

# RCHA Brigade Association Second Monthly Newsletter

## Club News & Views October 2010 Issue

### Current Club Happenings

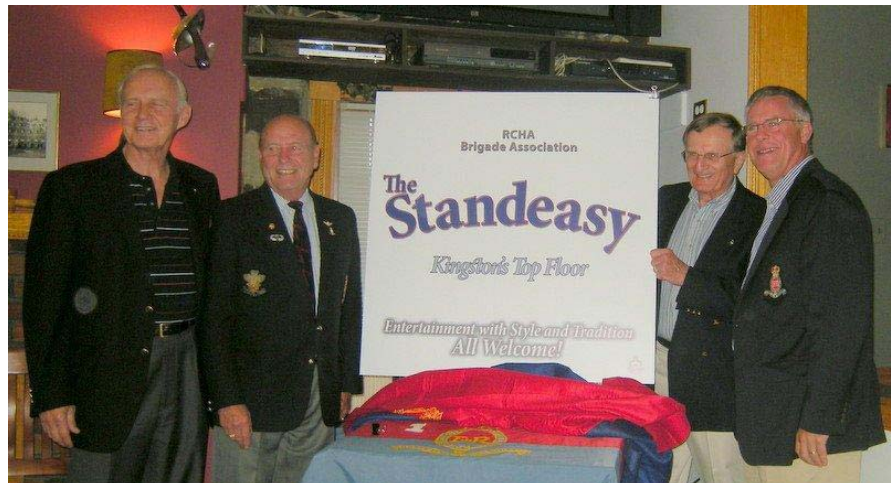
*By Linda J Cameron, Editor*

#### RCHA Top Floor Nicknamed "Standeasy"

Gunner dignitaries, Gunners of the Canadian Army Staff College Course Class of 69 – 70 and their ladies, plus members and supporters of the RCHA Club celebrated the unveiling of the signage and naming of Kingston RCHA Club's top floor on Saturday, September 4, 2010 at 18:30 hrs. The Third Club Floor has been named **The Standeasy**, a term familiar to military personnel and representing a place of relaxation and camaraderie.

Rod Matheson, retired gunner, Lieutenant-Colonel and Vice Chair of the RCHA Brigade Association spoke of the enthusiasm and the great volunteer work that has been going on in efforts to revitalize a great club. "**The Standeasy** creates a welcoming link between Kingston's civilian and military communities," says Rod.

Dignitaries attending and taking part in the unveiling of the new sign included Brigadier-General, Ernest Beno, the Colonel Commandant of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery, retired Colonel George Oehring, President of the Kingston Gunner's Association and retired gunner Lieutenant-Colonel, Bob Chamberlain.



Lieutenant-Colonel Bob

Chamberlain gave a summary of the RCHA Brigade Association and the changes it has undergone since its 1947 establishment. Brigadier-General Beno spoke of the importance of the Gunner tradition and maintaining a connection to the current generation of Gunners and soldiers who represent Canada across the world. Colonel Oehring explained the significance of the term Standeasy to the military, particularly the Gunners.

**The Standeasy at the RCHA Club** provides a great venue for some of the best musical entertainment in Kingston. **The Standeasy or Second Floor** can be rented at a nominal cost for Christmas Parties, Office Parties, Birthday or Anniversary Celebrations. The rooms hold over 65 & 35 persons respectively. **The Standeasy** is licensed. Light meals are available or food can be brought in or ordered in.

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New membership from military and civilian women and men is invited and reasonably priced at \$100 per year. Monthly events are regular Club offerings plus entertainment is now available five evenings per week. **Oktoberfest** tickets are currently being sold at the Club for a fun night on October 2. **The German Annual Celebration** will include authentic German cuisine plus an Oompah band. Tickets are going fast at only \$15. To find out more about the Club upcoming events and current happenings or to join call **613-542-8152**.

### **Board Presents James Boileau with Appreciation Membership for 2011**

September was a very busy and successful month. August 30 before the first day of September, a friendship celebration and a farewell to the RCHA Club was hosted by James Boileau. James spent the summer in beautiful Kingston to be close to his daughter in Brockville. He left for his Victoria home early September promising to return soon to his new found friends at the RCHA Club.

Before James left he “put on a spread”, as he described it for all of us. It was some ‘wonderful spread’. The food was amazing and beautifully presented—all made or put together by James. We are all anxious for him to return not only because he is a great cook and an exceptionally nice man but because of his momentous contribution to the Club he made in his short time visiting Kingston.



James is responsible, along with his capable helper, Assistant Board Chair, Rod Matheson, for the sound speakers in our entrance and the lowered wall barriers enabling all to now see the performers. He did this on a volunteer basis spending long hours on those beneficial projects. In appreciation, the Board presented James with a membership for 2011. Return soon James!

### **First Wine Tasting Social a Big Hit**

About 30 wine enthusiasts gathered at **The Standeasy** to test six vintage wines on Monday, September 13 at 5:30 p.m. The various wines came from France, Spain, Australia and New Zealand. There were selections of both white and red appealing to every palate. A selection of cheese, fruit and crackers to accompany the wine was enjoyed by those in attendance. A favourite red wine choice was Cotes du Rhone from France. The wine social will be a regular event.



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The wine cost \$7 per glass but half glasses of two different wines could be purchased for the same price. Some wine lovers shared tasting of each glass of wine. A bottle of special Bordeaux wine was raffled off. Gayle Caldwell was the happy winner of the bottle of red wine. Via Rail contest tickets were sold at the event and the winner was drawn by Kevin Brown. The lucky winner, to be featured next issue, will be heading off to Halifax compliments of VIA & The RCHA Club.



Non-members attending the tasting were invited to join the Wine Tasting Club at the RCHA and to become members. Many heard of the upcoming event through receiving a copy of the new monthly newsletter electronically or by picking up a copy at the Club. The monthly newsletter has been enthusiastically received and is a great promotional tool for the RCHA Club.

## Board Briefs

*by Rod Matheson*

### Bar Operations

Bar Operations are going well. August was a good month, particularly for a summer month--for some--the best in recent memory! Trends are starting to emerge with respect to the consumption of products. There are increasing numbers of wine drinkers. Imported beers are hot sellers. We will be introducing new products and likely fading others out. Bar Fare (Food) is in the early stages of research and trials. There have been several suggestions for food with a view to complementing the atmosphere of **The Standeasy**. Expect to see a few people experimenting with some proposed menu items as we develop our ideas. **We ask that each and every one of you talk enthusiastically about The Standeasy and as members support your Club by attending events and by bringing in new patrons.**

### Historical Committee

Work is being done to move the best archival pictures to the Standeasy floor from the second floor. Those now hidden away will replace the removed pictures. Remember to mark your calendars to reserve **November 11, Remembrance Day**. Our Bob Chamberlain will lead the ceremonies again this year at **the RCHA Memorial in Kingston's City Park**--a great day every year.

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## Housing

There are several projects recently completed (repairing the women's' washroom, electrical work, speakers in the foyer and lowering the barrier walls in **The Standeasy** ). Special thanks to Murray Carswell, Jim Milan, Dan Bridge, Jim Sinclair and James Boileau for volunteering to do tasks or jobs for the Club. There are still more jobs to complete: painting, moving material on the Ontario Street floor and basement, removing vines, etc. If you have a pick-up truck, we really need your help to haul stuff away after a work/clean-up party. Plans are being made currently to repair **The Standeasy** washroom floor. Please sign up to volunteer and come out to your Club to help improve the look and atmosphere.

## Membership Report

*by Carol Whyman*

A warm welcome to retired gunner and Vice Chair, Rod Matheson, who has been off and running with rebuilding the Club since he joined. There are five approved membership applications pending but no new additional members for 2010 at the publishing of this newsletter. There is a New Membership Committee consisting of members: Bob Bell, Donna Bickerstaffe, Gord E. Brown, Susie Edgecombe, Brian Flynn, Rick Gill, Carl Keenan and Carol Whyman, Chair. Membership Board Liaisons are Kevin Brown and Glenna Green. Our first meeting held on September 1, 2010 with five members attending was very productive. Ongoing communication continues by e-mail to address other issues and plans for the 2011 membership drive. The notice placed in the elevator outlining the prorated dues for 2010 has generated interest. If you would like information regarding joining our great historical social club e-mail me at [whyman@kingston.net](mailto:whyman@kingston.net) or call 613-542-8152.

## Chairman's Communique

*by Ken Edgecombe*

The last two months, August and September, have seen a lot of activity. August with the Blues Fest venue at the RCHA on both Club floors drew large numbers. The event announcing the nickname for the third floor club room **The Standeasy** was a great success attended by military dignitaries and gunners who are increasingly showing interest and support in our activities. Successful also in September was the annual **Golf Tournament and the Wine Tasting Social** to name a few. Repairs and alterations are improving sight lines in **The Standeasy** and at the same time we are doing repairs where needed to preserve our building. New events are coming such as the **First Annual Oktoberfest**... Did you get your tickets? I keep hearing from people that the atmosphere is so positive and I only have to sit and listen to our loyal supporters and the musicians as they jam, to know we are on the right track.

**UBIQUE !**

You Are Cordially  
Invited To  
**OKTOBERFEST** 2010  
At  
**"The Standeasy"**  
Top Floor RCHA Club  
Tickets \$15  
**Saturday, October 2, 6:00 pm**  
German Cuising, German Decorations  
Oompah Band



Prizes For Best German Costume!  
Celebrate, Eat, Drink, Dance—Prost!  
613-542-8152 for more info