



RCMP VETERANS' ASSOCIATION VANCOUVER DIVISION



WEBSITE: <http://www.rcmpveteransvancouver.com/>

MAY 2020

GENERAL MEETINGS: As noted in the April Newsletter, our General Meeting, scheduled for May 21st, has been cancelled because of the COVID-19 restrictions. Likewise, the Spring Social which is usually scheduled for June has also been cancelled. As the Federal and Provincial governments begin to ease the “Stay Home” and “Social Distancing” restrictions we hope to be able to resume our General Meetings for the fall.

CHALLENGE COINS: Our Vancouver Division challenge coins have arrived. A motion was passed at our February General Meeting that all Vancouver Division members in good standing (those that have paid their dues for 2020) will receive a challenge coin. Distribution will be done at Veterans' Association events and mailing costs **will not** be paid by the Division. With the challenges of the pandemic, it will likely be the fall before we are able to begin the distribution of the coins. Below is a photo of the finished product. Our Division Historian, Ric Hall has provided a history of the challenge coin. Fairmont Barracks was chosen for the back of our coin. Efforts to save this historic building are continuing, however the economic impact of the pandemic will undoubtedly affect the decisions of the City of Vancouver.



Figure 1 RCMP Veterans' Association - Vancouver Division Challenge Coin

History of the Challenge Coin

During World War I, American volunteers from all parts of the country filled the newly formed flying squadrons. Some were wealthy young men who left colleges such as Yale and Harvard in order to enlist in the military. In one squadron, a wealthy lieutenant ordered solid bronze medallions embossed with the squadron emblem for every member of his squadron. He carried his medallion in a small leather sack about his neck. Shortly after acquiring the medallions, the lieutenant's aircraft was severely damaged by ground fire during a mission. He was forced to land behind enemy lines, where he was captured by a German patrol. In order to discourage his escape, the Germans took all of his personal identification except for the small leather pouch around his neck.

He was eventually taken to a small French town near the front lines where he managed to escape during a night bombardment. During the attack, he donned civilian clothes and fled without personal identification.

After escaping, the brave pilot succeeded in avoiding German patrols until he reached the front lines. With great difficulty, he crossed no-man's land and stumbled into a French outpost. Unfortunately, the French in this sector had been plagued by German saboteurs, who sometimes masqueraded as civilians and wore civilian clothes. Not recognizing the young pilot's American accent, the French thought him to be a saboteur and made ready to execute him.

Just in time, the American remembered his leather pouch containing the bronze medallion. He showed the medallion to his would-be executioners. When the French captors recognized the squadron insignia on the medallion, they gave the pilot enough time to confirm his identity. Instead of shooting him, they gave him a bottle of wine.

Eventually the pilot made it back to his squadron, where it became a tradition to ensure all members always carried their medallion or coin. This was accomplished through a challenge. A service member would ask to see the coin. If the challenger could not produce his coin, he was required to purchase a drink of choice for the member who had challenged him. If the challenged member produced his coin, then the challenging member was required to pay for the drink.

This tradition continued through the war and for many years after while surviving members of the squadron were still alive.

Today, military service members and law enforcement officers often trade these coins. In some cases, a coin can be earned meritoriously for a job well done. Regardless of how they are acquired, the history of the challenge coin remains tradition.

What is a Challenge Coin and What Do They Represent?

You're at a ceremony. An individual is being honoured for service above and beyond the call of duty. As he/she approaches the unit commander to receive his/her award, he/she salutes and then reaches out to shake hands.

In the unit commander's palm, before he/she clasps hands, you notice a glint of metal. Wondering what that is? Well, you've seen your first challenge coin.

What is a Challenge Coin?

The simple answer is this: A challenge coin is a specially designed coin. It's given to someone to confirm membership in an organization or group. A challenge coin can also honor a person for a special achievement.

Military Challenge Coins

There are many traditional challenge coins that represent each of the military branches, individual units, special groups and even specific missions. Military leaders can have their own coins, too. Top generals and the President of the United States have their own special challenge coins.

Service members are known to develop large collections of challenge coins during their time in the military. They feel pride and a sense of belonging when they display their various coins.

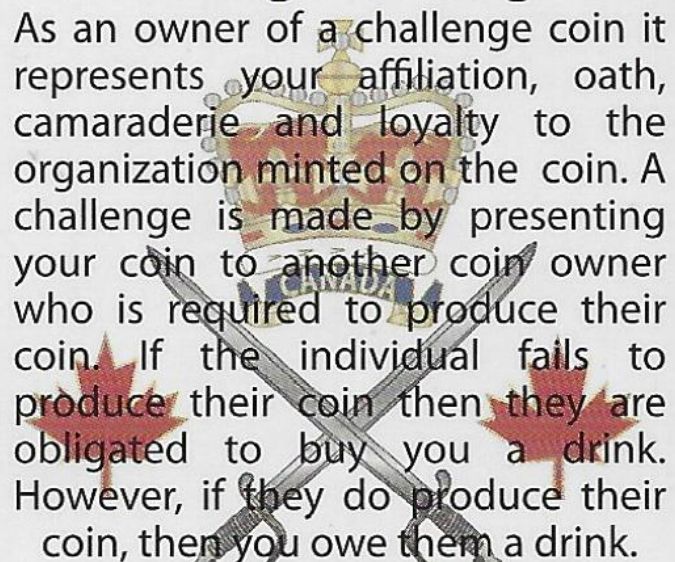
First Responders Challenge Coins

Like the military, first responders use challenge coins to honour service. Law enforcement agencies and firefighters use challenge coins to [honour special accomplishments](#) in the line of duty.

Awards and Recognition

Challenge coins are used to award team members who perform their duties extremely well. Giving a coin as a reward for excellent performance builds pride and morale. Receiving one is a great honour and team members work hard to get them.

Making a Challenge



As an owner of a challenge coin it represents your affiliation, oath, camaraderie and loyalty to the organization minted on the coin. A challenge is made by presenting your coin to another coin owner who is required to produce their coin. If the individual fails to produce their coin then they are obligated to buy you a drink. However, if they do produce their coin, then you owe them a drink.

The Future of Fairmont Barracks – Plans for the Heather Lands

As many of you may be aware the Fairmont Lands situated in the City of Vancouver was ceded to the First Nations in 2014. Since the fall of 2017, your Vancouver Division Executive have been in discussion with the City of Vancouver regarding the retention of the historical Fairmont Barracks.

Attached to the Vancouver Division website are two articles which will provide our members with the background to the redevelopment of the Heather Lands and the remains of RCMP Supt Joe Atherton. The article titled “Historic Fairmont Barracks Need Protection” (written by Donna Morse, Past President) appeared in the Winter 2019 edition of the Quarterly. The second article “True and Fascinating History – The Mystery of a Mountie Buried Under an Ocean of Stone” outlines the history behind the burial of Supt Atherton.

<http://www.rcmpveteransvancouver.com/the-future-of-fairmont-barracks-plans-for-the-heather-lands/>

On October 1, 2019, I attended a meeting with Vancouver City Planners to further discuss the redevelopment of the lands with attention to the preservation of the Fairmont Building and the site of the buried remains. As of now, the MST Nations (Musqueam Indian Band, Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation) are in the process of preparing the rezoning application for the lands. I have been informed that the process to start to redevelop the lands could take several years due to various approvals that need to take place. Currently, the City is looking at the possibility of moving Fairmont to another location and repurposing the building to become revenue generating while maintaining the historical façade. The City is, also, very aware of the need to respect the final resting place of Supt Atherton and further discussion will take place in this regard.

Currently the forming of a “Coalition to Save Fairmont” between the RCMP Veterans’ Association, Vancouver Division, and interested community groups is being looked at. One such community group has already agreed to become part of the coalition and another community group is extremely interested in supporting the cause. Further information will be forthcoming on this endeavour.

This is just a brief update as to the current situation regarding Fairmont. Further information will be provided in due course.

If there are any suggestions/comments, please contact me at donna.morse@shaw.ca or 604-506-6249.

Donna Morse, Past President

FIRST RESPONDER CHALLENGE COIN:

Emblazon Embroidery is the company that designed and supplied the Vancouver Division Challenge Coin. The owner, Doug Knight is a retired member of the Vancouver Police Department. The company has struck a commemorative coin for First Responders. If you are interested, please contact Doug at the email or number shown on the poster.



WWW.EMBLAZON.CA

CANADA'S FIRST RESPONDERS COVID-19 Coin

Proceeds from the sale of this coin will be donated to HONOUR HOUSE

<https://www.honourhouse.ca/>

Custom quality 1 3/4" dia. coin produced to support and recognise the sacrifice Canada's First Responders have made towards the fight against COVID-19.

They are "FIGHTING TOGETHER WHILE STAYING APART" for all of Canada.

Fire Fighters, Police & Peace Officers and Health Care providers are represented along with the white ribbon of support.



\$15.00 each plus postage

Available on-line at EMBLAZON.CA

<https://www.emblazon.ca/embroideries/covid-19-patch-and-coin/>

or contact doug@emblazon.ca or call 604-788-8984 to order

DUES FOR 2020: Our Treasurer reports that there are still some members who have not yet paid their dues. To be considered a member in good standing, your dues must have been paid.

This posting on the Division website details how your 2020 dues can be paid if you haven't already done so.

<http://www.rcmpveteransvancouver.com/rcmp-veterans-association-vancouver-division-2020-membership-dues/>

EXECUTIVE POSITION VACANCIES: If you would like to become more involved in the Veterans Association, there are still openings on the Executive that may be of interest to you. The terms for some of the Director positions on the Executive will be up at the end of 2020. Positions that are currently vacant or will become vacant are:

1. **Director Ceremonies and Memorabilia (term 2020/21)**
2. **Vice President (term 2021/22)**
3. **Secretary (term 2021/22)**
4. **Honour Guard Coordinator**

Further information on how to become involved is contained in the website posting:

<http://www.rcmpveteransvancouver.com/vancouver-division-needs-your-help/>

AGM 2021 VANCOUVER: Vancouver Division is still scheduled to host the National AGM for 2021. Our Vice-President, Gord Cave, is chairing our AGM Committee and advises that it will be the mini AGM format. Volunteers are needed for the planning committee and to assist at the event. If you are interested, please contact Vice-President Gord Cave at: jag140@telus.net.

“E” DIVISION NCOs’ MESS: The following information was received from the NCOs’ Mess Executive:

The NCO’s Mess Executive held a teleconference this past week and we would like to provide you with an update on Mess operations in light of Covid-19.

We have made the difficult decision to cancel the Summer Steak and Lobster, and at this time, all other events scheduled for 2020 will be on hold indefinitely, pending changes in the provincial and federal social distancing directives; In the fall, we will revisit the possibility of holding a Breakfast with Santa and Levee during December.

We have explored options to host an teleconference or video AGM, but based on the size of our membership and other logistical issues, we have decided it is best to simply postpone. Your existing executive is committed to remaining in care-taking mode until we are able to host an in-person AGM either later in the year or the for the new fiscal.

In regards to the 2020 AGM originally scheduled for this April:

- If we are unable to meet this year, the 10 bursaries we would have drawn this year will be held over and drawn in addition to next year's quota at our next AGM;
- If you already paid for dinner by cheque, note that we have not deposited your payment and will destroy the cheque.
- If you already paid by e-transfer, please email us with your full name, amount you paid, and personal email so we can confirm our records and refund you.

Thank you for your ongoing participation the E Division NCO's Mess. We are looking forward to the next time we can gather and connect.

Be safe and stay healthy,

Your Mess Executive

INQUIRY OF INTEREST: The Vancouver Division website seems to be a favorite for Google searches and as a result we receive numerous inquiries. This inquiry came from a resident of New Hampshire:

The Question:

"I am researching my family tree. For years I've tried unsuccessfully to acquire a picture of Robert Henry Walker, Regiment #3829. His brother, TRR Walker (also RCMP) and my Grandfather were brothers. (My grandfather was James Nattress Walker, 85th Nova Scotia Highlanders, WW I.)

Although I keep hearing that Robert was a "Canadian of Note", I have yet to parlay that for a photo and exactly why he is "Notable". I do know he was part of an expedition to the far North somewhere. And it is my understanding there is an island named after him-Walker Island. At least that is my understanding.

I would be most grateful if you might point me in a direction to find a picture of him. Any information would be gladly received."

RCMPVA Vancouver response:

"We were able to find a couple of pieces of information on Cst. Robert Henry WALKER, Reg. #3829 and am attaching some links for you.

RCMP Graves: *This link provides a bit of information about his NWMP service. He was in the George V Coronation contingent and was a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force in WWI.*

<http://www.rcmpgraves.com/database/SK.html>

Google Books: *This link explains the naming of Walker Island. Cst. Walker was a member of a patrol lead by Inspector Ephrem Pelletier across the north.*

https://books.google.ca/books?id=3mNkX5eC7iQC&pg=PA174&dq=robert+henry+walker+walker+island&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjpnf_QoITpAhUKrp4KHxoUBJcQ6AEIJzAA#v=onepage&q=robert%20henry%20walker%20walker%20island&f=false

This link gives information on Inspector Pelletier:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=3mNkX5eC7iQC&pg=PA128&dq=pelletier+ephrem&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwi0qO_OpYTpAhVVjp4KHQToB9YQ6AEINDAC#v=onepage&q=pelletier%20ephrem&f=false

Sask History Online: This link shows a studio portrait of four members of the NWMP, one being identified as Cst. Walker. There are no further identifiers, but the photo would appear to be in the right time frame.

<http://saskhistoryonline.ca/islandora/object/saskab%3A378>

RCMP Veterans Vancouver: Our Historian, Ric Hall, wrote this article. If you scroll to the group photo and check the names, you will see Reg. #3829.

<http://www.rcmpveteransvancouver.com/the-coronation-of-king-george-v/>

The Vancouver Division of the RCMP Veterans Association will likely have a copy of the Spring 1945 RCMP Quarterly mentioned on the RCMP Graves website at our office. Unfortunately, with the COVID-19 restrictions, we do not have access to the office. I would suspect that the Quarterly would contain a brief obituary or notice of passing. It is not likely to have a photo.”

A Happy Customer:

“Thank you both for all of your help. This information is so valuable to myself and our family. I hope you can understand just how much. If I may, please allow me to express just how proud we are of our Canadian heritage. Every person or department I have contacted over the years has been most generous and kind. Though so many of us are born and raised in the United States, we look fondly upon our roots, and the great people who built Canada. And our family was a part of that.”

For those members who were not aware, the Division has copies of the RCMP Quarterly dating back many years at our office in Surrey Detachment.

RCMP VETERANS BADGE: Vancouver Division receives numerous inquiries about the availability of a “Veteran” badge. This badge is sold exclusively by the Quebec Division and further details on how to acquire one are available on their website.

<https://grc-rcmp-vets.qc.ca/en/who-are-we>

NEW MEMBERS – VANCOUVER DIVISION:

Vancouver Division welcomes the following new members.

Reg Number	Name	Date Joined
40841/O.2463	FULKS, Robert James (Jay)	2020-03-02
51709	CORBETT, Stu	2020-03-05
40454	WHALEN, William M.J.	2020-03-31
28000	KUZIK, Darryl	2020-04-03

LAST POST:

The following members who were listed as having served in "E" Division have passed away in the past few months. Information is provided to our Division from HQ and other sources and may not be received in a timely manner. For a full list, please go to:

<https://lastpostrecent.rcmpvets.ca/>

Reg Number	Name	Rank (Ret'd)	Date Passed
24291	John R. FOX	Cpl.	2020-04-06
28047	David George FRANKLIN	Cst.	2020-04-13
25845 / O.1700	Robert John WILLIAMS	Supt.	2020-04-20
24328	Lynn Charles JOHNSON	Cst.	2020-03-24
37514	Jacques Joseph LAVOIE	Cst.	2020-04-13
22271	Cam Michael DUNPHY	S/Sgt.	2020-04-20
28611	Henry Kenneth LEIBEL	Sgt.	2020-04-12
32044	Terry Douglas PAKENHAM	Cpl.	2020-04-24
20542 / O.969	Garry Harding GREGORY	C/Supt.	2020-04-30
36259 / O.2240	Mark Webster PEARSON	Insp.	2020-04-27
29324	David Joseph BROUGHTON	Cpl.	2020-04-23
18596	Robert Hugh DUFFIN	Cpl.	2020-05-01
29542	Gerry H. FALK	S/Sgt.	2020-03-29

"E" DIVISION GOLF TOURNAMENT: The following information was received from the coordinator of the "E" Division Golf Tournament:

Good Afternoon Golfers

I am sure that you have been waiting to hear what is happening with the tournament. Unfortunately, it will not be taking place this year. We are disappointed but can understand why we have to cancel.

The committee has given us permission to roll it over to next year so that is what we will be doing. The tournament will be held on the 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th of September 2021. Osoyoos Golf Club have already booked the space for us and we will be busy cancelling what needs to be done.

The Holiday Inn is on board and will be booking again for next year. If you booked your hotel for this year, please ensure to cancel it. It is going to be difficult to obtain donations with times being as tough as they are going to be, so we ask that in the next year if you could work on donations it would be appreciated. Osoyoos is a small town with few businesses that will be able to sustain the losses they have been hit with.

We will continue to keep you updated with any information in regards to the tournament in 2021 but feel free to contact us if you have any questions. You can reach us at 778-387-1220 or deadlydoorite@gmail.com.

*We are sorry to have to disappoint all of you but hope to make it up to everyone in 2021.
Take care and stay healthy.*

Tammy Herman

COVID TALES: Ric Hall writes: We have all been trapped in our homes or social distancing for the past couple of months. We have not had the opportunity to meet and renew friendships. During this time life has changed as we all know it at least for the short term....maybe the short term will last longer than we expect. It would interesting to collect stories, humorous or serious, of how our division members have adjusted to life with COVID-19. Perhaps, someone in your family has put their creative juices to work and created their own C-19 masks. Ric Hall has agreed to take on the task of putting something together with anecdotes and pictures that could be shared with our division membership. Don't be shy, send your stories and pictures to Ric at rshall@shaw.ca

UPDATES TO GUIDES:

Also appended to this message are revised editions of the Survivor's & Executors Guide, Former/Serving Member Survivor & Executor Checklist and Spouse/Significant Other Survivor & Executor Checklist. We would like to thank the Nova Scotia Division for compiling these guides and sharing the 2020 updates. Please feel free to share these documents with all former and retired members of the Force.

This Information should be Shared and Retained by Family Members prior to the illness or passing of a Serving or Former Member of the RCMP.

For many years, the Nova Scotia RCMP Veterans' Association, through the Executive and the Support and Advocacy Committee, has been assisting family members following the passing of their loved one. However, it is difficult to provide timely assistance when the surviving family members do not have at hand the vital information that must be provided to agencies when reporting the passing of the individual. These elements are also critical when attempting to quickly transition pensions without overpayments to a qualified surviving spouse.

The Executive and Support and Advocacy Committee strongly recommend that each member document the following numbers and provide them to their family members and/or retain them where they are easily retrieved following death.

1. RCMP Regimental Number
2. RCMP Pension #
3. Veterans Affairs Canada K#
4. Social Insurance Number #

In addition, it will be important that documents such as marriage certificates and birth certificates for both the member and the surviving spouse are readily accessible as copies will be immediately required by some of the agencies when transitioning the pensions to the survivors. If you do not

have these numbers and documents, then now is the time to apply for them through Vital Statistics in the province of birth/ marriage and through the various government agencies.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:

Morneau Shepel (RCMP insurance plan)

RCM Police Group Life, Accidental Death and Dismemberment Plans
C/O Morneau Shepel 1060 University Street
9th Floor, Montreal, Quebec H3B 4V3,
Telephone: 1-800-661-7595 - 7:30 a.m. to 7: p.m. (ET) Monday to Friday,
Fax: 1-514-395-7404 www.pbs-sra.ca

Public Works and Government Services Canada (RCMP work pension) Government of Canada Pension Centre – Mail Facility PO Box 8500 Matane QC G4W 0E2
Telephone: Toll Free: 1-855-502-7090

Note - for Executive Services use: 1-855-502-7088 (C/Supt, EX-01 and above).
Monday to Friday: 8:00a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (your local time)
Outside Canada and the United States: 506-533-5800 (collect call accepted).
Monday to Friday: 8:00a.m. to 5:00p.m. (Atlantic Time)
Telephone Teletype (TTY) 506-533-5990 (collect call accepted).
Monday to Friday: 8:00a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Atlantic Time)
Email: pensioncentrercmp.centredespensionsgrc@pwgsc-tpsgc.gc.ca
Website: www.rcmp.pension.gc.ca The RCMP Pension and Benefits Web site, hosted by PWGSC, has detailed information on all aspects of pension administration.

Service Canada - CPP and OAS benefits

www.servicecanada.gc.ca Note: If there is any doubt about the eligibility for this or any Federal pension call: 1- 800- 277-9914.

Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC Disability Pensions)

Veterans Affairs Canada, PO Box 7700, Charlottetown, PEI, C1A 8M9
1-866-522-2122 www.vac-acc.gc.ca

<http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/providers/sub.cfm?source=salute/july2004/fund>

Supporting Veterans in Need - 24/7 counselling services -

Veterans and their immediate families can access free, short-term, confidential and professional counselling services. If you are experiencing work-related issues family or marital problems, or high levels of stress or anxiety, call 24/7 Veterans Affairs Canada Assistance Services at **1-800-268-7708**.

EXECUTIVE – 2019/2020

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Presidential Appointments & Governors:

<http://www.rcmpveteransvancouver.com/about/executive/>

STAY HEALTHY, STAY SAFE AND STAY IN TOUCH:

Just a reminder that the print edition of Scarlet & Gold is no longer being published. To stay up to date, please visit our Division website.

VANCOUVER DIVISION WEBSITE: <http://www.rcmpveteransvancouver.com/>

RCMPVA NATIONAL WEBSITE: <https://rcmpva.org/>

We would also like to thank our Vancouver Division Website Administrator, Bev Bullock, for her work in keeping our website up to date.



Ron Morse, Secretary
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