



NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER, 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

Over the years I have heard from some Vets: “Oh those bastards from Ottawa are trying to shove things down our throats”. If you consider “those bastards” to be NEC let me explain something. The National Executive Committee (NEC) is made up of elected members voted into their positions at the AGM. Your current crop of NEC members are from: Nick SHAIGEC (Director) is from Vernon, Ron POND (Director) is in Whitehorse, Mel CHEAVINS (Director) is located in Yorkton and Cal SMALL (Director) is in Ottawa. Your Senior Vice President (Larry POWER) can be found in St. John's Nfld., Dale LIVELY (Immediate Past National President and current Chair of Governors) is in St. Andrews, NB and Tim HOBAN (Director) in Miramichi, NB. Bill MAXWELL (Secretary) and John RELIGA (Treasurer) can be found in Ottawa. I am located in beautiful downtown Toronto. As you see NEC is not “those bastards from Ottawa”. They are the guys from all across the country you have worked with and associated with who are now trying to run the Association and make things better for you with your help. There are no conspiracies. It is an honour to serve.

Jim EICHENBERG the President of Toronto Division was presented the Toronto Division President's Medallion on September 21st. It is an amazing thing to watch a president receive their division's Medallion. After many hours of volunteered time the president is honoured for his/her efforts and his/her dedication to the Association and the division. I look forward to getting to as many presidents as I can in the immediate future. Getting a chance to speak to a division about what is going on with a national perspective gives me a chance to continue sharing information. Having questions asked at the end of my presentation shows me what is of interest and the divisions are interested in benefits,

pensions and positive changes in the Association. I have just got back to Toronto after a 13 day 9,700 km trip to Nanaimo, Campbell River, Victoria, Vancouver and Edmonton. Verbal presentations were made to Central Vancouver Island Division, Victoria, Vancouver and Edmonton Divisions. I would like to express my extreme appreciation to Keith and Berta Trail (Nanaimo), Bill and Aileen Patton (Edmonton) and Frank and Heather Henley (Vancouver) for their western hospitality.

At the last NEC meeting Directors were assigned divisions to contact monthly. The intent is to keep in constant contact with the divisions and not to lose sight of interests and needs. The division's members now have a person to call to enable them to discuss issues and/or concerns. This Director hopefully will be building a rapport and a trusted link to NEC for you. This is how we broke down the Association for contacts.

Nick SHAIGEC (Director) 250-545-4301, nsshagec@shaw.ca
C.V.I., Kamloops, Okanagan, Prince George, South Okanagan, Shuswap, Vancouver and Victoria

Ron POND (Director) 867-668-2886, ronpond@northwestel.net
Calgary, Edmonton, N.W.T., Red Deer and Yukon

Mel CHEAVINS (Director) 306-782-9636, melbetty@sasktel.net
Lethbridge, Manitoba, Prince Albert, Regina and Saskatoon

Cal SMALL (Director) 613-841-9232, CalvinSmall@Rogers.com
Georgian Bay, Golden Horseshoe, Kingston Region, London, Ottawa, Thunder Bay and Toronto

Tim HOBAN (Director) 506-773-5071, tbhoban@nbnet.nb.ca
Montreal, New Brunswick, Nfld./Labrador, Nova Scotia and P.E.I.

As you can see the Directors generally live in (considering the size of our country) the areas they have been asked to call.

I received an Email from the organizers of the National Peace Officer's Memorial Service and it reads, "*I was particularly proud to see our Veterans out "en masse," proud to march with a great group in David Beer's troop*". NEC would like to thank those who took part in the Peace Officer's Memorial Service representing us all. Speaking of Ian COOPER, Ian is ending his employment with us for the second time which will bring a total of fifty years working for the RCMP and the Vets Association in service to the good people of Canada. Thank you Ian for being a solid policeman, friend and Vet.

Past President Dale LIVELY presented the P.E.I. President's Medallion to Ted WHELAN on my behalf at a golf tournament. Ted's message of appreciation reads, "*Our Division will be impressed with the quality and history of the President's Medallion, which I will proudly show off at our next general meeting this month. Again, thanks to you (Dale) and National President Rick for all the work involved*".

Many of our Veterans may not be aware that the Force is moving out of the 1200 Vanier Parkway location. This move will happen in the next three to four years. Because of that our office will likely be making a move very soon to a location in Orleans, Ontario

until the new Force Headquarters becomes ready. It appears that the Force needs the space we are currently using on Coventry Road. We have been assured that the Vets will be in the new location on Merrivale Road.

The Force will occupy the former JDS Uniphase Canada Ltd building which is an electronics and optical company. The location of the building is 3000 Merivale Road. It is located near the Ottawa International Airport. If you go to <http://411.ca> and map the Merivale address you can find out where it is and if you check the satellite box you can even see a real photo of it. Keep hitting the plus box until you zoom in. (In most cases you can do the same thing with your own house address.)

Mel CHEAVINS - Director

When talking to representatives of three of my Divisions they have indicated that they are in favour of modernization or at least some of the parts of it. One Division seems against it at this time and one is still working on getting their representative. Work on the voting and changes to the constitution are being completed and will be sent to the Divisions within the next 2 weeks. We hope that we will get a large number of replies.

John RELIGA - Treasurer

RCMP Benefit Trust Fund

Between January 1 and October 25, the RCMP Benefit Trust Fund on nine occasions paid for a floral tribute in honour of the death of a former member to recognize the member's service in the Force. On thirty-five occasions, the Fund donated money to a registered charity in lieu of a floral tribute. Membership in the Veterans' Association is not a requirement to receive this tribute from the Force. The payment for the floral tributes and charitable donations is handled by the Association using \$50,000 advanced by the RCMP Benefit Fund. Periodically, the Association submits a financial report to the Fund for audit and replacement of the money given out.

the Quarterly

From time to time, some members of the Association have suggested that it costs the Association money to publish *the Quarterly*. This could not be farther from the truth. In the past three years, *the Quarterly* has donated just over \$18,000 to the Association. Yet, only 2,366 pensioners subscribe to the magazine through payroll deductions.

Historical Trivia

The daily rations issued to members in 1909 were:

1. 1 lb. 8 oz. of beef or 1 lb. of bacon or corned beef
2. 1 lb. 4 oz. of flour or biscuit or 1 lb. 8 oz. of bread'
3. 2 oz. of butter
4. 2 oz. of apples or other dried fruit or 2 oz. of jam or syrup.

5. 1 lb. of potatoes or 4 oz. of beans
 6. 2 oz. of evaporated vegetables or 2 oz. of canned vegetables (tomatoes, corn or peas).
 7. ½ oz. of coffee and ½ oz. of tea.
 8. 1/16 oz. of pepper and ½ oz. of salt.
 9. 1 oz. of rice or barley and 2 oz. of oatmeal.
- Other restrictions were applied depending on the circumstances.

Cal SMITH - Director

We had the Quarterly Magazine monthly meeting recently. As circulation is still a concern, we sent a letter to the C.O. Depot Division seeking his assistance in helping to generate more interest in the magazine among the cadets. Our agreement with the Print West Group of Companies ends next July so we are now making contact with other printers to ensure we have the best arrangement in place for publishing and printing the magazine next year. Having said that, we are certainly not unhappy with Print West. They are doing a good job for us and will certainly have an opportunity to continue doing so. We are taking every opportunity to promote the magazine and I hope you and other members of the Association will do so also. The Quarterly's contributions to the Association have been significant. The Fall Edition of the Quarterly just came out and as usual Natalie Egan, our editor has done an excellent job.

The annual meeting of the Insurance Committee is scheduled for October 30th. This will be the first meeting since last spring. I will report on it next month.

During the last few weeks I have been able to have short conversations with the following Association Presidents: John COUPLAND, Thunder Bay Division; Jim Eichenberg, Toronto Division; Lew DOUGHTY, Georgian Bay Division; Don DELANEY, Golden Horseshoe Division; and Al RIVARD Ottawa Division. I must say it was a pleasure talking to them and I am hoping that these contacts will be mutually beneficial. I still have not been able to contact Rus SANTOR, London Division and Bob KRAUS, Kingston Division.

Dale LIVELY – National Past President

I had the honour to award the President's Medallion to PEI President Ted WHALEN at an informal dinner in Rustico, PEI on the 29 September 2006. A gathering of Veterans and spouses from NS, NB and PEI Division went to dinner after a great day on the Golf Course. President Ted was proud to receive the Medallion and he has already worn it to a function in PEI to rave reviews.

The presentation to NB President Stan MERRITHEW took place in the combined Mess at "J" Division HQ at the NB Division Fredericton luncheon on the 13 October 2006. A large crowd of NB Vets were in attendance. President MERRITHEW had the

distinction of passing the Medallion to NB's incoming President Bill GOOBIE at the NB Division AGM on the 21 October, 2006.

I was deeply honoured to be made a Life Member of New Brunswick Division by President Stan MERRITHEW on behalf of the members at the NB AGM on the 21 Oct 2006. (Does that mean I can retire?) Not likely. I enjoy what I do and my goal is to continue to make our Association appealing to all retired and former members of the Force and to assist everyone in obtaining benefits available to them, in particular disability claims.

I continue to work with the Modernization committee in listening to individual and DMR ideas as they start to respond to the request for information to our presentation at the last two AGM's. Already we are seeing great ideas come to the surface for the betterment of our Association. Not just because I'm on the committee but I must say what a great committee it is. We work well together and seem to have the checks and balances required on a committee. I believe we will be well on the way to some of the initial changes by Kelowna at AGM 2007.

In my role as Chair of the Board of Governors I continue to contact them and ensure they are aware of our objectives and I will continue with this. I am open to suggestions from them as well as any member of the Association who wishes to contact me at dixndale@nb.sympatico.ca.

Nick SHAIGEC - Director

On October 11th I attended an information modernization meeting at Abbotsford at the request of Vancouver Division. All Division Presidents and those interested were invited. Two Divisions were absent due to other commitments. Eleven delegates joined in the discussion, which lasted the better part of three hours. The meeting centered on the need for modernization and the three phase implementation. Each delegate was given an opportunity to express his personal views. At the conclusion of the meeting the consensus of the group was that the meeting was a worthwhile exercise.

Since the meeting I have fielded a number of calls from those in attendance and have enlisted the support of the Chairman of the Modernization Plan for purpose of clarification on certain aspects of the plan.

I assisted a veteran in completion of his disability application, recommending certain procedures involving medical, psychiatric and independent witness reports.

I attended an Interdivisional Golf Tournament that provided an opportunity to renew old acquaintances, and establish new relationships, in addition it enabled me to promote AGM 2007.

Bill Gidley – Executive Director

Pensioners' Dental Services Plan Board

I am a member of the PDSP Board. This Dental Board covers our RCMP Pensioners, Canadian Forces Pensioners as well as Federal Public Service Pensioners. Some of the duties of this Board include the policies of this Dental Plan. This Dental Board adjudicates on appealed cases by members of the dental plan. Treasury Board subsidizes our monthly premiums for this Dental Plan and the Dental Board meetings are generally held in the Treasury Board office in downtown Ottawa. Currently Sun Life administers this Dental Plan for us. The composition of the Pensioners' Dental Services Plan Board is myself representing our RCMP Pensioners, a serving and a retired General from the Canadian Forces, a retiree from the Federal Superannuates National Association (FSNA), a serving public servant from Transportation Canada and the Dental Board is chaired by a retired Deputy Minister from the government of Canada.

The following are some interesting statistics regarding our Pensioners' Dental Plan as of the 20 October, 2006.

- (1) Enrolment Statistics - there are 283,335 pensioners on this dental plan
- (2) - since 01 April 2006 when pensioners could enrol in the dental plan regardless of not doing so prior to this when the 60 day grace period from the time of pension was abolished 20,502 new members joined the dental plan.
- (3) -electronic claims from the dentist's office to Sun Life take 3.2 days to have a cheque reimbursing the dental patient.
- (4) -there was an average of 8,304 telephone 8304 calls to Sun Life during the period 01 April 06 to 30 June 06 from dental plan members to Sun Life with an average of 54 seconds to address the concerns of the caller

Regarding number (2) above myself and a retired General on the board have pushed for 3 years to make the enrolment procedures more open to all. (Editor's note: If it was not for Bill pushing for the reopening of applications for the dental plan a huge number of our people would not have had a second chance to apply for the Sun Life Dental Plan. Thanks Bill)

Modernization Of Veterans' Affairs Canada & RCMP/Former RCMP Members

There is a meeting scheduled for the 02 November, 2006 with the Modernization Working Committee on this item. Officials from the RCMP, VAC and myself will be at this meeting. This subject in a sentence is to set up an RCMP Charter similar to the Canadian Forces which provides enhanced benefits for our disabled veterans and their families.

RCMP Pension Advisory Committee (PAC)

The next meeting of PAC will be held 07 December, 2006 and I am your representative on this committee. At the most recent PAC meeting a motion was made and carried for the PAC members to attend the AGM 2007 to be held in Kelowna, B.C.

This participation by the PAC will be in the form of a "Town Hall" meeting with former as well as serving members of the RCMP. To my knowledge this is a "first" for such an endeavour.

I also participate on these Quarterly magazine boards and our next meeting is scheduled for the 24 October, 2006.

National Office Of Our Association

Our office continues to be busy. I receive e-mails and phone calls from many parts of our world. Putting persons in touch with one another is an important aspect of many inquiries (and also former members inquiring with medical concerns) I provide advice to them, and sometimes just discussing the problem helps.

Ian Cooper our Administrative Officer will be leaving after over 50 years of dedicated and loyal service to our members. Our office will miss Ian.

Gerry Provick our Administrative person is working well and is fitting in with our veteran's client base.

Ron Pond - Director

Since the last Newsletter I kept busy on various initiatives related to the Veterans' Association Modernization initiative. I have also been in contact with the Divisions assigned to me by President Morris as part of his initiative to improve the communication between NEC and the Divisions. I am making arrangements to meet with the members from the various Alberta Divisions on route to the NEC meeting in early December.

Other than that I am being kept busy in Whitehorse with responsibilities related to Yukon Division, my involvement with the 2007 Canada Winter Games and not the least my nine month old bloodhound pup.

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