



**RED KNIGHTS
INTERNATIONAL FIREFIGHTERS
MOTORCYCLE CLUB®
Boylston, Massachusetts Est. 1982**

Office of the Region 2 Director
Randy Smith
region2@redknightsmc.com
(647) 470-7562

Report from Region 2

Greetings Fellow Knights

On October 30, 2023, I became your Region 2 Director. Our Region covers all of Eastern Canada, from Ontario to Newfoundland, with over 800 members in 39 chapters. Thank you for placing your trust in me. Being part of the leadership of a 10,000 member organization is not to be taken lightly.

In the two months that I have served in this role, the learning curve has been rapid, and not without a few bumps. Following in the steps of a man such as Leo Patry is to accept two realities. First, it's pretty much impossible to duplicate his efficiency. His 30+ years of experience gave him knowledge, but also wisdom. On the plus side, I know that I have Leo as a resource, if you will, but more importantly as a friend. Someone who will pick up the phone and offer sage advice when asked.

Events this year

The year started the way it always does in Ontario – at the **International Motorcycle Supershow** in Mississauga. This may be the largest show in Canada, and Ontario Association 6 has a great setup, giving the RKMC much needed visibility and an important recruiting opportunity.

On May 27, **Ontario Association 6** held its **AGM** in Port Perry. It reinforced the value of a Provincial Association. Lots of opinions, from different areas of the province. All chapters gain a stronger voice when united. Events are easier to plan and promote, and the Club grows organically.

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Association 6 also held several rides this summer, from the Niagara area to Smith Falls. These are events that members from all chapters are welcome at. Local host chapters know the most beautiful roads!

From June 1 to 4, I attended **Americade** in **Lake George, NY**. Several New York chapters book a campground and motel each year. It's a great way to meet fellow Knights. Lake George is a gorgeous location, and just a one-day ride for many of us. Red Knights also hold an event during this time.

From June 8 to 11, several Canadian members travelled to Waterloo, NY for the **Yankee Rally**. It may have set a record for a regional rally, with approximately 400 Red Knights. Great parties, great rides.

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From July 6 to 9, Newfoundland chapter 2 hosted the **Atlantic Rally** in Clarenville, Newfoundland. By all accounts, it was a great time on “The Rock.” In 2024, this rally is July 18 – 21 in Charlottetown, PEI. Book soon to avoid disappointment.

August 13th was the inaugural **Camp Bucko ride**, supporting burn survivor kids. Ontario Chapter 1 organized, giving two busloads of campers a motorcycle escort into the camp. We loved it, and so did the kids! In 2024 we hope to make it an overnighter! Join us!

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From Sept. 5 to 12, members from Ontario attended the first **RKMC International Convention** ever held in Europe, in Fussach, Austria. Riding through the mountains of Switzerland, Austria and Germany is something very special. The camaraderie of an International Convention cannot be described, you simply must see and feel it. Next year, we return to Europe for the International Convention in Leipzig, Germany.

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Chaplaincy

On December 1st, the RKMC suffered the loss of our International Chaplain, Dave Diveley. As a lay minister, I am filling in as Chaplain Pro Tem until a suitable person can be found. This is a challenging, and to be fair a stand-alone, position within the Club. As of this writing, I have sent several cards of condolence to the families of deceased members. I've also been in contact with chapter presidents involved with these services, offering support as needed.

This is important - Please ensure that rosters are up to date and dues are paid, as this is critical to our Heaven 1 protocols. Consider keeping an ailing member on the roster. Your chapter may vote to pay the dues for this member. I can't tell you how difficult it is to tell a chapter that their (former) member cannot be assigned full honours due to them having been dropped from the roster.



Looking forward to 2024

I would ask the following from every chapter in Region 2 – if you have an event coming up, please let everyone know in advance. Use Facebook, email your Provincial Rep, cc me as well. I'm happy to help spread the word. Many times, we've heard from members after an event "Wow, I would have attended that". This is a social organization, and I emphasize social. We are all (I hope) building our riding calendars for 2024. I would love to attend at least one event in every province that I serve, and so would many other Knights. Perhaps we need a Region 2 Tour! (Yes, I know how hard that one province is to get to).

I have been blessed to have a great Fire life, and treasure each shift even more now, as I near the end of it. 2024 promises to be a great year for the Red Knights, and I truly hope that every one of you finds a way to ride more, socialize more, and give back to your community more. Please remember that I am always available by email at region2@redknightsmc.com or by phone at 647-470-7562. If you're coming through Toronto, let me know. There's always time for a coffee or a bite to eat with a fellow Knight. I wish you all a peaceful "off-season" and a great year in 2024.

In fellowship,

Randy Smith
Red Knights MC
Region 2 Director
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
1-647-470-7562

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