RCA Reunion

PO Box 214

Shilo MB R0K 2A0

 January 2023

**ROYAL CANADIAN ARTILLERY REUNION 2023**

**29 JUNE-2 JULY – JOINING INSTRUCTIONS**

To All Members of The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery Family,

Believe it or not, five years have passed since the last Regimental Reunion. So, it is that time once again to gather together for the 2023 Royal Canadian Artillery (RCA) Reunion at the Home Station of The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery, Canadian Forces Base Shilo; Manitoba. The aim is to renew close friendships and relive the fine and lasting memories that we have forged over our many years of service to Canada and The RCA.

We continue to update the program based upon your feedback, so we have:

* the golf tournament on Saturday to allow more people to attend;
* kept the change from last Reunion that had an adjusted fee schedule to allow those who only wished to attend the Dinner and Dance to do so;
* kept the change from last Reunion that has a menu for Sunday’s departure to road type food for your convenience.
* kept a live firepower demonstration as part of the event; and
* opened the RCA Museum free of charge to Reunion guests.

We are only in the initial planning stages, and while we are still firming up the exact schedule, attached at ANNEX B you will find what we have planned to date. That said, there may be some minor changes in times and events before the Reunion, but we will endeavour to keep everyone up to date as changes occur. As you see by the attached schedule, we have a fun filled and exciting Reunion planned for you and hope that you can make it to sunny Shilo to meet old friends and maybe make some new ones as you reminisce about “the good old days”.

**This year, and going forward, we will not be doing a mass mail out for the Reunion Joining Instructions.** One reason is cost, and the other is with Artillery Reunions being three years apart (in this case five years) we are just not able to keep up to date mailing lists. That said, if you or anyone you know wishes to have a package mailed out we will do mailings on a request basis only. Please pass this along to anyone you know who may be interested but do not have email or access to a printer. The Joining Instructions will be available on multiple media platforms and pushed out to Gunners via electronic means. Requests can be sent to the contacts below at any time. If your call is outside of normal working hours or the contact person is not in the office when you call, just leave a message on their voice mail with a contact number or email address to get back to you.

For those wishing to register early we are accepting forms and payment now and right up to 28 June. For planning purposes, we ask that people register early, but for those who do not we will still be accepting “walk-ins”. Everyone is welcome.

As in the past, your 2023 RCA Reunion Organizing Committee is made up of volunteers and it is my pleasure to introduce them to you.

* President/Event MC – Maj Lindsay Jackson (Regimental Major RCA);
* Vice President – Maj (ret’d) Chuck Larocque;
* Secretary RCA & Registration Coord – Patsy Murphy (Mess Manager);
* Treasurer – CWO (Ret’d) Mike McEwan;
* Events Coord – Bill Lee;
* Publicity – Jules Xavier (Shilo Stag);
* OPI Sam’s Trailer Park (Base Campground) – MWO Jay Power assisted by WO (Ret’d) Paul Dolomont & Sgt Art Fleming;
* Golf Tournament Rep – Jim Mackenzie;
* Shilo Service Club Bar Mgr – Ken Wells;
* Shilo Service Club Chief Cook – WO (Ret’d) Tom Rushton;
* 1 RCHA Rep – CWO S. McGowan;
* NCO I/C Work Party – TBC; and
* RCA Museum Rep – Mr Andrew Oakden (RCA Museum Director).

You will be given a welcome package on arrival. As well, you will find some further details in the following Annexes included in this package.

List of Annexes:

A. Registration Form

B. Outline Schedule of Events

C. Motels/Hotels in the Brandon/Shilo Area

D. Local Services

Location. The RCA Reunion will be “hubbed” at Building L-25, the old drill hall. Most activity will take place there. A map of the Base will be included in your welcome package to assist you in navigating the Base.

Transportation. Travel to and from Shilo is the responsibility of those attending. We are **aiming** to provide shuttle service for the evening events, but with Knightline Bus Services closing permanently during COVID, this is still a work in progress. An update will be sent to all attendees as we continue to “work the problem”.

Accommodation. There are numerous hotels/motels available in the Shilo/Brandon area, listed at ANNEX C. Those attending the reunion are asked to book accommodations in advance and indicate if possible where they will be staying on the Registration Form, ANNEX A. This will assist us when arranging transportation. There are also a limited number of rooms available on Base and the contact information for Base Accommodations is also found at ANNEX C. Sam’s Trailer Park on Base is also available for use. It is a permanent full-service campground augmented with a temporary site that will also have water and power. There will be approximately 30 sites with allocation on a first to book basis so book early to avoid disappointment. The best way to do that is to register early and request a spot on the registration form found at ANNEX A. You will be contacted with confirmation of your booking. General Strange Hall will be open for showers during normal operating hours (see ANNEX D). Finally, you should also ask local hotels/motels if they offer a military discount because retirees and serving members are now eligible for one in most places.

Dress. Dress will be discretionary “within the limits of good taste”. There will be a GUNNERS Memorial Service on Sunday 2 July to which medals may be worn if desired. Normal relaxed dress is acceptable throughout the Reunion, and we **all** wear denim out here in The West! Just a reminder that the Shilo Country Club and the Messes have a dress code, so please adhere to them if you attend one.

Rations. Registration fees will cover the cost of:

* + BBQ supper on Thursday 29 June at the Meet & Greet, Building L-25;
	+ Banquet Supper on Friday 30 June, Building L-25;
	+ Brunch at the farewell on Sunday 2 July, Building L-25; and
	+ Coffee and tea service throughout the event.

NOTE: Other dining establishments are available at various locations on or near the Base. See ANNEX D for details.

Medical. Shilo has an on-base 911 ambulance service. They will provide on-site medical services but due to recent restrictions they cannot transport to Brandon but will arrange transport to Brandon General Hospital if required. To contact them simply dial 911.

RCA Tours and Souvenirs. The RCA Museum will be open daily, free of charge to all Reunion guests. The RCA Kit Shop will be open during the reunion for members to stock up on GUNNERS GEAR. Pop up kit shops will also be on site at the evening events. See ANNEX D for details. The RCA Kit Shop has arranged a special-order GUNNERS Under Armour Golf Shirt. These are pre-order only and must be ordered with your registration when you send it in if you wish to receive one. To receive a golf shirt, your request must be received by **31 May 2023.**

In closing, I want take this opportunity to express, on behalf of, the Commanding Officer 1st Regiment, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, LCol J. O’Donnell, your Reunion 2023 committee and indeed all members of the Home Station community, our sincere hopes that you can attend the RCA Reunion 2023. Please rest assured that we will be here working tirelessly to ensure that your visit is a memorable one.

Sincerely,

Major Lindsay Jackson

President

2023 Reunion Committee

ANNEX A

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER ATTENDING: \_\_\_MY ACCOMODATIONS ARE:­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 (Indicate here if you wish a site at Sam’s Trailer Park)

REGISTRATION FEES: **Check reunion activities below for which you wish to register**

* RCA Banquet Dinner and Dance 30 June only: Per Person $25\_\_\_\_\_
* All RCA Reunion Activities 29 June – 01 July: Per Person $45 \_\_\_\_

Price includes all functions; EXCLUDES golf tournament (pay at event).

* Under Armour GUNNERS Navy Blue Golf Shirt (Pre-order only. Given to you upon arrival in Shilo) $55 (includes the tax in price) Each. Size ­­­­­­\_\_\_\_ (S-3X)

**Must send a second cheque or money order with your registration. Make payable to The RCA Kit Shop. These are being made to order and will not be available at the kits shop. Your order must be received by 31 May 2023.**

****

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ METHOD OF PAYMENT: Check **or** Money Order

Cash only accepted at the registration desk.

Please make checks and money orders payable to **‘RCA Reunion Fund’** and mail to:

 RCA Reunion

 PO Box 214

 Shilo, MB R0K 2A0

ANNEX B

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY 29 JUNE

1000-1900 hrs - Registration desk open at the Community Centre Annex, Building L-25

1800- 0100 hrs - Meet and Greet BBQ at the Community Centre Annex, Bldg L-25. Wristbands to be worn for those attending entire event. For those who wish to only attend this event, it is free to attend, however if you wish to eat, must purchase a meal ticket at the event $20.

Museum open.

FRIDAY 29 JUNE

0900-1900 hrs - Registration desk open at the Community Centre Annex, Building L-25

1000-1400 hrs - Fire power demo. Building L-25

1800-0100 hrs - Banquet and dance at Community Centre Annex, Building L-25. Featuring Look Music DJ Services and The GUNNER band STEELE RAIN all the way from Gagetown. Wristbands to be worn. Individual tickets for this event only can also be purchased. $25

SATURDAY 01 JULY

1000 hrs - Golf tournament at the Shilo Country Club. Please be there for 0900 hrs

1200 hrs

Museum open.

1800 – 2300 hrs - Canada Celebrations in the outside areas centered around General Strange Hall, Bldg L 25 and the Jr Ranks Mess.

Dusk Fireworks IVO L25

SUNDAY 02 JULY

1000-1030 hrs – GUNNERS Memorial service. Artillery Park; and

1100-? hrs - Light lunch, good-byes and departures.

Note: This schedule of events will be updated, expanded and re-issued at the registration desk.

ANNEX C

ACCOMMODATIONS

BASE AND SPRUCEWOODS/COTTONWOODS ACCOMODATIONS

Base Accommodations

(204) 765-3000 ext 3050

+R&Q@CFB/ASU Shilo@Shilo

baseaccns.intern.mil.ca@intern.mil.ca

Sam’s Trailer Park

(Book via your registration form)

Shilo Inn **(Recently Renovated)**

119 Shilo Road, Sprucewoods

Tel: (204) 765-2157

Cottonwood Acres Bed & Breakfast

34 Poplar Ave, Cottonwood Acres, MB

Tel: (204) 763-4950

www.bedandbreakfast.mb.ca/cottonwoodacres

OTHER NEARBY CAMPGROUNDS RURAL MOTELS

**Oakland Inn**

144 4th St, Wawanesa

Tel: (204) 824-4420

**Robin’s Nest Motel & Cafe**

Trans-Canada Highway (near Carberry)

Tel: (204) 834-2878

**Carberry Motor Inn**

9 Main St, Carberry

Tel: (204) 834-2197

Fax: (204) 834-2224

**Meadowlark Campground**

1629 Middleton Ave, 100 Meadowlark Trailer Park, Brandon

Tel: (204) 728-7205

www.meadowlarkrvpark.com

**Days Inn & Motel 6 are Official Sponsors of the 2023 Artillery Reunion**

**See Their Special RCA Reunion Special Offer with the areas**

**Lowest Rates & Highest Quality Rooms & Service**



Days Inn & Suites Brandon extends a ***warm welcome*** to the **Royal Canadian Artillery Family** & offers the following special **Reunion 2023** rates.

* **Standard Rooms $99**
* **Complimentary HOT Breakfast Buffet**
* **Established Corporate Hotel Located South on HWY 10**

<http://www.days-inn-brandon.com>

Complimentary Breakfast Menu:  eggs, hash browns, sausages, fresh waffles + deluxe continental fare.

Outdoor Deck & BBQ

Neighborhood Restaurants

* T-Birds Bowling, Restaurant & Sports Bar

**Booking Instructions**

**To reserve a room at Days, please phone the hotel and quote ACCT: 627-621038 by June 15 2023.**

**204-727-3600**

**800-DAYS INN**



Motel 6 Brandon **greets** the **Royal Canadian Artillery Family** with the following special **Reunion 2023** rates.

* **Standard Rooms $90**
* **Kitchenettes $110**
* **Complimentary Breakfast Buffet**
* **New Prototype, Clean & Bright, Located North on TC HWY**
* **LOTS of Parking**

<http://www.motel6brandon.com>

Complimentary Breakfast Menu:  breads & cereals, fruits & juices, yogurt, hard boiled eggs, fresh waffles & oatmeal porridge.

Outdoor Deck & BBQ

Neighborhood Restaurants

* Boston Pizza
* McDonald’s Restaurant

**Booking Instructions**

**To reserve a room at Motel 6, please phone the hotel and quote ACCT: AGZ256 by**

**June 15 2023.**

**204-726-4000**

**800-466-8356**

**OTHER BRANDON HOTELS / MOTELS**

**Barney's Motel**

105 Middleton Avenue, R7C 1A8

TF: 1-866-825-8166

**Best Western Brandon Inn**

205 Middleton Avenue, R7C 1A8

TF: 1-855-727-7997

[www.bestwesternmanitoba.com](http://www.bestwesternmanitoba.com/)

**Canad Inns Brandon**

1125 - 18th Street, R7A 7C5

TF: 1-888-332-2623

[www.canadinns.com](http://www.canadinns.com/)

**Casa Blanca Motor Lodge**

2728 Victoria Avenue, R7B 0M8

TF: 1-888-293-9440

[www.casablancamotorlodge.ca](http://www.casablancamotorlodge.ca/)

**Colonial Inn**

1944 Queens Avenue, R7B 0T1

TF: 1-800-665-6373

[www.colonialinnbrandon.ca](http://www.colonialinnbrandon.ca/)

**Comfort Inn**

925 Middleton Avenue, R7C 1A8

TF: 1-800-228-5150 or 1-866-958-9898

[www.choicehotels.ca](http://www.choicehotels.ca/)

**Keystone Motor Inn**

1050 - 18th Street, R7A 5C1

TF: 1-877-728-6620

[www.keystonemotorinn.ca](http://www.keystonemotorinn.ca/)

**Knights Inn**

150 - 5th Street, R7A 3K4

P: 204-727-6404

[www.knightsinn.com](http://www.knightsinn.com/)

**Lakeview Inn & Suites**

1880 - 18th Street North, R7C 1A5

TF: 1-877-355-3500

[www.lakeviewhotels.com](http://www.lakeviewhotels.com/)

**Midway Motel**

1860 - 1st Street North, R7C 1A5

TF: 1-888-523-9184

**North Hill Inn**

1129 Braecrest Drive, R7C 1B1

P: 204-726-1818

**Redwood Motor Inn**

345 - 18th Street North, R7A 6Z2

TF: 1-877-728-2200

[www.redwoodmotorinn.ca](http://www.redwoodmotorinn.ca/)

**Royal Oak Inn & Suites (now Clarion)**

3130 Victoria Avenue East, R7B 0N2

TF: 1-800-852-2709

[www.royaloakinn.com](http://www.royaloakinn.com/)

**Super 8 Motel**

1570 Highland Avenue, R7C 1A7

TF: 1-800-800-8000

[www.super8brandon.com](http://www.super8brandon.com/)

**The Little Chalet**

1709 Middleton Avenue, R7C 1A7

TF: 1-866-614-7685

**Trails West Inn**

210 - 18th Street North, R7A 6P3

TF: 1-888-234-4040

[www.trailswest.mb.ca](http://www.trailswest.mb.ca/)

**Victoria Inn**

3550 Victoria Avenue, R7B 2R4

TF: 1-800-852-2710

[www.vicinn.com](http://www.vicinn.com/)

**Western Motel**

1148 - 18th Street, R7C 5C2

TF: 1-877-700-8989

[www.westernmotel.ca](http://www.westernmotel.ca/)

NOTE: All locations accept small pets.

ANNEX D

LOCAL SERVICES

CANEX SERVICES: Individual hours vary for each service provider located within the CANEX Mall. Their hours are posted at each outlet and included in your welcome package. The following services are available:

CANEX SuperMart and Gas Bar

Canada Post Office (RPO)

Garrison Grill Café

McPhail Travel/ HMS Insurance Agencies

Western Medical Clinic (walk-in clinic)

Shilo Hair Dressing & Barber Shop

‘Cursed Coffee’ specialty coffee, ice cream & hot food.

Shilo Automotive

BMO 24hr ATM (Cash only)

SHILO COUNTRY CLUB

An excellent 18 hole course with on-site Pro (two pro on staff) Pro Shop, driving range, cart rentals, club and pull cart rentals, on-course bar and food service and a full service restaurant (Rick’s Restaurant & Bar – take-out and delivery). Reduced golf rates are also offered for out of town CAF golf course members.

OFF-BASE SERVICES & SITES Of INTEREST

Esso gas bar, and convenience store

Shilo Inn Motel, Restaurant and Bar (VLTs)

Viper Auto Body & Glass

Preston’s Small Engine Repair

The Wright Shoppe (video rentals, ice cream, snack foods)

Westman Reptile Gardens

Douglas General Store

Commonwealth Air Training Plan Museum

Daly House Museum

Camp Hughes

Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada, Unit 10, 31 - 14th St, Brandon

Royal Canadian Legion Branch # 3

Note: Further info on these services will be included in your welcome package on arrival and available at the Reunion info desk located in Building L-25 throughout the Reunion.

RCA MUSEUM & RCA KIT SHOP

Free admission is offered for all reunion attendees. The hours of operation for both the RCA Museum and RCA Kit Shop will be 1000-1500 hrs daily. The RCA Kit Shop will also be open during the reunion for members to stock up on GUNNERS GEAR. An array of hats, t-shirts and other reunion souvenirs will also be on sale at Building L-25 throughout the weekend. Further info will be included in your welcome package.