



RCMP VETERANS' ASSOCIATION VANCOUVER DIVISION

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

FALL 2021

DIVISION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



Greetings and salutations to all. As the summer has passed and we find ourselves still toiling under (necessary) protective measures due to Covid, I find my patience sorely tried by those who feel that this is all somehow a hoax or an imposition on their rights. Once again, we must postpone in person meetings until at least next month. I hold no grudge with those dictating these requirements, but I am disgusted with those who intentionally avoid getting the vaccine and are therefore choking our health care system. I would never curse them with the antique statement "A pox on them" as they seem intent on testing that themselves.

Enough of that.

Let us continue to look forward to greeting one another in grateful fraternity and be able to share in person all the things we have endured since 2019.

You may have all heard of the increasing of the portion of your yearly association dues which National has required. Your executive has not been able to meet in person as yet to discuss the impact this will have on Vancouver Division. I can only say personally that I continue to be impressed with our National President Sandy Glenn and support and understand the rationale concerning this need. There will be more to come on this.


I wish you all continued health and prosperity.

Gord Cave, President,
Vancouver Division

NEW RCMPVA ADVERTISING:


The advertisement depicted below appeared in the recent edition of the National Association of Federal Retirees magazine.

LEAVING THE FORCE?



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- Divisions in all Provinces and the Yukon
- Advocacy Transition
- PTSIVAC

VANCOUVER DIVISION:

The Provincial Health Orders moved to Phase 3 of the Reopening Program for our Province in early July, with the hope of Phase 4 in early September. Unfortunately, this did not take place. Instead, we are well into the 4th wave of COVID. Due to increased COVID numbers, along with Hospitalization (including ICU), we have taken a step back (and more than one in many Regions)! Members living in our Eastern Valley areas are faced with limiting important personal connections, and returning to small bubbles once again.

During the summer, we are able to extend our social bubbles (bearing in mind our own personal boundaries and comfort zone), take part in more social activities and remove those masks (if we so choose). We could get together with friends and family members, who have been in our hearts (through Zoom, Facetime or just a simple phone call) for over a year. Most should be fully vaccinated (based on choice or your medical situation allow).

As of mid-September, the Vaccine Passport is now another “piece of paper” or “Photo on your Phone” that allows us to take part in Social Activities that make us feel human.

We were optimistic that our Association would be able to meet in person in September, however, this did not happen. The current Covid safety plan at Hazelmere would not have allowed us to hold the type of personal gathering that our members would like. With the Vaccine Passport and its guidelines at this point in time, it is not feasible to hold any large social gatherings. We will keep our membership updated. Accordingly, our first General Meeting, booked at **Hazelmere for Thursday, October 21st, has been cancelled.**

2021 COVID UPDATE: We are now into the second year and the 4th wave of the COVID pandemic. Due to rising numbers of COVID cases and Hospitalization, the much anticipated Phase 4 reopening did not take place. Life continues to change for each and every one of us. The Provincial Health Orders, currently in place, evolve daily it seems, on a Regional basis, which

precludes any “in person” gatherings of the Vancouver Vets for the foreseeable future. Social interactions that we, perhaps, took for granted have been difficult and our monthly gatherings seem like a distant memory. The Vaccination program has taken a toll on many of us, both those who are vaccinated and those not, but health authorities are optimistic that by the end of 2021 most of us who want the vaccine will have it. With that in mind, we are hopeful that our Association will be able to meet sometime before the end of this year.

VACCINE UPDATE:

The vaccination program has been ongoing for the past 9 months and we have offered assistance to those who have questions about booking and transportation to receive the Shot. With the ongoing and ever changing COVID situation, we encourage our members and their families to stay connected (in person, if able, and Virtually, if required). As the social bubbles expand, stay safe as you meet with friends and colleagues who have been phone buddies for the past 18 months. Please remember that your fellow members are there for a quick phone call, to catch up on friendships and future endeavours.

Our email contact information is located at the bottom of this Newsletter, should you need to contact any of your Executive members.

As mentioned earlier, the Vaccine Passport has been implemented by the Province, in an effort to open non-essential businesses to those who have been vaccinated (2 shots by October 26). Please ensure that those who have received the vaccines comply with this, so when we open up our in-person socials, all who are interested, can attend.

Just a reminder that some of the Division Executive positions for the 2022-23 term will come open this year. If you are interested in serving on the executive of the Division, please contact Past President Bob Underhill to submit your name.

SAVE THESE TENTATIVE DATES:

Listed below are some dates that you may wish to circle on your calendar. Further details pertaining to these events will be forthcoming. Your Executive will be meeting in early October and will confirm these dates. All dates and locations to be confirmed based on the Covid situation and Health Regulations, as they evolve weekly (and in some Health Regions, Daily).

October 21: Vancouver Division General Meeting. Hazelmere Golf & Tennis at 11:30 am. Cost to be determined. This event has been **CANCELLED**.

THE STATUS OF THE FOLLOWING EVENTS WILL DEPEND ON THE PROVINCIAL HEALTH ORDERS:

November 18: Vancouver Division General Meeting. Hazelmere Golf & Tennis at 11:30 am. Cost to be confirmed and cost to be determined.

December 3: Vancouver Division Levee. Hazelmere Golf & Tennis Club. Date to be confirmed. Time and cost to be determined. Spouses welcome.

December 6: Fraser Valley Veterans Christmas Dinner. Chilliwack Curling Club at 5:00 pm. Cost is \$36 per persons. Spouses welcome. Date to be Confirmed.

NEW MEMBERS – VANCOUVER DIVISION:

Many of our New Members are recently retired. We hope you are able to not only recruit new membership but give your Executive some ideas on how to promote the RCMP Veterans Association to both your communities and fellow members.



Vancouver Division would like to welcome the following new members to the RCMP Veterans' Association.

44522	Phillip Harrison	Sgt.
64234	Lindsay Soo-Chan	Cst.
46286	Allison Good	Insp.
47306	Rashpal Lovelace	Insp.
44513	David Attfield	C/Supt.
34340	Melvin Spielman	Cst.
45398	Michael LeSage	A/Comm

VANCOUVER DIVISION SERVICE BAR ELIGIBILITY - as at 2021-01-01:



Several members of Vancouver Division have been awarded service pins / bars and many more are eligible to receive these awards. If you have been a member in good standing of RCMPVA Vancouver Division for ten or more years, please [CLICK HERE](#) to access the September 2020 Newsletter to confirm that you are listed as an eligible recipient.

If you are eligible and would like to receive the award, please contact Membership Director Ray Power (rayjpower@yahoo.com) for further details.

Brian Brasnett 10 Years.

LAST POST:



The following members who were listed as having served in "E" Division or as serving members have passed away since the publication of our last newsletter. Information is provided to our Division from HQ and other sources and may not be received in a timely manner. Gone But Not Forgotten notices are posted on the Vancouver Division website and can be accessed by [CLICK HERE](#). For the full list of Last Post, please click [HERE](#):

LAST POST

Reg Number	Name	Rank (Ret'd)	Date Passed
21473/O.996	OLFERT, Leonard	Supt.	2021-07-23
22407	CARNEY de BALINARD, Ted Peter	S/Sgt.	2021-07-29
39323	CALLAGHAN, Kenneth H.	Cpl.	2021-06-29
21688	CANNING, David Ralph	Supt.	2021-01-12
26555	CLAY, Neil James	Cst.	2021-07-30
19616	GLYNN, Francis Michael	Sgt.	2021
S/383	SIMPSON, David John	S/Cst	2021-08-11
32747	MEYER: Robert L.W.	Cpl.	2021-08-02
45369	ROY, Stephane	Sgt.	2021-08-22
S/134	HUGET, Jack Edward	S/Cst.	2021-08-03
25746	TKACHUK, Robert H.P.	Cpl.	2021-06-02
55595	SPEARS, Mitchell Everett Cooper	Cst.	2021-08-26
18221	BROWN, Charles Leslie	S/Sgt.	2021-08-20
17803	SEMENOFF, Walter Fred	Sgt.	2021-06-27
14961	JESPERSON, Arthur Russell	S/Sgt.	2021-08-21
18829	COLES, Ronald Frederick	Cpl.	2021-08-25
A/Cst	BECKER, Elmer Peter	A/Cst.	2021-09-09
28579	GOURLIE, Gilbert Glenn	Cpl.	2021-09-11
21853	LaCOSTE, Duane Emile	Sgt.	2021-09-10
14845/O.607	CLIFFE, Douglas Donald	C/Supt.	2021-09-17
20736	STEPHENS, William Edward	S/Sgt.	2021-09-15
31048	SPRAY, Stanley Morgan	Cst.	2021-09-21
37290	MILNE, Thomas D.	Cpl.	2021-09-04
20400	BARBER, Roland J.	S/Sgt.	2021-09-03
43055	WOOD, James Arthur	S/Sgt.	2021-10-03
19506	COSTELLO, Harold Patrick	S/Sgt.	2021-09-25
S/1161	AHARA, James	S/Cst.	2021-09-30
20771	DAWSON, Clarence Raymond	Cst.	2021-10-08
23805	RUDDERHAM, Wayne Harold	S/Sgt.	2021-10-01
31048	SPRAY, Stanley Morgan	Cst.	2021-09-21
A/Cst	STRINGFELLOW, Mathew Gilbert	A/Cst.	2021-09-12
C/2225	DONALDSON, Lorne Harold	C/M	2021-09-06

NEW COMMANDING OFFICER "E" DIVISION:



Vancouver Division would like to congratulate Deputy Commissioner Dwayne McDonald on his appointment as CO "E" Division. We look forward to working with D/Comm. McDonald on matters of mutual concern. We hope to be able to arrange to have D/Comm. McDonald as a guest at one of our upcoming meetings.

The RCMP on June 25th announced the appointment of Assistant Commissioner Dwayne McDonald as the next Commanding Officer of the RCMP in British Columbia and took over command from Deputy Commissioner Jennifer Strachan on July 1st. No decisions have been made yet with respect to a formal change of command ceremony.

Deputy Commissioner McDonald's 26-year career in the RCMP started as a front-line officer with the Burnaby Detachment and includes serving as Officer in Charge (OIC) of the Surrey Detachment. He also served as OIC of the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team, a senior role with the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit and most recently as Criminal Operations Officer, Federal Investigative Services and Organized Crime.

D/Comm. Strachan retired after 33 years with the RCMP. She worked in multiple detachments, sections, Provinces and a peace keeping mission in Haiti. When she was named the Commanding Officer of the RCMP in BC, her 13th and now last physical relocation, brought her back home to BC where her policing career started.

Gord Cave has been in touch with the Dwayne Mc Donald recently and will keep us updated on the ongoing relationship between our retired members and those still serving.

LINKS TO BULLETINS FROM NATIONAL:

Attached are some links from the Vancouver Division website for articles that may be of interest to you. Items of interest forwarded to members of the RCMPVA are typically posted to the Vancouver Division website.

1. Clarification - RCMP Medical Examination Class Action lawsuit:
<http://www.rcmpveteransvancouver.com/class-action-lawsuit/>
 2. RCMP Veterans diagnosed with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis:
<http://www.rcmpveteransvancouver.com/rcmp-veterans-diagnosed-with-idiopathic-pulmonary-fibrosis/>
 3. Cst. Shelby Patton Memorial Park: <http://www.rcmpveteransvancouver.com/cst-shelby-patton-memorial-park/>
 4. Your Association at work – Letter from National President:
<http://www.rcmpveteransvancouver.com/your-association-at-work/>
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MEMBERS CORNER:

A couple of years ago, our Scarlet & Gold newsletter ceased the print format and shifted online to the Vancouver Division website that now bears the Scarlet & Gold name. <http://www.rcmpveteransvancouver.com> The present newsletter came about as the result of the pandemic to augment the website in an effort to keep our membership in touch.

The RCMPVA National website (<https://rcmpva.org>) continues to evolve under a new web service provider.

For the most part, information contained in this newsletter is gathered from various sources and we attempt to address the concerns raised by our members and keep you informed. We do, however, need your input. If you come across an article or information that you may wish to share with the members of the Division, please feel free to send it forward to our Division e-mail address: rcmpvavancouver@gmail.com

If you are trying to locate someone, i.e., a troopmate or someone you worked with let us know. If you have an inquiry that another member may be able to assist with, contact us.

Director Murray Macham has also pointed out that for those of you who dare be so bold and have a Facebook account you can join a closed Facebook group set up just for Members and Veterans. It is called **MP Mates** and you have to be approved. Murray acknowledges that at times some have no filter, so be forewarned. Murray also claims to be an expert on the Facebook Penal System.

Ron Morse, Vice President
Vancouver Division.

INQUIRIES AND UPDATES:

1. **Vancouver Division Members:** We have received a request in trying to help locate Cpl. Dennis Weisner, Reg # 29576. He retired in "E" Division in 2011. See message below.

Ric Hall – Director-Historian

My name is John Wilson Reg# 29587, a member of the Edmonton vets. I am putting together a spreadsheet of our troop (Troop 24 71/72) in anticipation of a 50-year reunion next year. We have the contacted 20 of the 29 available members.

Does anyone of the Vancouver Vets know the whereabouts of a Dennis Weisner (Reg #29576) who was stationed in the Vancouver area?

If this is possible, please ask him to contact me as per below.

*John Wilson
cell: 780-446-1212*

email: 15frankst@gmail.com

2. We welcome your Comments and Suggestions on items that you would like to see added to or removed from the Newsletter:
 - a) In these times of Covid Reality, where personal contacts are limited and we keep in contact with friends and family through virtual means, The Vets Newsletter is an important tool. It is YOUR Tool, so let us know what can be done to keep it viable.
 - b) Send your suggestions to Karen Frost (Newsletter, Editor) with a cc to Ron Morse. We will discuss your suggestions, and see how they can fit into future Newsletters. Thanks in advance for your Ideas.

TREASURER'S REPORT – DUES 2022

On September 22, 2021, Sandy Glen, National President, advised that effective January 1, 2022, the National portion of your dues will increase from \$37.00 to \$45.00. The Board of Directors of the Vancouver Division have not had the opportunity to meet to discuss whether or not to increase our annual dues, which currently are set at \$65.00 per annum.

All membership dues should be paid to the RCMP Veterans' Association in Ottawa, Ontario since the administration of membership information has now been centralized.

Your 2022 dues should not be paid until January 1, 2022.

There are three ways to pay your dues:

1. **Online (credit card):** Members can pay online on the National RCMPVA website by going to: <https://rcmpva.org/> "Log in" and click on "Memberships" and on the far right of the page click on the "Renew" option and pay by credit card.
2. **Cheque:** Members wishing to pay by cheque may do so directly to the National association office. ****Please provide your name and contact and clearly indicate which division and which year you would like funds applied to**.**

NOTE: All cheques must be made payable to "RCMP Veterans' Association".

Please send the cheque to:

RCMP Veterans' Association
P.O. Box 8900 Canadian Police College
1 Sandridge Road
Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3J2

3. **E-Transfer:** Members who choose to pay by E-transfer may do so by sending to the contact below:

ATT: Chantal Renaud – by e-Transfer: 9.renaud@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

Should you wish to update your personal information or check on the status of dues paid, you need to do it yourself through the National Membership Management System directly (www.rcmpva.org), as it can no longer be done at the Division level.

As of mid-September, there are a total of 351 members who have paid their 2021.

We urge you to renew, as although travel is limited, your voice is still importance to our Vets.

Rupert L. Bullock,
Treasurer, Vancouver Division,
Email: bullock2@shaw.ca
Phone: 604-533-5354.

UPDATING YOUR RCMPVA PROFILE:

Are you receiving the bulletins from RCMPVA National office? National recently transitioned to a new webservice provider and although every effort was made to ensure that the database was correct, some updates may not have been made and your email address on the National database may not be correct.

Many have not updated address, telephone number or e-mail address since they joined the association. **Your information can no longer be updated at the Division level – you must do it yourself through the National Membership Management System directly, (instructions are listed below)**

You must sign into the MEMBERSHIP SYSTEM area of the National website and make the necessary changes to your profile: <https://membership.rcmpva.org>

A few steps will ensure that you receive communication for the Association:

1. Open the National Website: www.rcmpva.org.
2. Click on MEMBERSHIP SYSTEM
3. Click on MEMBER LOGIN.
4. On the login screen, enter your e-mail address and your password.
5. Click on RCMPVA MEMBER PROFILE UPDATE.
6. Click on the EDIT PROFILE bar.
7. When you have made the changes, click on SAVE the changes and updates and exit.

If you have difficulties contact: membership.admin@rcmpva.org

DIRECTOR OF HEALTH & WELFARE – ADVOCACY:

I had a number of Vets contact me regarding assistance with medical claims, and follow up on their pensions. It has been a little quieter than previous months.

The recent National Bulletin regarding the absence of the COLA clause on Medical pensions, and the proposed catch up naturally raised a number of enquires that were resolved.

I have recently developed a number of contacts that I can now deal with direct, as a number of employees both RCMP Pension Division and the Veterans Affairs Branch are working from home, and undoubtedly a number of phone calls go directly to voice mail at these branches. A lot of the staff with these agencies are going the extra mile to assist during these difficult times.

Mike DUFFY, the new National Advocacy Director Mike is a member of the Lethbridge RCMP Vets. Mike recently completed a revision of the Advocates Manual, bringing it up to date for 2021. The manual has been retitled 'Guide to Health Benefits Services 2020' and is available on the Association website.

canadianlawyermag.com

Foundation To Expand Reach Beyond Helping Veterans Pay Legal Bills

Bernise Carolino

"We must keep pushing for justice, and we want to hear from federal leaders on this need," said Stoffer in the statement. "But in the meantime, we'll do as much as we can to give veterans the front-end support they need now," he added.

The Veterans Legal Assistance Foundation is a charitable organization promoting access to justice for current or former members of the Canadian Armed Forces and the RCMP, as well as their family members, by lessening the burden of legal fees relating to administrative tribunals and courts. The foundation's funding originated from the [SISIP class action settlement](#), aiming to assist veterans in acquiring the payments to which they are entitled.

Previously the foundation had been paying for veterans' eligible legal bills up to \$10,000, normally for disability and other claims broadly benefiting veterans. The foundation now expects to do more thanks to the new funding, said Peter Driscoll, founding chair of the foundation and lead counsel on the SISIP class action, in the news release.

"Veterans need help with forms and documents, especially if they are dealing with physical or mental health disabilities," said Dennis Manuge, VLAF ambassador and representative plaintiff for the SISIP class action. Sometimes veterans simply need assistance with using the Veterans Affairs Canada website and not with court proceedings, Manuge added.

The ***Toth v. Canada*** class action, which challenged the validity of offsets made by the federal government to the disability pension prior to May 29, 2012, [resulted in a \\$100-million settlement agreement](#), with unclaimed amounts being considered residual funds. On Jan. 6 the court determined that such residual funds would be paid to four charities: the Veterans Legal Assistance Foundation, the Bursary Fund (Manuge), the Royal Canadian Legion Poppy Fund and Ottawa Inner-City Veterans Outreach and Support.



[Annalise Schamuhn, CD • 2ndBuilding Thriving Culture | Executive Coach | Leadership Consultant | Retired Army Officer1d • 1 day ago](#)

["Veterans shouldn't have to navigate complex processes just to obtain the benefits they deserve."](#)

[The Veterans Legal Assistance Foundation will offer free advisory services to military and RCMP veterans to help them and their families navigate the administrative challenges when attempting to access support for matters like treatments and living expenses.](#)

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Public Service Health Care Plan/PSHCP - Rate Changes:

For members currently enrolled in the PSHCP, National Association of Federal Retirees (NAFR) has advised that new contribution rates for PSHCP benefits coverage came into effective on April 1st, 2021. Please refer to the recent Email from dated March 13, 2021, from the RCMP Veterans' Association. The new rates are posted on the Federal Retirees website and can be accessed by [**CLICK HERE**](#)

Be sure to check your April Pension documents to ensure you are familiar with these changes.

John Sherstone, Director
Health, Welfare and Advocacy

ALBERTA EMERGENCY SERVICES MEDAL – REMINDER:

For those members who have served in `K` Division on or after January 1, 2000, you may be eligible to receive the Alberta Emergency Services Medal/AESM. This Provincial Medal recognizes individuals who served at least 12 Years in Alberta, in a public safety role. There are also 22, 32 and 40 year medals/bars.

For an overview and to check eligibility for the AESM, click on the link <https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-emergency-services-medal.aspx> or please contact

Angela MORRISON

Honours and Recognition Co-ordinator,

K Division, 11140 -109 Street, Edmonton, AB, T5G 2T4,

Her email is angela.morrison@rcmp-grc.gc.ca and her direct line is 1-780-412-5307

VANCOUVER DIVISION CHALLENGE COINS – Ric HALL



At our January 2020 meeting the purchase of Challenge Coins for our division was approved. The executive decided that each member of the Vancouver Division would be given a coin at no cost to individual members. The caveat being that the coins would not be mailed out due to the cost involved and that they would be provided to members at General (luncheon) Meetings in order to entice members to attend. Then Covid-19 struck

and meetings have been suspended.

I volunteered to coordinate the distribution of our coins...why do I do this to myself? I would still like to stick to the plan of handing out the coins at our General Meetings when they commence. Rules are often broken. I know that we have many members that have belonged to our division for many years but due to their, or their spouse's, health issues are unable to attend our meetings. I would like to be able to give them personally, or by the proxy of a friend, or by mail, their Challenge Coin. If you fall into this category, please let me know how we can get you your Challenge Coin. Challenge Coins have become very collectible. I have received many requests for additional coins so that members can pass them on to friends. If you wish an additional coin the cost is \$20.00 which includes postage.

At the Executive Meeting on Friday, March 12, 2021, a motion was Passed to give a Challenge Coin to both members who paid their 2020 Dues and to new members joining in 2021. As of the May Newsletter, the following Challenge Coins have been distributed: Since June, more coins have found their way to our Members.

73- Challenge coins have been provided to members - 60 mailed - 13 personally delivered

108 - have been purchased (many of those to non-members of our division)

19 - freebies have been given to those who have provided assistance to the division

It should be noted that after the monthly update has been sent out there is USUALLY a surge in requests for coins and then it goes very quiet till the next bulletin. During the Summer months, requests for these Valued Challenge Coins dropped off.

We hope that the interest in our Challenge Coin will pick up as Christmas nears. Great little Stocking Stuffer idea for your Police Friends.

Please contact Ric if you are interested in getting your Coin: as a personal memento and getting extras for those who you know would like a Piece of History.

Any Questions or to follow up on obtaining your Challenge Coin/ purchase extra, I can be contacted at bootsandspurs65@gmail.com or 604-853-5500 (Abbotsford)

LYTTON FIRE SUPPORT FUND FOR RCMP MEMBERS:

Dear Members,

Please be advised that this account will be closed as of the 31 October, 2021 and the remaining funds in the amount of \$3452.25 will be distributed equally to the recipients. On behalf of the Kamloops RCMPVA Division members and all the serving members, Public Servants, Veterans and Widows, I would like to thank all the RCMPVA Divisions, RCMPVA Foundation, individual members, serving members and friends for their very much appreciated contributions to this very necessary and worthy cause. To date the Fund has distributed \$74,350.00 to the 10 recipients and it is because you care that this project was so successful.

We all thank you!

In addition, I would like to give a very special thankyou to our very hard working and knowledgeable treasurer, Ken Parent. It was a mountain of a job setting up the account, receiving and depositing and then distributing. Thanks Ken. We owe you!

Bob Stephens,
V/P & Advocate,
RCMPVA, Kamloops Division
Kamloops, BC

REPORT FROM THE LIAISON TO THE FORCE DIRECTOR:

Although the Executive has only had a couple of meetings due to COVID, I have been kept very busy with requests from non-members who have been seeking assistance in finding out information on relatives, looking for photographs, and folks coming forward with information on Force history. During this Pandemic, I have been keeping busy on behalf of the Division.

Ric Hall, Director

REMEMBRANCE DAY:



As November approaches, our thoughts turn to Remembrance Day. Serving members of the Force and members of the Veterans Association have always had a strong connection with the ceremonies held in communities across the country.

Below is a poem written by Sarah Hansen a Grade 10 student and the daughter of two retired members Kate (43891) and David (40063) Hansen. Sarah's poem is a finalist in a national poetry contest. Sarah's mother, Kate has written a series of children's books about Harry the Musical Ride Horse.

REMEMBRANCE LESSON

I feel badly now for grumbling
When Mom said we had to go,
I watched her put her boots on
And a poppy, I thought, for show.

I had to stand there waiting
While she lined up with her "Reds"

And she smiled and introduced me
To some "vets", was what she said.

I watched some old men struggle
To stand up nice and tall,
And the place got very somber
When I heard the bugle call.

They spoke about my freedom
And the price that it had cost,
All the young men who had fought there
All the things that had been lost.

I felt a lump in my throat
And I saw a single tear
Fall upon Moms red serge jacket
As the end was coming near.

I'd never thought about it,
The freedom I have now
And those who came before me
To ensure this all, somehow.

So as I lay my poppy
I will say a little prayer
Thank you, all — forever
I will honour you, I swear.

Sarah Hansen
Penticton

R.C.M.P. VETERANS' LADIES AUXILIARY MONTHLY REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2021:

Ladies Auxiliary Luncheon/Meetings 2021: Further to comments made in the August 2021 Monthly Report, regarding the possibility of holding our next luncheon/meeting in October 2021, please be advised that an Executive decision has been made to not hold any Ladies Auxiliary luncheon/meetings until the start of 2022. This also means that we will not be holding our annual Ladies Auxiliary Christmas Luncheon in December. The next possible date for our Auxiliary's first meeting in 2022 will be Thursday, February 3rd, when we will be celebrating our 86th year. You will be advised in advance regarding this meeting date. We had seriously considered, and actually booked, a scheduled luncheon/meeting at "Hazelwood Golf & Tennis Club" for October 7th, which we have since cancelled due to the unfortunate rise in both the COVID-19 and Variants, leaving "Hazelmere" to have to take stringent measures to abide by the new catering and restaurant regulations imposed by the Provincial Health Authorities. These regulations would not make it comfortable or enjoyable for our members attending. Everyone would have to wear a mask at all times (except when eating), official proof of a second inoculation would have to be produced, no one would be able to leave their designated seat to visit others in the room, and could only leave

their seat to use the washroom, or to line up at the buffet tables when called up individually to choose their meal. Hopefully, things will have improved by 2022.

Regarding payment of 2022 dues by members of the Ladies Auxiliary, this matter will be discussed when we hold our next luncheon/meeting in 2022. Some of our Auxiliary members have moved during the past 2 years, so if you cannot reach them at their address or telephone number, please phone or text me for their new information. If you know of a Ladies Auxiliary member who has changed either their phone number or address, please let me know. To receive this report electronically (and other news regarding the R.C.M.P. Veterans' Association), www.rcmpveteransvancouver.com

Dorothy Martinson, Past-President
R.C.M.P. Veterans' Ladies Auxiliary
(Vancouver Division)
demartinson@shaw.ca (604) 261-4630

PILLARS OF THE FORCE:



The Friends and RCMP Heritage Centre are proud to announce the Global Launch of the Pillars of the Force which was held on December 24, 2020.

"No One Left Behind" honors those who have Fallen in the Line of Duty, unknown family members, or those experiencing challenging life circumstances. Donations towards both the Nameplate and Walkway

Bricks are fully Tax Deductible.

You now have the opportunity to get caught up on the stories and journeys of other old friends, family members, and acquaintances whose stories are posted on the Virtual Pillars Wall:

<https://mpvirtualpillars.ca/>

The launch included nearly 200 stories and stories will continue to be posted in the coming months and years as they are received and reviewed. You can stake your claim at:

<https://rcmphcfriends.com/pillars-of-the-force/>

CANADIAN BLOOD SERVICES:



The Canadian Blood Services has been running an advertising campaign to encourage registration for the stem cell donor program. Registration for this life saving program has dropped dramatically during the pandemic and the need for donors is greater than ever. While

most of us are not likely eligible to donate, younger family members or friends may be. We would ask that you bring this information to their attention so that they may consider registering as potential donors.

Through the Bruce Denniston Bone Marrow Society, many of our Veterans and other retired members are or have been volunteer couriers for the program, travelling to locations around the world, where a match has been found for a local patient. Again, the pandemic travel restrictions have greatly impacted this program as well.

Without the ability to travel the globe to pick up matching stem cells or bone marrow, those in need who live here, we must rely on local donors. Someone in your bubble or group of friends has the capacity to Save A Life.

Vancouver Division created a video (**HAVE YOU GOT A MATCH**), that is available on YouTube, which tells the story of a retired RCMP member who received this life saving treatment, which came from Europe!! CLICK on the links below to access the video, the Canadian Blood Services site and the Bruce Denniston Bone Marrow Society site:

[**HAVE YOU GOT A MATCH**](#)

[**CANADIAN BLOOD SERVICES STEM CELL PROGRAM**](#)

[**BRUCE DENNISTON BONE MARROW SOCIETY**](#)

RCMP VETERANS' IDENTIFICATION CARDS:

As a reminder, RCMP ID coordinators in the divisions are no longer processing these cards and National Compensation is currently reviewing the national rollout of this program to determine the most efficient process for distributing identification cards to former employees.

As you can appreciate, it will take some time to identify all those who are eligible to receive a retirement ID card. To aid in this process could you please provide the following information:

Your name:
Rank at retirement:
Division at retirement:
Years of Service:
Date of Discharge:
Regimental number/HRMIS number:
Contact info: (email address and home address)

Additional information pertaining to the process for receiving your card will follow in the coming months.

Thank you for your patience.
RCMP Member Benefits Unit
RCMP.RetiredID-IDRetraite.GRC@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

RCMP VETERANS BADGE:



Vancouver Division receives numerous inquiries about the availability of a "Veteran" badge. This badge is sold exclusively by the RCMPVA Quebec Division and further details on how to acquire one are available on their website.

Click [HERE](#) for further details and purchase information:

CANADIAN FORCES MORALE AND WELFARE SERVICES:



Active and retired members of the RCMP are eligible to apply for the CFOne card. There are a number of services, rewards and discounts available to former members of the Force through this program. Attached is the link to apply for a CFOne card.

[CFONE Card Application](#)

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION:



The Royal Canadian Legion offers currently serving and retired Canadian Armed Forces and RCMP members a free, one-year membership to welcome them to the Legion!

Your support helps the Legion make a difference for Veterans and their families in need, and helps ensure Canada 'never forgets'.

If you are not a yet member, join online through the Veteran Welcome Program and get to know your Legion.

JOIN ONLINE TODAY

VETERANS AFFAIRS CANADA:



Veterans Affairs
Canada

Anciens Combattants
Canada

The attached link may be of some assistance to members who are submitting claims to VAC. It would appear that this booklet was compiled by an independent body in 2017, however, there are links to the current VAC website. This information is being provided for your information only and the accuracy of the information posted therein has not been verified.

<https://www.multibriefs.com/briefs/rcaa/vacdisabilityawards.pdf>

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL RETIREES:



National Association
of Federal Retirees

Association nationale
des retraités fédéraux

The National Association of Federal Retirees (Federal Retirees) is the largest national advocacy organization representing active and retired members of the federal public service, Canadian Armed Forces, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and retired federally appointed judges, as well as their partners and survivors. The site contains a great deal of information that you may find useful. [CLICK HERE](#) to access the NAFR website.

A newly released "**You and Your Survivors Guide**" has been published by the National Association of Federal Retirees in partnership with Arbor Memorial Services.

The book is 58 pages. By [CLICKING HERE](#) you will be taken directly to the "document and workbook". Once completed, you may wish to have it printed in order to have a hard copy of the document for your records.

MEDOC TRAVEL INSURANCE:

For those who have Medoc travel insurance, you should have received your renewal package by now. This travel insurance program is obtained through the National Association of Federal Retirees. A letter included with the renewal package indicates:

As a valued member of the National Association of Federal Retirees, you have exclusive access to this MEDOC® Travel Insurance program. To have this MEDOC® coverage, you need to maintain your annual membership with the National Association of Federal Retirees. If both you and your spouse/partner have MEDOC®, you need a double membership with the National Association of Federal Retirees. If you are unsure of your membership status, please contact our national office toll free at 1-855-304-4700 or in Ottawa at 613-745-2559.

Travel and COVID:

As we approach the end of our 2nd Year under Covid Restrictions, we see many Countries open their borders to International Travelers. For those who are looking into getting out of town / Canada, questions arise about the process for Covid testing (PCR vs Antigen) both when you depart and return/plus the additional expense; if your Vaccine (or Mixture) is acceptable and the almighty, what if I get COVID during my travels.

Many insurance companies advertise that they offer “coverage for Covid-19”, including medical expenses, and Emergency-related expenses: but **READ THE SMALL PRINT**. Ask questions that pertain to your own situation (what vaccine you have, where to get the Covid test both leaving and returning to Canada, the turnaround time for the test and the cost). We have all heard anecdotal stories both on mainstream media and social media.

The best source for information on Covid testing requirements is the Government of Canada website. Click on this link for the most up to date information: [**GOVERNMENT OF CANADA**](#)

Many of you are Snowbirds or just want to get away to the sun. Be sure to do your research. Many of us use MEDOC travel insurance, but some changes have been made to coverage and benefits. Whatever travel insurance you chose, make sure you have reviewed the **current coverage booklet** carefully and that you fully understand your insurance policy. You can find a summary of MEDOC travel insurance coverage on the Federal Retirees website. [CLICK HERE](#) to access.

If you can, please pass it along to your fellow travelers!

Karen Frost

UPDATES TO BOOKLETS AND GUIDES:

The RCMP Veterans' Association has now published the 2020 edition of the “**National Survivor's and Executor's Guide**” which can be accessed on the National website. [CLICK HERE - SURVIVORS & EXECUTORS GUIDEBOOK](#).

Please feel free to share this and other pertinent 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.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:

Below is a list of the many frequently used services for veterans. For a more complete list of links, please visit the RCMPVA National website by [CLICKING HERE](#).

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**.

Public Service Health Care Plan

<http://www.pshcp.ca/#>

Medoc Travel Insurance


<https://www.federalretirees.ca/en/my-health/insurance/medoc-travel-insurance>

Unmarked Graves

I received this from one of our members. With the News focusing on Unmarked Graves in several Aboriginal communities since May, opinions run the Spectrum.

Many of us who served in or near Aboriginal communities, believe we forged friendships and social networks during our time in these communities. I worked in two such communities in Alberta and had a special respect for both young people and the Elders, who were instrumental in showing me a level of respect that was a 2-way street.

Karen Frost
Wetaskiwin Rural (1981-84) and Fort Chipewan (1988-90)



OLD MEN'S PROVINCIAL CEMETERY

The City of Kamloops incorporated in 1893. Just one year later, it became home to the Provincial Home for Old Men. The Home was built on the farm site belonging to former Government Agent Constable John Ussher who was killed by the Wild McLean Boys twenty years earlier. The Home was meant to house the old fur trappers, guides and gold miners who opened up the province during the early pioneer years.

The first resident arrived in May of 1895. The first recorded death occurred a year later and a special Home Cemetery was opened for the old men on the bench-land above the Provincial Home. The poor and indigent also shared this cemetery located on the outskirts of town. Most of the over 1,000 graves remain unmarked since Home administrators often had little background information about their old residents. There are written archival records showing the location and name of each burial. Some of the small flat stones which marked individual graves have gradually sunk and lie buried beneath the grass. The last person to be interred in the Old Men's cemetery died in 1974. By then, the famous old Home had been demolished and a new seniors residence built in its place.

VANCOUVER DIVISION EXECUTIVE – 2021:

Your Executive for the 2-year term took office on January 1, 2021, until December 31, 2022. Formal “swearing in” ceremonies will be conducted as soon as Health Orders permit.

President	Gordon CAVE	jag140@telus.net
Past-President	Robert R. “Bob” UNDERHILL	runder@telus.net
Vice-President	Ron MORSE	rimorse021@gmail.com
Treasurer	Rupert L. BULLOCK	bullock2@shaw.ca
Secretary	Karen FROST (Cell: 778-232-7044)	kosovok2002@yahoo.ca

DIRECTORS:

Strategic Planning	Eric ROSS	evross@telus.net
Ceremonies & Memorabilia	Murray MACHAM	mmacham@telus.net
Health, Welfare Advocacy	John SHERSTONE	sherst01@telus.net
Membership	Ray POWER	rayjpower@yahoo.com
Liaison to The Force	Ric HALL	rshall69@shaw.ca

Social

Dorothy A. MARTINSON

demartinson@shaw.ca

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.

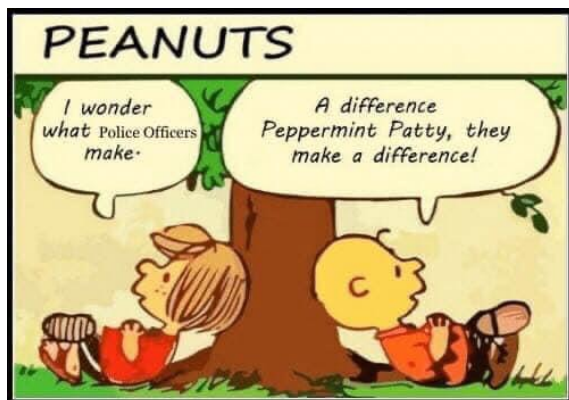
VANCOUVER DIVISION WEBSITE: <http://www.rcmpveteransvancouver.com/>

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

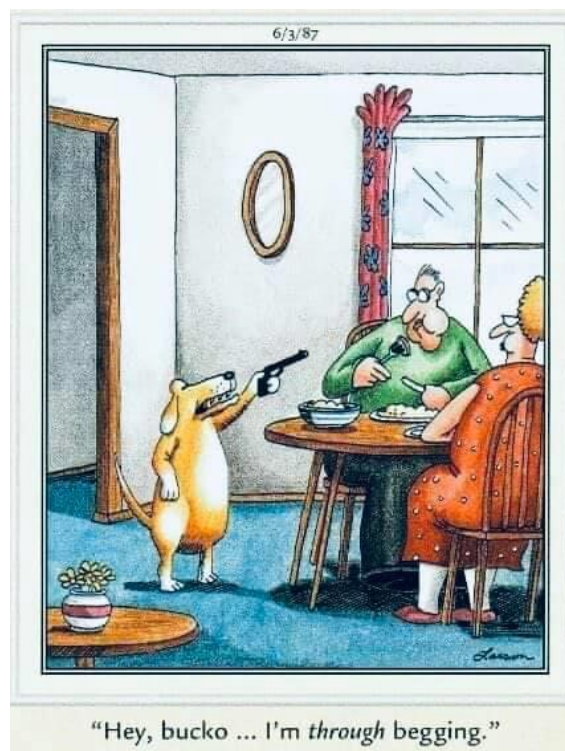
If you would like to receive updates to the website as they are posted, scroll down on the right side of the homepage and enter your email address.

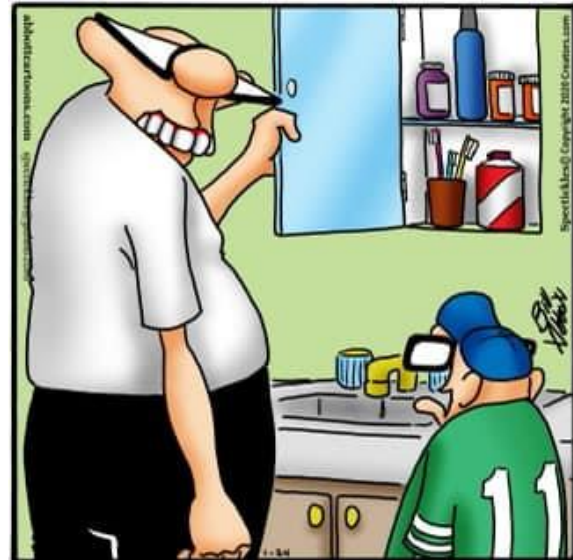
Obtain notice of website updates

Enter your email address to receive notice of updates to the website. No membership required and no other messages will be sent to you.



“Turns out it was a marble in the ashtray”





"Your other denture is in the dishwasher. Mom said I shouldn't rinse them in the toilet for you anymore."

MOMS NOW vs. MOMS THEN

"That word is inappropriate."	"Say that again and I'll wash your mouth out with soap."
"Good job trying one bite of the dinner I made. Now you can have Mac & Cheese."	"You'll eat what I make, whether you like it or not. There are starving children in the world."
"I can see you're upset. Take a deep breath and use your words."	"You better stop crying or I'll REALLY give you something to cry about."
"You can't walk around the block by yourself. I'll drive you. Text me when you need a ride back."	"You want to go out? Take your bike. Be home before dark."
"I packed your bento box with almond butter on whole grain, kale chips, and an organic smoothie."	"Take a brown bag with a bologna sandwich on Wonder Bread. Grab a Twinkie and a Hawaiian Punch too."



"AND FOR YOUR DINING PLEASURE THIS EVENING WE ARE OFFERING TWO CHOICES: TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT!"



Funny Dog Butt in Doggy Door Poster by chuckink

Zazzle