



NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER, 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

On December 4th the Ottawa based members of NEC and I had lunch with the Commissioner and some of the Senior Staff that assists us all year round. During the meal conversations were about important issues that concerns the Vets. The Commissioner explained some of the things that he is up against at this time. It was a fruitful lunch. The Commissioner and Deputy Sweeney expressed continued support of the Vets Association. Within our conversation the phrase “family” was used often.

The Vets national office will be moving to the Nicholson Building on January 3rd. The Nicholson Bldg is the main building in the RCMP Headquarters complex.

We are pleased to see that the Quarterly had another year of profits and all debts have been paid-off. Congratulations to the Quarterly executive and staff. It would be helpful if our divisions could run a campaign to inform their members that subscriptions to the Quarterly are available by calling: **1-877-251-1771**. Additional subscriptions would help the bottom line. The Quarterly is even better than it was years ago and I urge you to consider this request.

The NEC Video conference held on December 5th went well and we got through our agenda and still had thirty minutes left over at the end. All materials that will be put onto our website will go through our National Secretary for insertion. (www.rcmpvetsnational.ca)

This has been a busy year for us on NEC. The year has not gone by without controversy but that is the nature of change. We listen to what the Divisions send to us for direction keeping in mind that it is the majority that rules.

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year. Lise and I are looking forward to seeing many of you in Winnipeg at the AGM. The AGM Committee seems to have the functions and socials well in hand and they are ready for you to register now. The more who attend the AGM the merrier it will be. Register at www.agm08.ca.

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Larry POWER – Senior Vice President

There is not a lot of news from this desk since the November Newsletter was published but that is not to say that nothing was being done.

NEC held a video conference on December 5 with a variety of topics being discussed and decisions being made. Some matters were deferred for further consideration. I could only attend the audio portion of the conference as the local RCMP Video Conference Centre was being used for a Senior Management conference. This made meaningful input difficult. I was using a "Speaker Phone" and was reminded not to speak so loud. When I was in the Force I had a hard job to get a phone from QM so I didn't really get used to using a "Speaker Phone".

Work is continuing on Resolutions dealing with changes to NEC and re-construction of our Board of Directors. A video conference is planned for the special resolutions committee in the near future and hopefully before Christmas. New resolutions are just about finalized and should be circulated shortly.

An attempt is being made to schedule video conferences for the Communications Committee and Benefits Committee of which I am a member. As you probably know the Association web-site is up and running and Communications are being worked on. The Benefits Committee members are active in Benefit Trust matters as well as Insurance, Pension and Medical Benefits.

Under our new Standing Committees system a lot of activity is being generated and it looks to me as if it is a major improvement and should lead to a better Association more able to look after the welfare of our Association members and all Former members of the Force.

I anticipate that this newsletter will be circulated prior to Christmas so I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you and your families a JOYOUS CHRISTMAS and all the best for 2008.

Remember, we can also serve and "MAINTAIN THE RIGHT's of our RCMP Alumnus members. GET INVOLVED.

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Nick SHAIGEC - Director

With the cessation of the modernization committee I have been appointed to serve on the Corporate Governance, Nominating and Membership Committees, each Committee is comprised of three people. To date the Committee has held two telephone conference meetings to establish areas of responsibility, a monitoring process, and assign activities to each function, all working to the overall objectives of the Association. Ongoing meetings will be held periodically to ensure compliance of established priorities. A video conferencing meeting of NEC was held to deal with the day to day operation of the Association on Dec.5th last.

I attended Okanagan Division Christmas Dinner and Awards evening, attended by many Veterans and spouses, non Veterans, guests and serving members of the Force. This is an annual event with a change of venue between Kelowna and Vernon each year.

As we close out this busy year, Joyce and I wish you and your families a Very Merry Christmas, a Happy Year, filled with good health, and a full measure of prosperity in the year ahead.

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Cal SMALL – Director

For the Quarterly magazine, 2007 proved to be both challenging and rewarding. Perhaps the year can be best characterized though, as one of change.

Dave Stewart and Sig Siguardson found it necessary to resign from both the Board of Trustees and the Editorial Management Board. Their service was noteworthy and very much appreciated. Fortunately, Bill Beahen and Peter Austin volunteered to replace them. One of the Force representatives, Supt. Greg Peters found it necessary to resign and we were lucky that C/Supt. Dale Sheehan was in a position to replace him. A more challenging situation occurred when Natalie Egan, resigned after more than three year as editor to take up a position with the Force. After a fairly lengthy process, the Board of Trustees was able to replace her with Tanya Baglolo. Tanya is proving to be a very capable editor and I feel confident she will make a major contribution to the success of the magazine. As Tanya found it necessary to take maternity leave, commencing in October, Ron Sparkes agreed to take her position for the one year period. You will remember Ron as the former Executive Director of the Association and you will see the fruits of his labour in the Winter Edition, which will be published in January.

A new five year contract was signed with Print West Communications of Regina, effective August 1st, 2007. The transition from business under the old contract to the new one was without difficulty and both parties look forward to a mutually beneficial relationship.

Last year the Quarterly was unable to distribute its profits. This year, therefore, a significant amount will be distributed, although that amount has yet to be finalized. The Board of Trustees has decided that the profits will be shared between the National Executive and the Association Divisions.

With regard to the RCMP Life and Disability Insurance policies held with Great West Life, significant and positive changes took place during 2007. As a result of a number of studies and reviews, the Force recommended to Treasury Board that it (Treasury Board) assume the responsibility and authority of policyholder for the policies. While Treasury Board would have the ultimate responsibility for the plans, the Force would continue to act as administrator, eg. Deducting and remitting member premiums etc. As well, the Force requested Treasury Board authority to repay the funds that had been taken from the insurance policies to use for administrative purposes. The proposed changes should be implemented by the spring of 2009. If you would like more details on this issue, please refer to my comments in the October 2007, President's Newsletter.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the other members of the Board of Trustees and the Editorial Management Board and the Associate Editors for a job well done in 2007. Also, I would like to wish them and all loyal readers of the Quarterly a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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Bill GIDLEY – Executive Director

I attended the Annual Meeting of our dental committee in December and after conducting the usual portion of the meeting wherein numerous dental appeals were adjudicated upon the committee studied the following statistics which I think may be interesting to our members. Our dental plan continues to receive favorable comments form members of the dental plan and the monthly premiums at \$25.00 is certainly reasonable.....most of the dental offices are set up to electronically to submit the dental patient invoices to Sun Life and we receive a cheque in our mail usually within a short turn around time.

I had the honour of laying a wreath at the cenotaph on Remembrance Day on behalf of our RCMP Veterans' Association.

I flew over to PEI to Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) in the RCMP plane along with Force representatives and attended a ceremony of “raising” the RCMP flag at the VAC Headquarters. This was done to herald a new partnership with the RCMP, RCMP Veterans and Veterans Affairs Canada.

Early in January 2008 our National Office including the Quarterly staff will be moving from our present location to the L.H. Nicholson Building. This became necessary as space was needed by the Force for their employees at our current location.

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