



# Royal City Men's Club

## Minutes

Thursday, November 9, 2023

President Bob Berry opened the meeting at 9:55 am. The room was festooned with poppies as a reminder of Remembrance Day. Robert Denis and Bob Berry took part in a very impactful reading of the poem In Flanders Fields, both in French and English. Julian Sale provided appropriate pictures on the screen.

### Announcements

1. This Saturday, a Remembrance Day Ceremony will be held at the Sleeman Centre, followed by lunch at Diana's Restaurant. Those members attending are reminded to meet at the Macdonell street entrance at 9:50am.

President Bob Berry, and Vice President Warren Gregg will present a wreath on behalf of the club.

2. Ken Marchant, our activities chair, reminded the group on three upcoming activities.

There are four Cabaret tickets left for purchase. See Ken for further details.

A reminder that the December 7th Christmas luncheon tickets are selling like hot cakes however, those will not be on the menu. Please see Ken if members would like to contribute prizes for the the ticket draws.

The Fiddler on the Roof production at the Hamilton theatre in Cambridge on December 2nd is also achieving great ticket sales. Warren spoke about 2 possible post production meal activities for interested members and guests. The two locations are: the Queens café or Wok's Taste. Please see Warren if interested.

Talk...

WWII..The Highland Light Infantry and the Guelph connection.

President Bob introduced the Speakers Committee Chair, Doug Davidson, our guest speaker today.

Doug's extensive military involvement over several decades has led him to be passionate about his Regimental history and the heroes that emerged over the years. Bob listed off Doug's many duties and accomplishments with the Infantry including rising to the highest Piper positions in the military.

Doug has graciously carried on with today's talk even though he has COVID. Julian Sale, our technical whiz, has worked diligently to ensure the success of this remote talk today. He is our unsung hero.

The talk will be available on our website for those members that may have been absent.

Some of the highlights of Doug's talk include:

1. A thorough history of the Regiment in Kitchener. The evolution of other local regiments and connections with volunteers from Guelph.

2. Doug highlighted Regimental successes during the War of 1812-1818 at Moraviantown, the Upper Canada Rebellion of 1837 preventing the escape of William Lyon MacKenzie King and numerous accomplishments during WWI.

3. WWII..The bulk of the presentation dealt with these major engagements...

D-Day..Juno Beach June 6th, 1944, the Battle of Buron July 9th, 1944 and the Battle of the Scheldt in Holland, particularly the Breskens Pocket and the 3rd division water rats.

Doug described these engagements and battle situations and then brought it closer to home as he illustrated a European reunion of the veterans to these areas that Doug also attended. It was a very emotional time as he showed pictures of the various heroes and he shared the fact that he was the piper that attended to their funerals.

Warren Gregg later described this as the best Remembrance Day talk he has experienced.

As a result of their successes and being the first Canadian Regiment to cross the Rhine they were awarded the word "Royal" to be attached to the name of their Regimental name.

Members were reminded that Ken McGoogan's talk on the Canadian north in two weeks will include some books for sale..including his just finished book on the Franklin expedition. Timely for Christmas gifts.

The meeting adjourned at 11:01