



Okanagan Division Newsletter

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE VETERAN'S ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 2019



Photo of the Musical Ride "Charge!" taken by President Al Speevak at the Strathmore, AB Stampede

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Summer is passing very quickly, and as your Division Executive prepare for an active fall season of social events and continuing to help fellow veterans in need, it is timely to share a bit of what was learned at the RCMP Veterans Association AGM in Whitehorse.

First, details of the AGM are available for reading on the Association website. If you missed reading President Steve Walker's emailed Summary Report of June 27th, it is worth reading and can be found here: <https://rcmpva.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/2019-Association-President-Report.pdf> while other Association Executive Reports can be found here: <https://rcmpva.org/agm-2019/>

Overall there is no doubt your Association Executive are doing a fine job of taking our Association forward and meeting the challenges facing the Veterans' Association in 2019.

There are a couple of points made by President Steve Walker in his opening remarks in Whitehorse, that are important for all members to understand. Of interest, our Association has been in existence since 1886! It was not until the end of 1954 however that the current name, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Veterans Association was adopted.

Today, the governance regime of the Association is predicated by the enactment of the *Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act*, which has governed the Association since 2014. This Law forms the basis of our Bylaws and the policy of our Association. *Your Directors then are required to oversee and be legally accountable for the organization, and this applies in similar fashion to your Division Executive.*

It is a misconception that the Association Executive Board is in Ottawa. In fact, the Board is Canada-wide, with representation in every Province. Steve Walker, our President, for example, leads the Association from Manitoba.

Steve emphasized for example four key components of Directors' accountability. These are: Accountability (itself) meaning that your decision-makers have to account for their decisions, to be able to respond to questions concerning one's official actions, and of course sanctions for a breach of the rules. Transparency means that members have access to timely and reliable information concerning finances and matters affecting the Association. Predictability means the conduct and decisions of Association Directors are consistent in concert with the Association's Bylaws, and Board decisions are clear, fair, and uniform. Last, Participation is the engagement of not only the Directors, but the membership-at-large in the planning, decision process and evaluation of results.

Based on the foregoing, hopefully members will be committed to our Association's purpose, and help to nurture both our sustainability and innovation. *What's in it for me?* Being elected to the Board provides an opportunity to make a difference, and most of your Directors (and our Advocates) volunteer out of a genuine desire to contribute their knowledge, skills, and ability to advance the Association's cause and greater good for our members.

A very important initiative undertaken by the Association Board, is to advocate on our behalf for an increase in the widow's pension from 50% of the member's pension to 70%, and to have this benefit of a survivor's pension become applicable to those widows who may have married veterans over the age of 60. Recently these increased benefits have been supported for military veterans but not RCMP veterans and given the lack of response from the Minister of Public Safety, your Association Executive have had meetings with the Veterans' Ombudsman, Craig Dalton. Given the inequity of applying this increase in benefits to military veterans and not RCMP, your President has urged every one of us, to write Mr. Craig Dalton, concerning this inequity, and why this benefit is needed by our spouses. Steve Walker provided a form letter which you can use and forward by email or hard copy to Mr. Dalton, or on which you can add further information as to the hardships/inequities endured by your spouse. If you did not receive a copy of the form letter, kindly email or phone our Secretary, Sue Giffen or myself, to be provided with one, which you can sign and forward.

Last, a significant initiative of the Mounted Police Heritage Centre in Regina, *Pillars of the Force*, can give a lasting recognition for all members of the RCMP, both living and deceased, by purchasing a 6" x 1.5" nameplate for a member who has honourably served. Information on acquiring a nameplate for a member can be obtained by email to friends@rcmphc.com or on the website, www.rcmphcfriends.com/pillars-of-the-force

ANNOUNCEMENTS

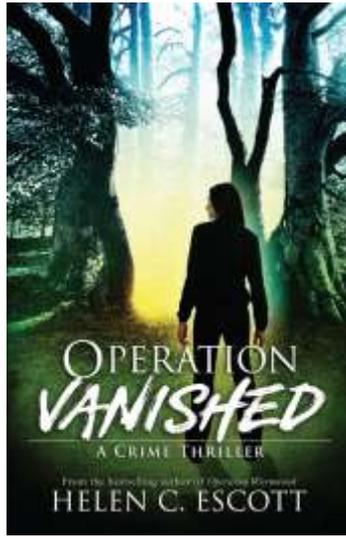
The RCMP Veteran's Okanagan Division has **new volunteer Advocates** to assist members and their families with issues related to disability benefits, allowances and other issues such as health concerns, family and marital problems, grief for the loss of a loved one, psychological difficulties and other problems.

If you know of a RCMP Veteran, or the spouse of a RCMP Veteran, who is struggling and who might like a helping hand please contact:

Bob Barr (Vernon)
250-541-0076
bobgus@shaw.ca

Carol Bradley (Kelowna)
778-866-0764
ccbradley@gmail.com

Terry Scott (Lake Country)
250-826-7202
tbscott@telus.net



From the author of acclaimed Newfoundland and Labrador crime thriller, Operation Wormwood, comes the highly anticipated second novel, Operation Vanished.

Helen C. Escott uses her experience as a retired civilian member of the RCMP, and the connections she made along the way, to pen a modern crime thriller that takes crimes committed in the past and investigates at them through the lens of modern society.

In the 1950s, three young women in rural Newfoundland were brutally murdered. The killer was never caught. During the same time period, an eight-year-old girl disappeared. Her body was never found.

Flash-forward to 2018, Corporal Gail MacNaughton must fight against stereotypes, workplace politics, and local folklore to close these casefiles. The subject matter resonates with issues still facing women today, and Escott hopes to shine a spotlight on missing children and women. “No matter what year they went missing, they should never be forgotten,” said Escott. She adds, “We can’t forget the women who protested in the streets, made phone calls to elected officials, and who fought for the rights of every woman who came after them.”

Operation Vanished is available at: www.indigo.ca www.amazon.com Apple – iTunes, Nook, Barnes & Noble and Kobo. Worldwide orders can be placed by calling 1-866-739-4420 ext # 22 or you can send e-mail to eoldford@flankerpress.com. For more information on Operation Vanished, author Helen C. Escott, or for a complete list of where you can purchase Operation Vanished, contact Ashleigh Parady, Marketing & Publicity Coordinator at Flanker Press, at (709)739-4477 ex. 24 or via email at apardy@flankerpress.com

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Larry PROKE 30th, Tom LIGHTFOOT 11th, Rev. Bob THOMPSON 10th, Jim SYTNICK 23rd, Bob BARR 20th,
Al THIEL 21st, Terry WALLS 8th, Gord SCHNEIDER 24th, Gus SLOMBA 9th, Gordon FLETCHER 20th,
Rick PLANTINGA 19th, Brian BARKMAN 25th, Larry HENDERSON 26th,
John RAIKES 4th, Russell BIAGIONI 6th, Lee HAMILTON 26th

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

SEPTEMBER OKANAGAN DIVISION LUNCHEON
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21st, 2019 – 11:30 am
Kelowna Golf and Country Club – 1297 Glenmore Drive, Kelowna, BC



GREEK BUFFET LUNCHEON MENU

Assorted Salads, Souvlaki Chicken, Warmed Flat Bread,
Hummus, Tzatziki Dip, Dessert Squares,
Coffee / Tea
COST: \$24 PER PERSON



IMPORTANT PLEASE RSVP BY WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2019

In Kelowna: Don Drissell, Phone: 250-809-4250, Email: drisselldon@gmail.com

In Vernon: Allan Speevak, Phone: 250-545-1311, Email: aspeevak@telus.net

Vernon Ladies: Terry Slobodin, Phone: 250-542-1056, Email: tess250@shaw.ca

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

SATURDAY OCTOBER 12, 2019 – 11:00 am

INTER-DIVISION SOCIAL LUNCHEON

CATTLEMAN'S CLUB RESTAURANT – O'KEEFE RANCH, VERNON



SPECIAL COWBOY LUNCHEON

Salads, BBQ Chicken Legs, and Pulled Roast Pork
With all the trimmings and dessert



ENTERTAINMENT

Musical Duo - Vic Ukrainetz and his partner Carol

Vic plays five instruments, (e.g. keyboard, guitar and fiddle, etc - one-man orchestra)

The music is country (suited to the venue at the O'Keefe Ranch), but also includes pop, easy listening, and dance music.

They come highly recommended – you won't be disappointed!

COST: \$24 PER PERSON (includes meal and entertainment)

IMPORTANT PLEASE RSVP BY WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2019 (Limit of 80 guests)

The Ranch needs to know the numbers - changes to reservations permitted until Tuesday October 8th

Guests expected to attend from South Okanagan, Kamloops and Shuswap Divisions

In Kelowna: Don Drissell, Phone: 250-809-4250, Email: drisselldon@gmail.com

In Vernon: Allan Speevak, Phone: 250-545-1311, Email: aspeevak@telus.net

Springdale

Wildwood

Highland RIDGE RV

Tiffin

THOR MOTOR COACH

ENTEGRA

Reg#29545 Art Pike
General Manager
250-769-4525
art.pike@tlrv.ca

Traveland RV Supercentre Kelowna
1460 Byland Rd. West Kelowna, BC V1Z 1A7
1-800-811-1777 www.travelandrv.ca
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Reg. #26285
John T. Manton

- ✦ Professional nursing care
- ✦ Respite for family care givers
- ✦ Personal care (including bathing and grooming)
- ✦ Housekeeping and homemaking (including meal preparation)
- ✦ Infant and child care
- ✦ Companion and sitter services
- ✦ Shopping and outing services

"Caring for the Interior Health Region"



LAST POST

“We Will Remember Them”



For the current national list of members who have passed, please see the following link:

http://www.rcmpvets.ca/last_post.php



Coffee Klatches

RCMP VETERANS - Weekdays at 10:00 am at Perkins Restaurant Ramada Hotel 2170 Harvey Avenue, Kelowna
Coordinator: Murray Scott, email: mm_scott@shaw.ca phone: 250-878-0548.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL RETIREES - First Monday of EVERY month, 10:30 - 12 noon - Urban Fare, Mission Park Mall, Kelowna, Muffin and Coffee \$3.15. E-mail: info@federalretirees-kelowna.com phone: 250-712-6213

VERNON RCMP VETERANS – from September to May, last Monday of the month at 10:00 am at the Schubert Center.
Cookie and Coffee \$2.00

SOUTH OKANAGAN RCMP VETERANS - Last Tuesday of the Month at My Second Home Restaurant, 13229 Henry Ave, Summerland (just down from the Municipal Hall)

Please advise us of any other Coffee Klatches in the Central Okanagan, North Okanagan and Kootenay areas so we can include them in our newsletter.



The Lighter Side & Quote of the Day

A police officer stops a car and says, “Congratulations, sir! You are the 1,000,000th car to drive over this bridge – you win \$10,000! What will you do with that money?” The driver gets very emotional and says, “First of all, I’ll finally get my driver’s license!” The wife cuts in, “Don’t listen to him, officer, he’s still drunk!” A hard-of-hearing granny from the back seat grumbles, “I knew we shouldn’t have taken the stolen car!” A voice from the trunk adds, “Hey, are we past the border now?”

Have you ever noticed that anybody driving slower than you is an idiot, and anyone going faster than you is a maniac?

- George Carlin

Contact Information

Okanagan Division RCMP Veterans' Association
309-710 Rutland Road North, Kelowna, BC V1X 3B7

Main Contacts

Allan Speevak, President: 250-545-1311 email: aspeevak@telus.net
Sue Giffen, Secretary: 250-491-7817 email: sgiffen6@gmail.com
Frank Richter, Treasurer: 250-764-3640 email: frank.richter@shaw.ca
Tony Hamori, Newsletter Editor 250-826-3997 email: okanagan.rcmpvets@gmail.com

2019 Executive

President: Allan Speevak 250-545-1311
Past President: Neil Collette 250-979-0594
Vice President: Dave Hawker 778-478-6317
Secretary: Sue Giffen 250-491-7817
Treasurer: Frank Richter 250-764-3640

Directors

Ken Aquilon 250-763-0083, Ken Scheske 250-762-2886, Bob Wyatt 250-542-2103,
Brian Strongman (Kootenay area) 250-825-4438, Bob Fairhurst 250-762-7346,
Marc Tremblay 778-871-0346, Tony Hamori (Newsletter Editor) 250-826-3997
and
Mike Bafia (auditor) 250-807-0137

Division Advocates

Bob Barr (Vernon): 250-541-0076 email: bobgus@shaw.ca
Carol Bradley (Kelowna): 778-866-0764 email: cccbradley@gmail.com
Terry Scott (Lake Country): 250-826-7202 email: tbscott@telus.net

Chaplains

Rev. Bob Thompson (Vernon area) 250-549-4336
Rev. Gordon Fletcher (Kelowna area) 250-764-1150

Important phone numbers

RCMP Veterans Ass'n National HQ 1-613-983-8633 – Website: www.rcmpva.org
Health & Dental Plans: 1-888-757-7427 Pension Centre: 1-888-502-7090

Survivors and Executor's Manuals found here:

<https://rcmpva.org/ottawa-association-en/resources-ottawa-en/survivors-and-executors-guide-en>

<http://www.mbvvet.ca/Information/Demise/Demise.pdf>