



NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER, 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

This month is dealing with day to day correspondence and trying to assist as many of our members as we can.

From time to time we receive calls from agencies that would like to employ retired or former members of the Force. Another request came this month from Federal Protection Agency, located at Suite 1000, 100 Vaughan Valley Boulevard, Vaughan, ON L4H 3C5. The telephone number is 905-264-2172. Harry Peckham wrote to me and explained:

The two areas we would appreciate your assistance is:

1. *Protective Ops – access to any retired senior RCMP officers who can do protective details for FPA clients (they don't necessarily have to have direct protective ops experience)*
2. *Investigation – any retired senior RCMP investigators who can assist with general investigations, insurance investigations and corporate investigations on an as required basis*

Preferably we'd rather hire RCMP investigators or officers who are retired and who are not currently aligned to, or own their own security/investigation company to avoid confidentiality issues.

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This was written and sent to me by Daryl N Kiperchuk who is in the Force on the passing of Cst. Douglas Scott.

The Mountie's Prayer

My heart does grieve for one in Red
Pay my Respects, . . . a Mountie's dead :

You . . . are a Hero to the end
We say good-bye to you . . . Our Friend,
Such tragedy has struck you down
Scarlet tunic with Sam Browne,
You gave yourself. . . of your own life
To keep our Peace when met with strife,
You served us well in Native land
O Canada we join in hand,
To say goodbye to you so dear
We pray for you and shed much tear,

. . . Join the Heros who gave it all
Right to the end, like your 'last call',
"Maintiens Le Droit" will never fade
Deep in our hearts, your last parade,
We'll not forget you did your best
With Stetson hat we lay you rest,
Now in God's care and Scarlet fleece
You lay at rest and now in Peace,
We stand in 'lines', to say good-bye
We'll not forget and as we cry :

We offer you Our solemn prayer
This is for you . . .

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You will find attached a copy of the PAC News. This is the Pension Advisory Committee information newsletter. Therein the new calculations for those of you who are just approaching 65 now.

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For those of you who are traveling outside Canada or your home province and you are covered under the Public Service Health Care plan you should have a look at what is available to you. Forty days of benefits, up to \$500,000.00 for anyone covered under this plan. Read below.

Public Service Travel Benefit and Emergency Travel Assistance Benefit:
www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/pubs_pol/hrpubs/TB_862/pstbaetabl_e.asp

- or call collect 519-742-1342 in all other countries.

The 24-hour help line will also:

- assist you with lost passport or visa
- help you find a local legal advisor
- provide telephone interpretation service
- hold important messages for 15 days

Medical Evacuation

The Emergency Travel Assistance Benefit provides medical evacuation when suitable care is not available in the area where the emergency occurred. The coordinators will arrange to have you or a covered dependant moved to the nearest hospital that provides the appropriate medical care, or will provide transportation back to Canada.

Advance Payment Assistance

Coverage under the Health Care Plan and the provincial health plan will be verified so that the hospital and/or medical payments can be paid on your behalf. **If hospitalized, contact the 24-hour help line immediately. Have your personal Health Care Plan identification number and the Travel Assistance Plan Number (9355) available.**

If payments are made on your behalf, you will be expected to sign an authorization form allowing World Access to recover the advance from the provincial health care plan.

Family Assistance

Return of Dependent Children

If covered dependent children under age 16 are left unattended because you or your spouse are hospitalized, the coordinators will arrange and pay for transportation of these children and an escort, if necessary, to your home.

Return of Other Family Members

If covered family members are hospitalized, and as a result not able to return home on the originally scheduled flight, requiring the family members to purchase new return tickets, you will be reimbursed for the cost of replacing economy air fare.

Visit of a Relative

If you or your covered dependants become hospitalized for more than 7 days while traveling alone, the Emergency Travel Assistance Benefit will pay for economy air fare, plus meals and accommodation up to \$150 per day, for an immediate relative. This benefit will also be paid if it is necessary for a family member to identify the deceased prior to the release of the body.

Meals and Accommodation

If your trip is extended because a covered family member is hospitalized, the Emergency Travel Assistance Benefit will cover the additional expenses incurred by accompanying covered family members for accommodation and meals, up to a maximum of \$150 per day.

The combined maximum payable for Family Assistance Benefits is \$2,500 for one travel emergency.

In the Event of Death

The coordinators will arrange for the return of a deceased family member to your province of residence, reimbursing you up to a maximum of \$3,000 towards the cost of the preparation and transportation of the deceased.

All payments made under the Emergency Travel Assistance Benefits are subject to the \$500,000 maximum.

(See over for exclusions)

Exclusions

No benefit is payable for

- expenses incurred for an emergency that occurs more than 40 days after departure from the participant's province of residence,
- expenses incurred on a non-emergency basis,
- expenses for the regular treatment of an injury or disease which existed prior to your or your covered dependant's departure,
- expenses above reasonable and customary charges,
- expenses incurred under any of the conditions that are listed as an exclusion under the Extended Health Care Plan.

Assistance services are not available in Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia, Cambodia, Croatia, Georgia, Iran, Iraq, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Mauritania, Moldova, Montenegro, Mozambique, North Korea, Peru, Serbia, and Vietnam. The list is subject to change. Conditions such as war, political conditions, epidemics, and geographic inaccessibility may also interfere or prevent the provision of assist services.

Note

In the case of conflict between this brochure and the plan document, the terms of the plan document shall prevail.

You will be responsible for re-paying any expenses that are paid on your behalf by World Access, that are not eligible for reimbursement under the provincial health plan or the Extended Health Care Plan.

If eligible expenses are incurred and World Access has not made an advanced payment on your behalf, keep a copy of your receipts and submit a claim for reimbursement to the provincial insurance plan and to the Public Service Health Care Plan in Ottawa.

The information contained in this pamphlet is important to you and your family and should be kept in a safe place, along with your booklet.

REINSTATEMENT OF D/COMMR. BARBARA GEORGE

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police ('the RCMP') hereby announces the reinstatement of D/Commr. Barbara George who will be returning to active duty on November 28, 2007. D/Commr. George will undertake a number of assignments until the commencement of a period of education leave as had been previously agreed.

The RCMP wishes to clarify that D/Commr. George was suspended from her duties with pay in March, 2007, pending an internal investigation. The suspension was neither disciplinary nor punitive in nature, but rather was a purely administrative measure.

Furthermore, the RCMP wishes to clarify that the internal investigation into D/Commr. George's conduct did not involve any allegation that she had misappropriated public funds for personal gain, nor that she was personally involved in the mismanagement of the RCMP pension or insurance plans. The internal investigation concerned questions with respect to communication between D/Commr. George and other members of the Force. These questions have now been resolved to the satisfaction of the RCMP.

Although we are pleased that these matters have now been resolved, the RCMP regrets the amount of time it has taken to do so, and the impact the suspension and related events have had on D/Commr. George and her family and on other members of the Force.

The RCMP welcomes D/Commr. George's return to active duty, and looks forward to her ongoing contribution to the organization.

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Larry POWER – First Vice President

"Since my last submission on October 8th I have been busy preparing for and attending our National Executive Committee October 10th video conference.

Discussions have been held and correspondence exchanged with Special Committee members Dale Lively and Bill Maxwell on the drafting of resolutions to replace those on Governance and Voting that were tabled at our AGM in Kelowna. Responses and suggestions requested from Divisions and members have been slow coming in and the deadline has had to be extended. We intend to persevere and will have something drafted well before AGM in Winnipeg.

Those who have suggestions on changes please send them in ASAP.

As you probably know by now the Modernization Committee as we knew it for the last three or four years has been dissolved and six standing committees covering, Corporate Governance, Communications, Benefits, Marketing, Quarterly Trust and Nominating and Membership have been formed.

I sit on the Communications Committee with Dave LeBlanc and Bill Maxwell and on the Benefits Committee with Tim Hoban and Cal Small. We are in the process of putting

these Committees to work and developing strategies that will hopefully make our Association more visible and more viable.

During the Armistice Day week-end I accompanied Newfoundland and Labrador Division President Ken Ellis and other members of the Division on a trip to western Newfoundland. We stopped in Clarenville enroute and met with members from the Clarenville area over coffee. We then proceeded on to Deer Lake where a dinner meeting was held with serving members of the Force and Veterans. The contingent attended Armistice Day ceremonies at the Deer Lake Branch of the Canadian Legion with serving members from the Deer Lake District. We then continued on to Grand Falls-Windsor where a dinner meeting was held with Association members from Grand Falls-Windsor and Gander areas. During these meeting I was able to give members a break down of National Executive activities and discuss the attempt to improve the Association and make it more appealing to prospective members.

Remember we can also serve and "MAINTAIN THE RIGHT" of RCMP alumnus members. GET INVOLVED.

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Nick SHAIGEC – Director – Constitution and Bylaws

This has been a very busy month. I attended a Raymond James Estate & Financial Planning Seminar in Kelowna during the latter part of October. The presenter was very professional covering a variety of topics with the aid of a slide presentation. This was followed by a question and answer period that left the attendees aware of sound financial planning for the present, the future and beyond. On November 1st I was honoured to represent our Association at Langley, BC, a suburb of Vancouver, at Commissioner Bev Busson's E Division Farewell. Following a meet and greet period, Commissioner Bussons was escorted to the head table by E Division Pipe & Drum Band comprised of 14 musicians and flag bearers, where family and friends awaited her arrival. A delicious buffet dinner was served to 370 people in attendance in record time.

Three MCs shared the podium recalling her service from 1974 to the present. It was a light hearted presentation filled with humour and personal accomplishments. Noteworthy comments were that she was part of the first female troop to undergo recruit training and her first posting was Salmon Arm Detachment, consider a jewel posting for any recruit, and her many subsequent postings and promotional moves, the last to Ottawa, becoming the first female, and 21st Commissioner of the Force. Many speakers from Municipal and City Police Forces shared the podium all acknowledging with thanks the Commissioners support while she served as Deputy Commissioner and CO of E Division. Seven of her former troop mates were present and acknowledged. The Commissioner was very gracious with her response to the many accolades, and thanked those present for the evening. We all joined with our personal Best Wishes to Bev and Phil in their retirement. It was truly a night to remember.

A request for financial aid to a retired member, resulted in my travel to outside my resident area on two different occasions to fully assess the need for such immediate aid. The net result was that Okanagan Division provided a one time financial donation to assist the family with medical assistance that was not, otherwise covered by the

Government Health Plan or extended medical coverage, to off set financial hardships the family was facing.

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John RELIGA - Treasurer

RCMP Christmas Cards

The Quarterly Business Trust for the first time in eight years has ordered a second printing of a Christmas Card. In addition, the initial order for the card was the largest since the Trust began selling RCMP Christmas Cards. As you know, but it is always nice to mention it again, the profit from the sale of the cards and the sale of *the Quarterly* and *la Trimestrielle* magazines is given each year to one or more of the Trust's three beneficiaries - the Veterans' Association, the Association's Benefit Trust Fund any registered Canadian Charity. Below is a picture of the front of the 2008 card.



If you want to impress your friends with a quality card, you should order it before the latest supply from the printer is gone. We will not be placing a third order. You can tell your friends it is a drawing of you and your days in the field.

The price for a package of 12 cards, including delivery, is \$15.00 plus tax(es). Orders for 10 dozen packages or more are \$12 plus tax(es).

You may order cards by:

Mail: *The Quarterly*, 295 Coventry Rd., Ottawa, ON K1A 0R2

Fax: 613-993-4353

Telephone: 613-993-3738

Email: Chantal.renaud@rcmp-grc.gc.ca.

Payment can be made by VISA, MasterCard or American Express credit card, cheque or money order or by requesting to be invoiced. Please make your cheque or money order payable to *the Quarterly*.

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Dave LeBLANC - Director

The month of November has been busy personally with a week away deer hunting, Remembrance Day, RCMP Awards Presentation at D Div. HQ and the Book of Memories celebration also at D Div. HQ. Every November the list of the past year's deceased members, who served in D Div., is read into the Book of Memories which is kept at Division HQ. The Commissionaires turn a page each day throughout the year. The book contains a list of all known D Div. members, who are no longer with us, but through this book and ceremony will be remembered. This November has proven to be a particularly sad occasion for the Force with the most recent tragedies in the North and our sincerest condolences go out to the families and comrades of the fallen officers.

On a brighter note, I have begun the task of putting together information for the communication committee and will be holding a meeting in conjunction with the NEC meeting in early December. We are well on the way with the National Website, due to excellent work by our web master, Bryan Neville. Check it out at www.rcmpvetsnational.ca. This is just the beginning but a great start.

Manitoba Division recently held their elections for 2008 and I find myself again being the President with our incoming Vice President being Joe MacDougall. We continue to grow and have recently put together a history and recruiting package thanks to the work of several members. Once this has been finalized, it is our intention to include it with our package for retiring members of D Division. We will share this with whoever wishes to view same and will include it in our website.

I am starting to feel more comfortable with the direction we appear to be heading in as an organization and look forward to what is ahead. Please take up my invitation to pass along the information you have on projects, assistance programs and anything of interest so that we can communicate on a National level what it is like to belong to the RCMP Veteran's Association at the various locations across this Country, we were so proud to serve.

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Bill MAXWELL - Secretary

Once again another year is rapidly drawing to a close. It seems like a short time since we were in Kelowna but the time will pass quickly until we meet again in Winnipeg.

During this time, I have been fortunate to have been occupied with Association business including participating on the Modernization Committee and the Special Resolutions Committee and in assisting in moving these initiatives along. We have also adopted a new committee structure for NEC and I will be participating on the Communications and Marketing Committees. We will shortly have a new National Website and this will be a great aid in facilitating communication between Divisions and across Canada.

I will be sending out the official notice for the AGM 2008 in mid December and I know the Organizing Committee is working hard to ensure a really successful event. Over the past year, I have had the pleasure of working with many of you on an individual basis and I look forward to doing so in the New Year. In the meantime, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you all the very best in 2008.

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Bill GIDLEY – Executive Director

On the 13th November I attended a meeting with Federal Superannuates National Association Presidentwe discussed several items of importance to our RCMP veterans....including the "marriage after age 60" topic.

Right after this meeting on the 13th. November, I attended another meeting also in downtown Ottawa with the Veterans' Affairs Canada group regarding the welfare of all veterans.

On the 16th. of November I attended a meeting at the Royal Canadian Legion's Dominion Headquarters. The Legion had a proposal(s) for our Association which I plan on discussing with members of our National Executive Committee.

On the 23 November I attended a meeting with the RCMP's National Compensation Section (NCS). At this meeting I brought forward the idea of implementation of our "transitional membership" form to be implemented on a national basis with the RCMP's Administration Offices. This is one of our resolutions passed at our AGM 2007.

Our National Office has received the "resolutions" now given Ministerial approval by Industry Canada effective 16th. of October, 2007. Included in these is the transitional member and the approval of our Auxiliary members becoming active members of the RCMP Veterans' Association.

On the 27th. and 28th. of November I attended a Veterans' Affairs Canada meeting as part of the New Veterans Charter Advisory Group Committees. This group is formed to come up with new ideas and strategies for the betterment of all veterans.

As usual the National office is humming and I enjoy hearing from our members from far and wide.

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A CAREER NOWHERE NEAR ORDINARY

This is the slogan the RCMP National Recruiting Program is using to attract new applicants to the Force. As former members and employees of the RCMP, we can encourage the young people we deal with in our day-to-day lives to consider a policing career with the RCMP and to visit the website (www.rcmp.ca) to obtain more information about this career.

Recently, under a covering memo from Supt. Glen Siegersma, OIC National Recruiting Program, the RCMP Veterans' Association distributed pamphlets and pocket cards to every Division of the Association. If you are interested in finding out more, you can check out the website at www.rcmp.ca, or contact your local Division or Gerry Provick, in the National Office by e-mail: gerry.provick@rcmp-grc.gc.ca. Remember, a member's career could start with you.

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Dale LIVELY – Past President

GOVERNANCE - A recent e-mail under my signature outlined the "Standing Committees" referred to after our last NEC meeting and were the suggestions of the Modernization Committee which ceases to exist now that all work has been taken under the wing of the "Standing Committees". Members of these committees are assembling to at least have an e-mail meeting to have their mandate agreed to and have some work started prior to the NEC meeting of Dec. 5th, 2007.

The Special Resolutions committee - now part of Governance - will have the two resolutions tabled at AGM 2007 redrafted in time for examination by NEC at the 5 Dec 07 meeting. The redraft will be cognizant of the feedback received from Divisions, members and DMR's since our July 5th communique on the subject.

MEMBERSHIP - I have had no volunteers to sit on the Nomination committee for 2008. Don't be surprised if your phone rings asking you to be a member. A Governor, Division President and regular member are usually asked to sit with me as Chair of the committee. I will be seeking someone from the west, central and eastern parts of Canada to participate.

BENEFITS - I am not a member of this committee however I saw a news item in the latest edition of the "Legion" magazine and it caught my attention. An article on Page 75 entitled "Counselling Services Available for Veterans" outlines a Service available to all "former" members of the RCMP in addition to other Service personnel. This is a Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) Service where counselling is available 24/7 for a variety of problems former members may be struggling with. The toll free # to access counselling is 1-800-268-7708. The VAC website expanding on this service is "www.vac.acc.gc.ca/clients/sub.cbfm?source=forces/assertive" It's a long site I know but I will ask Bryan Neville to put the site on our new Website. Speaking of our new National Website - isn't it great? Kudos to Bryan Neville for setting up a user friendly

site for our use. To members of NEC who participated directly into the set up, they too deserve a round of applause.

Dixie and I extend "Seasons Greeting" to you and yours wherever you live. May the spirit of the season be with you and yours with at least 1.8% of prosperity for the New Year.