



*Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow:*  
*Celebrating our Heritage; Securing the Future*  
*The Royal Canadian Artillery Heritage Campaign*

## *The Royal Canadian Artillery Heritage Program and Campaign*

### **In a nutshell**

**The purpose of the Royal Canadian Artillery (RCA) Heritage Program is to celebrate our heritage, enable those who serve today, and secure the future for those to come.**

The Heritage Program is not about the operational elements of the Royal Canadian Artillery. It is about the informal institution - the extended Regimental Family - which stands behind the serving soldiers and their units and promotes their efficiency and welfare.

#### **And that means...**

It is about celebrating our heritage and, in so doing, honouring the service, commitment and sacrifice of the Gunners throughout our shared Canadian history. It is about their contribution to Canada and telling their stories.

It is about enabling our Gunners to serve without extra worries about the home front so that duty can be the first concern.

It is about nurturing that extended Regimental Family - contributing to the pride and unity of that Family now and tomorrow with the aim of ensuring that the serving soldiers know that it will support them and their individual families in times of trial - today and tomorrow.

It is also about connecting Gunners to their fellow citizens and enabling Canadian understanding of how Gunners have contributed, and continue to contribute, to the fabric of the nation.

It is about remembering; it is about service, commitment and sacrifice; it is also about looking to the future and continuing those contributions to Canada.

**This document aims to explain how your investment in the RCA Heritage Campaign will ensure that we are able to continue to honour the service, commitment and sacrifice, now and for future generations. Please give generously.**

*Royal Canadian Artillery Heritage Campaign*

## *Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow: Celebrating our Heritage; Securing the Future*

### *The Royal Canadian Artillery Heritage Campaign*

"To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high."

*In Flanders Fields*

John McCrae, Major, Brigade Surgeon and Second-in-Command, 1st Brigade,  
Canadian Field Artillery, Canadian Expeditionary Force, May 1915

### ***The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery - A Proud Family***

The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery has two mottos: "Ubique" (Everywhere) and "Quo Fas et Gloria Ducunt" (Whither Right and Glory Lead). "Ubique" takes the place of all battle honours in recognition of the artillery's service in all battles and campaigns. "Quo Fas et Gloria Ducunt" is the fundamental vision of service held by Canada's Gunners. These honours were bestowed by His Majesty King George V in 1926.

The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery - The RCA - is a Family. It includes regular force and reserve, serving and retired, officers and non-commissioned members, associations of veterans, distinguished citizens acting as Honorary Colonels and Lieutenant Colonels, as well as our families, friends and supporters. The soldiers of The RCA, Canada's Gunners, men and women of all ages and origins, serve Canada selflessly. As a community, we recognize the need to build on our successes in operations and we acknowledge the need to promote the well-being of the Regimental Family.

The RCA Heritage Program supports The RCA by nurturing the Family, by celebrating our heritage and by connecting with Canadian society. To that end, we are undertaking fund-raising - the RCA Heritage Campaign - to provide the financial resources necessary to achieve those goals.

Our purpose here is to explain why that is important and to seek your support. We appeal to Canadians, to our families, friends and supporters as well as to our members - serving, retired, honorary - to invest in this exciting project.

### ***The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery - Proud Canadians***

The Gunner Family is present in our communities from coast to coast to coast. Gunners come from Fogo Island and from Halifax, St John, Summerside and Lévis, as well as Brantford, Brandon, Saskatoon, Lethbridge and Quesnel. They come from or live in dozens of other communities across the land - west to east and south to north. They serve in many other locations here and abroad. Those Gunners hold firm a deeply felt moral obligation to honour the sacrifice of those who have served before them and to assist their families when needed. The Gunners of the past marched off to serve at Canada's command just as the Gunners of today do now and those of tomorrow will do, in their turn. To devote themselves unhesitatingly to their task they must know that their families will be supported should that be

necessary and that they themselves will be aided should they return wounded. They serve Canada; the well-being of Canada and Canadians is their goal.

## ***The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery - A Heritage of Service, Commitment, and Sacrifice***

Canada's Legislature passed the Militia Act of 1855 authorizing the first paid military force of 5,000 men. Four of the original seven batteries of artillery created by that Act are perpetuated by Reserve Force batteries today in Ottawa, Montreal, Lévis and Hamilton. The first two units of today's full-time regular Canadian Forces were A and B Batteries in Kingston and Quebec. Created in 1871, on the withdrawal of British military units from most of Canada, both remain a proud part of Canada's Army.

By the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, some 43,900 soldiers had served in The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery, almost 7% of total enlistments in Canada's military. Of them, 2,565 made the supreme sacrifice and 8,066 were injured, many grievously. Their comrades-in-arms resolved to remember.

Some 52,000 Gunners served overseas during World War II and a further 37,000 were employed in Home Defence and training duties in Canada, over 8% of total Canadian enlistments. Of them 2,073 gave their lives for Canada and 4,373 were injured. The Gunners have served in Korea, the Cold War and in peacekeeping operations throughout the world, suffering another 47 dead. Today they serve in Afghanistan. There, seven Gunners have made the supreme sacrifice.

The Gunners have been employed in traditional combat duties and, also, in recent years in non-traditional civil-military co-operation tasks in Afghanistan seeking to develop a more secure future for that troubled land. Tomorrow and beyond, the men and women of The RCA will go, as they have gone throughout our history, wherever Canada calls - Ubique.

Did you know that "Scotty" of Star Trek fame was a Gunner? James Montgomery Dooohan served during World War II in 13 Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery and, later in the war, flew as an Air Observation Post pilot with the Gunners.

Following their military service, Gunners have often gone on to serve this nation in other ways. Lieutenant-Colonel GA French, the first Officer Commanding the RCA, went on to become the first Commissioner of the North West Mounted Police (NWMP). Sam Steele of NWMP fame was a Gunner when he transferred to the newly-formed police in 1873. Hockey legend Conn Smythe served as a Gunner in both World Wars. George Drew, a Canadian Gunner officer in World War I, served as Premier of Ontario from 1943-1948. The former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the late Right Honourable Brian Dickson served in WW II and was seriously wounded in North West Europe. Another former Chief Justice, the late Right Honourable Antonio Lamer was also a Gunner. Indeed, at one time, seven of the nine justices of the Supreme Court were Gunners. John Matheson, severely wounded in Italy, went on to become a lawyer, a judge and a Member of Parliament. He played a key role in the creation of our beloved Maple Leaf flag and in the development of the Order of Canada. Canadian Senator, Lieutenant General the Honourable Romeo Dallaire, who commanded the UN Force in Rwanda, is also a Gunner.

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Those serving today will, likewise, follow the footsteps of their forebears in service to Canada, in uniform and afterward. It is an honourable heritage.

Over 60 years after the end of World War II, the RCA Museum was contacted by an elderly lady - the widow of a Gunner killed in September 1944. For years she had been bothered by conflicting information she received after he died. The telegram from the Army correctly indicated that he had been killed in action but her undelivered letters to him were returned stamped POW for Prisoner of War. Had he been executed by ruthless captors? His unit is part of the Reserve Force today. The unit holds the war diaries from WW II and was able to help her by getting the entry from that day, clearly showing that he was killed in action. The telegram was correct. It is a deeply felt moral duty that leads us to do everything we can to find an answer such as this - to restore peace of mind.

Today, Artillery units are to be found across the land from the west coast to the east. They serve on operations abroad, as well as at home. At home they answer the call to assist in the control of avalanches in Rogers Pass, B.C. every year, as well as protecting our citizens against floods, or forest fires, or any calamity, whenever and wherever disaster strikes.

Canada's Gunners have served honourably on every battlefield of the Canadian Forces since their formation, from the muddy, gas-filled trenches and fields of France and Flanders to the beaches of Sicily, Italy and Normandy, to the frozen hills of Korea and today in the heat and dust of Afghanistan. The Royal Regiment also regularly deploys soldiers in peacekeeping and other operations worldwide, from Cyprus to Bosnia-Herzegovina, to individual deployments in operations such as Haiti and Congo.

All of those soldiers, past and present, have continued the resolve to remember. We must, however, work to ensure that the service of those who went before is remembered by all Canadians and to ensure that we secure the future for those who return from conflict wounded and that we are there to support Gunner families as long as we are needed.

### ***The Importance of The RCA Heritage Campaign and Program***

The RCA presents an unbroken thread of service to Canada from the earliest days of our history. The Regimental Family is an integral part of Canada's cultural and historical fabric and it resides in communities, large and small, across the land. The beneficiaries of that service and commitment and sacrifice are all of us - all Canadians.

Many things are done to preserve and celebrate that heritage, but much more needs to be done in some areas if we are to honour the service, commitment and sacrifice of Canada's Gunners properly. For this, we turn to our supporters within the Regimental Family and across Canada.

The purpose of the Heritage Program is to celebrate our heritage, enable those who serve today, and secure the future for those to come. The Heritage Program is not about the operational elements of the Royal Canadian Artillery. It is about the informal institution - the extended Regimental Family - which stands behind the serving soldiers and their units. By celebrating our heritage we honour the service, commitment and sacrifice of Gunners throughout our shared Canadian history. We are telling the story of their contribution to Canada. By nurturing that extended Regimental Family - contributing to the

## Draft - Preliminary Case for Support May 2011

pride and unity of that Family now and tomorrow with the aim of ensuring that the serving soldiers know that it will support them and their individual families in times of trial, today and tomorrow - we enable the Gunner to serve without extra worries about the home front so that duty can be the first concern. It is also about connecting Gunners to their fellow citizens and enabling Canadian understanding of how Gunners have contributed, and continue to contribute, to the fabric of the nation. While we remember the service, commitment and sacrifice, we are also looking to the future to facilitate the continuation of those contributions to Canada.

The Heritage Campaign is largely run by volunteers. It aims to fund key initiatives including:

- **Regimental Family Support** - We seek to provide support, both moral and concrete, to our soldiers and their families when needed, for example, by helping families in financial distress through emergency grants. We also assist the next generation with the financial burden of post-secondary education through the award of bursaries. Those are now available and we seek to enhance these services. Sometimes it is a matter of ensuring only that we have available volunteers to pass news. Our units and local associations do this. They ensure that friends know when someone is admitted to hospital and that old comrades are kept up to date across this country. Other groups may also take on more significant tasks. One that is particularly important today is advocacy for the wounded. A volunteer group is examining how to establish a reliable ability to guide those needing assistance to the proper service agencies. As we find ways to do this, we will seek to provide further support to our wounded and all our families in time of need.

In 2010, the family of a man from the United Kingdom contacted Regimental Headquarters asking for assistance in locating a long lost family member. His mother married a Canadian Gunner in 1943. The man, child of a previous marriage, remained in the UK with his grandparents and soon lost touch with his mother when she left for Canada. Regimental Headquarters was able to assist the family in re-establishing contact which culminated in a visit to the man's Canadian relatives in 2011.

Since 2004, The RCA has awarded over 80 bursaries (usually of \$500 each) to deserving family members pursuing post-secondary education. Most recipients are young adults. We seek to make education more affordable for all families and our youth. As resources permit, we will seek to expand this program.

- **Public Awareness and Engagement** - We seek to inform and educate about the contributions of those who have served. In this we seek to engage all our families and friends and supporters and, indeed, all Canadians. The RCA will gladly provide veterans to speak to community or school groups. The RCA seeks to broaden the understanding of the costs and importance of the commitments that these soldiers, Canada's young adults, men and women of all backgrounds and origins, have made and will continue to make in the service of the nation.

We are also creating new and exciting initiatives. Some of these projects will need multi-year funding.

- **Expanding The Regimental Family Support Program** - We seek to be able to provide more substantial assistance to members in need, such as our wounded and ill. Currently, we are able to provide one time grants of approximately \$500, but are unable to commit more to ensure a lasting contribution to the quality of life of someone who needs our help.

Over the past eight years, The RCA has provided approximately 40 emergency grants of \$500 each to assist soldiers or their families in distress. A common case involves a young soldier (single or married) unexpectedly suffering the death of a close relative living in another area of Canada. Travel costs can be significant and may impose a financial hardship. Another common case occurs when serious illness puts a severe strain on family finances. In such cases, we seek to make trying times a bit easier for our members. Our aim is to have available resources to meet these needs more fully than we can today.

- **The Regimental History, *The Gunners of Canada, Volume 3*** - We seek to engage the memories of the shared experience, hardships and dangers endured by those who have served. We want to interpret and tell their stories, and record that history for the future. A major undertaking during the period 2011 and 2017 will be the research, writing and publication in both English and French of Volume III of *The Gunners of Canada*. This Volume will chronicle the Regimental history from Centennial Year, where Volume II concluded, through the end of the Cold War, the years of heavy peace support commitments and conflict which followed and onward to the conflict in Afghanistan. It will preserve this Canadian history for future generations.

Since 2007, the RCA has been engaged in recording the history of the Gunner contributions to the war in Afghanistan. *With a Few Guns* will be published in English and French in the 2015-2017 period. The story of these modern heroes, mastering a whole new set of techniques and skills in a counter insurgency against a resourceful and ruthless enemy will inspire us all.

- **Support of Museums, Archival and Restoration Projects** - We seek to support those who are actively working to preserve the physical elements of that history - the museums in our Canadian Artillery Museums Association (CAMA). Another one of our efforts between 2011 and 2017 is to create an endowment fund to provide a modest restoration, collection management and archival budget of \$20,000 annually. It is intended that this fund be available in perpetuity to support The RCA Museum and the members of CAMA across the country. This endowment will help us to classify, record and protect documents and artefacts, which are significant elements of both Gunner and Canadian history. We will expand this endowment over time.

Paper records from World War I will soon be 100 years old and are deteriorating. One of those future projects that we wish to pursue is the digitization of records held in our units and museums - so that when asked about a family concern we will be able to help find the answer well into the future, as we have done from paper records until now.

- **Living History** – We seek to support initiatives from within the CAMA to take history to more Canadians through dynamic and static displays and presentations at community events. Making

## Draft - Preliminary Case for Support May 2011

history a part of the life of our communities honours those who served before and builds support for those who serve today.

All these, and future projects yet to be developed, require funding. The major undertakings described above will require about \$1.25 million by 2017. That sounds like a lot but just to create the modest endowment fund we have described requires us to raise half a million dollars by 2017. We also have additional heritage projects being developed, which will require funding if they are to be completed. To enable us to pursue these worthy objects we appeal to Canadians, to our families, friends and supporters as well as to our members - serving, retired, honorary - for donations. Our goal in this appeal is to establish a strong, ongoing, Annual Fund-Raising campaign as well as endowing our restoration, collection management and archival capability.

### ***Your Donation Will Make a Difference***

All Canadians have an opportunity to contribute to support of The RCA Regimental Family and to the important task of recording and preserving these exciting and valuable elements of our shared history and culture. That support will enable the loyal and courageous service of our soldiers wherever their duties take them - Ubique. That investment will help fulfill our moral obligation to honour the service and the sacrifice and perpetuate the memory of those who went before and to secure the future for those who will continue to serve Canada.

If you are a serving or retired Gunner, whether you served one engagement or a career, in war or peace, your donation now will help to preserve your story of service, commitment and sacrifice as part of the cultural fabric of Canada.

"The RCA Heritage Campaign focuses on **recognizing service to Canada, recognizing the great sacrifice of Gunners in peace and war, and telling the story of The Royal Regiment.** Please join me and make your donation now."

Ernest Beno  
Brigadier General (Retired)  
Colonel Commandant  
The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery

Your donation may be made by cheque or credit card and is eligible for a tax receipt. Arranging to make a pre-authorized monthly gift is another way we can count on your ongoing support and keep our fundraising costs to a minimum. You may make an In Memoriam donation or dedicate a gift to a friend or loved one, and certain contributions can be arranged to be pledged over time. We encourage you to also consider making a planned gift, either by donating securities or by including the RCA Heritage Campaign in your will and estate planning. If you are interested in receiving more information about any of these options it is requested that you contact The RCA Regimental Headquarters:

By Mail  
ATTN: Regimental Major  
The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery  
PO Box 5000 Stn Main  
Shilo, MB R0K 2A0

or

## Draft - Preliminary Case for Support May 2011

By E-Mail

[cdnartillery@gmail.com](mailto:cdnartillery@gmail.com)

You may also make donations via the Regimental website - <http://www.artillery.net/beta/donations/>.

The Heritage Campaign is administered through The Royal Canadian Artillery Regimental Fund, which is a charitable organization registered with the Canada Revenue Agency. The charitable objects of the fund include the preservation of the heritage of The RCA.

Your donation will be acknowledged promptly and you will receive an income tax receipt for the donation. The donation will also be recorded on line and you can view the record at <http://www.artillery.net/beta/heritage-campaign-donors/>.

Your investment will ensure that we are able to continue to honour service, commitment and sacrifice now and for future generations. Please give generously.