



**NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER**  
**SEPTEMBER, 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.”

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FROM THE DESK OF THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

**Rick MORRIS**

I am very pleased to report that I will be attending the November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Regina Division. On the 6<sup>th</sup> of November I have meetings with the Mounted Police Foundation at Depot Division and I will be staying over one night to attend the meeting with Mr Tony KEENAN the President of the Mounted Police Foundation. John WORTHINGTON was more than gracious in welcoming us and inviting us to speak to the division members.

It was a pleasure to speak with Elaine FORBES, Manitoba Division President, and she mentioned that the President's Newsletter will be posted on their division web site and they will be advising their membership to check the web site for the contents. Elaine also mentioned that their division has a strong candidate for president stepping forward and the division looks like it will be in good hands. This candidate is the current Vice President Dave LEBLANC. Elaine quit smoking on July 18<sup>th</sup> and she is still clean. Good for her!

Lise and I were saddened to hear of the passing of Dr. Alan McLEAN, the President of the Victoria Division. I have passed on the Association's sympathies to his wife Miriam (Mimi) MYLLIMAKI as well as to Victoria Division. I can't remember another serving president passing away in office. I hope to visit Mimi when I am in Victoria in October.

## **ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE VETERANS' ASSOCIATION MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE**

### **ALL DIVISION PRESIDENTS**

*In my recent communiqué to you, I attempted to provide you with an understanding of what the modernization initiative is all about and how very important it is to the future of this Association.*

*I thank those of you who have already named their Divisional Modernization Representative (DMR) and I expect the remaining divisions are in the process of doing so in the near future. The role of the DMRs in this initiative is a very important one as they will be the link between the Modernization Committee headed by Ron Pond and your division, to communicate and facilitate ideas, suggestions and proposals at the Divisional level to ensure that all Divisions across Canada are given the opportunity to fully participate in this process. The DMRs are not in any way to replace the normal lines of communication between the National Executive Committee and/or between divisions. They are a contact "on the ground" to facilitate any discussions and to distribute any communication to the Division Executive and members during this exercise. They are to work closely with your Division Executive to ensure that everyone is fully informed and consulted as we move along in developing various proposals to our governance structure, communications and marketing strategies.*

*I assure you that there are no preferred options on the table at this time. We need to develop alternative ways of doing things and then consider what is best for the Association. For this, we need your support, input and participation. The Modernization Initiative is not just an exercise mandated by the National Executive Committee. It is to be a grassroots look at what this Association has to do in order to ensure its future capacity to serve its members.*

*Other members of the National Executive Committee and I are willing to discuss this with you at any time and in any gathering that you feel will be of assistance to your division. I look forward to our continued discussions in the near future.*

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On Monday September 11<sup>th</sup> my wife Lise & I started driving to Thunder Bay to attend the Thunder Bay Division meeting. I was told by their president of 18 years John COUPLAND that Thunder Bay Division had never had a National President attend their meeting. I advised him that I would change that and ensure that I would be there. On the way north I stopped to speak to one of Thunder Bay's members who could not get to the meeting the next day and spoke with him and his wife. I was able to assist him in a direction that might get him a medical pension because of his unique story. We got to Kakabeka Falls on the afternoon of September 12<sup>th</sup> and attended the meeting at their beautiful golf course. There were 18 in attendance for a meal and a meeting. This included Active members and their spouses. The meeting went well and I had a chance to reveal what was going on at the national level. John COUPLAND was presented the first Division President's Medallion. The Medallion is a badge of office for the Division President and can be worn at any event where he/she will be representing the Division.

The Medallion will be presented to the new president when he/she is sworn into the office. This trip took a total of four days and 2,888 kms. Lise and I would like to thank Carol and John COUPLAND for their warm northern hospitality.

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### **Larry Power – Senior Vice President**

Since AGM 2006 in Halifax I have been kept busy between golf, summer travel, finalizing the new Admin. Manual to put on our Web site and trying to figure out just what the Senior Vice-President does. I am trying to keep up to date with the activities of the Modernization Committee and will offer what assistance I can.

The duties of Constitution Chair have been turned over to new Director Nick Shaigec along with all Division By-Laws and files. I have offered to assist Nick with the transition.

We have our first video conference on Sept. 19 and from the proposed agenda it looks like it will be a long and lively one. Maybe we'll have more news for you following that.

Thank you one and all for your support during my election at AGM 2006 and all the best to you all as you get into your Fall and Winter schedules.

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### **Tim Hoban - BTF Director**

John RELIGA and I worked on revising the BTF APPLICATION FORM. It is in the hands of the RCMP Benefit Trust Fund Committee for acceptance. No word yet. I visited Halifax and the NS Vets to discuss submission of BTF Applications. We have had one file concluded as our investigation disclosed that the applicant is now receiving sufficient funds to support herself.

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### **Nick Shaigec – Constitution - Director**

On September 19<sup>th</sup> I participated in the video conferencing of the National Executive Committee meeting, from the facilities at Kelowna City Detachment. The meeting was chaired under the capable leadership of our National President. The meeting was well organized with a variety of interesting topics on the Agenda. In my opinion, much was accomplished, and I look forward, with interest to the next NEC meeting to be held at Ottawa on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

I have touched base with all eight Divisions Presidents, in British Columbia, assuring them of my continual support, open communications, and assistance in any matters of concern or interests they may have. My calls to the Presidents were well received, and many thanked me for my interest in their Divisions.

On October 11<sup>th</sup> I will be attending a Modernization Information meeting of all British Columbia Divisions to be held at Abbotsford, BC. This meeting is being

organized by Vancouver Division in hopes of providing better understanding of the Proposed Plan and with an exchange of information amongst those present.

During September I reviewed a proposed set of Division By-Laws, and following certain changes, I recommended acceptance by our National President.

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**John RELIGA - Treasurer**

### **BROWN RCMP VA BELTS**

Prior to 2000, at the request of members, the National Office purchased a supply of brown web belts with a brass buckle on which is the Association's crest. The belts are long enough that they can be cut to fit any size waist. The National Executive has decided to discontinue selling these belts and is getting rid of the stock on hand at below the cost price of \$15.10. These belts will become collector's items in a few years, because no more belts of this style will be manufactured.

1 to 5 belts - \$12.00 each  
6 to 10 belts - \$11.00 each  
More than 10 belts - \$10.00 each

Order your belts in the usual manner through the National Office.

### **THE QUARTERLY'S 2006 RCMP CHRISTMAS CARD IS NOW AVAILABLE**

Retired RCMP artist Bill McMILLAN has produced another RCMP-theme card for 2006. Pictures of these cards appear on the following pages.

Cards are available in packs of 12 (6 ¼" x 4") and each pack costs:

Ontario - \$17.10 (includes GST & Ontario RST)  
Nfld. & Lab., Nova Scotia & New Brunswick - \$17.10 (Includes HST)  
Other provinces & the territories - \$15.90 (Includes GST)  
Outside Canada - \$15.00  
Orders of 10 dozen or more are \$12.00 plus applicable taxes.

#### **Specify which card(s) you are ordering:**

RCX - 1 Horse & Rider  
RCX - 5 Ornaments  
RCX - 6 Mounted escort  
RCX - 7 RCMP Member and Cabin

**Note:** Cards RCX-1 and RCX - 5 come with the greeting *Seasons Greetings and Best Wishes*. With Cards RCX - 6 and RCX - 7 you have your choice of the greeting *Seasons Greetings and Best Wishes* **or** *Merry Christmas/Joyeux Noël*. If you do not specify the greeting that you want on cards RCX - 6 and RCX - 7, we will send you the *Seasons Greetings and Best Wishes* card.

**Order by:**

1. Mail:  
RCMP Veterans' Association *the Quarterly*  
1200 Vanier Parkway  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0R2
2. Phone:  
(613) 993-3738
3. Fax:  
(613) 993-4353
4. E-mail:  
chantal.renaud@rcmp-grc.gc.ca (or) [rcmp.vets@rcmp-grc.gc.ca](mailto:rcmp.vets@rcmp-grc.gc.ca)

**Payment options:**

1. Cheque payable to *the Quarterly*.

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**Bill Maxwell – Secretary**

In the past couple of months, the National Secretary has been occupied with developing the minutes of the Board of Directors and Annual General Meeting held in Halifax and getting them out to Divisions. He has participated in the periodic meetings of NEC and is an active member of the Modernization Committee, chairing the Communications Sub-Committee on this very important initiative and participating on the Governance Sub-Committee as well. A major objective of the Secretary is to ensure timely communication to all members of the Association and he has assisted in the writing and reviewing of correspondence for the President and other members of NEC on various issues.

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**Bill Gidley - National Executive Director**

**Note: ON SEVERAL OF THESE ITEMS I CANNOT BE SPECIFIC WITH EVENTS OR NAME INDIVIDUALS DUE TO PRIVACY CONCERNS**

Usual numerous inquiries regarding former members looking for other members they wish to contact.

Letter from a Division Association member looking for assistance with CPP and GWL Disability claim concerns...I am dealing with RCMP policy centre on this in order to assist this member.

Letter received from Minister of VAC - wishing to assist with a claim for one of our association members who were injured on duty...I forwarded this information to the appropriate Veterans' Association Division for their much required help on this case.

I am personally dealing with the RCMP Health Directorate on a case that goes back 17 years with the aim of helping one of our "killed in the line of duty" member's children with health concerns.

Up to date material from the Project leader of the RCMP/VAC committee which, is supplied for this newsletter, in addition to PAC material is attached. I will be attending a Pension Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting this Friday 29 September.....

I attended the Police Memorial event on Parliament Hill 24 September (Sunday)....We had a large contingent of veterans made up primarily of association members from Ottawa Division. Commissioner ZACCARDELLI was in attendance along with many of his senior executive. Our veterans' contingent let our Commissioner know we support him during these trying times for him. The Police Memorial enjoyed good weather and there were police departments represented from many parts of Canada and the United States. Also there was a huge crowd of the general public taking part and our veterans and all police personnel were applauded while marching after the sombre ceremonies to honour the 10 fallen.

Gerry PROVICK is putting together the BOD & AGM packages in attractive book form for distribution to our membership. In years gone by this was done by a "printing company" and this year we are saving several hundreds of dollars by performing this "in house" at our national office. Also Gerry is compiling presentation packages for veteran Lorne HALL to present to Ontario Association Divisions next month.

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### **Dale Lively – Past President and Chair of Board of Governors**

As chair of the Governance sub-committee of the Modernization committee I am working on 3 immediate initiatives.

- 1) Streamlining the agenda for the Board of Directors Meeting for AGM 2007
- 2) Constitutional changes to consider having NEC absorbed into the Board of Directors known in future as National Board of Directors - NBOD. This could eliminate 1 level of management. The new NBOD could be approximately the same size as the current National Executive Committee (NEC). Dialogue with divisions will take place before the next AGM.

- 3) I am anxious to have input from the DMR's concerning some form of regionalization (or some other name) We feel there needs to be representation from all parts of Canada and are waiting to have input from Divisions on this.

This month I have attended the NEC meeting and a modernization committee meeting via video conference facilities. Members of the committee have had numerous discussions via phone and e-mail ensuring the Divisions have the framework for their Division Modernization Representatives to participate with vigorous ideas.

I have been in touch with some of the Governors and plan to continue utilizing their experience on the National Executive to the betterment of the Association of the future.

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### **Cal Small – Director, Insurance and Quarterly**

I indicated the Board of Trustees and the Editorial Management Board of the Quarterly Magazine did meet this morning. As usual, circulation continues to be of

concern. We discussed advertising the Quarterly in the Divisions' newsletters and possibly making subscription applications available to the various breakfast clubs. I think it's important that the benefits associated with subscribing to the Quarterly be widely known. Our contract with our printers, the Print West Group of Companies expires July 31, 2007 so that was also an issue for discussion. In fact, representatives of the company will be in Ottawa in October and this and other issues will be discussed.

The insurance meeting for this month was postponed until October 31.

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### **Ron Pond - Director, Chair Modernization Committee**

I have maintained a very full if not overflowing platter with relation to RCMP Veterans' Association initiatives, not the least are several tasks related to work with the team involved with the Modernization Committee and the various sub-committees. With the support of the Committee I have prepared the packages that are now being mailed to the some 20 Divisional Modernization Representatives (DMRs) appointed to date. I am also working on the exercises that will be emailed to the DMRs shortly after they have received their kits allowing for sufficient time for them to digest the contents and the challenges ahead.

I also am working on initiatives further to sponsorship, merchandising and licensing. I have just completed a two day course offered by Statistics Canada that will prove of great value in assisting the DMR's in gathering the information we need in the coming months and years to move forward. Shortly I will be contacting the Five Divisions assigned me by President Morris to establish better lines of communication between NEC and the Divisions.

As Chair for the 2009 AGM to be hosted in Whitehorse I am busy assembling the pieces with the hopes of having the event promoted on the Yukon Veterans Web Site later this fall. The President of the Yukon Division Hank MOORLAG is also our Web Master and he has offered to assist our National Modernization Committee in using the Yukon Web Site as an information location for this initiative. That should assist our efforts significantly at least until such time that the National Web site has been better developed. The Yukon Web Site is: [www.rcmpvets.yk.ca](http://www.rcmpvets.yk.ca)

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### **Mel Cheavins - Director, Modernization Committee**

As a result of the complication of the Modernization Committee as we moved in to a new phase which was beyond my complete comprehension I moved off being co-chair of the Committee. I continue to be a sounding board for Ron Pond and work on the voting and regionalization areas.

I have attended both the "F" Division and the Depot Division parades for the fallen members on September 9 & 10th

I have attended a Video conference with the NEC members and another with just the members of the Modernization Committee, both in Regina.