

Mess and RUSI Vancouver Members News – Dec 7, 2010

Wednesday Lunch

The last lunch of the year will be on Dec 15th. This is always a Ladies and Guest lunch so ask your significant other and/or anyone you think might enjoy our lunches. We ask that those planning to attend add their names to the sign up sheet at the bar so Mrs Lum has an idea of attendance. **The first lunch of 2011 is set for Jan 5th.**

We have started collecting for our annual 'Purse' for Mrs Lum. Our members' way of expressing our appreciation of her efforts at our lunches through the year. See me in the Mess We haven't firmed up speakers for the new years yet but there will not be a RUSI speaker in January.

Military gun runners are back in action

11 years after the Royal Tournament was scrapped on cost grounds, the British Military Tournament is being revived at London's Earls Court – with the traditional Field Gun Race as its chief spectacle.



For the public it was always a thrilling spectacle. For the generations of servicemen who took part it was the ultimate test of skill, strength and resilience.

So there were plenty who mourned when the Field Gun Race – a re-enactment of the relief of Ladysmith during the Boer War – was scrapped with the Royal Tournament to save money in 1999. But now, the race is back on at the British Military Tournament, being held at Earls Court in London this weekend in celebration of Britain's armed forces.

This time, instead of Royal Navy personnel taking part, the two teams are 16 to 18-year-olds from Wellington College Combined Cadet Force.

The Guns of Chapleau Ontario – Recognition for Preserving our Heritage

In October 2009 Captain Kevin Smith, RCA, was on a hunting trip with his Father-in-law (who used to be a Chapleau police officer) in the Chapleau area of northern Ontario. During a tour of the town they came across the Legion (Harry Searle Branch #5, Royal Canadian Legion) where they met a Mr Bruce McCarthy, a member of that branch. Mr McCarthy had been acting



somewhat as a caretaker of two Gunner-type monuments that are located in front of the Legion, one a WW I German trench mortar and the other a WW II 17lb anti-tank gun. Sadly, earlier that fall, two young men passing through the community vandalized the German WW I trench mortar, located directly in front of the cenotaph. Mr McCarthy related how badly this hurt the community, and how they were rallying to do what they could to get the monument repaired.

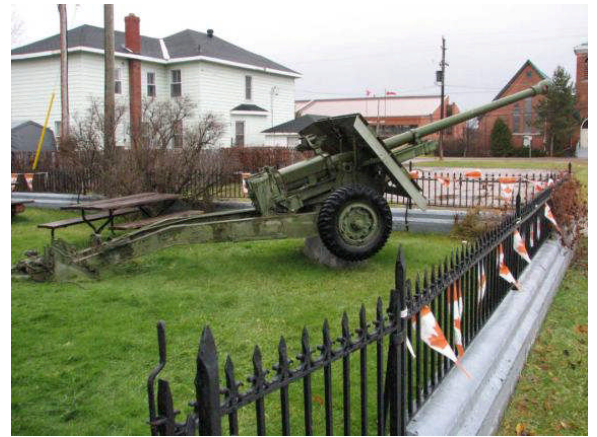
Despite the difficult financial times they are in, they accomplished the restoration of the trench mortar before the end of the year, largely through volunteer

work, and Mr McCarthy sent Captain Smith pictures of their work, which they were rightfully proud of.

They have also been equally respectful, as best they can, of the 17 Pounder anti-tank gun. They recently made efforts to get the gun repainted, so that it may be more presentable. This reflects the heartfelt respect and appreciation the community has for those who have served or are serving now in the Canadian Forces, and especially for those who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

Mr McCarthy also mentioned how even their little community has been touched by the efforts to bring stabilization to Afghanistan, with some of its sons and daughters joining the Forces, much as their forefathers had, to do their part.

Kevin was taken aback at how this little community was dealing with maintaining some tangible symbol for the remembrance of Canada's military loses, in particular through the use of such a noticeably gunner theme. He had relayed this story to LCol (Retired) Brian Reid, who relayed it to the Colonel Commandant.



Captain Kevin Smith was very touched by the dedication and generosity of Legion members, and Mr Bruce McCarthy, in looking after those monuments in front of their Legion Branch. Kevin mentioned this to many, and all were taken aback, and humbled by their efforts, knowing full well how difficult this must be for a small community, It was evident to him that the community was doing this out of the genuine respect they have for those who have fallen while serving in Canada's military. Since the

monuments are Artillery in nature, the Colonel Commandant of Canadian Artillery, General (ret'd) Ernest Beno, set out to provide some recognition to Bruce McCarthy and the Legion members that have so earnestly maintained these rare guns. To that end the Commanding Officer of the 49th Field Artillery Regiment from Sault Ste Marie, Lieutenant-Colonel Blake

Golder, and Honorary Colonel 49th Field, Col Edward Rowe, offered to deliver this recognition on General Beno's behalf.

On Monday, 29 November, 2010 Col Rowe and LCol Golder drove from Sault Saint Marie to Chapleau - 3.5 hrs on some pretty tricky roads, had a nice dinner with the folks from Harry Searle Branch #5, Royal Canadian Legion, and made the presentation of a Colonel Commandant's letter (which had been framed for the presentation) and a Colonel Commandant's Coin to Mr Bruce McCarthy. The members of the Legion and especially Bruce McCarthy were most pleased and LCol Golder reported that both the coin and the gesture of such a presentation were most appreciated by all in attendance. They were assured that these symbols of recognition will be prominently displayed at Branch #5, Chapleau, on special occasions and the coin and presentation of same will be cherished by Bruce McCarthy, who was very surprised and moved by the event. Several members of the local community including a representative from the Mayors office were there and expressed appreciation also.

Colonel Commandant's Coin



Dues - 2011

Dues for 15Fd Officers Mess Associates and RUSI Vancouver members are due on Jan 1st 2011. Please note that both organizations, after many years, raised the dues amounts last year. Officers Mess Members will now pay \$60.00 per year and RUSI members will now pay \$25.00 per year.

Upcoming Events

The Welch Men's Choir

Many past and current members of this well known Vancouver Choir are also members of the Officers Mess. They would be delighted to have you attend one of their ' Sounds of Christmas' performances. There are two performances left in the series.

Saturday Dec 11th at 8pm

Shaughnessy Heights United Church
1550 West 33rd Avenue, Vancouver
\$25 Regular, \$22 Senior/student

Thursday Dec 16th at 8pm

St Andrew's Wesley United Church
1022 Nelson Street, Vancouver
\$25 Regular, \$22 Senior/student

Tickets On Line : www.vwmc.ca
or phone the Choir: (604)878-1190



THE BRITISH COLUMBIA REGIMENT (DCO) ASSOCIATION



You are invited to the

2010 Annual Christmas Fundraiser

When: Thursday, December 9, 2010

Time: 11:30 AM – Doors Open

Lunch: Served from 12:15 to 12:30 PM,
followed by Silent Auction and Raffle

Where: The Drill Hall
Home of The British Columbia Regiment (DCO)
620 Beatty Street,
Vancouver, BC

Tickets: \$35.00

Menu: Turkey - With all the trimmings!

- Silent Auction!
- The usual valuable lucky prize draws!
- If you can't attend, a donation is welcomed.*
- Funds raised help to pay for the Christmas Dinner for Vancouver's Homeless, to be held Saturday, December 11th, as well as to fund Association Bursaries, Commemorative events and numerous other projects of The BC Regiment (DCO) Association Charitable Trust.
- Enjoy great company, good food & have fun while helping a worthy cause.



RSVP by Monday, December 2nd, 2010 to:

Gayle Hawthorne 604-421-1521 or e-mail to: ghawthorne@shaw.ca

* Please send any cheques to: The BC Regiment (DCO) Association Charitable Trust,
c/o #208, 1899 Willingdon Avenue, Burnaby, B. C. V5C 5T1

Naden Band Christmas Concert - Thursday 9 December

On Dec 9th the **Naden Band** of Maritime Forces Pacific will perform their annual **Christmas Concert** in Vancouver. This great event will wrap up the Navy's Centennial year in Vancouver.

It will be a wonderful evening with top notch singers and performers and all the proceeds benefit the **Salvation Army**.

- Where: **Vogue Theatre, 918 Granville Street, Vancouver.**
- When: **9 December 2010, 7:30pm.**
- Admission: **\$10 for adults, \$5 for children and a new unwrapped toy.**
- Box Office Info: Tickets on sale now at the **Vogue Theatre Box Office** (604) 569-1144. Tickets can also be purchased online at www.voguetheatre.com. Box office is open daily, please call for hours.

HMCS Discovery Wardroom Christmas Party - Friday 10 December

Bar open from 1800. Food and music commencing at 1900. Dress is business casual. Open to members, past members, associate members, NOABC, RNSA and guests. There will be hot finger food and cheese trays and a piano player for carols.

Dec 12th - The annual Commanding Officers Tea. Always a favourite. This afternoon cocktail party starts around 1330hrs and goes to around 1700hrs. Cost includes sherry, Mrs Lum's delicious hors d'oeuvres, as well as coffee and tea served by Regimental Ladies. The Regimental Band is sending one of its combos, the Quay Winds, to entertain us as we mingle. The bar will be open for those of you who want more than sherry. Dress is semi-formal – suit and tie (or Regimental blazer and tie) and Cocktail dresses for the Ladies. Tariff, payable at the door, not yet fixed but was \$15.00ea last year. A sign up sheet will be posted in the Mess shortly. (we need to know the number of attendees so Mrs Lum can produce enough of her famous hors d'oeuvres.)

January 1st, 2011 - New Years Levee. Another good day for former members to meet. Officers and Snr NCOs exchange New Years greetings around 1100hrs then a light lunch is served, starting around noon. Lots of consommé (peppered sherry on the side) and moose milk for those who overindulged the night before. The Mess is open to around 1600 hrs although it is pretty well deserted by 1500hrs. Normal Mess dress applies for civilians, retired military personnel should wear Regimental Blazer and slacks with medals.

Jan 15th, 2011 - Robbie Burns Event. The *Robbie Burns Supper* will be held in the *BCIT Aerospace Hanger* in Richmond. Doors open at 1800hrs and dinner commences at 1900hrs. An entertaining evening with great food, haggis, and most importantly, good Scotch. Great Scottish tales and music is guaranteed. Get your tickets before Dec 10th for \$90pp after that, tickets will be \$100. All proceeds will go to the Regimental Trust.

A reminder to those of you who are thinking of attending the Burns Supper on January 15, 2011.

No tickets will be sold at the door nor will money be collected at the door.

All reservations must be paid in advance.

Parking at BCIT Aerospace Centre is free for the Burns Night. Do not plug the meter.

RSVP by December 30, 2010

Please send your cheques, payable to 15th Field Regimental Society
c/o Grant Smith, 7460 Sunnybank Ave, Richmond BC V6Y 1G5

The Military Ball - The Vancouver Garrison Officers Society is pleased to announce that the date for the 2011 Military ball has been set. The Ball will be held at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver on Saturday, May 21st, 2011. Mark your calendars now!

MFRC Christmas Party



Christmas Party!

All CF members, non-military friends and kids are invited to come to MFRC's annual Christmas Party!!

Sunday, December 12th 2010

1:00pm - 4:00pm

39 Brigade, Jericho Mess
4050 West 4th Avenue, Vancouver

Crafts for kids, snacks and take your picture with Santa!
ALSO, don't miss out on the
professional magician performing tricks from 2-3PM.

Cookie Exchange!

Make a batch of cookies, bars or squares and bring them to our Christmas Cookie Exchange! For every dozen cookies that you bring, you can take home a dozen of someone else's favourites.

Be sure to include a copy of the recipe.

>>> Cookie Exchange will begin at 3:00PM