



# 26/XII Museum Newsletter



Volume 1, Issue 2 Brandon's Military Museum March 2012

26 FIELD REGIMENT RCA/XII MANITOBA DRAGOONS MUSEUM • BRANDON MB

## A.R. (Ross) Neale, CD Curator Emeritus of The 26<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment RCA/XII Manitoba Dragoons Museum

### **“SEE ROSS FOR DETAILS”**

*Is probably one of the most often heard sayings at the Museum.*

*I have known Mr. Neale for over fifteen years. Mr. Neale was the co-founder and first Curator of the 26<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment RCA/XII Manitoba Dragoons Museum. As Adjutant for 38 Canadian Brigade Group Artillery Tactical Group I worked directly with him on several Museum related projects. His impact on me personally was enough that when I retired from the Canadian Forces, I joined the Museum as one of its volunteers. Now I have the great pleasure to try to fill his shoes as Curator.*

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7. Vimy Night 31 March 2012;
8. Acknowledgements.

Friends of the Museum who wish to make a donation or a bequest of Artefacts or financial assistance to the Museum are always welcome. Please contact the Museum Treasurer, Lorna Ball at [rgball@mymts.net](mailto:rgball@mymts.net) or call 204-728-7665



*Figure 1 Ross Neale at Seniors for Seniors Remembrance Luncheon November 2011*



*Figure 2 St Marks Church Minnedosa Roll of Honour WWI*



*Figure 3 Ross Neale during  
The Units Cairn Dedication  
November 2009*



*Figure 4 Bill Pierson and Ross Neale  
Museum Booth Royal Manitoba  
Winter Fair March 2010*



**Identify the Artefact:**  
**Answer is in next issue of  
the 26XII Museum Newsletter**

*Continued from page 1*

**As Curator Emeritus Ross works hard to make the Museum a better organization reflecting the history of Brandon and this country. Over the years Mr. Neale demonstrated excellence and achievement, and has made a mark on our city, country and its citizens in the following ways: Mr. A.R. (Ross) Neale, CD, a decorated Veteran, has served Manitoba for over seventy years, with the Royal Winnipeg Rifles at The Normandy D Day landings, where he was wounded, to establishing the 26 Field Regiment RCA/XII Dragoons Museum, to a myriad of community service organizations in between. Mr. Neale's dedication to Manitoba's History has positively influenced many generations of Manitoba's youth by developing their citizenship and leadership skills. His direct involvement with these young people has allowed them to achieve success on their chosen paths and has instilled in them a keen interest in the history of this province. Through his hard work and perseverance, Mr. Neale created the Museum in 1978 to preserve the history of two distinct Army Reserve Regiments that are only found within this province. He served as Curator of the Museum for thirty-three years and continues to be an active volunteer to this day. Mr. Neale has dedicated his life to preserving the past while making a better future for our province. He has been a major contributor to the Museum both financially and as a volunteer. Having retired from the Canadian Army Reserve as a Chief Warrant Officer, Mr. Neale served as the Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) of 26 Field Regiment RCA and the XII Manitoba Dragoons Regiment. As RSM he has positively influenced hundreds of Manitoba's young adults. He is currently a member of the 26 Field Regiment RCA Senate providing sage advice and support to the command structure of Manitoba's Army Reserve Artillery Unit. Since his retirement as Curator, Mr. Neale has been a stalwart volunteer worker at the Museum and has attended all functions. He is a font of historical knowledge of the Army Units of Manitoba and their service to this province and country from the beginning until today, providing the rest of the volunteers an excellent informational source. Mr. Neale is a dedicated speaker giving highly valued and extremely knowledgeable presentations to the citizens of Manitoba, Canada, and our friends from all over the world. He belonged to the Telephone Pioneers Assoc; bringing to that organization his dedication to quality. Mr. Neale gave over 100 donations of blood to the Red Cross and volunteered with St John's Ambulance, bringing his dedication of service to another portion of the population. All his life he has been a supporter of youth and their organizations. Mr. Neale has worked with the Sea Cadets, Air Cadets, and Army Cadets of Brandon and Virden. He was a coach and leader of the girl's rifle team in Strathclair. As well, Mr. Neale was a Scout Leader whose influence of self discipline, created core values of good leadership and citizenship skills with four generations of this Province's Youth. Mr. Neale was instrumental in several Boy Scouts from Morden becoming Queen Scouts.**

*Continued from page 2*

**He mentored these young men with the challenges of this program to ensure they earned this honour. He helped to construct the Strathclair Arena. His devotion to the leadership of youth has not diminished with age. This year he has been instrumental in creating a new history award for the XII MB Dragoons 2528 RCACC Virden, 82 Air Cadets Brandon, 60 Swiftsure Brandon, and 71 Bty 2520 RCACC Brandon. The awards will be presented to the Cadet with the greatest knowledge of the history the of South-West Manitoba military units, thereby preserving the past while making a positive influence of citizenship and leadership in youth for the future. The positive influence this dedicated extraordinary veteran has on his fellow citizens should be recognized at the highest level. In both war and peace, Mr. Neale is an amazing gentleman who has dedicated his life to the betterment of his country. The Museum Volunteers thank him wholeheartedly.**

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*Figure 5. . . Lorna Ball and Ross Neale share a joke at the Annual Museum Christmas Lunch 2011*



*Figure 6. . . Ross Neale receives a Portraits of Honour Flag from Colonel (retired) Dick McDonald President of Green Acres Lodge Trust January 2012*

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## **The Portraits of Honour**

**The Portraits of Honour originally started in artist Dave Sopha's private studio, it quickly grew to require more space and was moved into the studio created at Kin Canada's headquarters located in Cambridge, Ontario. The Portraits of Honour mural stretches 10 feet tall by 40 feet wide and features the faces of the 158 Canadians. The Portraits of Honour mural was in CFB/ASU Shilo in December 2011. Flags were purchased by individuals and groups in memory of the fallen soldier. In January Colonel (retired) Dick McDonald, President of Green Acres Lodge Trust, visited the Museum. He presented the Museum with a donation of five thousand dollars from the Trust, for which the Museum is truly grateful. Colonel McDonald also presented flags to individuals, 13 Bty Portage la Prairie and to the Museum. For his dedicated service, Curator Emeritus Ross Neale is presented his own commemorative flag by Colonel McDonald. Ross donated the flag to the Museum which is now part of the Museum's Collection on Afghanistan which is dedicated to the soldiers, sailors and aircrew who have lost their lives in Afghanistan.**

**[www.26fdregmuseum.com](http://www.26fdregmuseum.com) or [www.12mbdragoons.com](http://www.12mbdragoons.com)**

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*The 26 Fd Regt RCA/XII MB Dragoons Museum is honoured to have two of the Portraits of Honour flags displayed in our Museum.*



*Figure 7 The Portraits of Honour Artist Dave Sopha, credit [www.oakvillekin.org](http://www.oakvillekin.org)*

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## **Thanks to our Donors for the donations of Artefacts or Items:**

***Green Acres Lodge Trust a donation of five thousand dollars;***  
***Major Roberts medals (XII MB Dragoons) from the Roberts family;***  
***Col Cromarty medals and Uniform (26 Fd Regt) from the Cromarty family;***  
***H.H. Speight Canada Pay Book from the Speight family;***  
***Items from WW1 from the Sibbald family;***  
***Documents and photos from XII MB Dragoons - Mr. Robert Major;***  
***Cookies and coffee for Museum Volunteers - Mr. Robert Major;***  
***XII MB Dragoon items and filing cabinet from the Mowbray family;***  
***Cups for Museum Volunteers coffee breaks - Mr. Mat Dedrick;***  
***Stick Pin, Sten Gun Pull Through - Mr. Ross Neale;***  
***Photos of Great Uncle in WW2 - McKay family;***  
***Chaplain's Mess Kit and Padre Bling - Rev Dave Wilson;***  
***Highlander Regiment Photos and Kit - friends of the Hamilton family;***  
***Plaque in Honour of Pte Thomas Davies - Found at McKenzie Seeds Old Office;***  
***Kit box and Records of Jack Bennett- Bennett family;***  
***Books to Library - Murray Tallant;***  
***XII MB Dragoons 10th Anniversary of the Liberation Plate;***  
***WW1 - WW2 Medals - Ernie Neale and;***  
***1934 Mauser Pocket Pistol - Hoy Family.***

## Museum Christmas Luncheon



**The Soldiers and Staff of 26 Field Regt RCA enjoy the Christmas treats at the Annual Christmas Museum Luncheon. One of the ways the Museum say “THANKS” to the Regiment for all the support it receives during the year.**

*Figure 8 The Museum hosts 26 Fd Regimental Staff at Museum Annual Christmas luncheon*



**The 26 Fd Regt RCA /XII MB Dragoons Museum sponsored Quilt of Valour on 16-17 July during Brandon Open Doors Historic Tour days. Visitors then and Cadets and visitors since have left a message and signed the quilt. The Quilt of Valour is shown being presented to Edith Taylor is the Quilts of Valour Manitoba Representative. The Quilt will be presented to an injured Canadian Forces member.**

*Figure 9 Edith Taylor receives the Museum Quilt of Valour from Museum Treasurer Lorna Ball*



Figure 10 National Artillery Museum staff takes a break to guess what's in the box.

**Marc George on the recent celebration of the National Artillery Museum receives a Fiftieth Anniversary Tea Cup presented by Edd. McArthur Curator, 26XII Museum.**

**The Tea Cup was donated not as an artifact but for daily use by the RCA Museum by the Family of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence and Rettie Litster who had three sons serve in WWII one with 71 Bty.**



Figure 11 Director Museum Marc George left Curator Edd. Mc Arthur right.

## Canada comes of age Battle of Vimy 9<sup>th</sup> April 1917

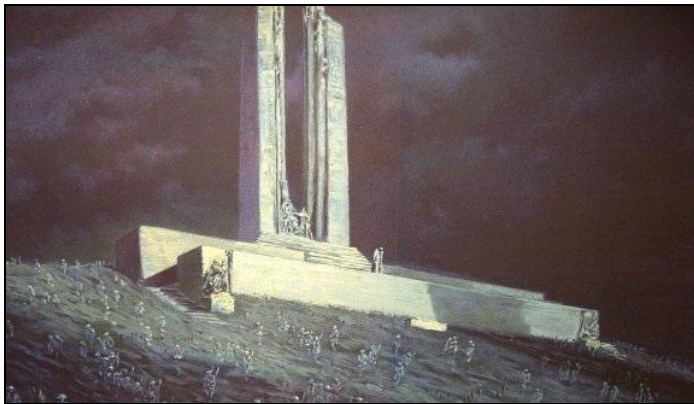


*Figure 12 Canadian Expeditionary Force soldiers transport Ammunition for the barrage on Vimy Ridge*

The Battle of Vimy Ridge was a military engagement fought during the First World War from 9 to 12 April 1917. The Canadian Corps of four divisions, fought against three divisions of the Imperial German Sixth Army. The objective of the Canadian Corps was to take control of the German-held high ground along an escarpment. The Canadian Corps captured most of the ridge during the first day of the attack. The crest of the ridge fell on the second day, once the Canadian Corps overcame considerable German resistance. The final objective, a fortified knoll located outside the town of Givenchy, fell to the Canadian Corps on 12 April. The success of the Canadian Corps in capturing the ridge is attributed to a mixture of extensive training, technical and tactical innovation, meticulous planning and powerful artillery support. The battle was the first occasion when all four divisions of the CEF Canadian Expeditionary Force fought a battle together and thus became a Canadian Symbol of achievement and sacrifice. A portion of the former battleground now serves as a preserved memorial park and site of the Canadian National Vimy Memorial.

## Vimy Night

**On behalf of 26<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment Royal Canadian Artillery I wish to invite you to support the Thirty-Second Annual 26<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment and XII Manitoba Dragoons Museum Vimy Night celebration and fundraiser on Saturday the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2012 in the Brandon Armoury. Doors open at 6:00 pm supper will be served at 6:30 pm. This year's Vimy Night will consist of a Chinese Food Buffet, entertainment provided by the 26 Field Regiment Pipes and Drums Band, and a live auction. The Chinese Food Buffet tickets cost \$15.00 per person. Admission to the Auction is free and the entrance to The Armoury is via the 11<sup>th</sup> Street door. There will also be a cash bar for beverages (alcoholic and non-alcoholic). Please RSVP to Lorna Ball at [rqball@mymts.net](mailto:rqball@mymts.net) or phone 204-728-7665 by the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2012. We look forward to seeing you there! Any further questions please contact Lorna Ball. Thank you for your time and support.**



**The Canadian National Vimy Memorial as seen in a mural in the 26 Field Regt RCA /XII MB Dragoons Museum West display room. The Memorial was dedicated by King Edward the VIII on the 26<sup>th</sup> July 1936, in the presence of more than fifty thousand Canadian and French veterans, and their families.**

*Figure 13 The Vimy Memorial Canadian War Museum; William Longstrep*

**[www.26fdregmuseum.com](http://www.26fdregmuseum.com) or [www.12mbdragoons.com](http://www.12mbdragoons.com)**



**Catch a bus,  
Drive a car,  
Ride your bike or walk.**

The Museum is open every Tuesday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm closed for lunch. For tours other times call:  
Edd. at 204 726-3498 or  
Gord at 204 727-7691.

Figure 14 Bus Bench on Richmond Avenue East

**Acknowledgements:**

The Museum wishes to thank Brandon and South West Manitoba Businesses for their services to the Museum:

**Brandon Business Interiors for the great support they gave us during the remodeling process of the Museum Office.**

**Aurora TV Sales & Services for their excellent customer service and installation of our audio system;**

**Dulux Paints for creative paint matching skills**

**Wolverine Supplies for their excellent customer service;**

**Greg Steele for his Ammunition and Weapons assistance and advice;**

**Wes Sowiak for welding assistance with Field Gun stands; and**

**Bill Hillman for the awesome website!**

**Be sure to check us out on the web at:  
[www.26fdregmuseum.com](http://www.26fdregmuseum.com) or  
[www.12mbdragoons.com](http://www.12mbdragoons.com)**

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This News letter is published by SDI under the authority of the Commanding Officer of 38 CBG ATG and by The Board of 26 Field Regiment RCA /XII MB Dragoons Museum Board. Please forward any inquiries to [26fdregCurator@wcgwave.ca](mailto:26fdregCurator@wcgwave.ca). My thanks to Sandy Armstrong, Lorna Ball and Gord Sim for the valuable help with putting the Newsletter together, Editor.

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