



NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER
AUGUST, 2006

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police Veterans' Association Mission Statement

“The Royal Canadian Mounted Police Veterans’ Association, proud of our traditions, commits to promote the physical, social and economic welfare of former members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and their immediate families and to be of service to our communities and Canada when required or requested through rendering assistance to the Police, especially the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, in matters of common concern.”

FROM THE DESK OF THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Rick MORRIS

The other day I received an Email from Lindsey Larsen who is Ole Larsen’s widow (Reg # 25876). Ole was murdered in Climax, Sask. on 11 August 1981. Ole and I were troop mates and friends. Lindsey wrote to congratulate me on my new position and my efforts with the Newsletter. She also offered to help in any way she could because of her personal knowledge with benefits and being a policeman’s widow. I am so pleased that the Regina Division Secretary distributed the information to all of their members. This was the intent of the Newsletter. The information was also distributed by Montreal Division and thank you, Montreal Division.

On the 3rd of August Mr. Tony KEENAN the President of the Mounted Police Foundation (MPF) sent an Email to invite me to be a Director of the MPF. I accepted with pleasure. The RCMP Vets Association’s previous representative to the MPF was Al Burchill who represented us well for a number of years.

The MPF collects a little bit of money any time an RCMP crested piece of merchandise is sold. This collected money is applied for by serving members, then distributed to RCMP crime prevention schemes and community policing initiatives across the country. The MPF has distributed over 1.3 million dollars since it started in 1994.

Information can be found at: http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/musicalride/mpf_e.htm .

Over the month of August I have had telephone conversations with Past President LIVELY, the National Treasurer, Secretary, Senior Vice President, Directors Ron POND, Nick SHAIGEC, Mel CHEAVINS, Cal SMALL and Tim HOBAN as well as the Executive Director Bill Gidley. The day to day operation of the National Office keeps on going over the summer and business continues.

It is with regret that I announce that Assistant Secretary Alex GEDDES has asked to be relieved of his duties as Assistant Secretary on NEC. Alex explained that the work he is doing was supposed to be winding down and the opposite is happening. He regrets the need to step down so soon after being elected to the position but he can not serve the way he would wish to. I have accepted his resignation with regret and wish him well in everything he is doing.

Bill Gidley has managed to have the Pension Advisory Committee (PAC) minutes made available to us and as they become available will be attached to the President's Newsletter. The minutes of PAC meeting from the 17 of February 2006 have just become available and are attached for your information. Well done, Bill.

THE ROYAL CANADIAN NAVAL BENEVOLENT FUND

The Royal Canadian Naval Benevolent Fund now provides grants or loans, in time of need, to regular and reserve force personnel who have served in the Royal Canadian Navy prior to 1968, or subsequently in the Maritime of the Canadian Forces, to Canadian Merchant Navy War Veterans, and to their dependants. Serving Maritime Command regular and reserve force personnel may be eligible for assistance under certain circumstances.

Financial need is deemed to exist when an applicant or dependant is suffering hardship due to lack of the ordinary necessities of life such as food, clothing, shelter and medical care. The Fund does not assist applicants or their dependants to maintain a standard of living beyond their means.

Enquiries can be made with Ms. L.F. HARRISON, Secretary Treasurer of the Fund and can be reached at 1-888-557-8777. Please ensure that former Navy, Reservists and Merchant Navy personnel and their dependants are aware of this Fund. Please keep this fund in mind if any of our members or their dependants are looking for some assistance.

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The first NEC video-conference of the year will take place on September 19th and will last four hours. Our agenda is coming together now and it looks like it will take us the full four hours to accomplish it. A tremendous amount of work can be accomplished using this format. The Force lets us use their video-conference facilities for our meetings.

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It is timely to remind everyone in the Association of section 117.4 of the Association's Constitution. It reads:

“Division and individual members shall not correspond with anyone outside of the Association either in the name of the Association, or purporting to represent the views of the Association on matters relating to its affairs unless it is of purely local interest.”

Recently correspondence has gone to every Commanding Officer as well as the Commissioner of the RCMP by a member of a division in the Association making enquiries. Some of this type of correspondence has caused us a great deal of embarrassment over the years and might cause us a setback in representing the Association. This type of correspondence must stop. If you wish NEC to make enquiries on your behalf send them to us.

Dale LIVELY – Past President & Chair of Board of Governors

August continued to be a busy family month for me and the last visitors left for China this morning.

During the first week of August I participated, as a committee member, in drawing the names of successful winners of New Brunswick Divisions Annual Scholarship draw. Five persons who are children or grandchildren of RCMP Veteran members in New Brunswick were chosen to receive a \$500.00 bursary. This is the third year this program has been in effect in New Brunswick.

I enquired on the status of two veterans having difficulties with their disability claims and referred them to Bill Gidley to sort out.

Finally the Veterans’ Modernization meeting today the 24th went well. I have been doing a bit of research toward changes anticipated with AGM 2007 in Kelowna and the committee feels it will make a more invigorating and participatory convention.

More news will be coming in September.

Nick SHAIGEC – Director, Constitution and By-Laws

As the new Director of Constitution and Bylaws my first assignment was to review a proposed set of Division Bylaws, and after considerable study and research I recommended acceptance in their original format, for approval by our National President. Much of my "free" time is getting familiar with the RCMP Vets Constitution, and Robert’s Rules of Order.

John RELIGA - Treasurer’s Report

RCMP Benefit Trust Fund

The following is a summary of the charitable donations and floral tributes processed by the Association’s National Office in 2006 to August 15th on the death of a member, but paid for by the RCMP Benefit Trust Fund.

Charitable Donations

Divisions submitting receipts – 12

Total number of charitable donations – 23

Floral Tributes

Divisions submitting receipts – 5

Total number of floral tributes - 8

the Quarterly/la Trimestrielle

The recently published book **Behind the Badge – History of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police “Depot Division”** was put together by RCMP Members Dale Sheehan and Red Oosten from articles and photographs provided by current and former members of the Force. The publisher of the book is donating a royalty on each book sold to *the Quarterly* magazine. As you are aware, *the Quarterly* donates its net revenue each year to the Association and Canadian Charities proposed by the Association’s divisions.

The book can be ordered by using the Order Form on page 17 of the Summer Issue of *the Quarterly* or by writing to Centax Books, 1150 8th Avenue, Regina, SK, S4R 1C9 or by telephoning the Company at 1-800-667-5595. The price of the book including tax is \$53.45. This includes free shipping in Canada. The company will gold foil a name on the inside hardcover, so please be prepared to provide this information.

HAVE YOU SEEN THE LATEST QUARTERLY?

The summer 2006 issue of *the Quarterly* is now available! Here is a snippet of the cover article:

Calling RCMP Members Past and Present: Join Operation Recruit

by Roxanne Beaubien, National Recruiting Program

With plans to hire approximately 2,000 cadets in each of the next few years, the new National Recruiting Program is requesting past and present employees to encourage young people to consider a career with the RCMP.

“Anyone who has been a member knows this is an incredibly rewarding career that offers vast opportunities,” explains National Recruiting Program OIC Supt. Glen Siegersma. “Who is better than our members to share that message with the young people they know?”

Facing increasing retirements, demands for more members across the country and tough competition for qualified candidates, the RCMP is actively recruiting from across Canada. The National Recruiting Program was created earlier this year to oversee recruiting, with four regional officers reporting to Supt. Siegersma. The national program is focused on providing support to the regions and divisions in areas of policy, long-term planning, streamlining the recruiting process and promoting the RCMP as a career

choice.

The goal of Operation Recruit is to spread the word about the advantages of an RCMP career and provide accurate information about the basic requirements through employees and veterans. A pamphlet providing tips on information to share with potential candidates, as well as an outline of the current application process, along with information cards for potential applicants, are being distributed across the country through recruiting offices. More detailed information on the application process is available on the RCMP website at www.rcmp.ca.

To read the full article, order a copy of the summer issue by contacting us at 1-877-251-1771.

Other articles include:

Bracing for the Boom

Getting “G” Division Ready for the Mackenzie Gas Project

by C/M David Gilbert

A Balancing Act:

Labour Relations in the RCMP

by Heather Hamilton

Part I: Missing German Arctic Expedition

by Cpl. H.W. Stallworthy

For a preview of the issue, visit www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/quarterly/quarterly_e.htm. To order a copy or to subscribe, contact us at 1-877-251-1771 or at quarterly@rcmp-grc.gc.ca.

Cal SMALL – Director, Chair of Editorial Board of Quarterly

On Tuesday, August 22 The Board of Trustees of the Quarterly Magazine met and after, the Editorial Management Board met. At both meetings, circulation and the future prospects of the magazine were perhaps discussed more than any other topic. It is important that recent declines in circulation be stopped and reversed. In that regard two initiatives were discussed and will be pursued. These are explained below.

Since few of the cadets now graduating from Depot Division subscribe to the Quarterly, it was decided that a telephone conference with the Commanding Officer and/or his senior staff would be useful in trying to determine why there is such a lack of interest, if that is the case, and what if anything can be done about it. An effort will be made in the next few days to arrange this meeting.

A relatively small percentage of our retired members subscribe to the Quarterly, therefore, any initiative to entice more to do so would be considered worthwhile. In this regard, it was thought that the National President could be of service. It was felt that promotion of the Quarterly during his visits to the Divisions would be beneficial. The

Quarterly has been covering matters related to the RCMP, its members and their families since 1933, so it has, for a long time now, been an integral part of the history of the Force. Also, it should be realized that contributions made by the Quarterly to the Veterans' Association, has helped the National office to retain its current level of dues and consequently this has reduced the pressure on the divisions to raise theirs. So, as a source of revenue to the Veterans' Association, a healthy Quarterly Magazine is important.

Members of the Editorial Management Board are always examining ways to make the magazine more informative, more attractive, perhaps more vital to its readers, etc. With this in mind, consideration is being given to creating space for extracts from the President's Newsletter. It was felt, that publication of the highlights of these monthly newsletters would be an important source of news for those retired members who are not active in the association and do not have access to other sources of information. Natalie Eagan, our Editor is examining this proposal and hopefully it could become an important part of the magazine.

Mel CHEAVINS – Director - Modernization Committee

I have been spending the summer from the 15th of May 2006 and will be there until the 3rd of Sept at a Provincial Park, 45 miles from Yorkton being CAMPGROUNDS HOST. When I leave there on the 3rd of Sept I will have until the 6th of Sept when I will go to Regina to co-host a 50th anniversary of "D" Troop 56. I passed the 50 year date on April 3rd 2006. I am looking forward to this.

I have attended two 4 hour VIDEO conferences of the Modernization Committee in Regina and was in Regina to march in the parade for one of the members killed in Saskatchewan.

I expect that when I am finished all of my other duties I will be given more chores by Ron POND who is the chair of this committee. I expect that I will be receiving replies, replying to them and keeping everything filed for use as required by members of the NEC TEAM.

I am sorry to see the end of summer is near but hope all of you have enjoyed it.

Bill GIDLEY – Executive Director

I returned from Holidays 14 August 06 and these are some of the activities regarding this national office.

E-mails

I will begin with some statistics regarding e-mails...I made a count of e-mails sent from my computer to veterans, pensioners, RCMP members and members of the general public. Total of 202 e-mail messages I personally sent from 14 August until today the 23rd August during the course of 8 working days.

Phone Calls

I have had numerous phone calls to the RCMP Veterans' Association long distance toll-free number, with inquiries regarding concerns with Veterans' Affairs Canada (VAC) disability claims. One person I will be personally assisting this afternoon here at the National Office and attend at the Penticton VAC District office for assistance. Other inquiries on such items as former members wishing copies of their medical files, looking for long out of touch relatives/friends all of whom I have been able to find and bring together and make some people very happy....these are continuous requests and this office with the tools we have access to has great success in locating people, usually former members of the RCMP....

Death Benefits

I have a fair number of inquiries regarding death benefits. There is more interest these days in former retired members making inquiries for burial plots at "Depot" Division than in the past.

RCMP Retired Identification Card Signed by the Commissioner

Regarding an ID card program I will relay this information which has been in existence for some time now, however, there may be some former members who are not aware of this... basically if a member (NCO) retired prior to 30 June, 1988 they did not receive a retired ID card from the Force. A bit of history on this matter as follows:

As a result of representation by the RCMP Veterans' Association, the Commissioner of the RCMP on 08th of May 1995 approved the issuing of ID cards to all members (including CMs) who retired to pension from the RCMP prior to 30th June, 1988. Members retiring since this date and all retired commissioned officers are issued ID cards in accordance with Section 68 of the RCMP Regulations.

Due to lack of resources within the RCMP, the National Office of the RCMP Veterans' Association will be responsible for the administration of the ID card program. An administration fee of \$10.00 a card will be charged to each applicant. In addition to members of the RCMP Veterans' Association, this program will be open to all former members of the RCMP (including CMs) who are interested in obtaining an ID card. The approved ID card is RCMP Form 3934, which includes some vital statistics, a photo of "the bearer, whose identification appears, on the reverse and below, retired from the RCMP". The cards are the property of the RCMP, who will review and approve applications prior to issue. To obtain an ID card, contact the RCMP Veterans' Association National Office at phone number 1-877-251-1771 locally at (613) 993-8633 or e-mail bill.gidley@rcmp-grc.gc.ca.

On 22 August I attended two separate meetings regarding the Quarterly magazine. The first meeting was the Management Editorial Board Meeting of the Quarterly and the second the Quarterly Trustee Board. The Quarterly I am pleased to add continues to receive laudatory remarks due to its fine appearance and content. One area of concern is that the informative publication could be subscribed to by more of our pensioners. Both

Quarterly Boards welcomed Sig SIGURDSON as a member of both boards replacing Al HAGGERTY who stepped down.

Regarding the Modernization of Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC)/RCMP

The core RCMP project team met with their VAC counterparts at Stanhope, PEI last week to establish key elements of the VAC/RCMP project charter and resource requirements. I will be receiving some correspondence on this shortly. I have discussed this topic with C/Supt Cal Corley of the RCMP who is the project leader for the Force on this endeavour.

During the week of 11 September or 18 I expect to be in a full team meeting (VAC/RCMP) to finalize the project planning and the project charter. The plan and charter will be approbated at the next RCMP-VAC steering Committee which is planned to take place on or about 05 October, 2006. I anticipate sending out an information package shortly on this initiative. This undertaking is a priority with me and one of the most important items I am dealing with on our behalf.

Ron POND – Director, Chair of Modernization Committee

On behalf of the Modernization Committee I would like to report that planning has proceeded very favourably since the AGM. We have held two video conferences and formed to this point three Sub-Committees; Governance, Communication and Marketing chaired by Bill Maxwell, Dale Lively and myself respectively. In addition Mel Cheavins will be overall responsible for the coordination of workshops and exercises that we will be asking from the membership. In the coming months individuals from across the country who have expressed an interest will be involved.

We will be contacting the Divisions directly in early September as a follow-up to President Morris's communiqué to request every Division appoint a Modernization Representative (DMR). We will be forwarding kits directly to the DMRs as soon as they are appointed to initiate the first stages of this essential project. We can not state enough times, that for the success of this initiative, we will need to engage as many individuals as possible including those that have left the Force and are not members of our Association as yet and spouses and current members of the Force of all ranks and service.

We have established some preliminary time lines to lead us through a wide range of issues and objectives over the coming months. We have already received numerous suggestions from the membership which are being catalogued and will be considered at the appropriate point in the development of the strategy. It is very encouraging to see the response thus far and we certainly would like to encourage the membership to continue to get involved.

Our initial focus will be on some priority governance issues, communication needs and marketing issues. This is very much a multi-pronged initiative maximizing on experts in

the various fields at every opportunity. In order to succeed we will be depending on the wisdom and passion of those members who have made this Association the great organization it is today. We will also be reaching out to see what is required to ensure that we can offer an institution that will be appealing to all members leaving the Force for years to come.

We will be providing regular updates through a variety of channels on the progress that we make. We would encourage everyone to contact us should they want further information or want to assist.

A REQUEST OF YOU WHO HAVE INVESTIGATED CHILD SEXUAL ASSAULTS

The Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family has recently been contracted by the Cornwall Public Inquiry to conduct a selective review of the development and evolution of Canadian police practices and policies in respect to the response to complaints of child sex abuse complaints by adults of historical sexual abuse. The overall goal of this project is to identify time-specific practices and policies. The specific objectives of this review are to:

- *examine the evolution of police practices and policies in respect to police response to complaints of child sexual abuse (including historical reports) from 1960 to 2006;*
- *examine any differences related to community size;*
- *examine practices with respect to police officers who report suspected abuse or report issues in the handling of complaints; and*
- *include comparative examples from other jurisdictions where appropriate.*

Given the limited time frame of the study (a final report has to be completed by October 31, 2006), we are targeting specific police organizations for the current review. We hope that the review will include the following police organizations: the RCMP; three large municipal police services; and five or six small police organizations in communities similar to Cornwall.

As per our previous discussions regarding this project, the information that we are requesting from the RCMP includes the following:

1. *Formal documents regarding both cadet training and in-service training regarding the RCMP response to complaints of child sex abuse from 1960 to 2006 (such as policies directives and training materials); and*

2. *Access to key informants for interviews. We would like to interview officers who have experience investigating cases of child sexual abuse from 1960 to present. Many of these officers would be retired.*

We understand that this project is very complex given its historical perspective. For example, it is important to note that the concept and term "child sex abuse" did not even come into use by mental health and child welfare professionals until the mid-1970s. It is not surprising then that legal definitions of child sex abuse in Canada were not well defined until 1988 when the federal government proclaimed new legislation which identified a number of new criminal sexual offences against children. Further, we understand that there have been a considerable number of developments and changes to basic case management of investigations which would affect the investigation of any major crime. Finally, it is our intention to document as clearly and objectively as possible the emergence and understanding of the issue of child sexual abuse, as well as the police understanding and response to it.

We would also like to point out that any data obtained from your organization will be used only for the purposes of this project and will not identify individuals. Only the project director, Joseph P. Hornick, Ph.D., and the research assistant, Ms Chelsey Morrice, BA, LLB, will have direct access to identifiable data. Further, you will be provided the draft report for review and comment prior to it being finalized. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Dr. Hornick, the project director or Colleen Parrish, Director of Policy, Cornwall Public Inquiry. Contact information is listed below. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

*Joseph P. Hornick, Ph.D.
Executive Director*

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MESA , ARIZONA FEBRUARY 24TH , 2007

The Mesa R.C.M.P. Snowbirds 26th Annual Reunion/ Dinner/Dance is scheduled for Saturday, February 24th, 2007, at the Regal Hall of Mesa Regal RV Resort, 4700 East Main Street, MESA, Arizona, 85205. Meet and greet starts at 4:00 PM with dinner at 6:00 PM - Dance to follow. Dress is casual - no shorts please.

The cost is \$25.00 (US) per person. RV parking is available at Good Sam & Coast to Coast Rates. Phone 1-800-845-4752 for reservations. There are also several suitable hotels nearby at reasonable rates.

The annual Golf Tournament follows on Sunday, February 25th, 2007 at The Links Golf Course, Queen Creek. The golf cost is \$25.00(US) per player for 9 holes and includes a cart. Golf prices are subject to change. A BarBQ follows the golf for \$15.00(US) per person. We would like as big a turn out as possible – plan to be there! Troop Reunions are welcome to join us.

For more information respecting registration, payments, and any additional information contact: Leslie LEVY at 867-660-4200 or mpsnowbirds@yahoo.ca . After December 1st, 2006 in Mesa 480-985-1418

Don't forget the Coffee Get-Together every Saturday starting in November until the end of March. Commencing in November, 2007 the Saturday coffee will be held at the Arizona Golf Resort between 0830 and 1030. The Arizona Golf Resort is located at 425 S. Power Road, Mesa. For further instruction to access the Resort contact Larry Weber at 480-634-6707 or email at ld_weber@cox.net .

Submitted by – Jack Van Norman – Secretary
Expiry Date – February 28th, 2007.
