



RCMP VETERANS' ASSOCIATION VANCOUVER DIVISION

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

JANUARY 2022

DIVISION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



Greetings all.

Well here we are on the other side of the Holiday season (actually as I write this it is still a few days to Ukrainian Christmas) and I must say from a personal perspective it has been a mostly great time. While it's been a different experience for me adjusting to the fact that my mom has gone, I was pleased to be able to attend a number of functions and see friends and colleagues in the flesh.

I had the pleasure early in December to attend an in-person luncheon with a great bunch of vets from the Chilliwack/upper valley region. Thanks to Art Hoivik who was the organizer of this event which came close to being thwarted by the grave flooding and then snowfall right before. However the attendance was close to 50 folks and it was most enjoyable. I believe this was the 25th year for this event.

Next we finally got in a meeting/social the next week at Hazelmere. As always they put on a great spread (also, as the Chilliwack curling clubs service was fantastic too) and it was such a joy to see everyone out. It really emphasizes how much we take the ability to normally meet regularly- for granted.

Shortly after this was what used to be called the JFO luncheon at the Old Spaghetti Factory in Langley. I know many of you reading this have attended these before. It's open to all members of the various ambulance, policing, fire, border services, corrections- well you get the picture. Great folks all having a wonderful time.

All that now past, I fear we are once again facing uncertain times for being able to gather as the Omicron variant rears its ugly head. While it seems from all reports less virulent, especially for those who have been vaccinated (I hope all reading) it is nonetheless a threat. Frankly this Covid stuff reminds me of one of those turds that keeps circling the bowl without going down the stack. Enough already, down the drain with yah!

So stay tuned everyone. Believe me when I say your executive wants to be back in full action with regular meetings. We will follow the best advice around and keep you posted.

Stay safe and healthy my friends.

Gord Cave, President,
Vancouver Division

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 Vancouver Division Executive met on December 5, 2021 at Hazelmere Golf Course and after a discussion based on our Financial Situation, it was voted that **Vancouver Division will not to raise the yearly dues for 2022 and they will remain at \$65.00.** We will operate our Division on \$20.00 per person instead of \$28.00 per person that we receive from your \$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 since earlier in 2021. **Your Dues are no longer accepted at the Division level, by our Treasurer, Rupert BULLOCK.**

On January 1, 2022, National sent an email to all members, outlining a very simple process to pay your 2022 dues. Dues can continue to be paid as follows:

There are 3 (three) ways to pay your dues:

1. **Online (credit card):** The January 1, 2022 email provided you with a "simply" one click method to add your Credit Card details, and receive immediate confirmation of payment. If you do not receive this email, 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 their 2022 Dues to the RCMP Veterans Association, Executive Assistant, Chantal Renaud by e-transfer to chantal.renaud@rcmp-grc.gc.ca.

As of December 31, 2021, we had 373 members in the Vancouver Division.

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

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.

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.

As noted above: 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>

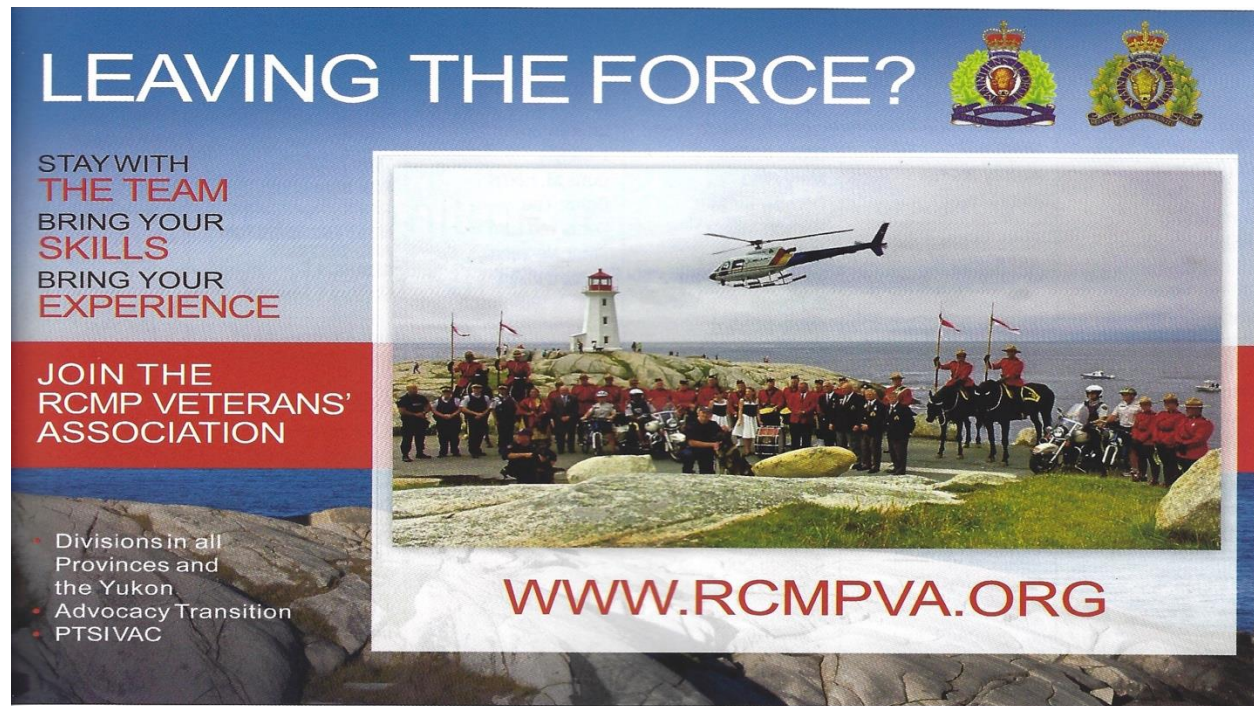
A few steps will ensure that you receive communication for the Association:

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

NEW RCMPVA ADVERTISING:

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



LEAVING THE FORCE?

STAY WITH
THE TEAM
BRING YOUR
SKILLS
BRING YOUR
EXPERIENCE

**JOIN THE
RCMP VETERANS'
ASSOCIATION**

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

WWW.RCMPVA.ORG

VANCOUVER DIVISION:

As we leave 2021 in our Rear View Mirror (Finally), our hope is that 2022 brings an End to this Covid Pandemic. Just when we were able to enjoy the Company of our Veteran family at our Christmas Lunch on December 9th at Hazelmere, Omicron, has managed to push us back into Isolation. Due to the sheer number of Positive tests in our Province, we have to limit those “in person” gatherings and return to phone calls and “social networking”. Pandemic Protocols change daily, and let us know “we are not out of the woods, yet”. Limiting personal contacts during this Christmas and New Year’s Eve have kept family safe during these difficult times.

My own Bubble is limited to my brother and 1 solo friend. The Vaccine passport appears to be here to stay for the next few months!!! I personally feel safer knowing those around me at my “Few Local Restaurants” are Vaccinated, though this more transmissible Omicron has me sitting separate from other patrons, if I venture out at all!!!! Luckily, I received my Booster on January 3, 2022, although I spent the next several days, with very sore arm, chills and miserable!!! Me and “Alexa” are getting along famously (as I live solo), with conversations and discussions that I win! I also give thanks to FB Messenger/WhatsApp, who have helped me to maintain personal contacts with my friends in USA, Italy, Slovakia, Austria, Germany and the Netherlands!!!!

Many of our Valley members were affected by the Floods in November, and we want you to know that we are there for you. Add the recent Cold snap, life is full of disruptions. Some of our members were able to take advantage of travel: be it the Sun of the southern USA, or Mexico. December managed to hit us with additional Restrictions, from long lines for Covid testing to cancelled flights. When will this end!!!

COVID UPDATES FOR 2022:

The Provincial Health Orders and the Vaccination protocols were a part of 2021, and will continue well into 2022. Booster or 3rd shots are the talk in the news, along with the strong move towards getting tested to continue those all-important personal connections. Those who are fully Vaccinated, are able to return to “normal” living”, after 5 days of Isolation/no additional symptoms, if hit by Covid, continuing to Mask Up. This variance appears to be less severe (for the younger people), and moves along as fast as it hit us. Please ensure that you keep safe and healthy, as most of us now know someone who has tested positive for Covid.

VACCINE UPDATE:

The vaccination program has been ongoing since early 2021 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 as we move into 2022, so when we open up our in-person socials, all who are interested, can attend.

Late 2021 also saw the move towards 3rd Shots/Booster for our members. Please take advantage of this opportunity, to further protect yourselves (against the emerging Omicron) and our loved ones.

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.

STATUS OF FUTURE VETERAN'S SOCIAL EVENTS:

Due to the extended and updated Public Health Protocols that have come into effect as of January 1, 2022, once again your Vancouver Vet's Executive is unable to make any commitments to future

social events. The extent and speed that the Omicron Variant has moved through our communities is mind boggling and has set us back to limiting our social contacts again. Once Hazelmere confirms it's updated protocols, in line with the ever changing Federal and Provincial Health Restrictions, you will be advised.

At this time, the Ladies Auxiliary meeting scheduled for February will be confirmed and you will be advised by Dorothy Martinson.

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. Your input is key to the continuation of the RCMPVA. If you have any suggestions or would like to become more involved in the operation of the Division, please contact one of the members of the Executive – contact information is at the end of the newsletter.

Vancouver Division would like to welcome the following new members to the RCMP Veterans' Association. We look forward to seeing you at our next Veterans meeting. Unfortunately, with the current health restrictions, we are not able to tell you when that will be.

19809	Daryl Beere
CM7978	Anitra Singh
39188	Steve Dion
58518	Saagar Prihar
40641	Rob McCloy
30265	Rich Coleman
C7247	James Turner
43973	Kimberley Tipert
44542	Thomas Clayton
42307	Melvin Chizawsky
46413	Michael Lavric
44399	Sodhi Dillon
28203	John Andrews
53857	Zaheer Abdulla
30011	Eric Parry
23657	Herbert Stengert
31834	Richard Bamford
35763	David Eidet
31340	James Hunter
41936	Bruno Paquette
33967	Frank Paulicelli
A9155	Kimberley Varga
41663	Steve Crawford
35589	Doug Kivinen

VANCOUVER DIVISION SERVICE BAR ELIGIBILITY - as at 2022-01-01:



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.

Ron BUDD 40 Years
 Dennis GARRETT 10 Years.

Service Bars Eligibility as of April 15, 2021

45 Year Service Bar			
TAPLEY	Laurence Edward	16849	
40 Year Service Bar			
BUDD	Ronald Myron	18240	
MACWHIRTER	Billie Burton	17521	
35 Year Service Bar			
ANDERSON	Kenneth Robert	16820	
DINWOODIE	Richard J.	32427	
HEWAT	Michael Leo	22165	
30 Year Service Bar			
ERICKSON	Alfred J.	21108	
CURRIE	Ronald D.	22073	
CRAIG	William Samuel	18475	
GIESBRECHT	Arthur R	20699	
RILEY	James Smith	18411	

SKOLROOD	Robert Wayne	19733	
KIRK	Alexander Frederick	20439	
25 Year Service Bar			
VADIK	Joseph T	22873	
BRADLEY	Barry F	21523	
WARBURTON	James Berry	25209	
STARK	Siegfried E	22248	
PARROTT	William Clarence	20251	
MEDLEY	Norman John	21875	
VAN'T SLOT	Willem H.	23979	
CHERSAK	John P	28436	
20 Year Service Bar			
BROWN	Robert Clayton (Clay)	28311	
MACKENZIE	Everett B	20328	
BROMBALE	Lou	27646	
TURNER	David C.	29127	
15 Year Service Bar			
DAUK	Murray Walter	28106	
HALL	Ric	24394	
MACDONALD	Clifford Carl	25084	
ROBINSON	John	29925	
JEFFERY	Wayne K.	C00811	
JEFFREY	David Wayne	24079	
MOORE	James Arthur	28426	
DINWOODIE	Richard J.	32427	
ALLAN	D. Laird	28821	
DOP	T.M. Jack	28945	
LONG	Frank L.	18918	
KOTT	Ernest John	27170	

DEANS	E.B, (Elton)	24413	
WHITTA	Robert Bryan	24063	
ROSS	Eric Victor	28447	
PAUQUETTE	Dave Russell	35850	
10 Year Service Bar			
CADIEUX	Laurier	36355	
LUCKO	Andrew	22456	
ALLEN	Leslie	35920	
NASH	David	X03796	
FROST	Karen	36502	
KENNA	Kevin	30755	
KAUTZ	Caroline	35236	
MARSHALL	Robert	43418	

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
30635	STEVELY, Danny Blair	Cpl.	2021-12-15
30721	OTTERMAY, David Gerald	Cst.	2021-12-13
34736	DEMPSEY, Judith Gwendolyn	Cst.	2021-12-18
S.2669	ZORN, Joseph Patrick	S/Cst.	2021-11-23
35101	EUBANK, William Marshall	S/Sgt.	2021-11-23
21191/0.1381	DWYER, Gerald Lawrence	Supt.	2021-10-08

21121	KOKOSKA, Edward Peter	S/Sgt	2021-10-08
32747/0.704	SCOTT, George A.	Supt.	2021-10-19
32837	DAVIES, Keith Ennis	Cst.	2021-10-25
19590	TURCOTTE, Louis Charles	Sgt.	2021-06-26
24262	LOWREY, Dennis James	Sgt.	2020-02-01
S/1409	TERPSTRA, Jacob "Jake" Albert	S/Cst	2021-10-25
A/Cst	WOOD, John Michael Glen	A/Cst	2021-10-16
23222	ROSS, Barry James	S/Sgt.	2021-11-03
18540	CLARK, W. Garfield "Gar"	S/Sgt.	2021-11-01
16674	BORSCHNECK, Anthony George	Cst.	2021-11-12
30492	COLLINS, Brent Thomas	Cpl.	2021-10-15
A/Cst.	PRASLOSKI, Jack	A/Cst.	2021-11-12
22196	MANGAN, Ronald Frank Michael	S/Sgt.	2021-11-10
19325	HORTON, Jack Holmes	Sgt.	2022-11-23
31693	CLAYARDS, Brock William Bisset	Cst.	2021-11-20
M98	ROY, Milford Morris	Marine/Cst	2021-11-30
27219	GRAHN, James Arthur	Cst.	2021-12-05
57880	KOPPANG (HUBMAN), Kimberley Jane	Sgt.	2021-02-10
30725	KINLOCH, Brian David	Cpl.	2021-12-11
20416	FINCH, Harvey William	Sgt.	2021-12-15
30721	OTTERMAN, David Gerald	Cst.	2021-12-13
18522	JENKINS, Frederick Joslin	Sgt.	2021-12-08

CHRISTIMAS LUNCHEON:

The ever changing Provincial Health Orders finally aligned in our favour and our meeting hiatus of 22 months ended with the Vancouver Division Christmas Luncheon on December 19, 2021. Eighty-nine (89) members and guests enjoyed the Christmas buffet at Hazelmere Golf & Tennis Club.



Our guest of honour was Deputy Commissioner Dwayne MacDonald, Commanding Officer of "E" Division who officially took command on July 1, 2021. Vancouver Division President, Gord Cave, presented D/Comm MacDonald with a certificate appointing him as the Honourary President of the RCMPVA Vancouver Division for the tenure of his command of "E" Division. In his remarks, D/Comm. MacDonald spoke of the challenges faced by the Force in the earlier months of his term, from the destruction of the town of Lytton and summer forest fires, to the protests at Fairy Creek and the Coastal Gas Link Pipeline as well as the recent flooding in the province. D/Comm. MacDonald

praised the response, dedication and professionalism of the front-line members involved in these challenging matters.

President Gord Cave also made a service bar presentation to Veteran Ron Budd. Vancouver Division thanks and congratulates Ron for 40 years of service to the RCMPVA.



Many thanks to our Social Director, Dorothy Martinson, for organizing this event. Thanks as well to Rupert & Bev Bullock, Karen Frost, Laurier Cadeaux and President Gord Cave for their assistance at the luncheon.

Unfortunately, the revised level of Provincial health restrictions which came into effect on December 20th have placed the status of our future meetings into the “unknown” category.



KEIAN'S HOLIDAY WISH TOY DRIVE – SURREY DETACHMENT:

Surrey RCMP Keian's Holiday Wish Toy Drive took place again this year to bring joy to sick children and their families during the holidays. All donations raised go to B.C. Children's Hospital and Canuck Place Children's Hospice in memory of six-year-old Keian Blundell, an honorary member of the RCMP, who lost his battle with leukemia in 2014. Keian's wish was for every child to experience the joy of Christmas. His parents, Ryan and Chantal Blundell, have carried on his legacy through this annual toy drive. The 2021 Toy Drive was organized by members of the Surrey RCMP Community Response Unit and Youth teams.

Veteran Donna Morse collected donations for the toy drive at the RCMPVA Christmas luncheon. The generosity of the luncheon attendees raised a total of \$820.50 as well as



toys. This contribution was matched by a donation from RCMPVA Vancouver Division.

On December 15, 2021, President Gord Cave and Governor Donna Morse presented a cheque in the amount of \$1641 to A/Comm. Brian Edwards, OIC Surrey Detachment (aka Santa Claus). This was the largest single cash donation made to the toy drive. Vancouver Division would like to thank all of those who donated to this worthy cause. Surrey Detachment presented the Division with a Certificate of Appreciation and recognized the donation on social media. Again, thanks to all who contributed.

RETIRED FIRST RESPONDERS (AKA JFO) LUNCHEON:



Gord commented in his opening remarks that he attended a Social function (JFO Luncheon) at the Langley Spaghetti Factory in December.

Many of our members are familiar with this awesome event, but here is an overview for those who are not.

This very special event, is hosted by retired VPD member, Brian HONEYBOURN. Brian is a very dedicated, generous and inspirational person, who has been instrumental in organizing this quarterly-yearly event over 13 years ago. He started it with 6 members from the RCMP and VDP, connecting over sharing stories of their mutual past and interests.

The attendance has grown in both number and agencies attending. It now includes VPD, RCMP, EMS, CBSA, Port Moody, New Westminster, Abbotsford PD. Members are given the opportunity to reconnect with friends, share stories, partake in “raffle and 50/50” draws and enjoy a great Spaghetti Factory meal. Due to expanding number of attendees and fraternities involved it has evolved from the JFO (Joint Forces Operation) to the Retired Emergency Responders Luncheon!!!!

The Christmas Luncheon on December 16 was attended by 157 members, including Chief Adam Palmer (VPD) and D/Comm Dwayne McDonald. The restaurant closed their doors to the public, and allowed only our members to socialize under the present Health guidelines. Previous pre-Covid Luncheons held over 200 members (and spouses), sharing laughter and offering support to fellow First Responders.

Brian and his team of dedicated members of all First Responder “crew” welcome all those who want to reconnect with friends and “family”.

Brian has over 430 members on his “Mailing List”, and I for one can attest, who has attended this event for the past several years, that I count the days until Brian sends out his announcement about the “Next” Luncheon!!!!

Karen Frost, Secretary

RCMP VETERAN GUEST LECTURE OPPORTUNITY **ALASKA CRUISE SHIP - SUMMER 2022 (MAY TO SEPTEMBER)**



I received this request for members to assist with this program, which allows are members to take advantage of an Alaska Cruise!!! It has taken a “back seat” due to the Covid restrictions over the past few years. Many of our members, myself included, took advantage of this opportunity to put on the Serge and tell our stories to passengers as they enjoy the Alaska sights. If interested, please check out the narrative and contact Julie Smith, direct.

The cruise line would like to start up the "Retired Mountie Guest Lecture Program" again. Over 600 RCMP Vets have participated in this opportunity for the last 15 years.

An Alaskan Cruise Ship line that travels from Vancouver to Alaska is looking for a retired RCMP Veterans to act as guest historians and provide history lectures on the RCMP (1 to 2 weeks cruises, from Vancouver) from May to August 2022.

"Only Retired Members May Apply"

It is a one or two week commitment. As part of the international guest lecturer program offered on the ships traveling the Alaskan Cruise they would like to provide information on history of the RCMP. Through surveys this is one of the most requested topics from cruise passengers. The cruise line would like the retired RCMP Veteran to provide informative historical lectures on the positive history of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Some example past lectures included;

1. History and Formation of the North West Mounted Police
2. The North West Mounted Police and the Yukon Gold Rush.
3. The History of the horses of the RCMP and the Musical Ride
4. RCMP and Forensics (CSI – RCMP)
5. Training of the RCMP – Stories from Depot RCMP and its Military history (battle honors)
6. RCMP today a multicultural police force
7. RCMP and its United Nations Participation

8. St. Roch's journey
9. RCMP Dogs
10. RCMP Musical Ride
11. The Mad Trapper and the Lost Patrol
12. And other positive RCMP stories – highlighting your own Personal Experiences.

The lecturer is required to provide 3 professional power point 45 minute lectures. As part of the lecture there is a 15 minute question and answer period which follows. The lecturers must bring their own laptop and have use of audio visual material like power point.

As part of the Cruise Line lecture circuit you are advertised on ship newsletter as a retired Mountie guest historian and not a police officer.

This is non-profit and you are a volunteer and not paid for this

Your cruise (gratuities, etc are extra) is covered for you and your guest for the one or two week Alaskan Cruise. You are expected to follow some protocol like not to speak on anything controversial/ political, etc. The passengers are generally interested in RCMP history as it relates to Canadian history, The Yukon Gold Rush, etc.

Your participation provides passengers (tourists) with positive memories and interaction with a retired RCMP Veterans. The demographics of our passengers are predominately retired seniors and you as a RCMP veteran would fit in well. This is the 16th year of the program which has seen over 600 RCMP Veterans participate.

Qualifications

- RCMP Veteran (retired members only) preferred within 10 years of retirement
- Good public speaking skills
- Able to speak to a group of up to 300 people
- Computer literate – able to provide power point presentation with own laptop
- Do not suffer from sea sickness
- Valid Canadian passport for yourself and guest of your choice
- All WHO COVID approved vaccinations

Application

If you are interested in being an RCMP Veteran guest historian then please send the below information to JulieSmithGold@gmail.com

- 1 Name
- 2 Year retired and total service year in the RCMP
- 3 Short biography (No more than 10 lines) on yourself and provide lecturing qualifications and suggested lecture titles.

******Note: So long as Canada and US Health authority approves the Alaskan Cruise out of Vancouver and all the safety COVID policies will be adhered to, this program begin. The***

Cruise Line would like to be prepared for their 2022 Alaskan season and book all the Mountie Veteran Guest Lecturers.

Any interested members are to contact Julie direct for additional information, and to clarify what fees are not covered under this program (Gratitudes, port charges, etc).-

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: rcmpvancouver@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.

MP MATES FACEBOOK PAGE: A WAY TO RECONNECT:

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.

UPDATE: Murray has taken on one of the Administrator roles. This group now has over 14,000 members, and our Murray has done a great job, though sometimes, I think he would rather be “herding Cats”.

VANCOUVER VETERANS HONOUR GUARD:

We are one step closer to getting this put together. Veteran Ron Currie, has volunteered to take on the duty to coordinate the Guard. I will assist him into the next steps which is to a) have our Guard Protocol accepted by the Executive and placed on file, and b) have no fewer than 12 veterans to volunteer their names to a dedicated email list that can be sent out when and as the request(s) come in. Once that is completed we would get the member volunteers together for a coffee session to go over the protocol as to what is required.

Murray Macham
Cell: 604 329-1273

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.

DIRECTOR OF HEALTH & WELFARE – ADVOCACY:

I had a number of Vets contact me regarding assistance with medical claims, and follow up on their pensions.

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.

In my role as Division Advocate, in 2021, 62 assistance files were handled for members, wives, spouses and family members. Some of course could be handled in 1-2 days, while others took up to a week or more, before finally being resolved. All worked out satisfactory for those enquiring whereby these enquiries came from members of the association and others from those were not registered within our Association.

Regardless, ALL of course were provided the guidance and assistance necessary.

We (Executive) may wish to consider additional Advocates within our association for the 2022 year, as I am currently responsible for all enquires for retired members from Sechelt/North Vancouver to Chilliwack/Hope!! This topic will be raised at the next Executive meeting, but any Volunteers are greatly appreciated and encouraged to put contact John!

Best regards
John Sherstone

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ASSISTING JOHN IN THE ADVOCACY PROGRAM, PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF THE EXECUTIVE. TRAINING IS PROVIDED THROUGH NATIONAL AND IT IS A GREAT WAY TO ASSIST YOU FELLOW VETERANS.

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.

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](#)

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.

Please be sure to pass this information on to your friends who you know served in Alberta, but may not be Vet Members.

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

As you know the purchase of Challenge Coins for our division was approved back in 2020. The executive decided that each member of the Vancouver Division in 2020 would be given a coin at no cost to them. Then Covid struck and the opportunity to present the coins at General Meetings vanished. Come 2021 we were still stuck in Covid and your executive again agreed that new members joining in 2021 would be able to get a coin at no cost.

Well, here we are in 2022 and still stuck in the mess of Covid. Once again, your executive has approved giving a coin to new members who have paid their dues for 2022.

I volunteered to coordinate the distribution of our coins...why do I do this to myself? I would like to be able to give you personally, or by the proxy of a friend, or by mail, your Challenge Coin. If you fall into this category, please let me know how I 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 onto friends. If you wish an additional coin the cost is \$20.00, includes postage.

Questions? I can be contacted at bootsandspurs65@gmail.com or 604-853-5500 (Abbotsford



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

R.C.M.P. VETERANS' LADIES AUXILIARY VANCOUVER DIVISION :

BI-MONTHLY REPORT - NOVEMBER & DECEMBER, 2021

In some ways, it seems that this year 2021 has passed away quickly. Here we are, into January 2022 and having survived Christmas again! Normally we would be planning our Ladies Auxiliary's Annual Christmas Luncheon for the first week of December but a decision was made to postpone this event until December 2022, when, hopefully, the COVID-19 and all of its variants would be under control and we could all meet again without having to be concerned about wearing masks, spaced seating, etc. The Vancouver Division of the Veterans' Assn. are holding a noontime Christmas Buffet Luncheon on Thursday, December 9th at "Hazelmere" and the Ladies Auxiliary members are invited. Please phone me if you are interested in attending. The cost is \$40.00 per person, payable in cash only at the door, and attendance is by "reservation only" and by showing proof of full vaccination . . . phone (604) 261-4630.

Condolences: We sadly report the recent passing on October 25, 2021 of long-time Life Member of the Ladies Auxiliary, Phyllis Ruttan, at the age of 99, in Maple Ridge, B.C. Phyllis was the widow of retired Reg. #14040, R.C.M.P. S/Sgt., Jesse "Ernie" Ruttan who passed away in 2001. She is survived by one daughter and 3 sons, 8 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren. Condolences have been sent to the family.

Condolences: We have just been informed by her family that long-time Life Member of the Ladies Auxiliary, Anne Dane, passed away in February, 2021 in West Vancouver, B.C., at the age of 95. Anne was the widow of R.C.M.P. Superintendent, James "Keith" Dane, who passed away at the age of 56 in 1970. Anne is survived by her son, Spencer, and her daughter Katherine. Condolences have been sent to the family.

POSTPONEMENT of February 3, 2022 Ladies Auxiliary Luncheon/Meeting: Due to the ongoing Covid/Omicron situation, we will be postponing the February Luncheon. We are still planning on holding our first luncheon/meeting for 2022 as soon as Health restrictions allow, especially since our 86th Birthday/Anniversary of the forming of this Ladies Auxiliary was on February 26, 1936. This is a special date in the History of our organization, and will be honoured when able!!!

A Very Merry Christmas 2021, and a Happy and Healthy New Year 2022, is wished for you and your families!!

To receive this report electronically (and other news regarding the R.C.M.P. Veterans' Assoc.),

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/>

RCMP HERITAGE CENTRE LIFE MEMBER AWARD:

Veteran John BUIS was awarded a Life Membership by the Friends of The RCMP Heritage Centre, Regina for his support. Governor Donna Morse, the local Heritage Centre representative presented John with a plaque and life member pin at our Christmas luncheon.

Congratulations, John. Job well done!!!

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 start the 3rd under Covid Restrictions, we see many Countries restrict 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.

Due to the Federal guidelines on non-essential travel, many airlines have restrictions on Cancellation policies. Due to Omicron, over 3,000 flights (per day) were cancelled during December, and this appears to be moving into 2022. 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>

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.

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/>

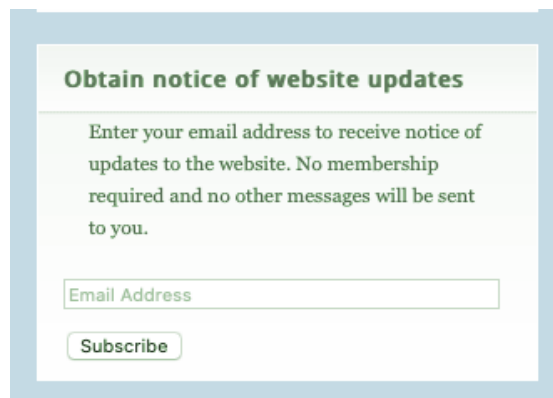
STAY HEALTHY, STAY SAFE AND STAY IN TOUCH:

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.

Email Address