

ROYAL CANADIAN HUSSARS ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
CÔTE DES NEIGES ARMOURY
18H40 APRIL 8TH 2014

Present

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Karl Kramell | President |
| Steven Barrette | 1 st Vice |
| Robin Thibault | Secretary |
| Sam Pépin | Treasurer |
| Alan Canavan | Past President |
| LCol Hlibchuk | CO RCH |
| Don Greene | Museum |

Members:

Gilbert Hétu
James Terpstra
Rob Goodwin
Alexandre Lescot
Sebastien Goulette
Chuck O'Donnell
Julien Bilodeau
Louis-Philippe Yanakis
Marie-Lisa Perron
Mario Hétu
Jean-Eudes Laforge
Anthony St-Pierre-Walsh
Patrice Ferland
Guy Brazeau
Sam Pépin
Matteo Modafferi
Shaun Funk
Laforme

Not Present

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| Denis Gilbert | Website |
| Gordon Weekes | Executive Officer |
| Isabelle Châtillon | Membership |

1. Opening remarks. President Karl Kramell opened the meeting at 18:40 hrs. He welcomed everyone in attendance including the Commanding Officer and members. He thanked the members of the executive committee for their continued support.
2. Fallen Comrades. A moment of silence was held in memory of our fallen comrades. Alan Canavan led the group with the Legion prayer for, Gordon King & Robert Blyth.

Note; Alan noted that Stan Highway was now 98 years of age.

3. President's Report. He remarked that it is important to keep the Association going and to encourage the soldiers who leave the Regiment to join. He stated that the Association was important to foster good camaraderie and a place to have a good time and exchange stories. He also welcomed the serving members of the Regiment who were in attendance in large numbers. He explained that there is no rank in the Association, other than the persons holding the positions of the Commanding Officer and Regimental Sergeant Major and Honourees. He explained to the members that the Association was going through some changes. Such is the case concerning the annual reunion dinner being changed to a lunch, in order to allow all World War II veterans to attend in greater numbers. The President stated that the lunch will be held on Saturday the 12th of April, 11h30 to 12h00 arrival and 13h00 sit down. The lunch will include a 5 course meal which will be at a cost of 40\$ a person.

4. Minutes of the last AGM. The Acting Secretary read the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting (AGM) which was held on 4 May, 2013. In order to save on time the President informed the Acting Secretary to skip to the section titled Old and New Business. President asked for a proposal to adopt the Minutes as read.

Motion to adopt minutes: G Héту, Seconded by, Jean Laforge. All in Favour.

5. Treasurer's report. The Treasurer's report was presented by Steven Barrette. The opening balance for the period 10 May 2013 until 2 April 2014 was \$15,590.97. He also stated that we will invest our money in order to receive a return and make a profit. A question was asked about the stated museum account. Steven explained that the museum was required to pay a monthly account fee which meant that this would drain the account and be an unnecessary financial loss. He exclaimed that by creating a community account, the museum would retain its independent balance but would not be required to pay a monthly account fee.

Motion to adopt report: Don Greene, Seconded by: Mario Héту. All in Favour.

6. Correspondence. The Association received a message of the passing of Gordon King and Robert Blyth. The Association also received a letter from the Deputy Mayor of the town of Neufchatel en Bray in France concerning the liberation parade and an invitation extended to the Association to attend.

7. Reports of Standing Committees:

a. Membership. Steven Barrette explained the membership graph that was attached to the agenda. He noted the membership numbers that were listed in the bottom left corner. Veterans 33, Serving 69, Former 61, Widows 21, Children of Veterans 7, Waiting 1, Life Members 72, Outstanding 5 and Annual paid 40, which brings the total membership to 192.

Mention of Randy Klein (son of Randy Klein Sr) who is doing an excellent job in Toronto by contacting and communicating with all veterans in Ontario and ensuring they are being looked after for their membership and informed about Association status. He has been asked to take on the role of Associate Membership Chairman of Ontario.

The President, Karl Kramell stated to the membership that Isabel Châtillon was doing an excellent job with the membership portfolio. As for the work being performed by Randy Klein, he expressed the fact that Veterans have difficulty keeping up with the Association because they do not have email accounts, they change addresses and or are placed in retirement communities. He explains that Randy calls these members at least monthly. This is viewed by the President as indispensable for keeping these Veteran members in the loop.

b. Museum. Don Greene thanked the Regiment and the RCH Association for their ongoing support throughout the year. He personally thanked Steven Barrette for his continuing help and support. He informed the membership that due to building security issues, all the weapons including the bayonets have been taken out of the museum. Now the security issue has been dropped. The real issue now is the safe keeping of the remainder of the artifacts by keeping the doors and windows locked at all times when the museum is not in use. The museum has lost the third room at the back. It will eventually be turned into the Regimental Kit Shop. It is unfortunate but we have no choice. Now that the security concerns have been dropped, the long awaited steel doors for the museum have arrived, mainly because of new fire safety regulations from Ottawa. The museum has not seen many visitors since the last reunion. Some small groups and family members from the regiment visited the museum throughout the year. I was approached by Sgt Sanchez last year about the new recruits visiting in the fall, preferably on Tuesday nights. I informed him to just let me know and I will gladly make myself available. The amount of artifacts coming into the museum has slowed down considerably, however we do get items of interest from time to time. I urge you at this time to be on the lookout for any items that could be of interest to the museum. The museum will not turn down any item that is offered. Recently, I have been getting WWII medals from members of my legion in St-Hubert. The museum has in its Regimental fund, approximately \$2,491.81, this amount will change as soon as the Regiment updates its account because of donations it has received. The RCH Association has \$1,902.59 held in trust. A cost of 5\$ a month is being taken from the present museum account for nothing. The museum has lost the use of the third room; the museum will have to redistribute the artifacts that were in that room to the other two rooms. This will require a bit of planning and an extreme amount work. Therefore, the museum will not be open for this year's lunch reunion. I'm only one person and there is a lot of work to be done. Which, I do not have enough time to commit to. As always, the museum is looking for artifacts, nothing is too small or too big, or too insignificant, everything is important. If you have some friends who would like to visit the museum, please do not hesitate to ask, so we can setup a date and time for a visit.

The CO RCH commented on the fact that we are presently creating links with the town of Morin Heights, location of the 11th Argenteuil Rangers and due to this initiative, he has assigned a Archivist, Capt Thibault to conduct research on all pertinent documents found in the Regimental Archives so that it can be protected and shared with all members of the Regiment, Association and public.

The President, Karl Kramell, commended Don Greene's dedication to the museum and informed him of a job well done. President asked for a proposal to adopt the museum report:

Motion to adopt minutes: R. Goodwin, Seconded by: L-P. Yanakis. All in Favour.

c. Regimental Website. Denis Gilbert was not present. President asked if anyone has any pictures to forward them. He also exclaimed that Denis was doing a good job with the website.

d. Trumpeter. Steven Barrette informed the membership that the Trumpeter will be published for around the 20th of April. Stories or ideas should be sent by email to his attention.

The President also extended an invitation for stories written in French. He also thanked Steve for his work with the Trumpeter.

e. Special Projects. Sam Pépin informed the membership that the RCH Association Golf Tournament would be held on the 29th of August. He also stated that Julien Bilodeau assisted him with the creation of a life membership certificate which would be printed with the name of the member and his membership number. Sam asked if he could use money from the account to

purchase a superior grade of paper in order to print the certificates on. He asked the membership to vote on this.

The President exclaimed to the membership that Sam Pépin and Mario Héту were putting a lot of work into activities. This effort is meant to encourage camaraderie and they do it for the membership.

d. Regimental Report. LCol Hlibchuk indicated that the RCH is focused on three priorities at the moment.

One - training of new Crew Commanders;

Two - the creation of a shooting team and focus on sports; and

Three - focus on Regimental family.

Recently the Regiment was focused on training new crew commanders. This initiative is going very well. Several in-house courses were given and a large scale makete was created in the gymnasium to assist with their future training at CFB Gagetown. Especially the Lawfield corridor. The Regiment also conducted crew commander training in Valcartier with several jeeps. We received assistance from instructors of 12RBC, Three-Rivers. These instructors were only too glad to help. Presently the Black Watch is in charge of the Brigade shooting team. Efforts are being made to allow the RCH to contribute to the pistol portion of this Brigade shooting team. As for the family portion, an excellent job was done with the Christmas Family party that was hosted at the armoury. Traditions of the Regiment should not be forgotten and one of those traditions which the Regiment hopes to return is the use of a Regimental Trumpeter to perform calls during Regimental training nights. Also, to play last post for our fallen comrades during remembrance ceremonies and dinners. A mutual training program with the Black Watch Pipes and Drums band is presently in the works and we will be forming our very own trumpeters in the near future.

The President, Karl Kramell, thanked the Commanding Officer for his update on the Regiment and explained to the membership that the CO holds the Honourary title of President of the RCH Association.

8. Old Business. The Cummerbunds are in the kit shop and will be sold at a cost of 25\$ each. The President explains that the cummerbund is a good accessory to have when attending formal events.

Thursday Night Happy Hour. Thursday happy hour at the Sgts Mess will be cancelled due to limited attendance.

Regimental Ties. The CO RCH informed the membership that the Regimental Tie project was delayed due to an error on the manufacturer's part in December. The RCH Institute will champion the silk tie project. Once the ties will be ready for purchase, the Institute will send a tie to the Queen's Secretary as a gift.

9. New Business.

a. Neufchatel en Bray, France. On 31 August 2014, the French town of Neufchatel-en-Bray will celebrate the 70th anniversary of its liberation from the Germans. The 17th DYRCH and le Régiment de la Chaudière, liberated the town on 31 August 1944. During the engagement, three members of C Sqn 7th Recce were killed by anti tank fire on their approach to the town. One Master Warrant Officer and two Troopers were killed. SSM White, Trooper Andrews and Trooper Pettibone were blown up in their vehicle. In commemoration of the loss suffered by the 7th Canadian Reconnaissance Regiment, the town built a memorial kern 2 km outside of town. The town and its people gather every year with a band and parade together to the location. Alan and

Karl attended the 60th anniversary with Doug Jamieson. The Town is very proud of its affiliation with the Regimental, that they fly the Regimental flag at City Hall. Doreen Riley and husband John (whose father was with the Regiment) was received very well on their last visit a few years ago. The Association is planning on sending one or two veterans, Alan Canavan, and one more to be determined if sufficient money is raised. to the event this year. The Association is trying to raise a total of \$6000 to pay for the two Veterans traveling costs. The President, Karl Kramell will be attending as well but at his own expense. The President noted to the membership that Alan was close to the location on 31 August 1944.

b. Association Bursary. Based on last year's AGM passed motion of creating a 500\$ student bursary. Steven Barrette provided an explanation of the program to the membership. The RCH Association Bursary program (which has been modeled after the RCAC Association's program) will begin immediately and applications are available on the website and will be provided with the next Trumpeter issue. The awarded bursaries will be announced on the 1st of September, 2014 and 1st of April, 2015. To be illegible to apply for the bursary, you must first be a lifetime member of the RCH Association. Children and grand children can apply as well. This scholarship offers annual subsidies totalling \$500.00 toward cost incurred through enrollment in bona-fide educational programs at the post-secondary level. Recognized programs include those offered by a university, community college or technical school in Canada. The bursary program will be reviewed at next year's AGM.

c. Motion, WWII Life Membership. A motion was made by Steven Barrette to bestow lifetime membership titles to all World War II Veterans. The average age of a WWII Veteran is 90 years and they should receive a lifetime membership by default. Seconded by Don Greene. All in Favour. Passed.

d. Motion, Life Membership Fee. A motion was made by Sam Pépin to increase the lifetime membership to \$150, exclaiming that other military associations charge a lot more. Concerns about the price increase was expressed by Sebastien Goulette. Sam explained that this would allow for more funds in the account for the Association to use. Steven Barrette interjected and explained to the membership that the moratorium on Life Membership application ended at the date of this AGM. Members who wish to become life members must keep their association membership valid and uninterrupted for a total of five years.

10. Important dates.

- a. April 12th - Association Lunch
- b. April 24th - Association Breakfast (PJ's Pub)
- c. May 10th - RCH Smoker (CDN Armoury)
- d. May 25th - Morin Heights, RCH Freedom of City Parade
- e. May 29th - Association Breakfast (PJ's Pub)
- f. June 26th - Association Breakfast (PJ's Pub)
- g. July 29th - RCAC Association Golf Tournament
- h. August 29th - RCH Golf Tournament
- i. August 31st – Neufchatel en Bray, France. 70th Anniversary ceremony and parade of the Liberation of the town.

11. Elections of Officers. Due to the absence of the Chair of nominating committee, Michel Vézina, the President directed the election of the new Executive Committee. According to the Constitution, 10 Executive Members can be part of the Executive Committee. Members voted the following members:

The New Committee consist of the following members:

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|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| President | Karl Kramell | Re-elected |
| 1 st Vice president | Steven Barrette | Re-elected |
| 2 nd Vice president | Mario Hétu | Elected |
| Secretary | Robin Thibault | Elected |
| Treasurer | Sam Pépin | Elected |

Officers:

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Museum | Don Greene | Re-elected |
| Trumpeter | Steven Barrette | Re-elected |
| Trumpeter | Julian Bilodeau | New |
| Web site | Denis Gilbert | Re-elected |
| Membership | Isabelle Châtillon | Re-elected |
| Membership for Ontario | Randy Klein | New |
| Special Activities | Mario Hétu | Re-elected |
| Special Activities | Sam Pépin | Re-elected |
| PR: Association | Gordon Weeks | Re-elected |
| PR: Association | James Terpstra | New |
| PR: Regiment | Alex Cyr | Re-elected |
| PR: Regiment | Marie Lise Perron | New |
| Past President: | Alan Canavan (Non Voting) | Re-nominated |
| Honouree President | LCol John Hlibchuk (Non Voting) | New |
| Honouree Vice President | CWO Mario Chevalier (Non Voting) | Re-nominated |

The President stated that the new committee will meet on May 10 at the Armoury. The President would like to thank the old committee for all their hard work. He also thanked the Commanding Officer for his continuous support to the Association.

12. President's round table of points.

a. 1st Vice President, Steven Barrette, makes a motion to provide Sam Pépin with \$500 to acquire good quality parchment for Life membership certificates.

Motion to adopt: S. Barrette, Seconded by: R. Thibault. All in Favour.

b. 1st Vice President, Steven Barrette, makes a motion to purchase a custom made leather RCH Association with badge embroidered binder for the use of placing important documents such as member sign in when attending AGM. Example of standard can be observed in the Sgt's mess glass trophy case. This binder can be custom made for a cost of approximately \$500.

Motion to adopt: S. Barrette, Seconded by: R. Goodwin. All in Favour.

13. President's last words. The President, Karl Kramell, asked the membership to keep attending the social functions hosted by the association and to make an effort to encourage old serving members to return or join the RCH Association.

14. Adjournment. As there were no more points from the floor, Don Greene motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by James Terpstra. All in Favour. The meeting adjourned at 20h00.

R. Thibault

Secretary

K. Kramell

President