



NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER
MARCH, 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

Early in March I attended a meeting being held by the new Veterans Ombudsman. The Ombudsman is looking for an RCMP Veteran who would be willing to put their name forward to sit on the advisory board to the Ombudsman. He anticipates that they would meet about three times a year and it is a board of volunteers. If you are interested in putting your name forward for a position on the board please send it to our National Secretary. He will forward the names, bios and any conflicts that the candidates might have to the Ombudsman's office. Please make submissions by the end of April 2008.

The Ombudsman's office will handle problems that are brought forward to him other than the ultimate outcome of VAC claims hearings because he can not overturn a formal case outcome. We need to have a good advisor on his board.

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AGM2008 will be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba and is being hosted by Manitoba Division of the Vets Assoc. The events will occur from June 6th to 8th at the Fairmont Hotel in Winnipeg. Registration enquiries can be addressed to AGM Chairman Don Fleetwood (204) 222-5394, e-mail donfleetwood@shaw.ca or Vice Chairman Howard Kearley (204) 896-5915, email hkearley@mts.net.

Everyone is invited to take part in Manitoba hospitality and see old friends and meet new friends. The AGMs have proven to be a great meeting place. We hope to see you there.

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Dale Lively - Past President

2008 is well underway and AGM Winnipeg is looming on the horizon. The nomination process is proceeding and if anyone wishes to nominate a member for the positions of 1) President, 2) Senior Vice President, 3) Secretary, 4) 2 Directors, the process is still open. Nomination should come to me AT dalelively@gmail.com Phone: 506 529-3849, or mail at 307 Water St., St. Andrews, NB E5B1B9. Nominations come through your home Division and the person being nominated must signify his/her willingness to serve if elected.

Work progresses on the Standing Committees. I know for many of you it seems like a slow process and you haven't seen change as rapidly as you'd like. Change must be done diligently and getting consensus is a necessity.

I urge all of you to check our website and see the mandates of the committees. You have an opportunity to express your views - pro or con - to the committees as your views are always helpful. Your views are always helpful and an opportunity to participate in the modernization of the Association. I am pleased to see progress in the modernization process started four years ago.

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Bill Gidley – Executive Director

Former members being interviewed by Veterans' Affairs Canada (VAC)

VAC officials along with RCMP Staff Relations member, VAC/RCMP secondment person, and representative from RCMP's Health and Safety Department are currently in Atlantic Canada. They are interviewing soon to be retired members in what is termed a "transition interview" much like was completed as a "pilot project" in "F" Division. Our veterans Divisions in Saskatchewan assisted this pilot project and this was termed a success for our veterans in that province. I personally received "feedback" from the veterans concerned and they were very pleased with the outcome of these interviews. Our veterans in Nova Scotia Division are co-operating with this second phase of this project and supplied the "interview team" with the names and contact numbers of members of Nova Scotia Division with the members' concurrence who retired from the RCMP since 01 January, 2006.

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RCMP Retirement Lapel Pin

The RCMP has decided to permit former members of CSIS who retired from the RCMP with over 20 years of service in the Force to purchase the RCMP retirement lapel pin. This can be done by contacting our national office of our RCMP Veterans' Association.