of the police department, who gave us the use of their pistol range. Some of these shoots provided extra entertainment. For some members, the blanks in their pistols raised questions about their eyesight and marksmanship. Billy Cribbes' 'pepper' loads also raised a few laughs.

For a few years, Herbie Sturgess was providing us with news as the editor and printer of a newsletter. There were some who complained because it was less than perfect in composition, but the spelling errors and grammar gaffs were part of the charm. The Association has been well served in the mainstream media with articles over the years by Cliff Bowering, Lyndon Jones and Bill Fittell. Presently, the Association puts out 2 Newsletters per year, just prior to the General Meetings in May & October.

Through the years, the Association has had some very interesting characters & personalities.

The Kelsey family have always been willing to get into a euchre game and they inspired the design of the 2-tiered tables which equipped the main lounge for many years; you could have a good game without your drinks or smokes getting in the way.

Teddy Marshall contributed generously to many activities and events in the Clubrooms over the years and he would gladly offer any help that may be needed. He was difficult to understand at times, but some of his comments were very clear.

Over the years, several members have provided needed resources and skills; mostly free of charge. To name just a few, Jack Barclay has led the parade for the past 2-3 decades, followed by Joe Picton, Ron Smith, Gord Buddles, Walter Robinson, Hughie Smith and the numerous work parties who turned out as and when required.

Charlie Horning was one of our older Gunners, with service from the First World War. The chair in the corner of the TV room was considered to be his chair, where he could sit and have a quiet drink, and look out on the water. He was willing to chat with anyone from old friends to young members; you just didn't get him mad. The Treasurer could always tell when Tommy Martin had made his monthly trip to town; it was the only day of the month that we could be guaranteed to sell a full bottle of Drambuie; a good part of which was bought by Tommy for others.

For an entertaining event with some very lively commentary, we could always rely on Art Casterton as emcee for a function.

As the seventies drew to a close, another developer came up with a plan for the land along the water. This was more positive for the Association, however, as Paron Corporation received the part of our property that ran from the existing building to the tracks which ran along the lakeshore in return for \$50000 and the cost of renovations to our clubrooms.

With the changes that were coming for Association, an Ad Hoc Committee was formed from a cross-section of the members and presented a report to the Board with various findings and recommendations for future operations.

One of the recommendations was that a committee be formed to preserve and maintain the history of the Association, and to be responsible for the care of the many artifacts held by the Association. The Historical Committee was founded under the Chairmanship of John Grenville. Over the last two decades, the Committee has worked to follow the Aims established on its founding.

1980 was a year of many changes for the Association. With the renovations of the building, a lounge was built on the first floor; the older members would not have to make the climb to the top. We also had a fully equipped kitchen installed. This expansion of facilities also prompted a change in the staffing of the Association. The decision was made to hire a full-time Manager and a cook for the kitchen. Earl Boyer moved from the Officer's Mess on Base to become our first Manager, and Bud Benbow, with the assistance of his wife, Eleanor, was hired to operate the kitchen.

The staff that the members are most aware of are the stewards, and over the years they have helped make the clubrooms a warm and welcome environment for members and guests; Bas Bastien, Ross Murphy, Tommy Sheridan, Vern Davis, Stuart MacDonald, Shadow McNeil, Earl Rector, Janice Hudson, Monica Burns, Colleen Labelle. Linda Higgins and numerous others who have worked full and/ or part-time through the years.

The most drastic change made that year was the agreement by the members, at a Special General Meeting, to change the Constitution to allow women in the clubrooms as guests at any time. And so, when the new lounge on the first floor opened, members could bring in their wives and girlfriends in any time, and lunches were available from our own kitchen. About the only complaint made about the kitchen was that some of the portions were just too big.

As time has passed, and taken its toll on the older Gunners, it has become more important to maintain the links with the Regiment. We have had a good relationship with 2 RCHA, particularly through Historic Hockey, but the opportunity came in 1983 when more solid links were established. 2nd Regiment was granted the Freedom of the City of Kingston, on behalf of the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery. The Association was host to 2nd Regiment during their stay in the city.

The membership has evolved over the years. As the original Gunners have died or moved away, sons and other members of their families have joined the Association and help carry on the traditions. The larger portion of the membership is composed of other members of the community who have been granted membership in the Association. In some cases, these people have been the more active and harder working. Although there are no RCA units in the Kingston area, the Gunner representation has been kept up by Gunners and retired Gunners who have been posted to Kingston, or move to the area. There have even been artillerymen from other countries who have been attracted by the place.

At one point in the eighties, there was a suggestion that the Association be disbanded, as there was such a small proportion of actual Gunners. Fortunately, the 'palace revolt' passed quietly and the Association has carried on. There have also been suggestions to move our quarters to some other location in town. That has also come to naught; we have a lovely building in excellent shape, in a prime location and, most importantly, it's paid for.

The 40th Anniversary of the Association was celebrated in 1987 with various games, activities and social functions in the clubrooms.

The nineties have brought further changes to the Association and the clubrooms. We were approached by the owner of Stoney's, our neighbour in this building, with a proposal. After somewhat lively discussion, an agreement was reached and the proposal was accepted by the members at a General Meeting. The basic deal was to swap our first floor for their third floor, and move our main lounge back to the top floor. Not a hardship for the aged and infirm, however as the deal did include the installation of an elevator.

A Building Committee co-chaired by Doug Fluhrer and Joe Watts spent many hours developing an agreement overseeing the necessary renovations required to complete this project, to what we have now.

After 5 years, the arrangements made have proven to be most rewarding. The Association's financial status is on track and reserve funds are accumulating

When the renovations were completed, the opportunity was taken to commemorate the efforts and achievements of one of the original members of the Executive. The room which has been set aside as the Boardroom and Historical room has been designated 'The Tyrrell Room' to mark the contributions that Doug made to the Association over the years.

Sports and entertainment continue. Although we do not have a shuffleboard team in the local leagues anymore, the Dart Team is a solid member of the Limestone Garrison Men's Dart League. Their last championship win was in 1993 when they won the 'C' Division title; rather appropriately, on Gunner's Day, 26 May. Pool and billiards has regained popularity since the old 6'x12' table on the second floor was sold and a smaller table acquired for the back lounge on the third floor. The Turkey Shoot has evolved from pistols at the police range to darts in the clubrooms. There is now a Children's Christmas Party each year, with many children and grand-children enjoying an afternoon of treats, activities and presents.

The ties with the Regiment remain strong. In July 1987 a contingent from the Association visited 1RCHA in Germany.

2nd Regiment exercised their Freedom of the City with a parade in 1991, and again in 1996 as part of the 125th Anniversary celebrations of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery. The Association has also had very good relationships with the Colonels-Commandant. BGen Bill Tumer is nearby, having retired to the Kingston area after his term as Commandant of RMC, and during his visit to the Association in 1995, Col. Ron Jacobson stated that the Association is a very important part of the Regimental family.

The Association has not been completely insular over the years. Unknown to many in the city, and even a large number of the members, the Association has supported and donated a number of activities in the Kingston area. For many years, the Christmas dinner for the Children at Sunnyside was provided by us. The donation box for the Kingston Whig- Standard Camp Fund was a fixture on the bar for many years. The junior hockey team in the Township which received our support was, very appropriately, called the Kingston Gunners. We have even sponsored one of the events in the horse judging at the Kingston Exhibition. Our donations and support for various projects continues with the proceeds from the Nevada Tickets, which a number of members so generously contribute to.

Don Haylock continues to be a very active part of the Association. He has followed his father, Barney, in the position of Chairman, and has also served in the position of Manager. Back on the Board of Directors, he is also an active member of the Historical Committee.

Since moving from Chairman to the position of Manager, Terry Quinn has worked very hard to keep the place going. When areas of the clubrooms are not required by the members, he has arranged for other groups to rent them, to provide us with extra income. As a retired Gunner, he has provided an invaluable contact with 2RCHA.

The Historical Committee continues its work in the clubrooms, working with the displays and maintaining the artifact collection. In liaison with Shilo, the Committee maintains the RCHA Memorial in City Park. During the Church Parade at the Memorial last June, the 25 pdr gun was dedicated. We have received assurances from the Mayor, that if other field guns become available to us, they may be placed in the park near the Memorial.

As we think back on our past 50 years, we look forward to our continuing growth, and our future as part of the Regimental Family.

Presidents / Chairmen of the Board of Directors

Barney Haylock	1947
FJ. (Slim) Irwin	1948
Jack Belwa	1949-52
Fred Wright	1953
Jack Belwa	1954
Slim Irwin	1955-61
Ken Atkins	1962-64
L. (Bas) Bastien	1965-66
Gord Valleau	1967-68
Don Haylock	1968-73
Henry Vermette	1973
Des Corrigan	1974
Don Haylock	1975-76
Jack Weir	1977-82
Steve Williams	1982-85
C.T. (Curly) White	1985-87
Terry Quinn	1987-90
Howard Minifie	1991-92
Terry Quinn	1993
J. (Chuck) Burns	1994-97

Royal Canadian Horse Artillery Brigade Association Historical Committee

AIMS

1. To create foster and maintain interest in the history of the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery Brigade Association and in the history of the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery Brigade with the City of Kingston.
2. To record and disseminate factual information relating to the RCHA Brigade Association and the RCHA Brigade in Kingston.
3. To identify, display and preserve the historical artifacts which are entrusted to the RCHA Brigade Association.
4. To solicit for preservation, artifacts or objects of military or historical interest particularly those pertaining directly to the RCHA Brigade Association and the RCHA Brigade in Kingston.
5. To research and record data related to the building which houses the RCHA Brigade Association Club Rooms (193 Ontario Street, Kingston) in the preservation of the building and its history.