



NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER
JANUARY, 2008

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

Coming out of the Festive Season things are relatively quiet. I must advise that that is not the case with our National Office. We were asked by the Force to move to the Nicholson Bldg. The move took place early in the month. Our telephone numbers will remain the same but our new address will be: **RCMP Veterans' Association**, L.H. Nicholson Building, Room C-324, 1200 Vanier Parkway, Ottawa, ON, K1A OR2. I congratulate the staff in the National Office on a smooth move and thank them for their efforts. Bill Gidley, I hope your back is feeling better now.

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In 1994 the RCMP Foundation (formerly known as the Mounted Police Foundation) was created to ensure the RCMP Brand was reflective of the caliber and dignity of the Force and to market this brand to a larger audience.

In 1995 Disney was given a 5 year contract to handle the marketing and licensing of RCMP products on behalf of the Mounted Police Foundation. Disney never owned the rights; they just acted as an agent on behalf of the RCMP due to their international presence, superior licensing knowledge and appropriate corporate image that met the RCMP's needs. The agreement has expired more than 7 years ago, and although there was some controversy over the decision, the experience Disney offered set the licensing program on a smooth path which is now fully operated by the RCMP Foundation.

Today, approved Official Licensees produce a wide and growing line of products that generate royalties from the sale of these products through retailers. These funds are handed back to the Foundation to support community programs in which local RCMP members are involved. The Members volunteer their time and energy in the community to get these projects up and running. Funds generated support sports teams and event, drug awareness, youth programs and self-help programs, victim services and internet safety, all for the benefit of Canada's youth at risk.

Funds are obtained in four main ways:

1. Official Licensees pay the Foundation for each product that is produced with the image of the Force on it.
2. The Annual Gala has been held in Toronto to generate awareness as well as to gather needed funds.
3. The RCMP Horse Auction is held every two years in Ottawa and the last auction grossed almost a half a million dollars for the Breeding Program for the Ride.
4. Corporate Partnerships occur when a product is developed and a corporate entity offers to help produce it. (ie: Walmart Canada with the Children's ID Kit or a company makes a financial donation to the Foundation)

The Mountie Shop, The Official Retailer of the RCMP Foundation, relies on the generous support of consumer purchases to help enhance the lives and safety of children and youth at risk within our Canadian communities.

You are invited to visit The Mountie Shop at www.themountieshop.ca or call 613-741-8181 for more information. The Foundation now runs the Canteen in the headquarters building in Ottawa as well as at the Musical Ride Stables on St. Laurent Blvd in Ottawa.

Many of the RCMP Vets Divisions have Canteens or stores that offer these same products for the benefit of the Force and the Vets.

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The Quarterly is owned and run by the RCMP Veterans' Association. It is THE magazine about the Force explaining what it has done and what it is currently doing across the country and around the world. We would like to encourage you to subscribe to this fine publication for only \$30.00 annually. It can be obtained in either of the official languages. Information can be obtained about subscribing by calling 613-993-3738. The one thing that a lot of members forgot to remember was that when they retired The Quarterly did not remain on their pension cheque. They had to reapply. Regretfully many did not go through the process of reapplying. The magazine seems to be getting better and better. We encourage you to read and enjoy it.

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I am constantly asked how the Force is doing. I understand there are changes coming from the December Report that was tabled. The report's content recommended

several dozen changes to the Force. There are a lot of positive things that will happen. We have been informed that the Veterans' Association has nothing to worry about as we are valued members of the RCMP "family".

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Sandy Ramos the Force's Historian has contacted the Vets Association for assistance in the Oral History Project. The below mentioned article is self explanatory. The starting divisions as identified will be contacted looking for helpers and appropriate people to be interviewed. If you can help her it would be very much appreciated.

RCMP Oral History Project Launch
By Sandy Ramos
RCMP Historian

While we all take great pride in the remarkable achievements of the Force in its early days, much less is known or celebrated about the modern history of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). Yet so much has changed in the last half-century; indeed the very nature of police work, life at the detachments, social attitudes to law enforcement, Headquarters, Depot as well as police science and technology, have undergone dramatic transformations. Our retired members were at times instrumental in these changes; at other times, change was simply imposed. If the RCMP does not act now to collect and preserve this history, the true extent and meaning of these changes will be lost forever.

In an attempt to capture the modern history of the Force, the RCMP Historical Section, in collaboration with the RCMP Veterans' Association, is embarking on an oral history project to chronicle the varied experiences of retired RCMP members *in their own words*. We are committed to creating a representative sample of members who have served in every Division, province and territory. Further, we want all aspects of the important work done by the RCMP to be showcased: from marine services to canine units, from community policing to Peacekeeping. However, given the limited staff and resources of the RCMP Historical Section, Sandy Ramos RCMP Historian is asking the Veterans' Association for help in enlisting retired members to conduct oral history interviews of other retired members.

For the first stage of the project, we will be focusing on the Montreal, Ottawa, Kingston Region and Toronto RCMP Veterans' Association Divisions. We are looking for a dozen volunteers who would like to put their investigative skills to good use and interview other retired members about their career in the Force! We would like volunteers to conduct and record two oral history interviews with retired members in their area. The RCMP Historical Section will offer an orientation session to introduce the techniques of oral history and volunteers will be provided with all necessary material and equipment. The total time commitment should not exceed twenty hours, including conducting the interviews. In addition to providing the RCMP Historical Section with an invaluable service, this is a chance to become a budding historian!

RCMP members have a unique perspective on Canadian society, crime and the organization. Being an RCMP member has changed dramatically over the last several decades: different training programs, equipment, working conditions and responsibilities. As a retired member, you can provide the organization with tremendous insight into how members experienced these changes. By conducting oral history interviews, you will

preserve for posterity the important role the Royal Canadian Mounted Police has played in Canadian society. The RCMP has always taken great pride in its history, as evidenced by our celebration of the Great March West. Yet arguably, the last fifty years of the Force have marked great change and even greater successes- help us make sure we capture our recent past so that we may share it with generations to come.

For more information, please contact Sandy Ramos at 613-990-1395 or at sandy.ramos@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

On another note Sandy has written: I had a meeting with Captain Pickford of DND who is planning the centennial anniversary of the Royal Canadian Navy. He wants to include the RCMP's important contributions to naval defense during the Second World War. If any veterans have any recollections about the RCMP's Marine Services during the war, I would be most grateful to receive them. If you have or know someone who has information in this regard please contact Sandy at 613-990-1395.