



NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER, 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

We have reached the end of the year 2006 and your National Executive Committee would like to wish you and yours a very Happy New Year and a happy healthy 2007. The year 2006 has given us the opportunity to start the Modernization dialogue within the Vets Association and we look forward to moving forward to the goal of a healthier Association. Your assistance will be helpful and appreciated.

Last month I forgot to mention that I had attended the Regina Division's meeting. The division had an exceptional turnout for the presentation of Divisional President's Medallions to John WORTHINGTON, Regina Division President and to Doug MADILL, Saskatoon Division President. It was my privilege to make the presentation then talk about what is happening with the Modernization Committee. A presentation that was made by Mounted Police Foundation President Tony KEENAN and the Executive Director of the Foundation Fred SEMERJIAN was very well received and generated many quality questions. The presentation was about how the Foundation collects funds from manufacturers and distributes it to community events through RCMP involvement.

On December 5th Lise and I drove to Ottawa to prepare for the December NEC meeting and the next day Commissioner ZACCARDELLI submitted his resignation to the government. We were wondering all day during our meetings what was happening. The Commissioner was to have dinner with us that night. As it turned out the news of his resignation was received around three in the afternoon. This was a sad notification to us on the National Executive Committee. We have had the honour of working closely with

him over the past years. On the Commissioner's retirement he will become a Life Member of the Association. A letter has been sent to him advising him that we will soon be contacting him to present him with his Life Membership document. We wished him well on behalf of the Association by letter.

In December Lise & I also drove to Ottawa to attend the Mounted Police Foundation Open House on the 12th then drove to Montreal to attend the regular scheduled Montreal Vets meeting that night. At the meeting I was privileged to present President's Medallions to Guy BARIL and A.L. (Reg) REGIMBAL as past Dominion Presidents and to the Montreal President Gaston DESORMEAUX. We would like to thank Gaston, Norm WRAY, Guy BARIL and the members of Montreal Division for their hospitality.

The following document was forwarded to everyone in the Force on the 6th of December, 2006 by Commissioner ZACCARDELLI.

Dear Colleague,

It is with regret that I am, today, announcing my resignation as Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Recent events related to the Enquiry into events surrounding Mr. Maher Arar, the release of Justice Dennis O'Connor's report on this matter, and a number of difficulties that have arisen in relation to my follow up testimony to the Public Safety and National Security Committee, have created an untenable situation for me in my role as Commissioner.

The controversy that has emerged over the past weeks has made it increasingly difficult for me to fulfill my responsibilities to the Canadian people on behalf of the organization.

There is nothing more important to our ability to achieve our goal - to serve and protect - than the confidence of Canadians and their representatives in government. Although my decision is difficult, it is also straightforward. My career and my life would be without meaning if I were not able to set aside my own interests for the greater good of the Force and even more importantly for those who work here.

I have served this organization with pride and determination for more than 36 years. My life has been defined by my experience of being a Mountie and there is not one moment, one decision or one circumstance of my career, that I would change. Above all, for me, it has been the opportunity to serve alongside the most dedicated, committed and capable law enforcement officers and employees in the world, that has given me such satisfaction.

I leave my post knowing that our organization is bigger than any one of us, and that each of you will continue to serve our higher purpose with dignity and commitment.

I thank each and every one of you. Your decision to work for Canada, for peace and safety, for community and for citizens, in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, is one that makes a difference to the world as we know it.

It has been my honour to serve with you.

Commissioner

On the Commissioner's last day on the job, 15 December 2006, I called him to wish him and Bette well in retirement. I thanked him again for being such a strong supporter of the Association. He was very gracious and kind. He mentioned that as I was speaking to him he was filling out his application for the Vets Association. He was wandering around the building to try to find two references. He had not lost his finely tuned sense of humour. He mentioned that he has spoken with Bette about the possibilities of the two of them attending the AGM in Kelowna in June. I had mentioned that I was hoping that he was going to pass Bowen Perry's record of 23 years as Commissioner. He said in today's media it is very unlikely that anyone will ever be able to survive that long. The conversation ended on a happy light note about the Commissioner looking forward to seeing some of his old friends down the road. Thank you again Commissioner Zaccardelli for being such a great friend.

You may wish to review the FAQ (frequently asked questions) in the web site for the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions Canada. There are some valuable information about pensions and investments during retirement. The link is: http://www.osfi-bsif.gc.ca/osfi/index_e.aspx?ArticleID=1500.

Sun Life Financial "are very pleased to announce that, through a competitive bidding process that occurred over the course of 2006, Sun Life Financial (Sun Life) has again been awarded the Pensioners' Dental Services Plan (PDSP) contract for plan administration and the payment of your dental claims." Our dental program will proceed as usual with Sun Life continuing as the administrator of the plan.

I was just asked a few weeks ago about this horrible incident and its outcome. The story is still paying itself out. Many thanks to the CO "K" Division.

K" Division Commanding Officer's Communiqué

December 20, 2006

To: All Employees "K" Division

Re: Hazardous Occurrence Investigating Team (HOIT) Report

Murder of Four RCMP Officers

Mayerthorpe, Alberta, March 3rd, 2005

The Hazardous Occurrence Investigating Team (HOIT) was established in response to requirements under the Canada Labour Code. HOIT prepared a report for Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) concerning the events that took place near Mayerthorpe on March 3, 2005, wherein four RCMP members were murdered.

The members of HOIT included: Sgt. Stephen GRANT, NCO i/c Evansburg Detachment; Cst. Daryl SCOTT, Drayton Valley Detachment; S/Sgt. Robert MEREDITH, Staff Relations Representative; and Greg SMITH, Occupational Safety Officer. Sgt. Brian PINDER, NCO i/c Mayerthorpe Detachment participated in HOIT as an observer. Typically, HOIT would be comprised of members of the detachment involved, in this case, Mayerthorpe. However, given the traumatic nature of the incident, the members of the Detachment selected others to fulfill the HOIT duties on their behalf.

HOIT reviewed the circumstances leading up to the tragic events that transpired on March 3, 2005. On March 2, 2005, uniformed members of the Mayerthorpe RCMP Detachment executed a search warrant at the residence of James Roszko. Roszko had been observed fleeing the scene earlier in the day. One member from Mayerthorpe Detachment and one from Whitecourt Detachment remained to guard the property throughout the night and into the next morning in order to maintain continuity of evidence. Sometime during the night or early morning, Roszko facilitated a covert approach enabling him to sneak back onto the site. At some point he had become well armed. Two members from the Edmonton RCMP Auto Theft Unit arrived at the scene on the morning of March 3, 2005. Shortly after their arrival, they observed the four other members on site at the time, Constables Schiemann, Myrol, Johnston, and Gordon, entering the Quonset. Multiple gunshots were then heard coming from inside the quonset.

Based on the HOIT investigation, it is believed that Roszko was inside hiding in a corner of the quonset when the four members entered. Once all four members were inside the quonset, he used an assault rifle to fire multiple .308 rounds at the members, striking each of them multiple times. One of the members of the Edmonton Auto Theft Unit saw Roszko coming out of the quonset's east service door. Roszko fired two shots from the assault rifle directly at the Edmonton Auto Theft member who returned fire with his sidearm, firing two shots directly at Roszko.

When the RCMP Emergency Response Teams (ERT) arrived, they initially secured the area, then searched inside the quonset locating the four RCMP members and James Roszko, all of whom were deceased. The subsequent investigation determined that shortly after the four members entered the quonset they were fatally shot and, after being wounded, Roszko fatally shot himself.

HOIT has determined the direct cause of this incident to be the premeditated and intentional act by Roszko, who deliberately planned and executed the murder of four RCMP members.

HOIT made several key recommendations some of which were specifically linked to Mayerthorpe and others, although not specific to Mayerthorpe, were simply aimed at improving overall officer safety. RCMP "K" Division and HQ Ottawa are reviewing all the recommendations stemming from this report in order to develop appropriate responses.

The health and well-being of all RCMP employees, especially those who are in harm's way every day as part of their normal duties, is a top priority for RCMP senior management across Canada, and is of paramount importance to "K" Division senior

managers. Officer safety is an issue that we continuously strive to improve and I pledge to continue with this endeavour.

HRSDC is now reviewing the HOIT report and is expected to provide the RCMP with a final report. Once this report is received, national headquarters, in consultation with "K" Division, will prepare a detailed Communiqué to provide information to the membership in response to all of the recommendations made by both HOIT and HRSDC. It would not be appropriate for the RCMP to comment until HRSDC has completed its investigation and issued its findings.

There is still much to learn about the Mayerthorpe tragedy and like each of you, I am looking forward to eventually receiving more answers. It is my intention to share those answers with you when they become available.

*W.M. (Bill) Sweeney, D/Commr.
D/C NWR & C.O. "K" Division*

*- Release Date:
16/12/2006*

Nick SHAI GEC - Director Constitution & Bylaws

On December 2nd I attended a Forensic Identification Section Christmas luncheon at Vernon. It provided an opportunity to present Kamloops President, Don DEFEHR with his President's Medallion on behalf of our National President.

On December 6th I attended the National Executive Meeting at Ottawa following the meeting a dinner was held at that Sergeants Mess. Many Governors and members of the regular Force were in attendance. The trip home took 16 hours due to weather, aircraft mechanical problems at Toronto, Calgary and Edmonton.

On December 8th Joyce and I guests of South Okanagan Divisions mixed Christmas Dinner and Dance. I presented the President's Medallion to Jack ROSS. That evening I met a truly remarkable 92 year young gentleman. Reg. No.11852, George MOHR, S/Sgt, (Rtd). Joined the Force November 15th 1932 at Winnipeg. He served in F.K.& E Divisions, retiring out of Penticton Detachment as Section NCO on November 15th 1958. He joined the Veterans Association March 5th 1973 and has remained a member in good standing since. He was awarded a Life Membership June 1 1985. In February 2003 he was awarded The Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal for his volunteer service in the Veterans Association and community. George and his wife raised two children. George lost both his first and second wives due to illness. His current companion aged 89 years is a strong support mate of his activities. When asked about his secret to his longevity, his response was "stay active, leave the worries to some one else. We enjoy a full social life, dance three times a week and get proper rest" George and his companion are an inspiration to all of us.

On December 14th Joyce and I were guests at our Division mixed Christmas Dinner at Kelowna. I presented President Ron MAC LAREN with his President's Medallion. The event was attended by 90 people. A toast to the Force was responded to by C/Supt Don HARRISON, South East District Commander. Our President welcomed other serving members and their spouses.

Joyce and I wish to extend a Merry Christmas to all Veterans, their spouses and families and all those who read this newsletter. May good health, happiness and a full measure of prosperity be yours in the New Year.

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Cal SMALL - Director

Until a week or so ago, December was shaping up to be a normal month for the Quarterly. Then, Natalie EGAN, our Editor, announced that she was leaving for a more attractive position with the Force, effective January 3rd, 2007. As a result of this announcement, The Board of Trustees met on December 20th to discuss our situation. In that regard, Natalie will insure that the Winter Edition is ready for printing and on her own time will provide assistance as required to the new editor. Until January 15th, the Quarterly is inviting applications for the Editor position. With a little bit of luck, we should be able to fill it by the first of February. Natalie has been the Quarterly Editor since May 2003 and I believe there is general agreement that she has done an outstanding job and will be difficult to replace. Of course, The Board of Trustees and the Editorial Management Board wish her the very best in her new position.

Print West informed us this week that there was a small fire at their plant in Saskatoon and as a result the printing of the Quarterly will be delayed a couple of weeks. If this problem is confined to two weeks or so, it should not create any major problems for us.

Earlier, I mentioned the fact that I was appointed to a Working Committee that has been set up to examine recommendations from a report dealing with insurance issues. The first meeting of this group is slated for January 2nd. Next month I may be in a position to provide a little more information.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the Editorial Management Board of the Quarterly, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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Dale LIVELY, Past National President

Since the last Newsletter I have continued to work on the Modernization Committee. Our committee met in Ottawa in conjunction with the December NEC meeting. Our objective is to have three resolutions ready for the AGM in Kelowna concerning Governance of the Association. One of those proposed is a change to our current voting system. A message has been sent to all DMR's for suggestions on a workable voting system in an organization represented in all Provinces of Canada and the Territories. Bryan NEVILLE a relocated member of NB Division, now living in Prescott,

Ontario has volunteered to assist the national office with our web site. Finally I, as chair of the 2007 Nominating Committee, am seeking candidates for the three positions open this year. More will be sent by general broadcast soon.

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