



The Exchange

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Making a positive impact on our communities

Saving a piece of our Canadian heritage

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Bob Buchanan, RBC DS Investment Advisor, leads fundraising to restore the famous HOLY ROLLER Canadian Army Sherman Tank used during World War II. One of only two tanks which survived from D-Day until the end of the war, the HOLY ROLLER is a legendary piece of history that currently sits in the middle of Victoria Park in London, ON.

The HOLY ROLLER tank is an iconic piece of Canadian heritage, a tank that landed on Normandy Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944. Front line armour was hazardous work in WWII and the Allies lost tens of thousands of tanks. The HOLY ROLLER survived 14 battles, helping to liberate Europe from the Nazi occupation. At the end of the war, the Canadian Army ordered all surplus equipment to the scrap yard for destruction but the troops intervened to save HOLY ROLLER, as it had become a symbol of perseverance. They brought the tank back to London, Ontario as a historical monument to Canadian contributions.

The monument has been on public display since 1953. Last year, professional metallurgic engineers opened the HOLY ROLLER for the first time in decades to see the condition inside. They quickly realized corrosion was slowly ruining the tank, and it only had two more years in stable condition. As a concerned citizen, Bob Buchanan, RBC DS Investment Advisor, wanted to do his part to help restore the HOLY ROLLER to better condition.



“I wanted to do my part to raise money to help restore the tank, while sharing the incredible story of HOLY ROLLER and the journey it’s been through,” explains Bob. “A lot of people don’t understand the significance the HOLY ROLLER represents for our country’s history, and I think there is an opportunity to help educate those who don’t know about the impact of Canadians during World War II”.

Right across the street from Victoria Park is a local brewery called Toboggan Brewing Co., and Bob reached out to them to see if they would be interested naming a beer after HOLY ROLLER. They were eager to help, and named a brand new beer the Holy Roller Lager in order to help raise money and awareness. You can buy a can of Holy Roller Lager at your local LCBO (if they have it in stock, it’s sold out multiple times already) and a portion of each beer sold is donated to the restoration project for HOLY ROLLER.

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As Bob continues to raise awareness as the head of fundraising for the HOLY ROLLER restoration project, he is ecstatic to see the community come together to support this historic tank.

Fanshawe College has graciously donated a repair shop for HOLY ROLLER to be restored in, and the tank will be taken away for repairs this month. The tank will undergo repairs until May 2022, when it will be brought back to Victoria Park just before D-Day in 2022 for a celebration. For more information, [visit the HOLY ROLLER memorial website](#).



“The HOLY ROLLER holds a special place in our community, it’s a great Canadian story,” explains Bob. “All of the funding has been solely done through community donations, no taxpayer money has been used for this project. We’re proud to have this monument in our town and want to continue to share HOLY ROLLERS legacy for years to come.”

Thank you Bob for your continued efforts to restore HOLY ROLLER and keep a piece of Canadian history alive!



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