

<b>To Public Hearing</b>
Date: <u>Oct 20 2008</u>
Item # <u>14</u>
Re: <u>BANKING 8432</u>
<u>* 8433</u>

PUBLIC HEARING OCTOBER 20, 2008 – Army Navy Air Force Unit 284

My name is Stan Mollett

I reside at 7451 Minoru Blvd, Richmond

Mr. Mayor and Councilors:

I am the President of the Holding Company Army Navy Air Force Unit 284 in Steveston.

I'd like to share with you a brief history of this organization.

**In 1946** - 30 Veterans from the Steveston area approached the oldest Veterans organization in Canada seeking a Charter to open a Veterans Club in Steveston. The Charter was granted. Our first Club was a room above the Victory Café at the corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Moncton Street.

**In 1947** - we had the opportunity to buy the old Fisherman's Hospital originally built on land donated by owner Marshall English and rebuilt in 1898 at No.1 Road and Chatham, the current home of the Army Navy Air Force Unit #284.

One of our members was the Manager of the Royal Bank and through his help our members were able to secure a mortgage and purchase the land and building.

**On December 29, 1956** - our Club burned to the ground.

Between **1956 and 1959**, one of our members continued to lobby the Provincial Command and other Units to loan our Unit the funds to re-build. It took three years and with the financial support of our members, the Provincial Command, other Units and the insurance company we finally re-opened the Club on December 10, 1959.

**From December 1959 to March 1962** our members stayed dedicated to stabilizing our finances, well enough to secure a bank loan from the Bank of Commerce so that we could pay back all the money owed to the Provincial Command, other Units and the Members who came forward to cover our Debenture.

**During the 1960's and 1970's** we, together with the other Units in B.C. turned our attention to Senior Citizen Housing and in **1974 a member** of the Army Navy Air Force Unit 284 in Steveston became the Provincial President and raised over \$93,000 to build our **first** two Senior Homes – one in North Vancouver and one in Steveston.

**Today in 2008** we continue to support Senior Housing financially. Over the years we expanded our support to helping other worthy community projects. We estimated that over 1 million dollars has been raised and donated by the members of the Army Navy Air Force Unit 284 of Steveston who by the way, are mostly Senior Citizens. The list is long, and the following are just a few that we supported:



The Richmond Hospital  
The Richmond Food Bank  
The Steveston Community Centre  
Many Richmond Minor Sports Associations  
High School Bursaries  
Cadets  
Seniors and  
Charitable Organizations

Our Veterans have given and continue to give to our Country. Our Veterans and our Members continue to give unselfishly, working quietly behind the scenes for the betterment of our community. We give our financial support and by the way, this money is raised WITHIN our Club and we have never asked for publicity in return.

If we are remise about anything, it may be that:

1. We didn't realize we should market, who we are.
2. We didn't realize that we should let the community know that we continue to make a major contribution to our community.
3. We didn't realize that the community didn't know that our door is always open to the people of our community.
4. We now see ourselves through YOUR eyes. We are more than the soldiers you see each year paying our respect on Remembrance Day.
5. We are somewhat uncomfortable seeking recognition for our community work but we are NOT to old to change and so we are developing a marketing strategy to prepare the community for the NEW Veterans – the Soldiers returning from Afghanistan.

Thank You