



Vancouver Artillery Association
2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6J 2C7

25 November 2022

Vice-Admiral Angus Topshee, OMM, MSM, CD
Naval Staff Headquarters
National Defence Headquarters
Ottawa, ON., K1A0K2

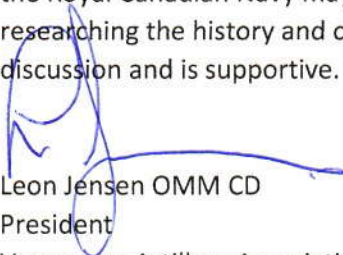
Dear sir;

It was a pleasure meeting you at the True Patriot Love dinner at Bessborough Armoury on 10 November 2022. Our little museum space that you toured represents only a small portion of the projects that we are currently involved in.

We have a collection of artillery ordnance that includes a 9 pounder from 1878, an 18 pounder from 1918 (upgraded with pneumatic tires in the late 1930s), a 25 pounder of Second World War vintage with a 1930s Field Artillery Tractor (FAT). The restoration of the FAT enabled the unit to assist in the national military funeral for the last living Canadian Victoria Cross winner, Ernest Alvia "Smokey" Smith VC, CM, OBC, CD in 2005. Our latest additions include a 1952 deuce and a half which is undergoing restoration and a 155mm towed Howitzer from the 1960s.

In addition to these items, we are also involved with some restoration work at the Point Grey Battery at the University of British Columbia. If you have ever visited the Museum of Anthropology at UBC, you will have seen Bill Reid's sculpture, The Raven and the First Men. The circular dais that the sculpture sits atop is actually the No 2 gun emplacement of the Point Grey Battery which was manned by the 15th (Vancouver) Coast Regiment, RCA during the Second World War. We have refurbished the No 1 gun emplacement which is located outside to the right of the museum. As a bit of trivia, there is also another battery location, the Ferguson Point Battery, located in Stanley Park. It was covered over in the 1950s but the two gun emplacements can be found by looking at the site online with Google maps.

However, the main reason for this letter is to provide some information on the third Battery location at Yorke Island which is located between Vancouver Island and mainland BC in Johnstone Strait. The island is owned by the Province of British Columbia and managed by BC Parks with the official title of Han^amd'i Makola/Yorke Island Conservancy. The attached material is attached with the hopes that the Royal Canadian Navy may find some value in conducting training in the area and assisting us in researching the history and conservation requirements of the area. BC Parks has been informed of our discussion and is supportive.


Leon Jensen OMM CD
President
Vancouver Artillery Association

