



**ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE VETERANS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING
REGINA, SASK.
SATURDAY, JUNE 5th, 2010
MINUTES**

1. **Parading of the Mace:** Sgt at Arms Regina Division paraded the Mace into the AGM boardroom followed by the National Veterans' Association Board of Directors.
2. **CALL TO ORDER @ 0900hrs** *President Larry Power called the meeting to order.*
3. **National Anthem** *(National President and AGM attendees.)*

4. **Memorial Page** *(National Secretary)*

Secretary Geddes advised that the Memorial Page has been on display and the list will not be read out due to the numbers of those who have passed on this past year. Six (6) recent notices are now being added as noted below and read to those in attendance.

ADDITIONS:

Jean KELLY (wife of Supt Sheldon Kelly Rtd) passed away in Edmonton.

Ken JOHNSON passed away on 3rd June 2010 in Alberta.

Reg#37177, Marie Claire H. DERY, Special Cst. Joined 1967, Montreal 20th May 10 of cancer.

S/Cst. Nancy NOAKES (rtd), Reg# S/2479 died in an airplane crash the 25th May 10 interred at Milton, On.

Reg. # 29234, Cpl. Jacquelin Joseph BARIL, 25th May 10 at Repentigny, PQ of cancer.

Reg#14847, Sgt. Kenneth GOODRICH, at Perley Centre, Ottawa on 31st May 10.

Moment of Silence *(National President)*

5. **Opening of Meeting**

Larry Power, National President opened the meeting and welcomed the entire Veterans' in attendance, Division Delegates and Board of Governors. Power stated that we have a very busy agenda and encouraged all participants to keep their presentations short and straight to the point. Power stated that the VAC Ombudsman, Col, Pat Stogran and Roger Brown (Representing the Commissioner, who could not attend due to family illness), will be attending in the afternoon to address the members.

a) **Reading of Notice of Meeting**

(National Secretary Alex Geddes read the AGM notice. President Al Rivard, Ottawa Division reread the Notice of this AGM in French.

b) **Welcoming Remarks:** President once again welcomed everyone to the AGM 2010 and congratulated Bill Greenslade and his AGM Committee for an excellent well organized AGM.

c) **Introduction of Special Guests: None in attendance.**

d) **Introduction of Delegates/Governors/Board of Directors:** (*Self Introduction took place for all National BOD, Division Delegates and Board of Governors in attendance*).

- e) **Housekeeping remarks:** Bill Greenslade, host Chair addressed the AGM later in the day and advised of procedures for lunch and it is open to everyone in attendance. The dinner arrangements for this evening, bussing to Depot for members to participate in the Sunday morning parade, Church Service, brunch times at the Mess Hall, Barracks Tour, Senior Troop Drill on the Parade Square and the closing Barbecue at the Drill Hall during Sunday afternoon.

f) **Examination and report of the Credentials Committee and explanation of Voting Procedures (National Secretary)** Secretary advised the AGM of the Voting procedures. All the Division Votes of members in good standing and prepared by Treasurer, John Religa. Religa could not attend due to knee replacement surgery. Voting this year will be slightly different. Each Division Delegate will have to reduce their vote count for all the members in attendance at this meeting.

g) **Confirmation of the Minutes of Previous AGM 2008 Winnipeg (Motion):**

President Power advised the AGM that these minutes have to been dealt with again as their was an error at that meeting as pointed out by an RCMP Veteran that a mistake was made. In fact the Mace could not be retired and replaced by the Tip Staff as was done in Winnipeg during AGM 2008. The error in these minutes must be rescinded accordingly as the Bylaws were not passed at that time. When this error came to light President Power corrected the procedure and paraded the Mace at the opening of the AGM 2009 in Whitehorse. This however, was not legal to do and therefore a motion will be made by Director Dave Leblanc to correct this error. The Winnipeg AGM minutes then can be adopted.

To correct this matter Dave Leblanc made a motion to:

- a) Rescind the motion that approved the minutes of the 2008 AGM, in Winnipeg at the AGM 2009 on the reference of the Mace being replaced by the Tip Staff, in Whitehorse on the 30th May 2009 that the minutes of the Winnipeg AGM 2008 be approved.

SECONDED by Tim Hoban. No discussion. Vote: In favour: For 89 contrary 2. CARRIED.

It is further moved by Dave Leblanc that:

- b) That the AGM 2008 Minutes minus the reference to the retirement of the Mace and replacement of the Tip Staff be approved. A further motion will be made at this AGM to correct and adopt the minutes of the AGM 2009 Whitehorse.

SECONDED by Tim Hoban. Discussion. Vote: Unanimous, contrary Nil. CARRIED.

h) **Confirmation of the Minutes of Previous AGM 2009 Whitehorse (Motion):** Alex Geddes, Secretary advised all the AGM attendees that the Minutes of the AGM 2009 were distributed. The date of the meeting for the AGM 2009 was in error and Don Klancher's name was misspelled. The error regarding the President's statement about parading of the Mace instead of the Tip Staff when the General Bylaws were not approved at AGM 2008 Winnipeg, referred to in the minutes of the Whitehorse AGM 2009 is corrected as well. Secretary, Geddes moved that the minutes of the AGM 2009 at Whitehorse on the 30th May 2009 be adopted as corrected. **SECONDED by Dave Leblanc. CARRIED.**

6. Reports: Officers of the Association: (*previously circulated to all Governors, Division Presidents and Secretaries*).

The Division Delegates and the members in attendance were advised by President Power that all the Annual Reports were completed and distributed to all Governors, Presidents and Secretaries. Copies of these reports are on the table adjacent to the head table if anyone wishes to obtain a copy or forgot to bring them for this meeting. Power asked if there were any questions regarding the Annual Reports.

There was no questions however, Past President, Rick Morris wished to advise the meeting that since his annual report was submitted he has been able to finalize an agreement with Tip Top Tailors for a 10% discount over and above all other discounts to all retired members as long as the retiree shows their identification. A letter was forwarded to all Tip Top Tailor businesses across Canada advising each Store of this agreement. Letter from Mr. Gurinder Dugal, Corporate Sales Manager Tip Top Tailors dated 1st June 2010 is held on file. Morris stated that he is now pursuing Mr. Lube for discounts on oil changes for all RCMP Veterans.

- i) **National President** (*Larry Power*) – No comments.
- ii) **Senior Vice-President** (*Tim Hoban*) – No comments.
- iii) **Secretary of the Association** (*Alex Geddes*) – No comments.
- iv) **Treasurer of the Association** (*John Religa*): President Power asked the Secretary to address the Treasurer's Report in absence of John Religa. The Secretary asked if there were any questions regarding the Treasurer's Report. There were not questions and the following motions were made:

Moved by Alex Geddes for items a - e:

- a. Approve the Financial Statements for the General (Operating) Fund, the Reserve Fund and the Association's Benefit Trust Fund as tabled. **SECONDED by Bob McKee. CARRIED.**
- b. Approve per capita dues of \$ 24 per member for 2011. **SECONDED by Wayne Burry. CARRIED**
- c. Approve the General (Operating) Fund budget for the period July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011. **SECONDED by Murray Milne. CARRIED.**
- d. Approve payment of all proper accounts for the period July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011. **SECONDED by Gary Bolton. CARRIED.**
- e. Appoint Mr. J.A.R. Roy as Auditor for the General (Operating) Fund and the Reserve Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 and the Association's Benefit Trust Fund for the fiscal year January 1 to December 31, 2010 with an honorarium of \$ 350. **SECONDED by Dave Leblanc. CARRIED.**

7. Reports: Committees/Directors: These reports were previously forwarded to all Governors, Division Presidents and Secretaries. There were no comments or questions regarding the reports noted except the report Item (i) by Immediate Past President Rick Morris and Director, Cal Small on item (iv) and (iv) a) noted hereunder.

- i) **Report by Immediate Past President & Chair of the Board of Governors** (*Rick Morris*) - Comments noted previously.
- ii) **Report by Executive Director Report** (*including correspondence*) (*Bill Gidley*) – Bob Kells, Calgary Division asked a question regarding the implementation of the VIP program and the RCMP Superannuation Act amendments that must occur in order for the VIP to exist. Gidley stated that legal terms will have to be written prior to the VIP program going into place. All paper work done to date, means the submission has gone to the Cabinet Committee and that is where it is right now. The BOD will provide the Terms of Reference for VIP to the Veterans' once they can be obtained by Bill Gidley.

iii) **Report by Benefit Trust Fund Report** (*Tim Hoban*) - No Comments.

iv) **Report by RCMP Quarterly, Insurance & Finance Report** (*Cal Small*) – No Comments on report submitted.

Cal Small stated that he wished to include some information that was not in his report. The publishing of the Quarterly is being administered by the RCMP Veterans' Association and have been doing this for approximately 10 years. During this time we have generated a profit of \$145,000. We have repaid a \$50,000 start up loan to date. We have given out \$40,500 to National and \$43,600 to the Divisions. \$5,000 to Division Charities and tomorrow afternoon I hope to give a \$5,000 donation to the Friend of the Heritage Centre. Now I must tell you that a lot of this would not have occurred without the general cooperation of the RCMP who gave us free accommodation and other benefits. Last year, the Quarterly was faced with the possibility of spending as much as \$30,000 for a new tracking system to track subscriptions. However, the RCMP has replaced the old system for us at no cost. This year the Quarterly received \$21,000 from Heritage Canada to help us in our publications. The Quarterly also generates funds from the sale of Christmas Cards as well as promoting items for sale in the Quarterly.

a) **Quarterly donations** (*Cal Small*)

As the Quarterly generates funds, it was decided in 2010 that the Quarterly is going to give National \$11,600, and we are going to distribute \$30,350 to the Divisions and as mentioned \$5,000 to the Heritage Centre. Now the last time the Quarterly distributed funds to the Divisions 2 years ago The Board of Trustees based it entirely on membership and gave out "\$3-5 per member". This year, the Board of Trustees decided that the smaller divisions would receive a base amount of \$500 plus an additional \$5 or so per member. The smallest division allocation was \$560 and the largest was \$1,850.

I am pleased to have the cheques with me and each Division Delegate can see me during the day to receive their respective cheques. Later on I will make a presentation to Larry Power, President of the National Veterans' Association for the National cheque. Just to remind you, if you do not subscribe to the Quarterly please do so and I hope to see a significant jump in subscriptions.

Bob Roy stated that the RCMP VA needs to come up with a Revenue Stream or look at increasing dues. When the RCMP VA has a shortfall you may want to consider having the Quarterly cover the shortfall rather than giving out money from the Quarterly. Roy wondered who audited the Quarterly to which Cal Small stated that Cec Gilmore is the Auditor. Roy stated that he and John Religa have often discussed ways and means to increase revenue and with the downward trend in membership what contingency plans are being made to address this issue? Recruiting needs to be done by the Divisions and National Veterans' Association cannot do this for the Divisions. After a discussion several initiatives are being attempted by the Communications/Membership Committee on recruitment and access to retired members' information from the Human Resources Office.

v) **Report by Director (Communications)** (*Dave Leblanc*) - Leblanc commented on his report during his overview on the Howard Kearley Award.

vi) **Report by Advocate** (*Dale Lively*) - No comments.

8. Unfinished Business

i) **Brief Concluding Report for AGM 2009 Whitehorse.** As no one was present from Yukon Division, President Power stated that the AGM 2009 report was submitted to the BOD of Directors by Ron Pond and the good news was AGM 2009 ended up with a profit. Report is held on file.

ii) **Report on items of business arising from AGM 2009** (*National Secretary*)
No items were identified from AGM 2009.

9. New Business – There was no new business identified for this AGM.

a) **Resolutions 1 to 5:** Secretary refreshed the membership on the Voting procedures that were mentioned earlier for all the Resolutions and others items for voting. The scrutinizers will collect the votes for each Resolution.

1) RCMP Veterans' Association Amendments to By-laws:

Resolution read and moved by Alex Geddes that the General By-laws of the Association be approved. **SECONDED by Tim Hoban.** A short discussion took place regarding the approval of the Bylaws. Jack Kenny congratulated the Committee for all their hard work. **Vote including Proxy Votes: For – 3871 contrary 233. CARRIED. Note: These By-laws will come into force subject to approval by Industry Canada.**

2) Officers & Directors and General Liability Insurance

Resolution read and moved by Dave Leblanc that the per capita dues be increased from \$24 to \$25 to provide or an increase in the insurance premium of per capita dues from \$2 to \$3. **SECONDED by Phil Vincent. After a short discussion President asked for a vote including Proxy Votes: For – 3714 contrary 417. CARRIED.**

3) RCMP Veterans' Association Benefit Trust Fund (BTF) – WITHDRAWN by BOD at the National Council Meeting Friday, 4th, June 2010.**4) Increase to Spousal Pension - NL Division**

Read by and moved by Wayne Burry, NF and Labrador BE IT RESOLVED that the RCMP Veterans' Association negotiate with the RCMP, Canadian Forces and FSNA and solicit their support in having the legislation as it relates to increasing spousal pension amended; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the RCMP Veterans' Association in conjunction with the RCMP, Canadian Forces and FSNA; or alone, take the necessary action to have the current legislation be amended increasing spousal pension. **SECONDED by Gary Bolton. No discussion. Vote including the Proxy votes: For 3019 contrary 1125. CARRIED.**

5) 2011 – 125th Anniversary of the RCMP VA – Lethbridge Division

This resolution was read by Lynn Spring, President, Lethbridge Division. Spring moved that be it resolved that the year 2011 be recognized as the 125th Anniversary of the NWMP, RNWMP, and RCMP Veterans' Association. **SECONDED by Al Rivard.** A short discussion regarding whether the date for the Association was recognized by the Federal Government in 1924 or was it in 1886 was carried out. Ian Brownlee, Calgary Division read a direct quote from the Calgary Herald written on 17th April 1886. The article talked about 24 members of the NWMP meeting on the 16th April 1886 to form a Veterans' Association and it did quote the new officers elected for this Veterans' Association. Don Klancher debated this issue and stated that the RCMP Veterans' Association formed officially in January 1924 from historical records and Government of Canada confirmation. Lynn Spring debated this assertion and stated that on the 16th April 1886, the meeting to form an Association was for the common purpose of all Veterans' and was formed by 24 NWMP members confirmed by the article in the Calgary Herald dated 17th April 1886. **President Power asked for a vote including the Proxy votes: For 3542 contrary 602. CARRIED.**

LUNCH: 11:45 – 13:00

10. VAC Ombudsman (Rtd. Col. Pat Stogran) - brief discussion on VAC. Stogran was introduced by President Larry Power who read Stogran's broad and illustrious career in the Canadian Forces both Nationally and Internationally up to and being appointed as the first VAC Ombudsman. Stogran gave a brief overview of the organization of the VAC Ombudsman's office. Stogran stated that they recognized the need to liaise closely with the RCMP and the RCMP Veterans' Association. Stogran introduced Mr. Paul Woods (rtd RCMP), Deputy Ombudsman and stated that Woods brings a great deal of experience from the RCMP to his office.

Stogran advised the Veterans' about their cross Canada focus groups and encouraged the Veterans to attend these meetings that are posted on their Website and discuss common issues with him. Stogran fielded several questions on VIP, Marriage after Sixty and benefits to Canadian Forces and RCMP Veterans. He left a message to all in attendance that he would be a strong advocate for all Veterans and asked for constructive criticism to make the program better. President Power thanked Col Stogran for his informative discussion with the Veterans.

11. Resolution 6) Montreal Veterans' Badge: This resolution was read by Gaston Desmoreaux Past Pres, Montreal Division for Division Delegate, Jean Pierre Girard, Vice President, Montreal Division. Moved by Gaston Desormeaux: **BE IT RESOLVED** that Montreal is the only Division of the RCMP Veteran's Association to promote, sell and distribute the souvenir veteran's badge to any former member of the RCMP that asks for one.

Desormeaux then discussed the purpose of this motion as noted hereunder:

WHEREAS the RCMP does not have the right to interfere in the sale of our veteran's badge,

WHEREAS Montreal division holds the rights and privileges since September 15th 2003, as mentioned in volume IV, page 311, of *The Public Register of Arms, Flags and Badges of Canada*,

WHEREAS Montreal division presented Insp. Bird in September 2009 a sample badge with letters RCMP-GRC removed,

WHEREAS Montreal division of the RCMP Veteran's Association known hereinafter as Montreal, will take responsibility of the sold veteran's badge and that the RCMP Veteran's Association, known hereinafter as National will not be held liable for the sold veteran's badges,

WHEREAS Montreal has been selling that souvenir veteran's badge for over nine (9) years,

WHEREAS Montreal will be the holder of the working moulds and obligations for the sale of the souvenir veteran's badge, Montreal will be sole responsible for the marketing of the said badge,

WHEREAS Montreal will be the holder of a liability insurance policy and that the National will not have any rights on sale, distribution and responsibilities

WHEREAS Montreal will abide to article 104 of the Association's Constitution and By-laws,

WHEREAS royalties will be handed over to the RCMP Foundation.
SECONDED by Jan Wolynski, Manitoba Division.

Desormeaux gave a briefing to the AGM and began by relating to March of 2009 stating that Insp Bird, Intellectual Branch, RCMP HQ, came to Montreal and told the Montreal Division of the RCMP Veterans' Association to discontinue selling the Veterans Badge. The RCMP was afraid that the Veterans' of the RCMP might use the badge freely during the Vancouver Olympics. Montreal agreed to stop selling the badge at this time. Desormeaux stated that he was advised by email from Alex Geddes that the meeting scheduled for 17th December 2009 was cancelled. However, 1st December 2009 at the BOD meeting the RCMP National Association gave the Montreal Division could sell this badge. We were told on the 27th February 2010 by President Power that the RCMP Veterans' Association could not give permission for the sell the badge to Montreal Division due to insurance liability that would be placed on the National RCMP Veterans' Association to support the sale of the badge put on the National RCMP Veterans' Association by the RCMP.

Desmoreaux wrote to President Power and read the following : **Quote** : – Mr. Power upon my return from a winter vacation it is with regret that I read the BOD meeting minutes on the 25th December 2009 paragraph #9. 4. (Veterans Badge) Mr. Geddes advised the BOD that the RCMP Intellectual Property Branch will only deal with the RCMP Veterans' Association on the approval of the RCMP Veterans GRC Veterans' Badge or any property that is identical to the RCMP GRC Crest or Logo for approval. **Unquote.**

The Constitution of the RCMP GRC Veterans' Association paragraph 104.1 and 104.2 says very clearly that "Association Armorial (Badge) of the Association, which consist primarily of the original features of the Badge used by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police prior to 1952 and given to the RCMP Veterans' Association by Her Majesty Queen". If the present RCMP Intellectual Branch of the RCMP believes that our Crest or Logo belongs to the RCMP; I think they should be reminded that they could have presented an objection to the creation of our Crest which was approved by her Majesty the Queen herself.

The RCMP does not seem to believe that we are a separate Corporate entity and they do not have the right to order us to the line. We must live in cooperation with their wishes when feasible but we are not their endured servants. Furthermore, our Veterans Badge is different because it has a buckle surrounding the Buffalo with the wording of "Veterans Association Association des Anciens". You could probably remind the Force members who express this displeasure in our business of using this badge, our young officers who have no knowledge of our Badge, it's history or charter. Perhaps you should ask them their knowledge of the Association. It really comes to a surprise to the members of the Montreal Division and other Veterans that the Association has taken such a negative attitude.

We intend to continue with our new Badge – Veterans' Badge logo 0003 which I reviewed with you yesterday at the National Council Meeting which was approved by the BOD at the BOD meeting on the 1st December 2009. The present new Veterans Badge does not have (Police) wording on it and cannot be confused with the regular members badge. The proper identification for an active member is an (ID) Card which is issued by the Commissioner of the RCMP.

This is sent to you as you are the President our Association. I am also including a copy to all Montreal Division Members of the Executive Committee who have asked me to continue fighting for our rights in this matter. As you know we have been issuing this badge and now amended for over nine (9) years and not one has been lost or misused by our Veterans. Those who have requested a badge with their regimental number on it are proud carriers and much more proud to show it as a souvenir badge to their friends, family members and relatives. Think of it as a Veteran of the RCMP. This is the only souvenir as ex-member has to show for and be proud of it.

In conclusion Mr. President, please accept my best regards and I hope that you will support our proposal « Once a Mountie always a Mountie ».

President Power stated that we have a motion and it is seconded and is their any discussion. A short discussion took place and a resolution was put forth for a vote. President Power asked for personal nay votes first due to the other resolution outcomes and just deduct this from the total votes. All votes including the proxy votes were counted. **Votes for 2834 contrary 1210. CARRIED.** The President stated that the RCMP Veterans' Association now has the responsibility for this Badge. Gaston Desormeaux advised President Power that he wished to thank everyone for their support and that the Montreal Division would give back a percentage of all sales to members in their Divisions who wish to buy a badge.

- b) **The Howard Kearley Award** - Leblanc stated that in the next four years and with the incoming President, it is going to be an objective to increase membership in the Association as did President Power during his term. Leblanc stated that as Mr. Bob Roy said earlier that the National BOD is the assistant and guide to the Divisions to try to bring membership into uniformity for membership applications and access to retired member's records, but it is up to the Divisions to recruit the members.

In Manitoba the Division had a person by the name of Howard Kearley who almost doubled the Manitoba Division membership over a 5 year period do to his innovative and creative recruiting of members. Kearley made a presentation to the AGM 2008 in Winnipeg regarding recruiting and in fact Nova Scotia Division has taken this challenge and have a commitment to increase their membership by 10% in 2010. From January this year they have increased Nova Scotia Division membership by 35. We want to encourage individuals and Divisions to strive to increase membership and the Howard Kearley Award will be given out next year to an individual or a Division at the AGM 2011 in St. John's. Other Divisions are now challenged to meet these goals. If you wish further information contact George Savage, Nova Scotia Division and or other Divisions on their strategies for membership.

Leblanc read the Certificate to the AGM as follows: ***“For his tenacious dedication and compassion for the betterment of the Membership within the RCMP Veteran’s Association in general, but specifically his passion towards the advancement of Membership as a whole both in Manitoba and across the country, the first annual Membership Award is being presented posthumously to: Reg. #21291, Howard Kearley.***

In future this award will be presented to the individual and/or division that demonstrates outstanding efforts to advance membership within the Association, through various programs initiated to promote membership as well as showing an increase in membership within their area. From this point forward the award shall be known as the:

Howard Kearley Award.”

Dave Leblanc gave the first Howard Kearley Award posthumously to Regimental 21291 Sgt. Howard Kearley (Rtd) and it was presented to Jan Wolynski, Vice President, Manitoba Division who in turn will present this framed Certificate to the family of Howard Kearley at an appropriate time in Manitoba.

12. Good of the Association:

i) **Items from the Floor for Discussion** (5 minutes per speaker)

a. **Ian Brownlee, Calgary Division** asked that Jack Kenny, Calgary Division be recognized for his 30 plus years for coming to the AGMs and his input into the Association.

b. **John Ewasko, Manitoba Division:** Requested that the Form 1487 from Morneau Sobeco that requires Veterans to sign and state that “they are still alive” is very offensive and wondered what is being done about it. Bill Gidley responded that this form has been reviewed and revised and steps are being taken to resolve this issue even further.

c. **Jack Lee-Knight, Calgary Division:** Advised that Calgary Division member, Jim Horner’s birthday is today (88yrs of age.)

d. **Rick Morris, National Past President:** Morris stated that he is now departing from the BOD of the National RCMP Veterans’ Association and wished to thank the Veterans’ Association for their kindnesses to me and all the support he had over the past 6 years serving on the National Executive and that some progress has been made on several initiatives. The BOD is left in capable hands and wished everyone well.

e. **Hearing Devices:** Hearing devices were not used during this AGM and this will be corrected for next AGM for those who are hearing impaired.

ii) **Presentation of Certificates/Awards:** There were no Certificates or Awards presented at this AGM.

iii) **Recognition of Octogenarians** * (National President)

**Photo to be taken after adjournment of the Octogenarians at the back of this boardroom.*

Photograph taken of the following with Larry Power and Tim Hoban.

Jack Kenny (85), Harry Armstrong(83), Ed Kurtz (89), Ken Barker(88), Larry Hunter(?), John Ewasko (80), Frank Graham (83), Harold Searle(91), Stu Langdon (80), Vernon Rose (82), Ed Witherden(80) Jim Forsyth(81), Blake McIntosh(80). All these members received a rousing round of applause.

13. Update on plans for AGM 2011 (St. John's (president NL Division) (Wayne Burry)

Burry briefly reminded all in attendance that they should register early to take advantage of a true "Kitchen Party" next year at the AGM in St. John's, NL. Burry made note that he already has a registration cheque from a member. The hotel name is new from the old Newfoundland Hotel and it is now called the Sheraton Hotel. Check out our website and it is www.rcmpvetsnl.ca. The registration forms are not on their yet but soon will be. The registrations are pouring in and I have the first one right here so get your registrations completed.

14. Bids for and Confirmation of future AGM's (National President)

- 2012 Vancouver - Confirmed by Bob McKee.
- 2013 Saskatoon/Prince Albert - Confirmed by Eric Vincent.
- 2014 Ottawa - Confirmed by Al Rivard.
- 2015 Calgary (Withdrawn) - Jack Lee-Knight confirmed that Calgary Division has withdrawn from hosting this AGM.
- 2015 J.P. Girard, Vice President, Montreal Division confirmed that they will host the AGM in 2015 instead of 2016 and it will be held at Quebec City.**
- 2016 – No volunteers at this time. (Montreal changed their request for 2016 to 2015 above).
- 2017 PEI (As this is the 150th Anniversary for PEI).

1500hrs:**15. Asst. Commissioner Roger Brown, CO Depot (for Commissioner William Elliott)**

Commissioner Elliott was unable to attend as his father-in-law is gravely ill and is listed day to day and he just cannot justify attending. Brown thanked the President for allowing him to attend and he thanked the Veterans for the things that they do and continue to do as an Organization. I can tell you that I spoke with the Commissioner three different times yesterday and also in Ottawa last week and he really wanted to be here today. Brown reflected on the discussion with the Ombudsman and the Commissioner and Brown did discuss some of these points for this meeting. Brown stated that he had another discussion with Al Nause, new Chief HRO last night regarding several issues affecting the Veterans as well.

VIP: The Commissioner asked Brown to advise the Veterans that the process is not as far as long as he would like it. His goal this year was to update the Veterans at the AGM that it would be finalized unfortunately it has not happened. But it is moving forward, however, Parliament will adjourn very soon so realistically it will not happen now but perhaps in the fall. However, the issue is going to be funded and issues of clarity.

Force Direction: BROWN gave the Veterans an update on where the Force is headed and all the issues that have happened in the near term that have created a lot of negativity but the Commissioner is dedicated to Change Management within the Force and advised his senior managers recently that each and everyone of the Officers will affect change. The Commissioner wants to be more open to the Press/Media as we have been too silent. Acknowledge the mistakes and also communicating to the Media and Canadians about the good things that the RCMP is doing. A National Communications person has now been hired for this purpose.

Brown stated that the first Veterans meeting took place in Calgary in 1886 and a lot has happened since then. The Commissioner wants to acknowledge the Veterans accomplishments and what the RCMP Veterans have done for the Force over the years and continue to do. All Senior Executive Officers echo this statement. Brown stated that the doors of Depot are open each and every day to all Veterans of the RCMP. Brown stated that he himself will benefit by this Association one day himself and so will the other 20,000 members someday themselves.

The Commissioner is aware of some of these things we do: The \$10,000 to Haiti input into Parades and functions at HQ and Divisions and this does not go unnoticed by the Commissioner or his Officers. The Brown Task Force spoke of rebuilding the trust. Brown stated that he thought it never was broken and stated that we have been clumsy at times on how we approached getting on with change and getting members on the road instead of in offices and out with the public we serve.

Vacancy/Replacement: Depot has processed on average 56 troop graduations in the each of the past two years to fill vacancies. The projected attrition this year is over 700 persons and Depot is trying to manage this vacancy rate. A challenge coming is that over half the organization will have senior members averaging 6 – 7 years of service. So there is a real challenge for training, mentorship and guidance to these persons and this is a recognized priority.

Mountie House: Brown stated he started a project about six months ago as a result of work with Habitat for Humanity. The RCMP at Depot is heading a project which Brown began with a theme "Depot home of the Mounties, building homes building hope". Last Saturday he had 65 cadets show up to assist in building a home in Regina. The labour provided by the cadets saved Habitat for Humanity at least \$30,000. This has given these cadets the basics for establishing a good feeling in community service and giving back to the communities they serve. They have already raised \$35,000 and hope to have \$100,000 raised by November 1st this year and Depot wants to have as shovel in the ground as this year Depot Division is celebrating it's 125th Anniversary as the oldest Division in Canada. Then we will build a house!

History is important to the training program as the past reflects on the future. Depot, in spite of criticism, is highly respected in North America and throughout the World as a first class training facility and several police forces are modelling their training on the RCMP Training Programs.

Brown closed by saying just think about the closing ceremonies in Vancouver at the Olympics as the Mounties were the most featured icon of Canada to the World at this ceremony, and it just shows that we are respected in Canada and throughout the World as police officers and peacekeepers and making Canada a place of safe homes and safe communities. We are committed at Depot to the RCMP and the Veterans and we will not let you down.

President Power thanked Roger Brown for a very informative and interesting update on Depot and other issues affecting everyone. Brown was given a standing ovation by all Veterans in attendance.

16. Nomination and Election of Association Officers: Past President Rick Morris, Chair of the Nominating Committee advised that there would not be an election for any Executive position at this AGM as none of the positions were opposed. Morris thanked Bill Patton and Terry Ryan for assistance on the Nomination Committee. Morris listed off the names of the new Board members and offered them his congratulations, and the fact that Dave Leblanc is continuing in the position of Director. Morris congratulated our current President Larry Power for his all his work during his Presidency and he will now become the Past President for the next two years.

17. Installation of Association Officers:

President: Larry Power, Past President inducted Tim Hoban as the National President.

Vice President: President, Tim Hoban inducted Cal Small as Vice President.

Secretary: President, Tim Hoban inducted Alex Geddes as Secretary.

Directors: President, Tim Hoban inducted Murray Milne and Jim Forsyth as Directors.

18. Adjournment (Tim Hoban, National President)

i) **Closing Remarks** (Tim Hoban, National President) Hoban thanked everyone for placing their faith in him for the next two years. The Ombudsman stated that we need to get in the face of those people who can benefit the RCMP Veterans Association and for the next two years I intend to do just that to see if we can get things done.

We want to work together as a group and this is one of the key things; and, as a matter of fact I will be going to Winnipeg this next weekend and make a presentation to the Legion at their Convention. We are building relationships with the Legion and the FSNA. Quote: "The bigger the dog the bigger the bite; lets build on our membership". Unquote. This will give us a much stronger voice for the benefits for our members and also for our spouses as they supported many of us in our daily work. Hoban asked the Veterans to have a good time tonight and enjoy yourself and we will see what we can get done.

ii) **Motion to Adjourn – Larry Power asked the new President to adjourn the meeting. Tim Hoban moved that the meeting be adjourned and asked the Sgt at Arms to recess the Mace.**

iii) **Recessing of the Mace:** The Mace was recessed by the Sgt. at Arms, Regina Division and in turn was presented to the President, Wayne Burry, NL Division, as instructed by Past President Ron Ferguson, Regina Division. Burry then instructed the Sgt. at Arms, Regina Division to present the Mace to the Sgt. at Arms for NL Division and the Mace was paraded out followed by the National Executive RCMP VA.

ADJOURNMENT 1600hrs, 5th June, 2010

**Alex Geddes,
National Secretary
RCMP Veterans' Association**