



NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER
AUGUST, 2007

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 Annual General Meeting in Kelowna went very well. I would like to thank the Okanagan and South Okanagan Divisions for hosting the AGM. Co-chairs Mike Bafia and Jack Ross should be congratulated for ensuring that everything was in place for an excellent AGM. When we were at the AGM it truly felt like we were away at a resort and our spare time was taken up by exploring the downtown area of Kelowna on foot and enjoying the lake’s close proximity. The two divisions’ volunteers and the people of Kelowna made the event friendly and happy. Thank you all for your hard work.

At the AGM Dave LeBlanc (Manitoba) was elected and became a Director. Cal Small was re-elected as Director. John Religa was re-elected by acclamation to the position of Treasurer. The Association extends its appreciation to Mel Cheavins who had served on NEC for two years as Director.

The business of the AGM was completed differently this year. The Board of Director’s Meeting that was held on Friday was done in a half day instead of taking all day. This gave the delegates and the attendees an opportunity to take in some informational sessions (which were well attended). The presidents had a session that gave them the chance to air concerns and to make suggestions as to how and where the Association and Divisions are going. This proved to be an interesting conversation.

A second NEC meeting was called while we were still in Kelowna. It was held on Sunday before the AGM final event. The meeting proved to be an energetic and lively exchange of ideas and direction. It was a challenge to run this meeting because everyone

wanted to get their thoughts out. At this meeting I organized a committee to address the tabled motions from the AGM. The committee consists of: Dale Lively, Past President (chair), Bill Maxwell, Secretary and Larry Power, Senior Vice President. Their direction was to get the tabled motions into formats for Divisions to accept or to make acceptable for next year's AGM. Their time table was ASAP to give divisions and the committee enough time to go back and forth a couple times if necessary before the next AGM. These tabled motions are important to the Association so that we can move forward.

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At the AGM one of the representatives of the investment firm Edward Jones gave us a presentation. I have been asked by Ron Maclaren of the Okanagan Vets Division to mention that Edward Jones investment is offering a video presentation through their private satellite network. It will be held on Tuesday October 16th 2007 for all RCMP Vets, spouses and friends at no charge. Mark your calendar and more news will follow.

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In July Director Ron Pond extended his resignation to NEC. Attempts were made to try and change his mind but he stood fast on his decision. With great regret his resignation was accepted. We wish Ron and his family well and thank him for being one of the hardest working members of NEC over the last few years. Ron continues on in his division as the AGM Chairman for the AGM in Whitehorse in 2009. This will be an incredible AGM so make sure you attend.

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On Commissioner Elliott's fourth day in the chair of Commissioner I had a meeting with him in his office along with Bill Gidley. As President I extended to him the support of the Veterans' Association and offered to help in any capacity that he might think appropriate. We talked about what the Vets do and what the mandate is. Our concerns about benefits for wives married after the age of 60, Veterans Independence Program (VIP) and other benefits were expressed so he knew what our agenda was. It was a friendly meeting and for an initial meeting it went well. Minutes after our meeting the Commissioner was going on his first road trip and it was to Depot. On the way there he stopped at a Saskatchewan detachment to talk to the members.

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On August 10th Commissioner Bev Busson inspected the parade at the Change of Command Ceremony in Ottawa for the last time. There is no doubt that she was well loved during her 7 months as Commissioner and throughout her career in the Force. We wish her and Phil well in retirement.

Commissioner William J.S. Elliott took command of the Force at this ceremony. The new Commissioner has made some very wise choices at this point and we are looking forward to seeing how his term as Commissioner unfolds. He was congratulated on behalf of the Vets. Our Vets on parade in Ottawa looked sharp and represented the Association well. Thank you to Ottawa Division members and Ian Cooper who took part in the parade.

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Ian Cooper has come back in and is assisting us part time in the National Office. Thank you Ian for your continued support of the Vets.

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On the 16th of August a new Acting Chief Human Resources Officer was appointed...

He is Assistant Commissioner R.K. (Keith) Clark moved from within Ottawa HQ to the Acting Deputy Commissioner position.....

My guess is once the paperwork goes through Privy Council Keith Clark will be promoted to Deputy Commissionertaking Deputy Commissioner Barbara George's position....

A/C Kevin Mole who has been in the acting D/C position for some time now reverts back to his Director role here at 295 Coventry Road....

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The following is from the Commissioner to all of his serving members:

Broadcast to all Employees

On July 16, 2007 Minister of Public Safety Stockwell Day announced the creation of a new five-member Task Force to provide advice on strengthening the accountability and governance of the RCMP. The Task Force will report back to the Government on December 14, 2007.

I have asked Deputy Commissioner Bill Sweeney to lead the RCMP's work with the Task Force, aligning our activities to respond in a timely way to its needs. Last week Deputy Sweeney and I met with Mr. David Brown and the Task Force's Executive Director, Mr. Bill Austin, to extend the RCMP's full and unqualified cooperation.

An Executive Steering Committee for the RCMP's work in relation to the Task Force has been established, composed of Deputy Commissioners Sweeney, Killam and Bourduas. Mr. Austin will serve as an ex officio member of the Steering Committee. The SRR's National Executive Committee will also serve in a strategic advisory role to the Steering Committee. This will ensure the important views of the membership are reflected at the most senior levels. Other strategic advisors may also be assigned in the future.

A project office is being established under the stewardship of Strategic Policy and Planning Directorate. C/Supt. Graham Muir has been assigned as Executive Project Director and Insp. Jeff Adam will manage the project office. If you are approached by the project management team to provide any information for furtherance to the task force, please comply without delay.

The work of the Task Force is an opportunity for the RCMP to identify improvements that will enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of our organization. Oversight, ethics and integrity, internal management, organizational structure and

governance, discipline and employee engagement are all areas that will be studied by the Task Force.

Some SEC members have already been tasked with charting the course for change in areas identified through the Brown Independent Investigation Report, such as disclosure and ethics. In the coming months and even prior to the recommendations of the Task Force being submitted, you may see changes to existing programs that respond to some of the concerns that have been raised. The RCMP needs to be responsive and move forward, even as the Task Force does its work.

Deputy Commissioner Sweeney and I and others will be meeting with all 5 members of the Task Force the morning of August 22, 2007. I understand that the SRR's National Executive Committee will be meeting with the Task Force on the afternoon of the 22nd.

We will continue to provide you with regular updates on the work of the RCMP's Steering Committee and our dealings with the Task Force.

Thank you for your continued support.

*William J.S. Elliott
Commissioner*

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Bill GIDLEY - Executive Director

27 June, 2007.

On the 27 June, 2007 I met with Veterans Affairs Canada personnel from Prince Edward Island. This meeting was also attended by RCMP personnel from Health Services and also included several VAC clients and their spouses. A Staff Relations representative from the Force and a former Canadian soldier also attended.

This group of VAC clients are at least at a 48% disabled level in the VAC table. This meeting was termed Special Needs Advisory Group (SNAG). The aim of the meeting was how to best communicate with severely disabled people across our country.

We met at a local hotel in Ottawa away from any police building and had a frank discussion which lasted for about 3 hours. The former members who were VAC clients suffered from physical injuries in addition to post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Some of the other former members suffered from physical injuries incurred in the line of duty and were pleased with the treatment afforded them by VAC.

The members who were suffering from PTSD were not happy and felt they were mistreated by the Force during their discharge process. The meeting became quite emotional as a couple of these persons described the concerns they had to face. All of us felt moved by the dialogue we listened to from these members.

A Canadian soldier who was shot in a battle overseas spoke about his experiences with VAC and the new Canadian Forces charter which has benefited him and his family since his ordeal. Overall this soldier is more than satisfied with the benefits and treatment he has incurred through VAC.

This meeting was the first of its kind to my knowledge and I believe will lay some ground work not only for some of the former members who attended this meeting but for others who require our help in the future. I spoke with the RCMP officials there and requested that one of our own former members who was shot in the line of duty be permitted to attend such a future meeting so we can hear first hand the experience and trauma of such a horrific event. I believe such wounded persons both in body and some times mind will really show what our members are coping with as a result of being shot.

It was agreed that we will have other meetings such as this with severely disabled former members, and I know there will be more of them as we could all see the benefits arising from this first of its kind meeting.

As an aside I am assisting one of the former members suffering from PTSD and am in contact with him and will follow up on anything I can do to make him feel better and able to cope with the struggles he shoulders with him every day.

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Pension Splitting: Implications for the RCMPSA

On October 31, 2006, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty announced that, effective January 1, 2007, retirees will be able to split pension income from various sources with their spouses. This would include RCMPSA pensions paid to retired RCMP members.

1) How will pension income splitting work?

Retired members of the RCMP may be wondering how such a plan will impact their pension payments and what, if any, action is required by them. Unlike CPP, which allows pensioners to split their retirement benefit and have it paid out as such, the new rules do not require benefits from the RCMPSA to be paid to 2 individuals.

Pension income splitting will be available starting in the taxation year 2007 and subsequent tax years. Both the individual receiving the eligible pension income and his or her spouse or common-law partner must agree to the allocation in their tax returns for the year in question and must make allocation each year on their tax returns. The difference between the income levels of the two spouses need not be large to generate significant tax savings but obviously, the larger the differential, the greater the opportunity for tax savings.

2) What income is eligible to be split?

Income eligible for the pension income credit may be split. Generally, this is:

Income in the form of a pension from a registered pension plan (RPP), regardless of the recipient's age (i.e., a pension from an employer-sponsored defined benefit plan or defined contribution plan).

Income from a registered retirement savings plan (RRSP) annuity, a registered retirement income fund (RRIF), a LIF (a locked-in RRIF), or a deferred profit sharing plan (DPSP) annuity, if the recipient is 65 years of age or older.

Income that is **ineligible** includes:

- o Old Age Security (OAS)
- o Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)
- o Canada Pension Plan / Quebec Pension Plan
- o RRSP annuities, RRIFs, and DPSP annuities (if recipient is under age 65)
- o RRSP withdrawals
- o Income from retirement compensation arrangements (RCAs)

3) How much tax savings will be provided by these measures?

An organization called the Canadian Activists for Pension Splitting estimates that the tax savings for a couple who are both 65 and where the lower-paid spouse is currently receiving \$11,000 would be as follows:

Pension Splitting Effective January 1, 2007

<u>Couple's total annual retirement income</u>	<u>Couple's potential annual tax savings</u>
\$ 32,000	\$ 601
\$ 52,000	\$ 1,021
\$ 72,000	\$ 3,113
\$ 92,000	\$ 5,459
\$112,000	\$ 8,494

Please note that the rules are different for retirees who are not yet 65 and that the tax savings may not be as illustrated above. Since everyone's situation is different, the financial implications should be assessed on an individual basis.

For additional information on this initiative, we suggest you check the Finance Canada website, or with your accountant or financial advisor. The Finance Canada website, at: <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/agency/budget/2007/pension-e.html>, provides a Question & Answer document as well as a tax savings calculator which you may find helpful in estimating potential tax savings.

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Larry POWER – Senior Vice President

Summer has moved along rapidly since AGM 2007 in Kelowna in June. There has been some NEC activity but it is difficult to get things done with members away on holidays, etc.

During AGM 2007 I was placed on the Modernization Committee and a committee comprised of Dale Lively, Past President, Bill Maxwell, Secretary and myself to look at the Governance and Voting Resolutions which were tabled at the AGM. This committee has met on two occasions and has drafted proposed substitute resolutions that we think will be more readily accepted by the majority. They have been circulated to Division Presidents, Governors and members of NEC for input. We do not have replies from all to-date but when we do new final resolutions will be drafted for presentation at AGM 2008 in Winnipeg.

Following AGM 2007 I attended the first re-union of my troop (22F - Ottawa/Regina - 1955/56) in Calgary. We had 19 members in attendance and 4 regrets. Most were accompanied by significant others.

During the re-union the troop laid wreaths at War Memorials at the Chapelhow Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion in Calgary, the Nanton Air Museum in Nanton, Alberta, the N.W.M.P. Cemetery in Fort McLeod and the Colonel Moore Branch of the Canadian Legion in Banff. At Banff I had the honor of laying the wreath as your Vice -President and a member of 22F. During the re-union I had many opportunities to expound on the workings and benefits of being a member of our Association and the opportunity to advise Legion members of our existence.

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John RELIGA – Treasurer

FALL INVENTORY SALE

The National Office is reducing its inventory of Lapel Pins, Tie Tacks and Tie Bars. As a way of doing this, we are selling the items for a special reduced price for the remainder of 2007. Orders for pins, bars and/or tacks must be for the quantities shown below. Applicable taxes will be added to each order.

20 Lapel Pins for \$60.00

20 Tie Bars for \$60.00

20 Tie Tacks for \$40.00

If a division wants to order more than the quantity shown above for any or all of the items, the division should email the National Treasurer at j1-religa@rogers.com stating the item(s) and the quantity wanted. You will be quoted a price lower than the one shown above to allow you to make a decision. The amount will depend on the size of the order.

Divisions should place their order with the National Office in the usual manner.

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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE RETIREMENT LAPEL PIN

Up until this year, the RCMP did not have an official medallion, insignia or pin that members and public servants who had retired to pension could wear on their civilian attire to show that they had been with the RCMP. The Force has now approved the

issuing of a new Retirement Lapel Pin to all members and public servants who retire to pension from the RCMP after serving or being employed for a minimum of 20 years service with the RCMP.

The RCMP Veterans' Association is responsible for issuing the Retirement Lapel Pin to all members and public servants who retired to pension from the RCMP before April 1, 2007 after having served 20 years with the Force. Up to the present time, nearly 1,000 members and public servants have applied for a Retirement Lapel Pin.

If you retired to pension from the RCMP with a minimum of 20 years service or employment with the RCMP before April 1, 2007, you may apply for the Retirement Lapel Pin. Only one Retirement Lapel Pin can be issued per member or public servant. The cost of the pin including shipping, handling and applicable taxes is ten dollars (\$10.00).

Email: rcmp.vets@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

Mail: RCMP Veterans' Association, National Office, 295 Coventry Rd., Ottawa. ON, K1A 0R2

You can obtain an application for the Retirement Lapel Pin by contacting the Association's National Office:

Toll Free Telephone: 1-877-251-1771

Fax: 613-993-4353

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Nick SHAIGEC - Director - Bylaws

The 83rd Annual General Meeting of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Veterans' Association is now history.

Kudos are offered to the organizing committee and the many volunteers who committed their time and expertise to make this event a success. The Committee promised good weather, attractive venue on the sunny shores of Okanagan Lake, and delivered on both counts. It provided an opportunity to renew old acquaintances, meet new friends, former troop mates and co-workers that they had not seen in years.

Attendance was below expectations, due to late cancellations for a variety of reasons, partial registrations and other Veteran's activities in other geographical areas. The Committee still termed the Convention a success in all areas. All roads now lead to AGM 2008 at Winnipeg Manitoba June 6-8th, 2008. We wish them much success. Hope to see you there.

Many inquiries were received from Veterans and spouses, by telephone and emails seeking assistance and advice on filing application for disability, death and financial benefits from The Benefit Trust Fund, all were directed to the proper authorities.

During the past two months Two Division's Bylaws were reviewed and were recommended to our National President for approval.

Cal SMALL – Director & Chairman of Board of Trustees for The Quarterly

The Quarterly Board of Trustees and the Editorial Management Board met on July 24th and the Editorial Management Board will meet again next Tuesday, August 28th. I am pleased to report that a five year agreement, effective August 1th, to print the magazine was finally signed with Print West Communications Ltd. Both parties to the agreement are optimistic that the agreement will run for the full five years and will be mutually beneficial.

As I mentioned in my last report, Sig Sigurdson found it necessary to resign his position on the Board of Trustees and the Editorial Management Board due to other commitments. We have been fortunate in that Peter Austin has agreed to replace Sig. on both Boards. Peter has served many years on the Executive of Ottawa Division and I am confident will make a significant contribution to the Quarterly Magazine.

I am also pleased to report that C/Supt Dale Sheehan will represent the Force on the Editorial Management Board, replacing Supt. Greg Peters. Dale has a special interest in the Quarterly and many of you may remember he recently co-authored "Behind the Badge" History of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police "Depot" Division, with Redd Oosten. The Board is looking forward to working with Dale.

With respect to personnel insurance, a submission has been prepared and submitted to Treasury Board with the intent that Treasury Board be the Policy Holder of the policies. As we are relatively early in the process, I will report on this matter more fully at a later date.

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Dave LeBLANC - Director

Since the AGM in Kelowna, I have been busy learning just what it is I have undertaken. I was assigned to be on the modernization committee and we had a video conference to discuss the need to reorganize and focus as a result of the AGM. The then Chair, Ron Pond assigned me to be the Public Relations person for the Modernization Committee. However, shortly after this meeting he resigned causing us to again realign priorities and to set up a future meeting to decide how to proceed going into the next year.

I have also been assigned to contact the Division President's in Saskatchewan and Northern Ontario on an ongoing basis to discuss issues and seek input. Due to other pressing family and health issues, I have not done so as yet. I will be contacting each of you in the near future. In the mean time if you have any concerns or questions please do not hesitate to contact me. As part of the Public Relations portfolio, I have also commenced contact with the Quarterly and the Frontline Perspective (DSSR quarterly magazine). Making regular members aware of the Vet's Association and what we do, locally, regionally and nationally has been part of our objective in order to increase membership. Therefore, it is essential that we advertise and/or publish articles to that effect. We will be pursuing this over the next months.

