



# *Annual General Mess Meeting*

## MINUTES

Sea Room, Juno Tower

Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024, 10:30 AST

### 1. Call to Order / Confirmation of Quorum

- The PMC noted there were approximately 60-70 Ordinary Members in attendance representing a good cross-section of the Membership and he called the meeting to order at 10:36 and confirmed a quorum was present.
- It was noted that the notice of a General Mess Meeting had been published in accordance with the Constitution Article 42.
- In the absence of the Mess Secretary, Mr. T Birchall, Associate Representative, agreed to act as the meeting's Scribe.
- Rather than look for motions, the PMC indicated the meeting would be conducted by consensus unless there was a contentious issue requiring a detailed vote.

#### Opening Remarks

- After introducing the members of the Mess Committee present, the PMC welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

### 2. Approval of Agenda

- The PMC noted that the that the agenda had been previously circulated and called for any additions, deletions or amendments. There were none.

**The agenda was subsequently approved without dissent by the Membership.**

### 3. Approval of previous Minutes: Annual General Meeting, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023.

- The PMC noted that the previous minutes were approved and circulated by the Mess Committee and presented herein for ratification.

**There being no call for additions, deletions, or amendments, the minutes were ratified by the Membership without dissent.**

### 4. Old Business and Business Arising

- RA Park Grand Re-opening  
The PMC confirmed his understanding that the Officer's Mess would officially re-open in April and that this would be primarily an Army sponsored event with the VPMC to discuss later in the meeting.

5. Correspondence:

- There was no correspondence coming before the AGM that had not already been dealt with by the Mess Team and/or the Mess Committee.

6. Financial Report (Treasurer):

- The Treasurer presented the financial report in three parts; breakdown of mess dues, balance sheet & income statement for the period ending 31 Jan 24 and the 2025 fiscal year budget.
  - On a monthly basis \$9.87 was for general and administrative expenses, \$10.00 for entertainment, \$1.00 for the gift fund and \$3.13 for taxes. The Treasurer noted that there was no difference in fees for Ordinary or Associate membership
  - The internal Financial Statements for the period ending 31 Jan 24 continued to show a loss of \$37,078 although this was expected to be reduced dramatically by the year end (31 Mar 24) as a result of renewed mess activities. On an operating basis, bar operation would show a nominal profit. The Treasurer stressed that the continued closure due to the renovation of RA Park had an impact and its opening placed some uncertainty on the ongoing budgeting process.

There were a couple of routine operation questions asked by the Membership and the Treasurer offered to go over the financial in detail after the meeting with any interested parties.

**The PMC called for any additional comments and hearing none declared the Financial Statements approved by the Membership without dissent.**

- The Treasurer then presented the budget for the period ending 31 Mar 25 and noted that it had been prepared on the basis of RA Park opening as currently planned.

The budget was prepared on the basis of a nominal net profit of \$3,555 on bar sales of \$216,150.00 and other revenue of \$690,880

**There being no questions or concerns, the PMC declared the 2025 Budget approved by the Membership without dissent.**

7. Reports:

- Entertainment
  - The Entertainment Officer briefly went over the existing and upcoming events for the remainder of the 2024 fiscal year and into April
  - Super Weepers/Grattis Growlies and weekly food events would continue and be generally split between the Wardroom and RA Park

- There are a number of major events planned for fiscal 2025 and include, amongst others:
  - Robbie Burns supper
  - Valentine's Day
  - Super Bowl Sunday
  - Wine Tasting
  - St Patrick's Day
  - Lobster boil
  - Steak and Martini
- The Entertainment Officer was very amenable to hearing and trying new events and activities that would be of interest to the Membership. (One suggestion was to acquire an F1 TV subscription. Following some general discussion the PMC undertook on behalf of the Membership to explore a test case to determine interest.)
- Sports
  - Upcoming Events
    - **Annual Cyril MacDonald Golf Tournament:** Scheduled to take place at Hartlen Point on Wednesday August 28th, 2024 . We plan to fill 18 teams of 4 (72 total), more event and registration details to follow.
    - **Future Initiatives:** We are considering organizing a pool tournament in the Fall and are preparing for a Grey Cup event in November. These activities are currently in the planning stage as we approach the Fall season.
- Membership
  - As of 29 Feb 24, there were 631 Ordinary Members, 107 Associate Members and 2 Honorary Members of the mess.
  - The Membership Officer went over a list of the major benefits available to the Membership and in particular the various funds and their availability to Ordinary Members and Reservists in particular.
  - It was noted that the Grief and Hospitalization Fund applied equally across all classes of membership.
  - Some concerns were raised that where both parents were Ordinary Members the gift fund for the birth/adoption of a child needed some clarification (By-Laws 35-f)
- Communications
  - A new position, Communications, would oversee various aspects of how the Mess team and the Committee communicated with the Membership developing a plan for presentation in September.
- Associate Representative
  - While the Associate membership was marginally less than other years this was primarily due to the continued renovations being undertaken at RA Park
  - The Associates continued to be very appreciative of the Mess team and the Ordinary membership for its continued support.
- Mess Manager
  - The Manager introduced the daily Mess team and provided an overview of the planned staffing at RA Park and the restructuring of the team to better meet the needs of the membership

- The Manager reminded the Membership that while we operated a single mess CFB Halifax was unique in that we have two separate locations. Members were encouraged to use both locations for various events and not to confine themselves to one.
- VPMC
  - The VPMS announced that while RA Park was open there was still lots of work to be done before the “official” re-opening. Additionally, it was important during this phase to manage expectations as there was limited staff and functions & events would be kept to a minimum
  - There then followed a detailed outline of the major work undertaken over the past couple of years and the efforts to ensure that the Mess properly recognized its historical roots.
  - The activities for the official opening were well advanced in the planning stage and subject only to ongoing budget considerations. The Mess Committee would continue to oversee this aspect on behalf of the members.
  - On a separate matter, the VPMC would be undertaking a full review of the Constitution and the By-Laws for presentation to the Members in the fall and invited any interested parties to offer their assistance.
- PMC
  - The PMC covered a number of general issues including the re-opening of the Wardroom patio, a benefit analysis of the PMC position, and a willingness to hear member suggestions or complaints.
  - It was re-emphasized that there was zero tolerance for inappropriate behaviour and that it was important to observe the appropriate dress while in the mess recognizing ongoing activities.
  - Some members expressed confusion as to the chit process as outlined under the By-laws and the PMC explained its purpose and application. It was noted that at present NDHQ direction prohibited the use chits for some activities and that chit privileges had not been afforded the Senior or Bull subs at this time.

**The PMC asked the membership if they had any unanswered questions or concerns regarding the various reports. Hearing none the Reports were accepted as presented without dissent.**

#### 8. New Business

- Election of Bull Sub and Communications Officer
  - The PMC presented Capt. Armin Adrovic (Communications Officer) for consideration by the members.
  - There being no other candidates presented from the floor Capt. Armin Adrovic was voted in by acclamation
  - The PMC welcomed them to the Mess Committee
- Community Proposal
  - The VPMC, on behalf of the Secretary, presented a proposal to the Membership whereby the Mess would purchase 12,000 tulip bulbs at a cost of \$6,000 to be given to the membership in allotments of 40 bulbs.

- There was considerable discussion, and the PMC indicated that for this particular proposal a formal motion would be required.
  - While the VPMC moved the motion on behalf of the Secretary, a seconder was not forthcoming, and the motion was withdrawn.
- Round Table
    - Prior to calling for adjournment, the PMC asked if there was any other business to be brought forward.
      - Capt Corey McLean pointed out an apparent discrepancy in the By-Laws whereby a military function in the Mess by a unit would be subjected to a surcharge and were effectively being treated by the Mess team as private functions.
      - The PMC agreed to look into the matter of immediate concern to the member and also to review the By-Laws as their adequacy/clarity on the issue.

9. Adjournment:

- There being no further business to discuss and without dissent from the Membership, the PMC declared the meeting adjourned.
- The meeting was **adjourned at 1137**.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Stanley, RK  
 LCdr  
 Mess Secretary  
 902 427 6582

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Sanson, W  
 Cdr  
 PMC  
 902 721 5455

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Andrecyk, CJ  
Civ  
Deputy PSP Mgr  
902 721 8709

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommended / ~~Not Recommended~~

\_\_\_\_\_  
Berryhill, TA  
Cdr  
BAdmO  
902 414 6832

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved / ~~Not Approved~~

Dist List

Mess Manager  
FPAS  
Deputy PSP Manager  
Mess Officer / ACCN O  
HSO  
Mess Notice Board

# CFB Halifax Officers' Mess

General Mess Meeting

21 March 2024

FORTS. FIER. PRÊTS.  
STRONG. PROUD. READY.



## Opening Remarks



- Please direct communication to PMC
- Motions – table – postpone indefinitely – amend
- New motions limited to ongoing discussion



# Mess Executive Committee

**PMC**

Cdr Bill Sanson

**Vice PMC**

LCol Judy MacDonald

**Secretary**

LCdr Ryan Stanley

**Treasurer**

LCdr Isabelle McNeil

**Associates Rep**

Tom Birchall

**Entertainment Rep**

SLt Jason Pereira

**Sports Rep**

SLt Maryo John

**Communications Rep**

*Vacant*

**Membership Rep**

Lt(N) Anne-Marie Day

**Senior Sub**

Capt. Brandon Finyanos

**Bull Sub**

*Vacant*



# Agenda



1. Call to Order / Confirmation of Quorum
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Previous Minutes
4. Old Business and Business Arising
  - a. Mess Navalization
  - b. RA Park Re-Opening
5. Financial Report
  - a. Approval of the Financial Report
  - b. Approval of the 2024 -2025 Budget
6. Reports:
  - a. Entertainment
  - b. Membership Officer
  - c. Associate Representative
  - d. Mess Manager
  - e. VPMC
  - f. PMC
7. New Business
  - a. Election of Communications Officer
  - b. Election of Bull Sub
  - c. Community Proposal – Tulip Bulbs
8. Adjournment





## Minutes of Previous GMM



- 23 November 2023
- Motion to Approve



## Old Business



- Mess “Navalization”
- RA Park Re-Opening



# Financial Report



## Mess Dues Breakdown

### GENERAL - \$9.87

Operating expenses: bar staff/admin wages, cable/internet, supplies, contribution to base fund, etc.

### ENTERTAINMENT - \$10.00

All entertainment events and depreciation costs.

### GIFT FUND - \$1.00

Posting, retirement, bereavement, birth. Reg Force only.

### TAX - \$3.13



# Income Statement



(1 Apr 2023 – 31 January 2024)

Bar Sales	\$ 106,405.88	
Bar COGS	<u>(\$ 56,603.82)</u>	
<b>Gross Profit</b>		<b>\$ 52,802.06</b>
Revenue	\$ 441,260.56	
Expenses	<u>(\$ 485,575.08)</u>	
<b>Net Income/(Loss)</b>		<b>\$ 8,487.54</b>



# Balance Sheet



**As of 31 January 2024**

Total Assets	\$297,063.56
Total Liabilities	\$ 52,690.32
Total Equity	\$244,373.24
Total	\$297,063.56
Unencumbered Cash	\$ 98,118.34



# Financial Report



## ENTERTAINMENT

Budgeted Expense Forecast:	\$436,190.00
Expense as of 31 January:	<u>\$304,951.99</u>
	\$131,238.01

## BAR

Budgeted Revenue Forecast:	\$228,700.00
Revenue as of September:	<u>\$106,405.88</u>
	\$122,294.12



# Budget Approval



1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025

Sales	\$ 216,150.00
COGS	<u>(\$104,709.00)</u>
Gross Profit	\$ 111,441.00
Revenue	\$ 690,880.00
Expenses	<u>(\$799,866.40)</u>
<b>Net Income/(Loss)</b>	<b>\$ 2,454.60</b>



# Reports



- Entertainment
- Membership
- Associate
- Mess Manager
- VPMC
- PMC



# Entertainment Report



Our mandate is to represent the members of the CFB Halifax Officers' Mess, which includes **both** the Wardroom & Royal Artillery Park.

We endeavor to provide a wide variety of entertainment and events that cover the entire spectrum of the membership.



## Upcoming Entertainment Events



### March

- Weekly *Thrifty Tuesdays* at RA Park and *\$7 Thursday Lunches* at the Wardroom
- *Gratis Growlies* at RA Park – 27 March
- *Wine and Cheese Tasting* – 28 March at the Wardroom

### April

- Weekly *\$7 Lunches* at both RA Park and the Wardroom
- *RA Park Grand Re-Opening* – 19 April
- *Gratis Growlies* – 24 April at the Wardroom
- *Wardroom Super Weepers* at the Wardroom – 26 April
- *Candlelight Dinner* – More info to come



## Halifax Officers' Mess Events



More events to look forward to at the Mess this year:

- Mother's Day Brunch – May
- Father's Day BBQ – June
- Golf Tournament – June
- Canada Day – July
- Family Event – August
- Wine & Brewery Tour – September
- Fall Festival – October
- Super Weepers at the Wardroom, TGIFs at RA Park
- Weekly Food Events



## Membership Report



IAW the Constitution, the purpose of the Halifax Officer's Mess is to "provide services and amenities to members... (as) a vital role in the fostering of Service customs and traditions..."

Better said: Our Mess exists to enhance our relationships with ourselves, our colleagues, our friends, and our families.



## Membership Officer



Promote the wellbeing of the Membership.

Communicate Member needs and concerns.

Encourage engagement in organization  
and participation.



## Membership Subscriptions



- Ordinary Members – 631
- Associate Members – 107
- Honorary Members – 2



## Membership Benefits



- Weekly subsidized meal- \$7 Thursday (Wardroom) and Thrifty Tuesday (RA Park)
- Monthly Gratis Growlies (free lunch!)
- ~Monthly Evening Events– always seeking OPIs
- ~Monthly Super Weepers and TGIF- seeking OPIs and Unit Hosts
- Retirement Gift: for an Ordinary Member retiring with not less than 20 years of service with the Canadian Forces and who has been a member of the Mess for at least 24 months. Please note: Class "A" Reservists do not qualify for the Retirement Gift.
- Departure/Posting Gift: Ordinary Member who has been a Member of the Mess for at least 24 months.
- A token of congratulations to be given to a member on the birth/adoption of a child in the form of a baby hamper or gift certificate.
- Family Grief and hospitalization: (1) As a token of sympathy in the event of the death of a member, whether ordinary or associate. (2) To any ordinary or associate member who is admitted to hospital for more than 48 Hours.
- Mess facilities are available to the membership should they wish to sponsor a private function
- Members may entertain guests in the Mess and at functions at their own expense subject to any restriction on function, numbers, times, or locations that may apply.



## Associates Report



Associates Members: 103

Corporate Members: 4

Some Associate members are serving on the Entertainment Sub-Committee and assisting with mess events.





## Mess Managers Report



- Mess Staffing and Bar Hours
- Two great locations, one Mess!



## VPMC Report



The Royal Artillery Park is a military installation nestled in downtown Halifax. "RA Park" was initially funded from the short conquest of present-day Maine during the War of 1812. On the grounds of RA Park are the oldest military Officer's Mess in Canada established in 1816 and the Cambridge Military Library established in 1810 and placed on the grounds of RA Park in 1886. It houses one of the oldest library collections in the country. Today, RA Park is a part of the greater Canadian Forces Base Halifax, is home to the Headquarters of the Canadian Army 36 Canadian Brigade Group and the official residence of the Commander of the Canadian Army 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian Division .





## Royal Artillery Park Officer's Mess Grand Re -Opening



### Friday 19 April 2024

1300 for 1330hrs	Members and Guests arrival Opening Remarks / Introductions A History of RA Park Remarks Commander 5 Cdn Div
1500hrs	Food Served / Live Music



A cornerstone of the military in Halifax, witnessing history for over 200 years.

Home of Canadian Army Officers and poised for the future.



## PMC Report



- Mess Events
- Mess Committees
- Staff
- Dress



# Committee Elections



- Communications Officer
- Bull Sub



# Proposal: Tulip Bulbs



- Motion: I move to that up to \$6,000 be approved for the purchase of 12,000 tulip bulbs to be distributed to the membership.

OPI: LCdr Ryan Stanley

- Each member provided two bags of 20 bulbs (40 bulbs total).
- Keep one bag for yourself. Share the other bag with your family, a neighbour, or a colleague.
- Tulips are easy to plant, do not need to be dug up over winter, and come back year after year. Plant in September. Enjoy Spring 2025.
- Benefits: promotes outdoor activity, a shared experience within our community, and something to look forward to through the winter.
- Wholesale purchase is 1/3 the price of retail (~\$0.40/bulb)
- Estimated total cost (inc. taxes, shipping): ~\$5,600
- Total served: 300 members
- ❖ An alternate option would be planting Daffodils – which are also nice and have the same advantages.



# Round Table



- Questions?
- Comments?
- Concerns?
- Suggestions?