



RCHA Heritage Newsletter Summer 2017

70 Years Of The RCHA



Within the group of men of this photograph are the seven Charter Members of the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery Brigade Association, which celebrated its 70th anniversary on July 18th. In the back row starting from the left Lenard Tritsch, James Burns, Norman (Sydney) Taylor, far right Henry (Bernard) Halock. In the front row centre Allen Naismith Risk. Not in the photograph are Douglas Tyrrell and Don Harper.

We have these individuals to thank for establishing and building our Club, while overcoming setbacks and challenges along the way. Today as members we are the benefactors of the preservation of history, mutual friendship, entertainment, and fun times all due to the efforts of these founding members. No wonder they are all smiling!

The RCHA Brigade Association is a lasting tribute to our founding members and to those that followed, that the Club continues to thrive and remain a prominent member of the Kingston community.

The Club has faced many challenges over the decades, but has survived due to the work of people united with a common goal. As members let us uphold the example set and carry the torch into the future.

Royal Canadian Horse Artillery (RCHA) Brigade Association
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Website: www.rcha.ca Facebook: Kingston RCHA

RCHA Board of Directors

Ken Edgecombe, Board Chair

Once again I have to thank the people who are volunteering their time to help the Association operate and look good. We have had people paint, provide and take care of planters to freshen up our street look, put time in with repairs and what organisational tasks. At some point I think we need to total the time our volunteers put in and take stock. Some work in the background and do not receive much public recognition.

I would like to thank those who have responded to the Call for Donations that we sent out. I would also like to clarify one of the items on our list... the roof. We did shingle the roof a couple of years back but in the process the roofers discovered they could not attach the new roof to the walls that project above the roof proper due to crumbling mortar. Most of the repointing needed has been done since then but we still have more to do which is why that it has been included.

I would like to encourage golfers of all calibre to sign up for our Annual Golf Tournament to be held Sunday Aug. 13 at Garrison Golf and Curling Club, CFB Kingston. This year we are having a Hawaiian theme and should be lots of fun! Sign-up sheet and info on the notice board by the 3rd floor bar.
Happy 70th RCHA B. A.!!!!

2017 AGM and Board of Directors

The Annual General Meeting was held on May 29 attended by 3 Life members, 18 Active members, 5 Associates and 1 Guest.

Elections held at the end of the meeting were for 2 - 3 year terms and 1- 2 year term. Phil MacKenzie and Chris Whyman were elected for the 3 year terms; and Linda Cameron for the 2 year term.

At the Board Meeting immediately following the AGM, the directors were elected to the following positions:

Chair: Ken Edgecombe (Chair: Bar Operations)
Vice-chair: Chris Whyman

Treasurer: Michael Nimeh
Secretary: Carol Whyman (Chair: Membership)
Director: Linda Cameron (Chair Promotion/Special Events)
Director: Frank Warnica (Chair: Housing & Entertainment)
Director: Phil MacKenzie

At the June Board meeting the directors appointed Bill Sheppard to the Board, ex officio. Bill will gradually take on the various tasks of the Board secretary in order to replace Carol Whyman whose term ends in May 2018, and who has requested a reduction in her volunteer responsibilities.

At the July Board meeting it was noted that Linda Cameron had decided to resign from the Board. As a result, Bill Sheppard's appointment was re-assigned as a voting member.

The Board would like to thank Linda for her service and continuing efforts to help the Association!

Membership Update

Carol Whyman, Membership Chair

A warm welcome to the following new members: **Karen McTaggart, Dan Phelan, Peter Gaudet, Graham & Vangie Tindale, Peter Cameron, Steve Medd, James Sifton, Thomas & Jo-Anne Savage, Patrick Cook, Brenda & Paul Benson, Mike Hamilton & David Hillis** who have joined the RCHA since the last newsletter. This brings the new member total to **34** for this membership year, including members from as far away as Oakville & Windsor.

For new applicants, membership dues are prorated based on the date of joining and after August 1, 2017 will be \$25.

Members are exempt from the entertainment cover charge, get a discount on most ticket events and can participate in Member Advantage/Discount program. List of participating businesses is noted on the Bulletin Board & on a handout. Current Associate members are encouraged to apply for Active/Voting Membership after 2 years (1 year for military persons).

Application forms are in the document box next to the elevator on the 3rd floor. Sandra Vellone is our latest Active member approved.

Contributions to the **Capital Improvement Fund** to-date this membership year total **\$4310**. We are most grateful for your generous support. We are also most grateful to the many volunteers who provide their skills and time as well as contribute financially by purchasing items needed by the club that is not captured by the Capital Improvement Fund list.

Sincere condolences are sent to the family of former members Mike Sullivan & David B. Bull who died recently.

The Membership Committee is comprised of: Carol Whyman, Chair, Kevin Bleeks, Sharon McLaughlin, Gord Brown and Cathy Sheppard.

Promotions, Special Events, Fundraisers Committee Report

Linda J Cameron, Chair

Promotions

Today, in 2017, Promotions has moved into the 21st Century with the use of Social Media to promote, market and inform prospective customers and to help recruit new members to the RCHA Brigade Association. Our Facebook account continues to grow in popularity and was set up by Brian Weir and is capably managed by Susan Warnica. Although we still rely on printed posters created by Susan Warnica and me, by far the best way to spread the word today about upcoming entertainment and events, is through the use of Facebook.

The monthly calendars in hard copy are available for pickup at the Club. The calendar along with weekly entertainment posters are posted on Facebook. They are also posted in the Shadowbox, elevator and various locations downtown to help spread the word and to promote the Club to the community.

Carol Whyman has done a great job over the years through e-mail to members and friends of the Club communicating all the upcoming events and inviting new membership as Membership Chair. She also sends event postings to certain print media.

Bill Sheppard informs and promotes the Club through the quarterly newsletter and is doing an excellent job at this along with the addition of pictures contributed by his wife Cathy. Susie Edgecome and Linda J Cameron have published and been editor of previous versions of the RCHA Brigade Association newsletter. Steve Gillen has created graphics for the newsletter in the past.

Linda and Steve have helped promote the Club through creation of Brochures, Rack Cards and Banners.

We are still trying to overcome the image of the RCHA as a private military Club, and establish it as an inviting social club and friendly community open to everyone of all ages while still respecting the history, heritage and traditions of its roots. As well, continuing to promote the military historic museum aspect of interest to visitors.

Special Events & Fundraisers

Over the years since the RCHA Brigade Association was established in 1947, like many associations, it has had its ups and downs. In 2010, the Board operating the Club was ready to close the doors and shut it down for good. However, a group of optimistic members joined together to keep it going. Ever since that day it has continued to prosper and grow with the capable management of the Board of Directors handling the day to day operations along with many volunteers who help plan, create and implement the many successful Special Events and Fundraisers.

Over the years, there have been gift shows of artists and local artisans selling their creations in time for Christmas, several Fashions Shows supporting and showing off local downtown clothing shops latest fashions, a variety of musical performances and annual events such as Remembrance Day, New Year's Day Levy, New Year's Eve Parties and the annual Robbie Burn's Night which continues to grow in popularity over the years.

We are always looking for fresh new ideas to help support the Club's bottom line while entertaining the community of Kingston and our members.

One of the Club's missions is to support local musicians and to help keep live music thriving plus provide a meeting space for the Rotary Club, the Heritage Club and other such community Clubs.

Thursday Entertainment

Those members and guests who enjoy early live entertainment from 7-10 pm on a Thursday night continue to attend to support a variety of music on those evenings. Easy Listening, Celtic, Country and Folk music and Karaoke are offered on special Thursdays of each month.

This in addition to the usual weekend entertainment offerings helps support local musicians while providing income for the Club on an evening which with no entertainment, was previously very slow--bringing in little revenue.

We are noticing many seniors living close by in the apartments are showing up along with hotel visitors looking for a place to go for music and a drink on a Thursday night. The night is particularly appealing to Baby Boomers as well as the TGIF Friday entertainment from 5:30 – 8 pm.

Entertainment Report

Frank Warnica, Entertainment Chair

We always have great entertainment at our club. Here are some of the highlights in the next couple of months.

On Sat July 29th the Big Phat Horn Band celebrated their 4th anniversary, bringing out the red carpet and Champagne. We are so fortunate to have them at our club, a big thank you to Rick & Sylvain.

On Sat. August 5th we are having our popular British Invasion show hosted by Hat Trick.

We have a great lineup for the **Limestone Blues Festival Aug 24 to 26th**. Check the calendar and face book for details of all of our shows.. On Sept 8th we are having a fun, new rockabilly band from Hamilton called The Hellbent Rockers. If you haven't seen the popular River City Junction you should check them out. Don't forget our TGIF artists: David & Charlie who make up Beat's Workin, Standards @ 7 (although they start at 5:30 - 8 as do all the TGIF artists, Michael Myers, Doug Reansbury, Jenica & Lynn, and many other fine artists.

Photo Gallery



Bob Chamberlain and invited gunners on Artillery Day, May 26th



Bob Chamberlain with Eric Coombs presenting a display of historic artillery brigade hat badges to Board Chair Ken Edgecombe at the AGM, May 29th. A wonderful addition for the RCHA museum.



Another great TGIF with the talented Jenica Rayne and Lynn Hanson.

Savannah Shea sings a tune with the Big Phat Horn Band, what a treat for all those in attendance.



Audience participation, what fun, lovely ladies joined the River City Junction as their back- up singers, entertaining times at the RCHA Club.