

Royal Canadian Hussars Association

Minutes of the Virtual Annual General Meeting 22 April 2021

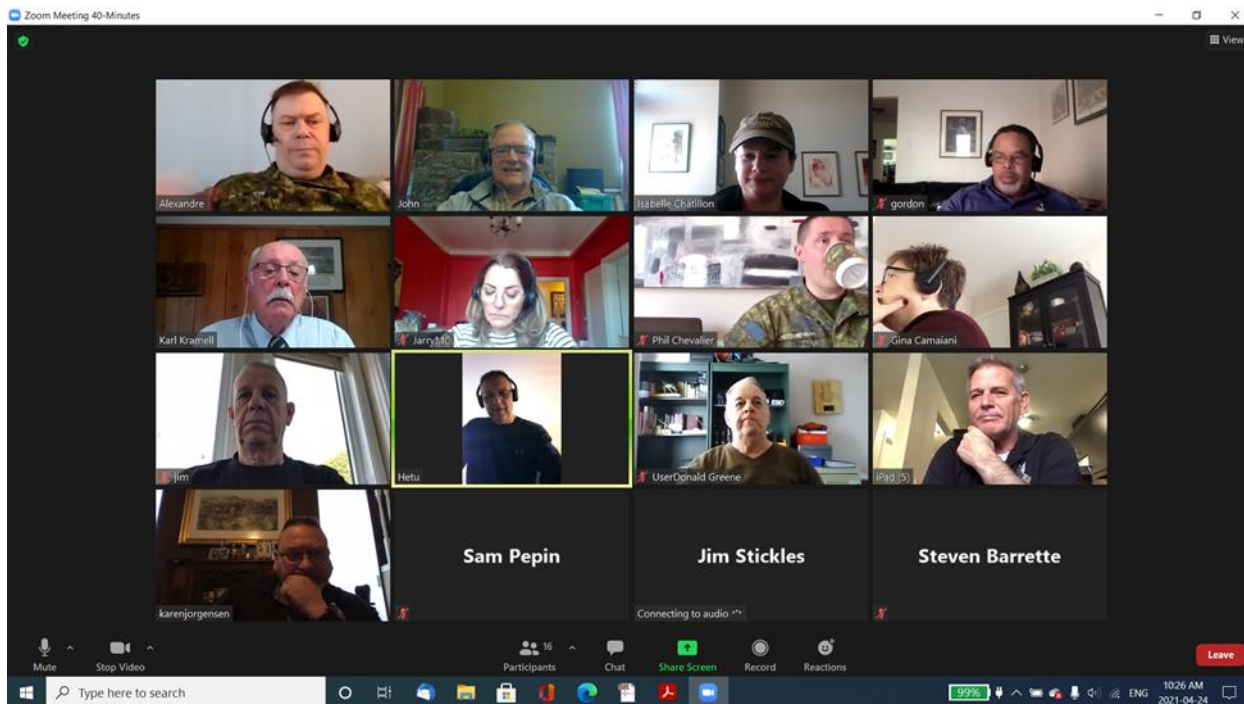
PRESENT:

Steven Barrette
Don Greene
Denis Gilbert
Céline Benoit
Mark Noonward

Karl Kramell
Isabelle Châtillon
Marie-Claude Jarry
Don Pelletier

Mario Hetu
Gordon Weekes
Gina Camaiani
Jim Montgomery

John Cochrane
Alex Cyr
Phil Chevalier
Samuel Pepin



1 Welcome

Steven
Barrette

The president opened the meeting at 10h30, the meeting originally was to begin at 10h00 but was delayed until 10h30 due to issues with Zoom.

2 Adoption of Agenda

All

Motioned by: Karl Kramell
Seconded by: Don Pelletier
Motion Passed

3 Fallen Comrades

Karl Kramell

The following former members of the regiment were remembered:
Major Leo Régimbal, RSM Gerald Leveille, Pierre Donais, Hugh Hamilton,
Bruce Westgarth, William Thomson, Wilfred Dickey, Leslie Parry, Allan Arnold Johnston,
and Sgt Arthur Ernest Potter.

4 **Minutes of last AGM**

Steven
Barrette

Reading of the minutes waived.
Acceptance of minutes:
Moted by: Karl Kramell
Seconded by: Don Greene
Motion passed.

5 **Business arising from minutes.**

All Officers

There was no business arising from the minutes.

6 **Treasurer's Report**

John
Cochrane

Report presented by the treasurer.
The report is attached to these minutes. The Association currently has 330,945 in
assets in the bank, part is in a GIC (302,788.00\$)
1253.00\$ is being held for the museum.
25.000\$ is reserved for the translation of the History Book (MCI)

Acceptance of report:
Moted by: Phil Chevalier
Seconded by: Mario Hetu
Motion passed.

7 **Correspondence**

Steven
Barrette Karl
Kramell

Most correspondence is from e-mails from past members family inquiring, on the
service to the regiment by the father, grand father and or uncles. Karl has a standard
response that directs these family members to the site where they can request a copy of
their ancestor's file.

8 **President's Address**

Steven Barrette

The president thanked all members for attend the first Zoom AGM, there were members from BC to Quebec. With technology there is always some issues, and we will work through them to get the information to the members.

As this year should have been an election year, I will stay for another year as president, until 2022, when we can have an AGM in person if not, we may have to vote via the website.

The executive has met a few times over the past 24 months and tried to cover all the administration and support to the members in the best way possible.



We have a few projects ingoing, i.e.: An Association Non-medical mask.
Association Non-medical mask



We are also following on, the Association Greeting card and the RCH Association Pin, both are in the works and should be produced before July 2021.



9 **Reports from Standing Committees**

A. Membership

Gordon Weekes

For any prospective new members. Please contact Gordon or Isabelle. We recently added two new members, Wayne McCullough whose Grandfather was a member of the Argenteuil Rangers, MCpl (Retd) Eric Ribiere, and Sgt (RETD) Michael Berube. If you know of past members who would be interested in being in the Association, please have them contact the membership people.

B. Museum

Don Greene

I would like to thank the Regiment for providing ongoing support to the museum throughout the year.

I would like to thank the RCH Association and MCI for their support throughout the year.

I would be remiss if I did not thank Sgt. Barrette again this year for his continuing assistance and support in running the museum. He is in truth a very important supporter of the museum, for without him the RCH Museum would not be as outstanding as it is today. Another person I want mention is Don Pelletier, a former member of the regiment. Don has been very helpful at the museum. He has a lot of good ideas and works tirelessly on many projects, and for that I am very thankful to him.

During the past year the museum has received many artifacts from friends and former members of the regiment. Many of them were put to good use on the many mannequins that we have acquired since last year.

Many of the artifacts were donated by the following: Carol Vidan Guerin, Michel Abourousse, Don Pelletier, and Samuel Pelletier. Pierre Pelletier, Michel Lapointe, Pascal Hypolite, Ross Jones, Roland Plante, Stephane Morin and Martin Gelinas. If

there is anyone that I have missed, I apologize for omitting your name, please let me know.

The museum has purchased 6 mannequins and 10 light frame units. 1 mannequin was made and donated by Don Pelletier. 1 mannequin donated by the RMR. 10 showcases donated by the RMR Museum.

The museum has in the Regimental Fund approx. \$620.00 to be verified and the RCH Assoc. has \$1253.00 held in trust and the MCI has \$500, 00 held in trust.

The museum is always looking for artifacts, nothing is too small or too big or too insignificant, everything is important.

It is unfortunate that the pandemic is still on going. The building is on lock-down for the foreseeable future. You will be notified when the RCH Museum will be open for viewing. This concludes the RCH Museum report for this year 2020.

Please visit museum when it's safe.

-Don Greene

A motion was made by Steven Barrette to add a position on the role of officers, ``Assistant Museum Curator`` Don Pelletier accepted the position.

Motioned by: Steven Barrette
Seconded by: Don Greene
Motion passed.

C. Trumpeter

I would like to thank those members of the association who sent me the stories you see, some are extracted from the upcoming Regimental History, I would like to thank John Cochrane for sending many stores as well as Alex Cy, please don't stop sending. Any other member who has any yarn or story, please send them to me. I am always seeking articles, French or English.

Steven
Barrette

D. Public Relations

Karl Kramell
& Alex Cyr

2020 was a busy year with inquiries of former members by relatives.

1. Scott Holloway searched for info on his Great Uncle L/Cpl John Edward Holloway, served with the 17th from 1942-1946,
2. Walter John Potter informed us that his brother Sgt Arthur Ernest Potter passed away in Salmon Arms, BC and would like to pass his ashes/urn with family members by the regiment when time permits. This is ongoing.
3. Mike Young searching for info on his Grandfather Albert Young during his time with the regiment during WW II,
4. John Whiteley searching for records on his Grandfather Earle Stevenson, wrong Hussars,

5. Mr. LeBlanc searching for Info on his brother, no further details,
6. Chris Snowden Searching for info and documentation on his Great-Great Grandfather that fought during the Great Rebellion in 1837-1838,
7. Chris Marshall searching for info on his Grandfather Andrew Jack Marshall,
8. LCol Ton Linssen, from the Netherland Embassy in Ottawa trying to liaise contact with the Association and the town of Kampen in Holland,
9. Jamie McPhie searching for info on his Father,
10. Kate Penton searching for info on her Grandfather Gordon G. Yule.

All inquiries were replied with our standard reply- the unit does not keep any records of former soldiers and are referred to two different websites in Ottawa for family information.

Some inquiries are still ongoing.

Correspondence.

Nine Christmas cards were sent out to remaining former WW II members, none came back.

Lost trails

Four names were published in the Trumpeter Spring 2021 issue, no reply from anyone.

If anyone is aware of former regimental members not a member of the association to pass the names to me for further contact. We should all encourage former members to join the association.

Regiment

Alex mentioned that the unit has continued to train, which some of the training being conducted on-line. He mentioned that the unit has been conducting rank and trade courses locally as there are not many positions on national courses. After the meeting, he was leaving to supervise an armoured crewman course. He mentioned that two Master-Corporals had just completed their sergeant qualifications – MCpl's Martin and Bergeron-Boily. Finally, he mentioned that since the pandemic started the unit had lost about 15 members dropping to 157 all ranks. This is less than some other units in the Brigade.

E. Regimental Website

Denis Gilbert

This year there was a 12% increase in traffic volume.

The additions and improvements to the site this year include:

- A new on-line Bookstore where the regimental history and other books can be purchased using a credit card.
- An update of useful links for veterans
- A new page describing the armoury heritage designation.
- A new page with links to films documenting the 1939 escort to the royal couple during their visit to Montreal.

- The addition of numerous photo albums

Since some of the traffic is coming from countries with a reputation for fraud and other risks, it was proposed and accepted that the association invest in an additional security screening service that blocks access to users in specified countries.

The proposal to add an on-line ordering facility for the Regimental Kit Shop has not yet been accepted by the Unit Fund Management Committee.

F. Association Activities

Mario Hetu

There are none to report until the Covid -19 regulations have been lifted.

G. Regimental Report

Steven
Barrette on
behalf of the
Commanding
Officer

COMMANDING OFFICERS REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE REGIMENT

Welcome all, my hope is that you are all healthy and that your loved ones are also safe and healthy.

In my address today, which is one of my last opportunities to talk to the Association formally as the Commanding Officer, I would like to thank you for the continuous support both individually and collectively that you provided to the Regiment. This of course is the financial support that has benefitted the soldiers and the suggestions, moral and spiritual support that you give me from your many years of being members of the Regiment.

The Regiment is doing well, but all has not gone in accordance with my grand plan. Circumstances outside of my control (COVID 19) has ruined my schedule to fill out the ranks of our junior leaders (both officers and NCOs) during my time as Commanding Officer. Reduced course sizes and too few courses have stunted the Canadian Army's ability to generate these new junior leaders in the last year. Recruiting is not a problem for the RCH, and we have more soldiers (and officers) than we are authorized but getting them qualified to MCpl and Lt has been challenging. The Regiment has an excellent team that has supported me, and we have developed a new plan that will take advantage of the circumstances that we are currently living under. The future (September 2021 to April 2022) will re-align us on the path to develop these key leaders. We will be running an in-house Armour Crew Commander course in the fall and qualifying eight (8) MCpl that were trained over the last two years and we will be bulk loading all our Second Lieutenants (12) on this same course to get them qualified as Crew Commanders (essentially DP1.1) and then we will need to run an additional course to finish their Troop Leader qualification (DP1.2) which will also need to do in-house. Just so that you are aware, this will qualify 12 of our junior officers in one year, where the Armour School has only accepted 2 candidates from the RCH in the last three years.

During this last year we supported Op LASER, Op VECTOR and this weekend we will conclude an in-house run DP1 Armour Recce Crewman course. We have 16 candidates on this course, and I believe that all will be successful. This is where I am right now, observing the trace and will take a few minutes to spend with the troops over lunch, before they get back onto the trace. In addition to these tasks, we have also supported / run the Recruit Course for Cote des Neiges Armoury for the last two years. The Canadian Army has been focused on conducting Individual Training this last year and while it is essential, the Troops want to get back to the field and focus on their trade, running the trace and doing what they are trained to do. I look forward to the days that this can happen again.

The Squadrons have probably had the most challenging time of all of us over the last year, by needing to change the way that they deliver information to our soldiers and attempt to maintain Armour skills at the trooper level. Many of the activities have been conducted virtually, this has produced virtual results. Other activities were conducted in person, but at a reduced in-person load. We have been restricted to only having 25 soldiers in the building at any one time and this has been a challenge to get the needed training completed. Additionally, we were required to make bubble of each of our groups and then protect them from merging and then separating them again during collective training opportunities. The Squadrons did the best that they could manage, and I sincerely applaud the effort and scheduling challenges that they have successfully worked through. Gunnery practice and Small Arms Trainer are two of the best successes.

As you are all aware, I will be reluctantly but obediently handing over Command to LCol Malcolm Day next month on the 22nd of May. This event will be conducted virtually as the regulations only allow 12 persons to be present for the event. I encourage you tune into the streamed event, and while it will be short and to the point, we are going to do the best we can to respect the military protocols of the handover. I fully support LCol Days appointment, he is a good friend and a college at my fulltime job, and I know that you will provide him the same high level of support that you provided to me and my predecessors.

I would encourage you to ask questions at this time, but fortunately I am out of range and have no need to worry about dodging either trace or main gun rounds.

LCOL SW Funk CD

Non Nobis Sed Patriae

10 **Old Business**

Steven
Barrette

Visit to France, 31st August, Neufchatel-en-brey, our friends in France were very thankful for the Canadians' service.
Ault also having celebration, August 30-31, September 1
We supported 5 x RCH Association member who visited, \$5000 max total subsidy.

11 **New Business**

Steven
Barrette

There was no new business added at this time.

12 **Important Dates**

Steven
Barrette

May 7th, VE Day Ceremony, @ Hemmingford 11h00,

June 6th Veterans Flag Day 11h00, Visit 17th Hussars graves in Hemmingford Cemetery,

July 24th, Hemmingford Legion Golf Tournament, Hemmingford,

August 8th, United Nation Peacekeepers Ceremony 14h00, Hemmingford Legion,

13 **Varia**

Steven
Barrette

14 **Next Meeting**

Steven
Barrette

Next AGM ~April 2022

15 **Motion of Adjournment**

Motioned by: Don Greene

Seconded by: Don Pelletier

Motion passed.

President Steven Barrette

Approved