



Scarlet and Gold

February 2018 Royal Canadian Mounted Police Veterans Association, Vancouver

Since its inception in 1873 the now RCMP has struggled to keep its membership mobile to maintain Canadian sovereignty and to keep the peace over vast western territories. To do so the Force created severe rules concerning marriage. Members had to have 10 years of service before being granted permission to marry. Thus a great deal of pressure was put upon members wanting to get on with their personal lives. Not surprisingly a few skirted the rule by quietly slipping away and marrying. The following story is written by Carol, one such bride. She and her husband to-be, Don, young adults in Nelson, B.C. decided to elope to the States avoiding parental scrutiny. Don was not a member of the RCMP but could easily have been. Perhaps this account will remind those among us who chose this option of the brave commitment they made so many years ago.

The Elopement

Friday, January 15, 1960— a day to remember. This was the day Don and I began the big step.

At 1:30 in the afternoon we nervously stepped on to the bus going to Spokane with return bus tickets and minimal cash. Though neither of us would admit it we were both a little frightened, apprehensive and excited. We spoke little during the bus ride and got into Spokane around seven that night. During the trip we had got off at every stop and bought something to chew on. As soon as we were off the bus in Spokane we headed for the nearest good restaurant. We found a very nice one and had a delicious hot beef sandwich for our late supper.

After supper we went back to the bus depot to meet with our first piece of back luck. We phoned a Justice of the peace in Spokane and found that in Washington State, a couple has to wait three days. We couldn't afford to do that so he suggested we go on to C'oeur d'Alene which is in Idaho and does not have such a law.

What to do next I phoned C'oeur d'Alene and talked to Justice of the Peace there. He told us of the different fees we had to pay to get married. \$5.00 for the J.P., \$4.00 for a blood test, and \$3.50 for a marriage licence. We had about \$18.00 to our names and were beginning to wonder how we would get to C'oeur A'lene from Spokane. Don found the bus fare was just over \$2.00 return. After much thought we decided to go on even though we wouldn't be left with much money.

Finally it was time to get on the bus. We got a seat near the front of the double decker and immediately fell asleep. By this time it was

snowing heavily and you couldn't see a thing out the windshield. Then, at 3:00AM the bus driver yelled **C'eur D'Aene** and we sleepily stumbled down the bus steps. The snow was up to our ankles and still coming down, wet and fluffy. We found to our dismay that the bus depot was closed for the night. Where would we go, and on top of that we were cold and miserable. Don started to laugh. I wanted to cry. We started walking the street to keep warm. On a snowy early morning a town looks like a great Arctic wasteland. No one will ever know how lonely and wet we were, not a person round for miles or so it seemed.

We walked and we walked. Don had no over shoes and soon his feet were soaking wet and cold. We met a policeman who told us of an all-night café nearby. He also said we could spend the night in the stationhouse. We decided against that and headed for the café. This decision was to be our first bit of good luck.

About 4:30 we went into the café and ordered two coffees. A drunk sitting next to Don kept eyeing us and finally began to unfold all his troubles. Don began a conversation with him and he soon gave us a \$1.00 to play the jukebox. It was then he noticed that we were only drinking coffee and he had a t-bone steak. He offered to buy us one but when we refused he kept on insisting. I was dying of hunger and so was Don. The waitress finally convinced us we might just as well. We ordered a smaller steak dinner with gravy and hash-browned potatoes. I couldn't eat it all and in a few hours I was to wish that I had. This early Saturday

Continued next page

morning breakfast was to be our last meal until Sunday evening.

About six we went outside and began our long walk up and down the main street again. It had stopped snowing so it wasn't quite so miserable. By this time another café was open and we went in and had another coffee.. We also asked for directions on how to get to the Justice of the Peace. We left then to begin more walking and window shopping. We had \$.24 left , just enough to have another coffee. But bad luck was with us again, Don fell down and lost a dime. You just can't win.

About 7:30 we went back to the first café and cleaned up as best we could. We then walked to the office of the J.P. It must be pretty profitable being a J.P. His office was neat and modern looking from the outside and there was a big red neon sign **JUSTICE OF THE PEACE** perched on top of his roof. The court house was across the street and the doctor's office was right next door. From here on getting married was to be a cinch.

First, we talked with the J.P. (we were his first customers) who told us what to do. Next we went to the lady doctor who took a sample of our blood. Then we carried this across the street to the basement of the courthouse where the public health unit would test it free. Then began the waiting again. The tests wouldn't be ready till about 11:30 so we sat down on the chairs in the hall. By 11:30 there were seven other couples besides us. All of them were young like us except for an older couple who seemed very much out of place in this little anxious group. Our blood was okay and so we went upstairs for our licence. This was the last day for one to get a car licence so there was a long line up. Back across the street we went, to where we were to meet our next piece of bad luck.

"We can hire you some witnesses for a \$5.00 fee," said the clerk "So long, we'll see you next year," said Don. Then we decided to get our own witnesses. Back across the street we went to ask the couple we had talked to while waiting, if they would help us out. They agreed on one condition, we stand up for them. It was agreed and the four of us returned to the J.P.'s office.

The J.P. and his wife took us all into their adjoining living room. We were first, he said the few necessary words, our best man handed Don the ring, he put it on my hand and ... we were married. It was all over in a minutes. I was

married in my snow boots and my maid of honour was to be married in her shag sweater. Now it was our turn to be witnesses. Then we went back to his office and he handed us our marriage certificate. Our waiting had come to an end. We had counted on getting some money exchange from our Canadian bills but no such luck We had exactly \$.09 left but our spirits were high.

We walked to the small, dingy, bus depot to wait for the bus which came about 2:30 in the afternoon. We sat for awhile and then went for a walk around town to see the stores even if we hadn't any money. By now we knew C'eur D'Alene's main street really well. We were still floating on a pink cloud, when the bus arrived.

We were back in Spokane around four and it was then that hunger pains struck. All we could do was bear them out. We bought a package of gum and then went for a walk around Spokane. Now we know what a tramp feels like when he stands on the outside of a classy restaurant looking in. We did the same thing. It was freezing cold so we came back to the bus depot and a few handfuls of peanuts from a penny machine.

About an hour later I headed for the lady's restroom where I was sick three times due to greasy peanuts on an empty stomach. Both of us were beginning to feel pretty miserable, hungry and dead tired. We curled up on the hard benches with the wooden handles digging into our backs. We had to wait until 9:00 in the morning for the only bus going back to Nelson so there was nothing else to do. About three in the morning they locked up the depot. What a long and hungry night.! At last the bus came. What a relief. We got on and sat down with a sigh of tiredness. We were so tired and hungry we couldn't sleep. When the bus arrived at the boarder we had to get off for baggage inspection. We were so weak we practically fell down the bus steps. We leaned against each other for support while officials took our names. They thought we were brother and sister.

Around five we arrived in Nelson. What a welcome sight! Then we began to wonder how in the world we would be able to walk to our as yet unused apartment. But for a change, we were lucky, my Dad met us and took us to their house for a delicious barbecued sparerib dinner. After that my parents took us to our new home. Who says getting married is easy?

Last Post

For 15 years, Dan Lemieux has supplied the newsletter with names of deceased members for the Last Post column. These details were mainly gleaned from publications and newsletters from other divisions. Major contributors were Sheldon Boles Communique' and Kamloops Division. These sources may be, or have been discontinued. It would be helpful if Dan could be advised of the passing of retired members so we can keep our membership informed in a timely manner, of relatives, friends or colleagues who have passed on. If you learn of the passing of a retired member, please notify Dan Lemieux at deebeel@telus.net or 604-926-7421.



Meeting for 2018 at Hazelmere Golf Course

Month	Executive	General
January	Jan. 5 th	(dark)
February	Feb 9 th	Feb 15 th Lunch
March	Mar 9 th	Mar 15 th
April	Apr 13 th	Apr 26 th Social
May	May 11 th	May 17 th
June	Jun 8 th	TBA Social
July	(dark)	(dark)
August	(dark)	(dark)
September	Sep 14 th	TBA Social
October	Oct 12 th	Oct 18 th
November	Nov 9 th & 30 th	Nov 15 th
December	(dark)	Dec 7 th Levee

Coming to a meeting?

Call Dorothy at 604-261-4630 or email demartinson@shaw.ca
To make your reservation.

Newsletter Delivery

We, the executive of Vancouver Vets, are pleased that so many of you are choosing to receive the newsletter by downloading it from our website as this saves us printing and postage costs. The procedure is simple. You will need your Username and Password, available from Director Sheldon Boles if you don't have them. Then visit:

www.rcmpveteransvancouver.com

Under the members-only section you will find recent newsletters which you can download.

Those of you without computers or wishing to receive the newsletter by regular mail should phone editor Peter Bond at 604-740-9962 and he will add your name to his mail out list.

2018 Dues Reminder

It costs this division for you to be a member of the Vets' Association so please pay your dues on time each year. We cannot afford to carry members who do not pay their dues.

They are due January 1st

Please put your cheque in the mail today



Did anyone else feel that January went by far too quickly? I am certain for those who have remained in the Lower Mainland (or Canada for that matter), and suffered through the inclement weather, January may not have gone by fast enough. For those of you who ventured to warmer climates, I am certain that the days weren't long enough. It seems that on Feb 2nd even Canada's famous groundhog had a difficult time predicting when spring will come.

In the January 2018 Scarlett and Gold President's message, I wrote about the ongoing issue with the future of Fairmont Barracks on the Heather Lands in Vancouver. Since then, it has been confirmed that an urn bearing the ashes of Supt Joe Atherton, Reg #0.432 is buried under the flagpole directly in front of Fairmont. This information has been passed onto the City of Vancouver and the RCMP. A representative from the Canadian Lands Company has responded but, at the time of this writing, no decision has been made as to how the City and the MST (MusqueamSquamishTsleil-Waututh) Development Corporation will proceed. The urn's location was new information to the group planning the redevelopment of Heather Lands and I am currently trying to obtain an update from the City.

The RCMP has also responded and I am awaiting further discussion on this matter. Information was received from D/Comm Don Wilson (ret) who has advised there are no remaining Atherton family members so, it would seem, the Force and the Veterans are the remaining "family" to take care of Supt Atherton's remains. For further information regarding the burial of Supt. Atherton's ashes check out the article; "RCMP A Mystery Story – True and Fascinating Canadian History 'The Mystery of a Mountie Buried Under an Ocean of Stone' – by J.J. Healy" (www.rcmpgraves.com) More to come.....

Planning is underway for a spring 2018 gravesite rededication for Reg #716, NWMP Sergeant Donald MacRae. Our Director of Ceremonies, Gord Cave, is heading this and further information will be forthcoming. The rededication will take place at Mountain View Cemetery, 5455 Fraser Street, Vancouver, B.C. It is hoped that the date chosen will allow for a large contingent of Veterans and serving RCMP members to be in attendance. Further information regarding Sgt. MacRae's service with the NWMP can be found at www.rcmpgraves.com "True and Fascinating

Canadian History – Vet of the Month: August 2017 'Commendations Justly Awarded' by J.J. Healy.

Our Vancouver Division is once again supporting the Buffalo Celtic Music Society, RCMP "E" Division Pipes and Drums, at their annual Scotch Tasting Evening, March 3rd, Green Timbers' NCO Mess. Further information will be forwarded but mark the date on your calendars and plan to attend. Come out to support the Band and enjoy the camaraderie of the evening.

PAYMENT OF 2018 DUES: A letter has been received from Alex Geddes, Association Secretary, regarding the approved Record Date (March 27, 2018) for AGM 2018 reminding Division members that to be eligible for voting on AGM 2018 nominations and resolution, dues for all Active Members must be paid by March 27th. Life Members appointed prior to June 27, 2014 are eligible for voting. For those of you, who have yet to submit payment, please do so immediately. **All dues must be received and recorded at National prior to the March 27th deadline.** Your vote is important as this is your Association. Please ensure you exercise your right to vote.

Positions still vacant on the Vancouver Division executive:

Secretary (2 year term)

Director Communications (2 year term)

Director Health, Welfare and Advocacy (2 year term)

Liaison to the NCO's mess (Presidential Appointment)

Please contact Past President, Keith Leishman, at kleishman@telus.net if you are interested in serving on your executive. Also, as previously reported, the job descriptions have been updated and approved by the Executive. The JD's will be ratified at the February 15th General Meeting, Hazelmere Golf and Country Club, 18150 8th Avenue, Surrey, B.C. Please notify Secretary, Mert Rowden, meredith_rowden@telus.net, if you will be attending.

Bob Young, Regional Director CSIS, British Columbia and Yukon, will be our guest speaker at the March 15th General Meeting. I am certain Bob's talk will be of interest to all of us so please plan on attending.

Thank you and let us all hope for an early spring!!

Your Division President, Donna Morse







Proud sponsor of the annual RCMP Vets
golf tournament



Lorraine R. Rumberg
Senior Vice President
and Investment Advisor
Tel.: **778-292-7920**
lorraine.rumberg@nbc.ca
www.rumbergroup.ca

*Have you had an income
projection prepared?
Are you paying too much
in taxes?
Do you have enough income
to last you for a lifetime?*

**My team of high-calibre professionals
can help you meet your goals. Call us today!**



RUMBERG GROUP

National Bank Financial is an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of National Bank of Canada which is a public company listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange (NA: TSX). National Bank Financial is a member of the Canadian Investor Protection Fund (CIPF).



Alan Merriman PREC*ACP
REALTOR**
**Commercial Sales & Leasing.
Residential Sales.**
***Personal Real Estate Corporation.
Accredited Commercial Professional.
REMAX Colonial Pacific Realty Ltd.
**15414 - 24th Avenue
Surrey, BC. V4A 2J3 CANADA
604-812-4000**



President
Donna Morse 604-541-7354
Vice President
Bob Underhill 604-988-4844
Past President
Keith Leishman 604-531-0702
Secretary
Mert Rowden 604-434-0424
or Toll Free 1-888-726-7838
Fax 604-436-3393
Email: vandiv.vets@telus.net or meredith_rowden@telus.net
Treasurer
Rupert Bullock 604-533-5354

Directors
Ceremonies, Memorabilia
Gord Cave 778-688-6181
Social Activities, & Events
Dorothy Martinson 604-261-4630
Membership
Ric Hall(Interim) 604-853-5500
Liaison to RCMP & Governments
Ric Hall(Interim) 604-853-5500
Health & Welfare
Ron Budd 604-535-5960
RCMP Veterans' Women's Council
Vacant
Communications & Outreach
Eric Ross(interim) 778-545-0110
Division Revitalization
Eric Ross 778-545-0110

Presidential Appointees
Provincial Advocate for BC.
Bob McKee 604-885-6372
Division Padre
Jim Turner
Honor Guard Coordinator
Bob Underhill 604-988-4844
Newsletter Editor
Peter Bond 604-740-9962
Golf Tournament Coordinator
Bill Duckworth 604-948-9928
RCMP Officers' Mess Coordinator
Doug Wheler 604-246-5329
Sick Parade Visitations Coordinator
Ray Kielan 604-936-6062
Transportation Coordinator
"Andy" Anderson 604-943-3456



R.C.M.P. Veterans' Ladies' Auxiliary

February 1, 2018 Ladies Auxiliary Luncheon/ Meeting:

This was the first get-together for 2018 and we celebrated the Auxiliary's 82nd Birthday/Anniversary at our buffet luncheon in the "Fireside Room" at "Hazelmere Golf & Tennis Club" in Surrey, B.C. Our Auxiliary was formed on February 26th, 1936 at the request of the R. N.W.M.P. Veterans' Association (Vancouver Division). The attached photo shows Auxiliary member, Violet Holmes, who also celebrated her 82nd Birthday this year (on January 31st), so we asked Violet to perform the cutting of the Birthday cake. A questionnaire was circulated at our meeting, asking our members to list anyone who they would like to have as a Guest Speaker for our meetings, and/or topics that they would like to have presented. We had numerous suggestions and hope to contact various persons regarding items that would be of interest to our members for future meetings.

"Linus" Blankets/Afghans:

There were 12 blankets/afghans handed in at this February 1st meeting and Kathy Turnbull (778-292-1864) has more yarn available for anyone who wants to make other items for this worthy cause. The finished items are donated by our Auxiliary to the Vancouver "Variety Club" for distribution to children's hospitals and other institutions requiring blankets. Some of these blankets are hand-made by our Auxiliary members on their own time, and some are purchased by Auxiliary members for donation to

the "Variety Club." Some are also hand-made by "friends of the Auxiliary" who like to knit and crochet for us.

Bereavement: We sadly report that one of our Auxiliary members, Mrs. Nicola (Nikki) Myles, passed away on Friday, January 19th in Ladner, B.C., a suburb of Vancouver. Nikki was the widow of R.C.M.P. Veteran, Bob Myles, and is survived by two sons, a daughter, and grandchildren. A service will be held on Saturday, March 3rd, 2018 at St. David's Anglican Church, Tsawwassen, B.C., at 2:00 p.m.



March 1, 2018 Ladies Auxiliary Luncheon/Meeting:

This is our next get-together at "Hazelmere," and since it will be the month of "St. Patrick's Day," we usually wear something green to get into the spirit of the yearly event. It is interesting to see how it brings out the "Irish" in a number of our members!

Ladies Auxiliary Annual Dues:

A reminder that the annual fees of \$25.00 per person are now due for the year 2018. Payment may be made at the next Ladies Auxiliary Luncheon Meeting on March 1st, or mailed by cheque or money order to Membership Convener, Barbara Scobie, #23, 2081 Winfield Drive, Abbotsford, B.C., V3G 1C7. All cheques or

money order are to be made payable to:
R.C.M.P. Veterans' Ladies Auxiliary, Vancouver.
Dorothy Martinson, President, RCMP Veterans' Ladies Auxiliary (604) 261-4630

R.C.M.P. VETS' LADIES AUXILIARY COFFEE KLATCHES

CHILLIWACK/ABBOTSFORD: Last Wed. every month, 10 am Chilliwack at "I-HOP" Cottonwood Corners/Freeway, and alternating monthly in Abbotsford at "Ricky's Restaurant" (Best Western) off Clearbrook Road & Freeway. Myrna Meyer (604) 847-8977.

WHITE ROCK/SURREY/RICHMOND: Third Wed. every month, 10 AM at White Spot restaurant, 1681 152nd Avenue (Semiahmoo Mall) White Rock
Kathy Turnbull, 778-292-1864.

VANCOUVER: First Thurs. Summer months & January only, 9:30 AM, "Bean Bros., W. 41st. Ave. in Kerrisdale. Dorothy Martinson (604) 261-4630.

NORTH & WEST VANCOUVER: Summer months only. TBA

COQUITLAM/PT. MOODY/NORTH FRASER: Third Thurs. every month, 10:30 a.m., "Coquitlam Grill," 2635 Barnet Hwy. Helen Kielan (604) 936-6062

DELTA/TSAWWASSEN: Locations vary each month., Last Thurs. each month, 10:30 a.m. Sheila Zerr, 604-943-3012
Email: Sheila Zerr (srzerr@telus.net)



White Rock Koffee Klatch

Ricky's Restaurant on King George Hwy.
10:00 AM, Second Tuesday of Every Month

Abbotsford Koffee Klatch

Roseland Family Restaurant, 5 Corners
33550 South Fraser Way, Abbotsford
10:00 AM, last Wednesday

Richmond Koffee Klatch

Richmond Koffee Klatch disbanded and meeting
with Vancouver Koffee Klatch. See below.

Friday Lunch Crew

Every Friday at 11:00 AM at the Legion in Ladner.

Chilliwack Vets & Ladies Coffee Klatch

Homer's Restaurant
46090 Yale Road, Chilliwack
2nd Monday each month, 10 AM

North Shore Koffee Klatch

The 2 Lions Pub, Westview Mall, 11:00 AM,
1st Tuesday of every month

Vancouver Koffee Klatch

White Spot Restaurant in Oakridge Mall
Second Thursday each Month, 10 AM
Call Herb Martinson, 604-261-4630

Coquitlam Koffee Klatch

Coquitlam Grill on the Barnet Hwy.
3rd Tuesday of each month at 10:30 AM

Maple Ridge Coffee Crew

Town Hall Public House, 206-20690 Lougheed Hwy.
Every Sunday morning at 10:00 AM

Langley Koffee Klatch

Langley Golf Centre, 21550—44th Avenue, Corner
of 216th Street and 44th Avenue, Langley 9 AM, first
Tuesday of the month.

The RCMP Vets Vancouver Division
newsletter is produced monthly, July, August
and December excepted.

Vancouver Division Governors

J.S. (Jim) Warren	(780)464-1138
W.F. (Bill) McCheyne	(604)535-9670
D.C. (David) Turnbull	(778)292-1864
G.J. (Jim) Druchet	(604)536-1925
W.L. (Les) Holmes	(604)298-7517
W.H. (Bill) Schindeler	(604)590-3975
A.J. (Alf) Erickson	(604)594-5463
R.C. (Bob) McKee	1(866)970-7267
E.R. (Ed) Wilson	(604)864-0443
R.A.P. (Dick) Hawkshaw	(604-824-8464

NCOs' Mess Meetings

Dave Miyashita, 778-290-3293

Mess: ENCOMESS@rcmp-grc.gc.ca



Important Phone Numbers and Website Links

- Morneau Shepell - for RCMP Insurance only - 1-800-661-7595
- Public Works & Government Services Canada - PWGSC - For all aspects of Pension Administration - 1-855-502-7090
- Veteran Affairs (DVA) for Hearing Pensions 1-866-522-2122
- B.C. Health Care Plan (MSPBC) Vancouver 604-736-2033
- Old Age Security (OAS) & Canada Pension Plan (CPP) 1-800-277-9914
- RCMP Veterans' National Association: www.rcmpvetsnational.ca
- <http://www.rcmpveteransvancouver.com/>

Dinners and Lunches Call Secretary Mert Rowden at 604-434-0424 prior to meeting to ensure a meal will be available for you. Bars open 11:30AM/5:00PM, meals served 12 NN/5:30PM

Are you shut in? Would you like a visit from a fellow vet? Call Jim Druchet at (604)-536-1925.

Dues The dues for the Veterans Association at \$65.00 per year and are due on January 1 of each year. Funds should be forwarded to the Veterans Association office using **our mailing address**.

**RCMP Vets' Association
Vancouver Division
Mailstop 1004
14200 Green Timbers Way
Surrey, B.C. V3T 6P3**

Our Website:
www.rcmpveteransvancouver.com

Newsletter Editor

Peter Bond,
6394 Gale Avenue North, Sechelt V0N 3A5
Tel: (604) 740-9962
Email: peter@attheshore.ca

Rides to Vet's Meetings Don't drive at night? Don't drive in the rain. Don't drive at all but want to go to a meeting? **Ray Kielan** will arrange transportation for you. If you're willing to provide a ride for a fellow vet to a meeting please call Ray at 604-936-6062.

Sick Parade

None reported



If you know of someone who is ailing please advise **Ray Kielan** at 604936-6062 or rayandhelen@telus.net by email.

Last Post

By Dan Lemieux

- 23048 - Nicolas ROMANCHUK
- 23767 - Bryan McCONNELL
- 15108 - W.J. HENDERSON
- 16020 - Gordon COURTNEY
- 33130 - Paul Kindred FOX
- 29007 - Thomas J.P.P. CLEMENTS
- 17305 - Carl D. McWHINNIE
- 17641 - Jack HISCOCK
- 21380 - Ian Jules CALLENS
- 43541 - James A. KIRKUP
- 19308 - Glenn SULLIVAN
- 30039 - Colin H. HANSEN
- 26872 - Patrick Marius KANUIT
- 16020 - Gordon Courtney ATKINSON
- 27807 - Myles L. TYMCHYSHYN
- 25953 - Barry Richard WATSON

