



# *RCHA Life & Times News Brief*

*(Supplement to the Fall Newsletter 2011)*

*By Linda J Cameron, Publisher, Editor*

## **Honourary & Active RCHA Club Member, Brigadier-General (Retired) Ernest B. Beno, leaves October 1, as Colonel Commandant of The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery after Serving Four Years in this Important Appointed Role**



Speaking at the RCHA Club recently with Brigadier-General (Retired) Ernest Beno or Ernie, as he likes to be called by friends and colleagues, he discussed his life and many years as a gunner. I asked him what his plans were after his retirement as Colonel Commandant of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery. He smiled and responded, "Once a gunner, always a gunner!" Certainly, he will continue involvement in military events and RCHA and RCA celebrations. He has been an active member of The Royal Canadian Horse Artillery Brigade Association (RCHA Club) for more than 20 years.



In his recent four year role as Colonel Commandant of The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery, an honorary appointment, he travelled extensively visiting Canadian Gunners on operations in Afghanistan four times, had an audience with Queen Elizabeth II, and placed Artillery monuments in The Netherlands and Juno Beach, Normandy France. He greatly enjoyed visiting Canada's more than 20 Artillery Regiments and meeting Gunners, serving and retired, everywhere.



Born in Windsor, Ontario, Beno joined the reserves at 16 and the regular force at 18. He had uncles and great-grandfathers in the military. Asked why he selected the army over air force or navy he replied that he always wanted to be in the army. Soldiers serving in the artillery with guns have the best of technology, the best of soldiering, and it's always exciting. Beno's most positive experience was his role as Commanding Officer of 2 RCHA in Petawawa. He appreciated having the ability to train the regiment for operations plus having them connect with Canadians. The regiment was granted freedom of the City in Kingston in 1983." The experience was a reminder of our roots in the RCHA formed in Kingston over 100 years ago," he says.

Married to his wife, Mia, who has taught for more than 20 years in Kingston, with ten at Regiopolis, retired six years ago, the couple, has no family but students and soldiers have filled that role for both of them. Beno says he has accomplished 98 percent of his goals. He points out that we have lost eight gunners in Afghanistan. He says the repatriation memories are heart wrenching: watching family members grieve the loss of their sons, daughters or fathers or mothers.

He is proud to celebrate the great accomplishments of soldiers and the service of those gone before them. He is happy to see a significant number of women as gunners. "I am pleased to see the RCHA Club gaining momentum. I will continue to support the Club and encourage active members of the military to participate" he concludes.



Lieutenant Colonel, Denis Crowe, a Korean War Veteran states: "I can suggest no more accolades except that Ernest Beno was a first class regimental officer, battery commander, regimental commander and finally Colonel Commandant of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery and his efforts will be sorely missed."

## Honourary & Active RCHA Club Member, Brigadier-General (Retired) Ernest B. Beno (continued)...

Brigadier-General, Retired, Ernest B. Beno, OMM, CD: My Message of Thanks-End of Mission.

See: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HOPkqo-gxwA>.

**(Editor's Note: "It was a pleasure speaking to you Brigadier-General (Retired) Ernest Beno at the RCHA Club. Thank you for your significant contribution to the military and the best to you in your future ventures.")**

### A MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS

Ernest B. Beno, Brigadier-General, Retired, has served as Colonel Commandant of the Royal Regiment of the Canadian Artillery for the past four years, and as such, recognized as an Honourary member of the RCHA Brigade Association. Ernest Beno also supports the Association by maintaining his annual Active Membership. On behalf of the RCHA Brigade Association Board of Directors and Members, we congratulate Brigadier-General, Retired, Ernest Beno on his tenure as the Colonel Commandant of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery and wish him well in his second retirement.

Best regards,

Ken Edgecombe  
Chair, Board of Directors

Please see links below to connect with Brigadier-General (rtd) Ernest Beno's website and personal links:

Artillery Website: [www.artillery.net](http://www.artillery.net);

The Netherlands, 5 May 2010: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UQOL5LnTgBU&feature=related>;

Juno Beach, 6 June 2010: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=twiZOUmbbs8&feature=related>;

Remembrance Day 2011: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dcEWQqKurUA>;

Afghanistan, May 2011: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WLditL11DAY>;

Juno Beach, 6 June 2011: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E0uWjfQoQNw&NR=1>;

Fortissimo, Ottawa, 12 August 2011: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aldQisaigE>.



### Remembrance Day 11 November 2011

**Members and friends of the RCHA Club are invited to attend the Memorial Service at Cataraqui Cemetery organized by RCHA Member Lieutenant Colonel, Retired, Bob Chamberlain on Thursday, 10 November, at 10:30 a.m.**

**On Friday, 11 November, at the RCHA National Memorial in City Park at 10:45 a.m., Bob Chamberlain will again chair this memorable service supported by 2 RCHA from Petawawa. All are invited. After the service everyone is invited to the RCHA Club. From 1-4 p.m. Michael Myers will perform songs from the "War Years".**

### Mindfulness (A poem by Cori Mayhew)

History repeats itself, let us not forget.

Now we recall with digital time,  
Our cell phones, computers, new  
technical apps for signals,  
drones and artillery.

But our minds remember the most,  
Mud, heat, other eyes. Visions slice  
Through your thoughts of war torn  
Images I can not imagine.

Let us help you at home.

Let us remember.

Let us not forget.