



RCHA Brigade Association First Monthly Newsletter

Club News & Views September 2010 Edition

Current Club Happenings

A meeting held on Thursday, July 26, 2010 to decide the fate of the first floor resulted in an overwhelming decision by members to lease out the first floor to a suitable tenant to keep the Club viable. The Board at the meeting presented two options: To keep the ground floor and renovate to operate as a restaurant/bar and the second option was to lease the floor to a suitable tenant. The cost estimates for both options were clearly outlined. The first choice would have been more costly requiring hiring restaurant managers, more staff and would take away the private exclusiveness of the Club. The second option was the preferred choice of the members and the Board so this will now be pursued.

Entertainment

The Club now offers great entertainment five nights per week thanks to the hard work and efforts by Frank Kenchington, Chair of Entertainment. According to Frank this increase in entertainment has increased attendance at the Club. This in turn has contributed to an increase in membership. Future plans include an increase in events appealing to everyone and music for all tastes. This should overall help increase the membership to a healthy sustainable level.

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Jack Troughton, Jon McLurg & Tony Davis perform at the Club

Membership Report by Carol Whyman

Welcome to the 35 new Members/ Associates plus two new Corporate Associates to the RCHA Club as of August 2010.

Welcome: Malcolm Bowie-Reed, Gord E. Brown, Vanessa Burnett, Janice Couch, Matthew Davis, Nancy Day, Sally Dupras, Liana Finucan, Brian Flynn, Henry Frampton, Rick Gill, Alan Gillespie, Barbara Gillespie, Hank Hankes-Drielsma, Kevin Head, Terry Healey, Frank Huntley, Michael Jenkins, Carl Keenan, David Last, Laurie Lewis, Tracie Maynes, Jonathan McLurg, Rick Melanson, Richard Page, Karen Peperkorn, Mary Peters-Clay, Theresa Richard, Donald Scott, Jim Simmonds, John Somerville, Christina Tracy, Beare Weatherup, Mike Zapotichny. New Corporate Associates are: Bendale Property Management and Kingston Panthers Rugby Football Club.

For 2011, the Board has approved a reduction in individual fees to \$100 for membership to make it easier for more people to join our great Club. As well, they will be submitting a motion for approval at the annual meeting on October 28, 2010 to change the Membership year to November 1—October 31. A new **Membership Committee** is having an initial meeting on September 1, 2010. If you have ideas and/ or would like to participate as a member of the committee please contact me by e-mail as show below.

Since the Board has approved the policy to prorate new membership/associate fees on a quarterly basis, anyone who wishes to join in 2010 may now do so for \$75—expiring December 31, 2010. So invite your friends to join us.

Chair, Carol Whyman at whyman@kingston.net

Membership continues to grow thanks to Carol Whyman's efforts. Many former members have renewed or rejoined impressed with the effort of the New Board's positive and innovative ideas for the future growth and prosperity of this great historical Club in the heart of downtown Kingston. (Editor)

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Board Briefs by Rod Matheson



Cindy, Bar Steward par excellence serves wine to guests

Bar Operations

Bar operations are the primary function and source of revenue for the Club. Over the past four months, since the Club reopened, the New Board and selected committee members have been monitoring Bar Operations with a view to making some improvements and to revise procedures. Bar operations need to be simple and efficient to serve all who attend at the Club. Inventory, stock taking, efficiencies in purchasing

products are a priority. There are plans to improve stock security and to offer more variety of new and popular products. The Bar Operations Committee is in negotiations and is currently researching re-instating a food menu to the Bar service. As of August 31, 2010 there will also be a new Bar Menu price list reflecting a small increase to cover the increasing costs of operating the Club. This may cause some concern to some patrons but the modest increase is necessary. Members who wish to make suggestions may put these ideas in writing and submit them to the Bar Stewards.

Housing

As with many old historical buildings, there are plenty of things to maintain and repair. Often problems are substantial and remedies expensive. For example: the air conditioning failure during some of our hottest days in July 2010. The Club Third Floor is our "show case" and priority for most repairs and improvements. When funds are available, the plan is to start 'sprucing up' the third and second floors.

As stated at the beginning of the newsletter, we are in the process of finding a suitable tenant for the first floor on Ontario Street. There has been increased interest in the site. When we do lease the first floor, furniture will have to be moved to the basement to open up space for the tenant.

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Some of you will have heard of our plans to nickname the third floor. This would make the Club more inclusive and attractive to more guests and new members. Virtually everyone who has discussed the nickname idea has been very positive about this change (including some local VIP Gunners). Therefore, the Board plans to proceed with the naming of the third floor sometime early in September 2010.

Historical Committee

The Historical Committee has been relatively dormant over the past several months. Discussions are taking place on an 'as it happens' basis but there are no really significant issues to deal with at this time. When we have interesting displays, we intend to re-mount the shadow boxes. Many pictures from the second floor are now displayed on the third floor, our showcase floor. We intend to reserve a display area on the wall behind where the musicians perform called the "Rogues Gallery" to showcase our performers. Note that the RCA Band photo from the early 20th century is the first picture mounted on the musicians Rogues Gallery wall. There have been recent hints of increased local Gunner interest in the Club and so who knows what further Historical Committee developments may result.

Chairman's Communiqué by Ken Edgecombe

First and foremost I want to make sure everyone knows the Association is moving forward. We are resolving a number of issues and rebuilding our main source of revenue, the Clubroom operations.

I would also like to thank all those who have contributed in so many ways to help bring the Association back on track. We still have a lot to do and the future is looking brighter. The Committees are up and running, discussing new ideas and developing proposals of action. New events are being planned and implemented and we see attendance going up. To be blunt, if we all pull together, the RCHA Club has a bright future. Please come out to attend and support events and volunteer utilizing your unique skills to help us build on what we have--a great social club.

All the best! Ubique!

Ken

Editor's Note by Linda J Cameron: Promotions and Special Events and Monthly Entertainment /Events by Carol Whyman will be presented as an Insert to keep and refer to for future events information