

Photos From Out of the Blue – Part I

If you care to read this article you better sit down with a coffee. Once again it is a whole bunch of connecting dots.... which always seems to be the case when relating stories about the Force.

Recently, while checking my e-mails in the early morning hours, I discovered a series of e-mails with some great photos attached taken sometime in the late 1950s.

The e-mail messages came from a former member of the Force, Keith Johnston, Reg. # 20126, Keith joined in August 1957 and left the Force in August 1961 and in his words *"I was not a long hauler. I left the force after four years (purchase) to return to university. I spent ten years in school. I considered rejoining after that, but ended up in National Parole and Corrections. The experience (the Force) never leaves you.*

Regards,

Keith"

How Reg # 20126 connected with me:

"I came across the Scarlet and Gold site when I googled Don Nimchuk who I served with at The Pattullo Bridge in 1959. I saw Don in Prince George when I attended a police/parole workshop in the eighties and wondered what had happened to him.

I have a number of photos that might be of interest. My troop at "N" Division escorted the Queen to the opening of parliament in 1958 and I have some pictures of that as well as others. I wonder if I could simply attach them to an email? I will attach a few to this. Let me know what you think. I will send one or two of Don Wilson, my troop mate, Reg # 20143-O.686, previous CO "E" Division, from training, as well. One in the centre of 39 Troop curlers, and one presenting a gift to one of our instructors (Cpl. Cliff Morin).

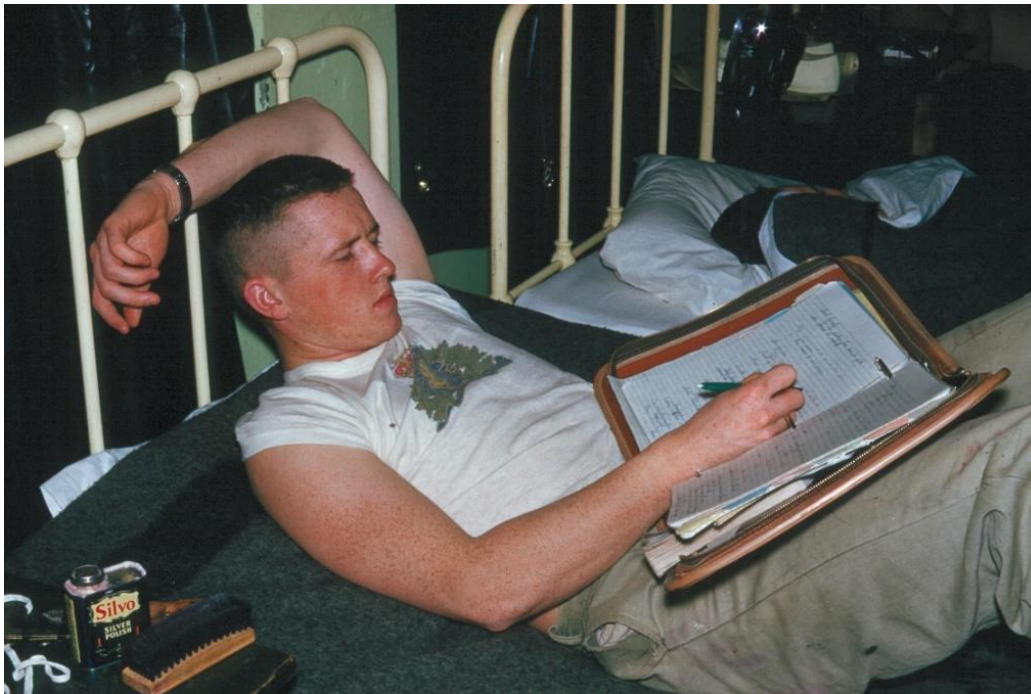
Also, Troop 39 Pass-out PE display (1958) and Cloverdale Detachment checking scores at the gravel pit (1959) mentioned in the caption to one of the pictures on your site. I don't remember that member who said he worked out of the sub/office in Whalley. After my time there, but I was there when we opened that office.

Regards"

Training @ “N” Division – Troop 39



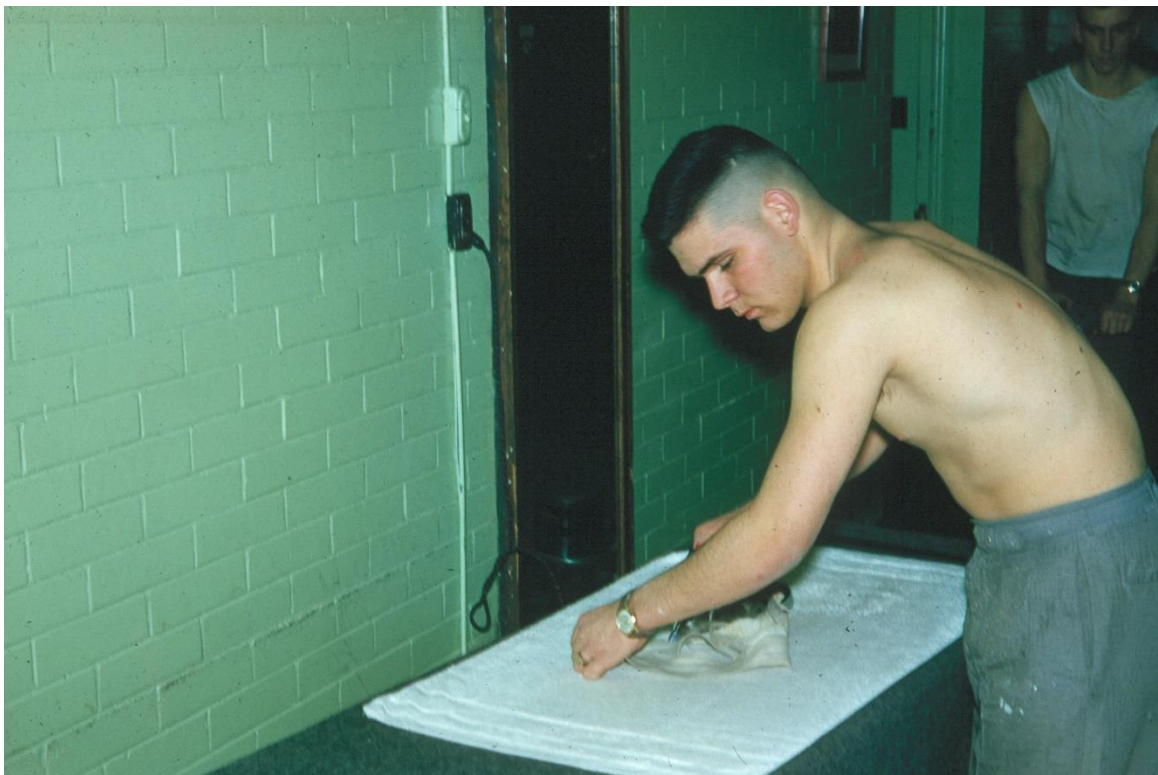
Keith Johnston in the barracks – so many fond memories of those old white hospital beds!



Doug Hall – Reg# 20145 – what was more important – keeping notes or shining the brass and boots? Probably, the latter.



Members of Troop 39 enjoying some curling time at the “N” Division Curling Club. Note the brown issue leather gloves, issue ankle boots with toe rubbers and of course the classic curling sweaters of the day. Don Wilson standing, center, in the rear row.



“J.J. Roberge, Reg.# 20123. Those Ironing tables were always in high demand.”



“In the days before cell phones – the pay phones were also always in high demand.”



“Some of Troop 36 members, 1958. Jimmy Tiedeman, Reg. # 19977, on the left. I believe there is a picture of Jimmy in the ones I sent taken at the Pattullo Bridge. Notice the Tessier Twins on the right, 19995 and 19996. Don’t ask me which is which.”



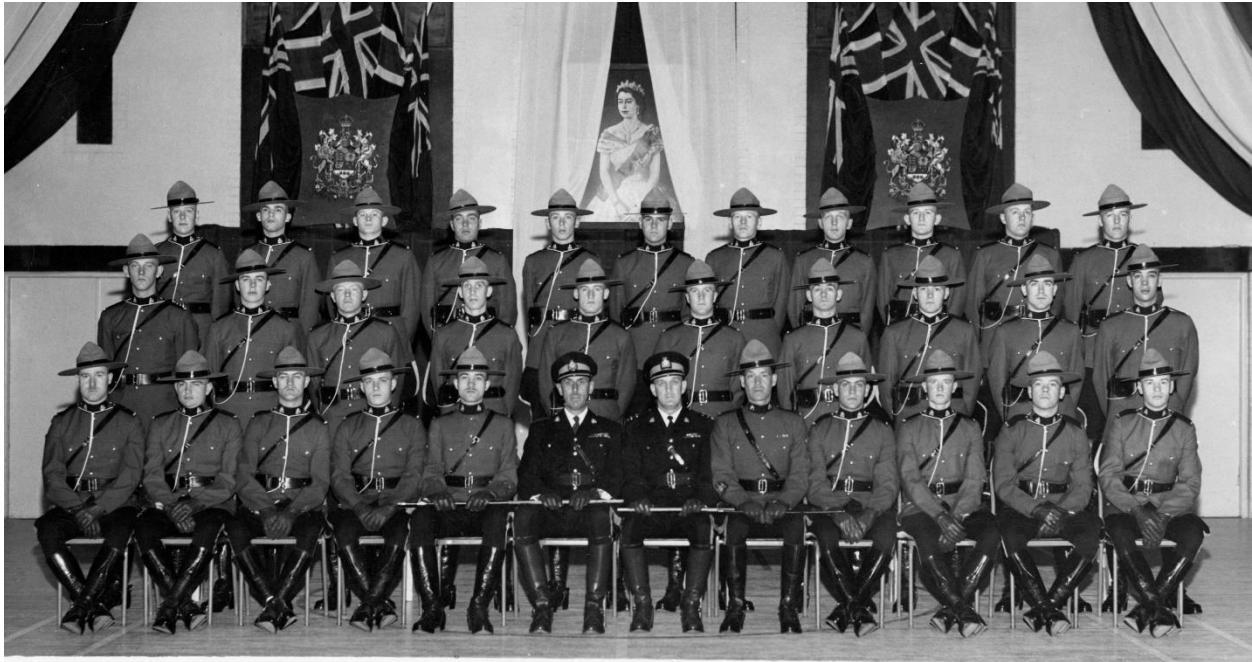
A future Commissioner?

“Norm Inkster taken in February, 1958, when he posed for me on the steps of the barracks, Tony Catonio leaning on a snow-shovel in the background. I never understood what the future Commissioner was doing there. His troop had passed out, and he stayed, although I never saw him do anything.”



Troop 39

PASS-OUT – 1958 – We made it!



ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE
TROOP 39 – SECONDARY TRAINING

"N" DIVISION,
OTTAWA, ONT.

MARCH 18 TO
MAY 23, 1958

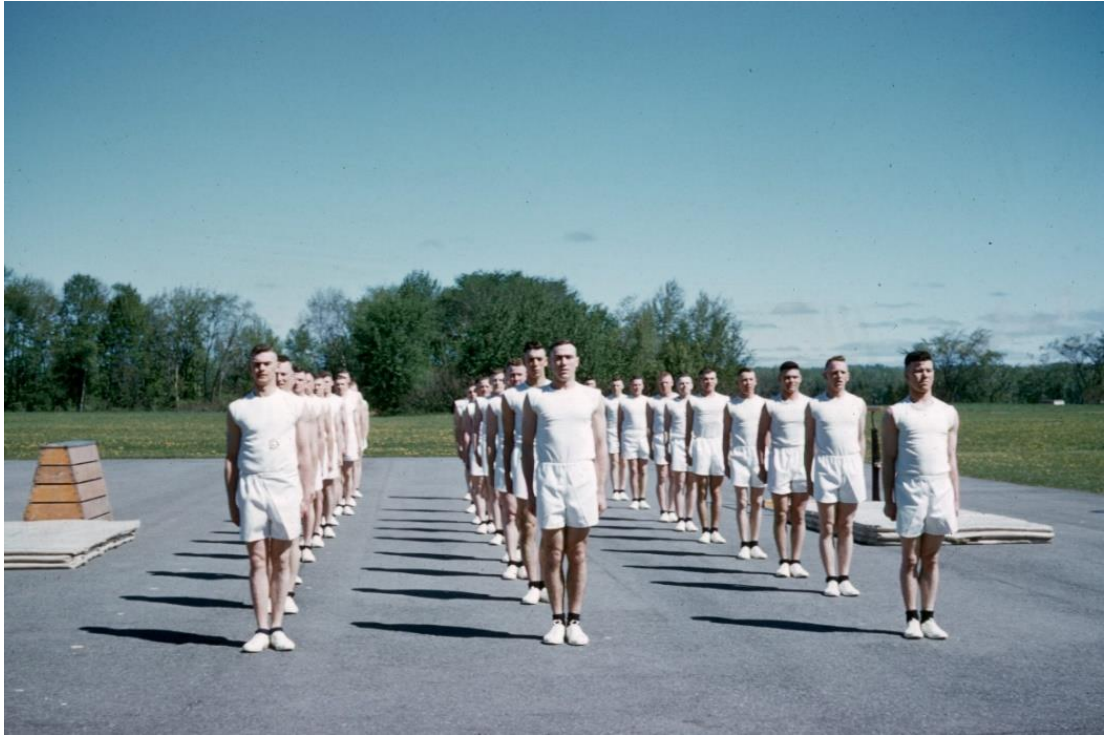
BACK ROW: 3/CSTS. BERGMAN, C.M.; ALLEN, R.J.; DOERR, G.F.; POTT, J.B.; SWIM, C.J.; ROBERGE, J.J.R.A.; SWAN, P.A.; WILSON, D.K.; WHEELER, J.R.D.; LAURITZEN, C.J.; SMITH, M.J.

CENTRE ROW: 3/CSTS. ROSS, K.C.; MACDONALD, W.B.; ZACHARIAS, J.; DOLE, C.R.; LEGARE, F.H.J.; HOSTIN, R.G.A.; GILFOY, G.J.; GERRARD, R.F.; JOHNSTON, H.K.; CATONIO, A.L.

FRONT ROW: 3/CSTS. JOHNSTON, C.A.; BRENTON, B.E.; DUFOUR, J.L.C.; WARREN, J.W.E.; CST. YOUNG, E.B.; SUPT. J.B. HARRIS; S/INSP. R.V. CURRIE; C/S/M. WM. TAYLOR; 3/CSTS. RACICOT, J.O.C.; HALL, D.C.; MCKAY, J.W.; BARKHOUSE, A.G.

"My father took these pictures. The final hoorah. The next day, the diaspora, as we spread across the country (except for two poor souls who got seconded to the musical ride).

Me, front and centre, Tony Catonio behind me and Don Wilson, second place in the right row. Don must have been in the dog house that day. We switched back and forth as right-marker, depending on who was the last to screw-up.



A little socializing, after finishing their Part I training. Most of them were probably not of the legal drinking age. By the look of the number overturned glasses the boys were having a good time! Don Wilson on the extreme right.



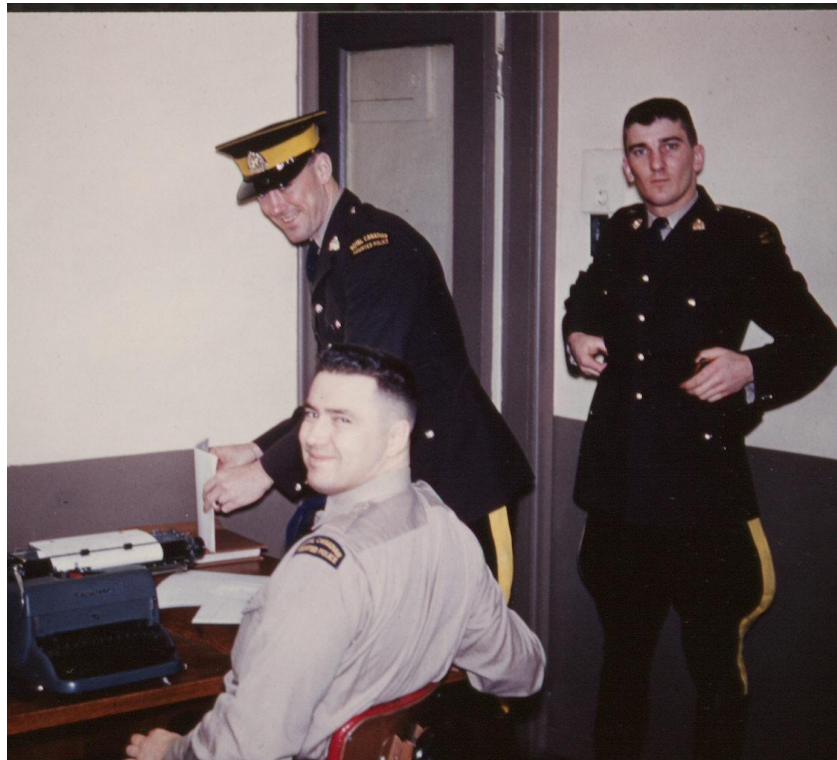
The center of attention is Cpl. Ed Hill – Riding Instructor – for more on Cpl. Hill see:

<http://www.rcmpveteransvancouver.com/ssgt-edward-hill-14813/>

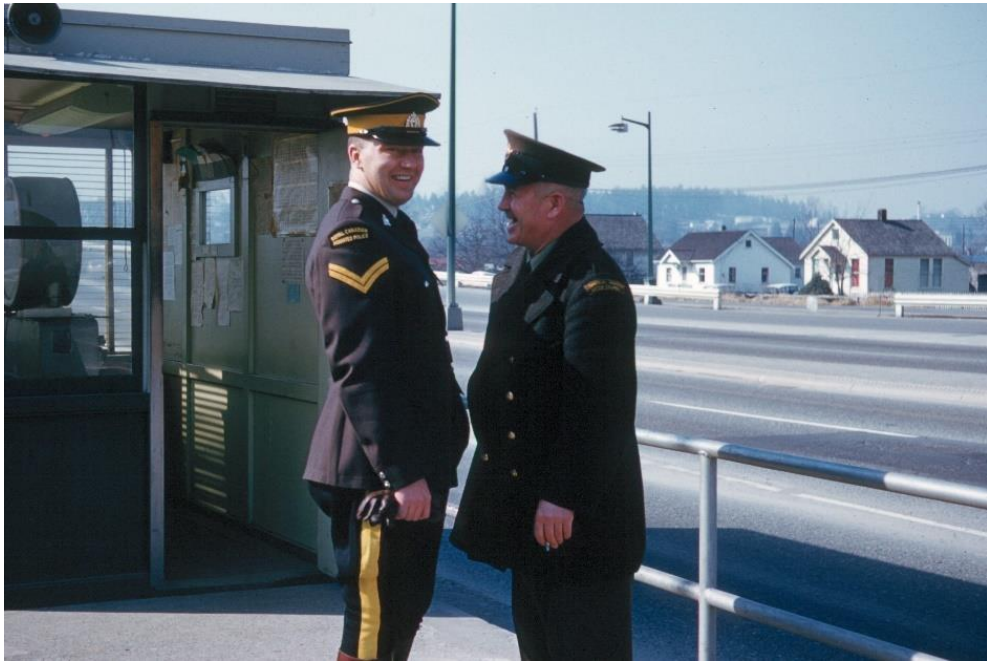
Service in “E” Division

Keith served at Cloverdale (Surrey) Detachment and Pattullo Bridge Detachment and sent some great photos of members of those units in the late 1950s.

“Don Nimchuk, Reg # 20370, Jimmy Tiedeman, Reg # 19977, someone I forget and me at the Pattullo Bridge Detachment.”



“Cpl. Clay Fryer, Reg. # 15273, seated before his trusty Underwood typewriter, me with the Forage Cap on and Don Nimchuk.”



“Cpl. Clay Fryer at the bridge, talking to one of the provincial guys who worked the weigh scales that were there at the time. They only worked day shift. In the evening, if a trucker needed a permit, we dealt with it. Great police work!”



Don Nimchuk outside the Pattullo Bridge Detachment pointing the way out of Surrey to some miscreants! “That way and keep on going!”



Cpl. Jim Mumford, Reg # 14681, at Cloverdale (Surrey) Detachment. Jim Mumford, like so many members of the Force had quite a career many transfers and also served in the RCAF during WW II, prior to joining the RCMP. Check out:

<https://www.rcmpgraves.com/database/search.html>

A Day on the Range – Cloverdale Detachment - 1958



Sergeant Bernard de Rabudy D'Easum, Reg # 12544, running the range.



Checking out scores – note the lanyards, cross straps, brown pants and the peaks on the Stetsons. There is a whole story, an art form, behind how members created those peaks.



Constable Keith Johnston – Reg # 20126 - standing tall on Burnaby Mountain

Burnaby Detachment

Check out those police cars – collectors would drool over trying to acquire them. The colours of the cars seem to lack coordination, but they all have lights and sirens.



There was an event in 1958 called the Vancouver Police Games. I'm not sure what year they started or when the year they finished. Keith along others were entered in events:

"Vancouver Police Games at Brockton Oval in Stanley Park in July of 1958. A great banquet that evening.

There were races in track gear and uniform. I can only assume the thinking was that if a policeman was running after a miscreant, he would be in uniform. I won the police hundred in track gear, and I believe we won the uniform 440 relay as well.

Harry Jerome was running in the open event that day. I considered entering it, but my slate was pretty full. I was tempted, but I don't think I could have handled the humiliation. I can only assume that is why there is a bronze statue of him at Stanley Park, not me."



Note the RCMP members in their issue white singlets and shorts the only thing missing is their issue blue socks rolled down.... maybe that was just a "Depot" thing! Keith Johnston on the extreme right starting a race in his official track uniform.



Keith Johnston finishing a relay race in his uniform.

“I was second in the uniform hundred. Apparently, the trick, known by the V.P.D., was to wear uniform shoes with soles that didn't slip on the cinders. At least they didn't insist we run in breeks, boots and spurs.”

“Constable Lyle MacMillan, Reg # 18293, in the blue singlet, joined in August 1953 and served till August 1964.”



“Lyle at the start and end of the 880 Race at Vancouver Police Games at Brockton Oval in Stanley Park:



“I'd like to be able to get the photos to him. Maybe he remembers that when they called out the name for the winner of the hundred, they called his name by mistake. Rather than confuse things for them, he went up and accepted. I wonder who's name is on the trophy? Good memories.”

“I knew Lyle had opened a law office later in Cloverdale. He was in Cloverdale traffic when I was there and apparently did prosecuting as a member in magistrates court after I left.”

The story of Lyle MacMillan is another story within in a story. When he retired from his law practise in 2017 after 60 years, his career was written about in the Cloverdale Reporter, April 17, 2017:

“MacMillan first came to B.C. in the mid-1950s as a young RCMP officer fresh out of training in Regina. He was stationed in Burnaby at first, but soon moved to the police office in downtown Cloverdale — a small, square building, more like a concrete block than an architectural masterpiece.”



RCMP Surrey Detachment 1954

It was in Cloverdale that MacMillan first got the itch for law.

In 1960, MacMillan moved from his Harley-riding position as a traffic cop to the Cloverdale courthouse. At that time, when anyone got so much as a parking ticket they had to head to court. If they plead guilty, the judge gave the sentence and they were on their way. If they plead not guilty, MacMillan stepped in.

Dressed in his RCMP uniform, MacMillan would stand in front of the judge, giving evidence and questioning witnesses. It was his first taste of the law and he loved it.

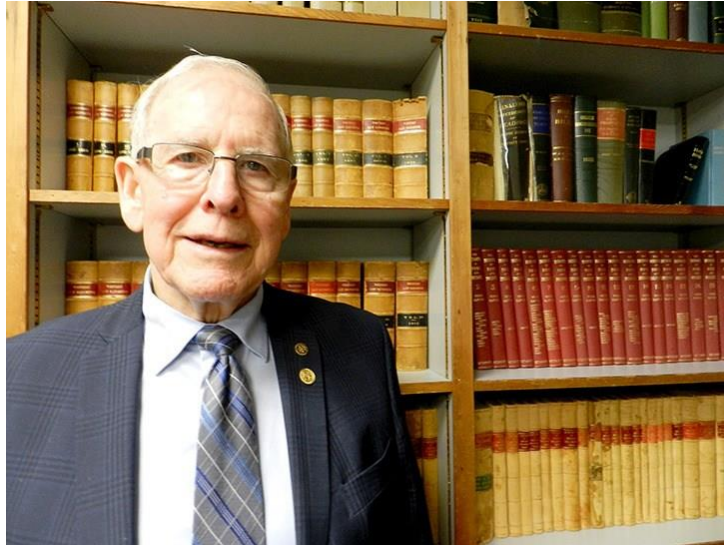
After two years of court work, and a subsequent transfer to Smithers, MacMillan purchased his discharge from the RCMP. He decided to go to UBC, first to get his Bachelor of Commerce and then his law degree.

In the meantime, bills had to be paid. And so, MacMillan took a job at Oakalla Prison Farm, a provincial penal institution."

There is clearly more to the story and if you want to read more about Lyle MacMillan check out:

<https://www.cloverdalereporter.com/community/cloverdale-lawman-retires-after-60-years/>

I regret all the years I worked at Surrey Detachment I never knew of Lyle and his connection to the Force. I would have loved to have met him and heard his stories. RDH



Lyle MacMillan, Reg # 18293, upon his retirement from his law practise in 2017.

I wish to thank Keith Johnston for sharing his memories and photos from his time in the Force. It is important that we remember the past and perhaps simpler times. Below, Keith is still standing tall.



Stay tuned for Part II of Keith's story with the Musical Ride and the opening of parliament with the Queen present.

**Ric Hall 24394/O.1330
August 20, 2022**