



Presidents **Message**

Our last general meeting before summer break was held on May 12 and was well attended. Thank you to our guest speaker, Vancouver Division member,

Kim Marsh, for his presentation introducing his book "Cunning Edge", about his experiences in undercover operations.

As we enjoy the summer, we look forward to the resumption of our meetings in September. Earlier this year, a survey was sent out to our membership to gather your thoughts about our general meetings. With less than a 10% response, it was difficult to glean meaningful information from the results. Following a lengthy discussion at our last Executive Meeting, it was decided to reduce the number of general meetings to four per year in addition to our Christmas Levee. Inflation has drastically pushed the costs of our meetings in the current format to the point that we must explore other avenues for our get togethers. If you have any thoughts or suggestions, I would urge you to contact a member of the Executive.

Vancouver Division area covers the Lower Mainland from the Sunshine Coast to Hope. More than half of our current membership resides in the Delta, Surrey, Langley area. A further one quarter of our membership resides

in the Eastern Fraser Valley (EFV). With the traffic patterns and the demographics of our association, attending our general meetings in Surrey has been a challenge for many of our members including those in the EFV to the point where some have let their membership lapse. As part of our efforts to promote membership and participation, we will be holding two meetings per year in the EFV. The first of those meetings will be held at the Chilliwack Curling Club on September 14. One of our members has volunteered to coordinate car-pooling to this event. Stay tuned for further information. If the EFV meetings prove to be successful, we can look to expanding meetings to other regions within our Division.

During our service, everyone who worked for the RCMP had an important role in delivering service to our communities and membership eligibility in the Association is meant to reflect that. If you worked for the Force in any capacity, please visit the National website to check eligibility ([RCMP Veteran's Association / Association des Vétérans de la GRC \(rcmpva.org\)](http://RCMP Veteran's Association / Association des Vétérans de la GRC (rcmpva.org))). Serving employees of the Force may be eligible to become members of the Association as well.

Coffee meetings and informal lunches are popular with many of our Veterans. If you attend these gatherings and would like the information to go out to our membership, please contact Dave Reece so that the information can be included in our newsletters. The Association Annual General Meeting was hosted by Ottawa Division from May 26-28. Thank you to the membership of the Division for allowing me to represent you at these meetings. A comprehensive recap of the events

of the AGM was emailed by the Association Office on June 21, 2023. The RCMPVA is registered under the Canada Not-For-Profit Corporations Act. The Act sets certain requirements with respect to governance and financial reporting. To access important documents and financial statements, visit the National website and login to the Membership System. This documentation is posted under the dropdown menu, Member Information. In addition, Communication Updates from the Association Office are distributed via email on a regular basis.

As we move into the second half of the RCMP 150th year, Michael Duheme has been appointed Commissioner for a two year term. Commissioner Duheme's biography can be found at: (<https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/corporate-organisation/senior-executive-committee-etat-major-superieur-eng.htm#s3-1>). The Commissioner spoke at the AGM and presented the new Veterans Ensign. The Ensign will be "raised" at our September general meeting.

The RCMP Veterans Association Foundation also made a presentation at the AGM. The Foundation is a charity registered with the CRA and as such, they are able to issue tax receipts for any donations made. For further information on the foundation and the support offered, please visit: (<https://rcmpva.org/the-rcmp-veterans-association-foundation/>)

Vancouver Division was asked to assist at the Surrey Detachment Open House which was held in conjunction with three performances of the Musical Ride on June 24 & 25 and at the Musical Ride performance in Burnaby on June 26. Thank you to all of the members of Vancouver Division who volunteered their time. The Musical Ride also performed at two shows in Chilliwack on June 27. All six shows in the Lower Mainland were sold out. It was great to see such community support for the RCMP. Thanks, as well, to Dave Reece and Bob Underhill for participating in the RCMP 150 photo on the Capilano suspension bridge. (see photo later.) The gathering of all those who are employees of the RCMP in this iconic photo

truly represents who we are and depicts the inclusivity that the Veterans Association is trying to achieve.

If you have any comments, suggestions or would like to contact the Vancouver Division, please send your email to:

rcmpvancouver@gmail.com. I hope that you are able to enjoy the rest of the summer and we look forward to seeing you in Chilliwack on September 14.

Ron

LAST POST

EDWARD JOSEPH "TED" BATES Cpl Retd

Regimental Number 25848 Service June 7th 1967 to May 1st 1994 Born July 24th 1947 Passed on March 26th 2023. THURSDAY MAY 4th 2023. CELEBRATION OF LIFE. 2pm to 5pm @ ARMY NAVY and AIR FORCE CLUB 3917 Main Street Vancouver, BC. Prominent members of Teds family attending were Teds widow Maria Luran-Bates, Teds daughter Sarah Bates and Sarah's spouse - Teds son in law Inspector Michael Rowe of the Vancouver Police Department and their sons and Teds grandsons Charly, Thales and Dacien. The Vancouver Honor Guard were requested by Teds family to provide a presence. Vancouver Division members attending were Marv Steir, life long friend of Ted, David Attfield, Karen Frost, George Garrett and David Reece. Pipe Sgt Bruce Coulter E Division Pipe Band was officiating piper. The room was packed with attenders and approx. 75 to 120 persons were there. Retired and serving employees of the transit authority where Ted signed up in the Transit Police following retirement, who described Ted as a real pleasure to work with. Also present were retired Vancouver Police members. P/Sgt Coulter marched the honor guard in which consisted of Charly and Thales Bates leading a uniformed honor guard made up of RCMP Vancouver Division members and a group of dress uniformed Vancouver Police, West Vancouver Police and BC Transit Police

members, many of which had served with Ted in the Force. Among them were Doug Francis (1980-2006) and Raj Singh. Inspector Michael Rowe, Teds son in law was the MC. Michael gave a charming recollection of family and professional life with Ted and described him as a great mentor to him at a time when he knew no one in police circles. Others joined the speakers including daughter Sarah and Maria Laurant-Bates. All described Ted as a kind caring individual, great family man who loved his family dearly and was especially fond of his three grandsons. One speaker Raj Singh a retired RCMP member (1980-2004) described his years of service working with Ted on many different assignments not the least if which was the Air India investigation in the 1980s and the VIP Security Section protecting many foreign heads of government. Raj also recalled Teds visits to Jamaica where Raj was assigned as a foreign liaison officer.



L to R "Loiterers" were Raj Singh - Doug Francis - unknown member from Toronto, David Attfield, Unknown West Vancouver Police Officer, Inspector Michael Rowe, David Reece.

HERBERT EDWIN MARTINSON

Reg No.15985

Sgt. Retd



Herbert Edwin Martinson, born in Winnipeg, Man. August 05, 1930, passed away peacefully at his residence in Vancouver, B.C. in his 93rd year, at 1:51 p.m., Saturday afternoon on April 15, 2023, in the company of his loving wife Dorothy and 2 daughters, Diane and Denise. Herb had been in Vancouver General Hospital for 5 weeks then VGH allowed him home on April 12th with 24-hr. medical care provided. A Service or 'Celebration of Life' will be announced at a later date. Herb joined the Force at the age of 19 in 1949, training in both Regina and Ottawa, and retired with R.C.M.P. 25-year Pension in March of 1973, having served in S & I. in Victoria, Chilliwack, and Vancouver, B.C. He was due to receive his 50-Year membership bar in the R.C.M.P. Veterans' Vancouver Division jn April 2023. Herb met Dorothy when she was a steno at Chilliwack S/D Headquarters and they were married in Chilliwack, B.C. on November 20, 1954, 69 1/2 years ago. Herb was proud of his family, his membership and service in the R.C.M.P., the Vancouver R.C.M.P. Veterans' Association, and his Icelandic heritage."



Frank Joseph DENIS #17426 S/Sgt. (Ret'd) Years of Service: 1952 – 1987 July 2, B. 02 07 1930 Fox Valley, SK D April 24, 2023 Langley BC aged 92.

Henry “Hank” STAREK RCMP retd. # 18362 B. July 6th 1935 D. May 14th 2023. Service RCMP 1953 to 1960. RCAF 1960 to 1964. 1964 to 1992



Vancouver Police Dept. R on D, Deputy Chief Constable. In retirement active with the retired Air Force Officers Association. He often attended RCMP and VPD retirement gatherings.



Hank with author at Bill MacWhirter Funeral, January 2023



Stu Cameron, George Garret and author at Hanks Requiem Mass, May 30th 2023 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Vancouver. George a friend of Hank and his family, gave a remarkable eulogy. Very good turnout, mostly VPD but a good selection of our members also.

Gerald Donald LUCKO – Reg. #20037 Sgt Retd



B. May 13, 1938 – D. June 24, 2023.

Years of Service: 1957 – 1989

Victor G.P. IRVING -Reg # 17484 Supt. Retd Died June 26th 2023 – Funeral is on July 27th 2023 St. Augustine’s Catholic Community Church, 2028 West 7th Ave. Vancouver at 10.00am.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED (in order received-service dates incl)

Daryl Pollock # 33484 R on D - S/Sgt -Aug 10 1976 to 1st Sept 2004.

Kent Emery #51494 R on D Cpl March 17th 2004 to March 23rd 2022.

Nancy Joyce #45893 R on D Cpl April 1 1997 to April 19th 2023

Don Harder # 27723 R on D -Constable Feb 04, 1970 to 1 To May 11, 1995

Gail Blok # X1233 R on D - Auxiliary Constable Jun 30, 2005 To Jan 01, 2021

Walter Duperon # 35553 R on D – Constable 1 From Sep 17, 1979 To Apr 17, 2006

Rod B Clemons # 40519 R on D -Cst 1 From May 06, 1981 To Nov 14, 2002

Peter Koutsoumbos #52496 was Aux-Special Constable Number (currently Cpl) Sep 26, 2005 to present.

Galib Bhayani # 49596 Rank on D-Chief Superintendent Jul 18, 2002 To Apr 07, 2023

Karen Summers # A5740 R on D - Auxiliary Constable 1 From Jan 01, 1992 To May 10, 2023

Gary Rodricks # 44425 R on D Sgt 1 From Feb 26, 1993 To Sep 04, 2018

Pat Coombes #27221 served from 1969 to 1991.

James Westman # 25300 R on D - S/Sgt From Dec 01, 1966 To Apr 06, 1999

Richard Bergevin #40059 R on D Superintendent May 06, 1988 To Jun 28, 2023

Richard (Rick) Hermann # 33950 R on D - S/Sgt May 24, 1977 to To Jun 12, 2012

MAY LUNCH MEETING

Hazelmere Golf Club

Guest Speaker was Kim Marsh on his book CUNNING EDGE.



L t R John Buis, Kim Marsh, Patricia Yendrys and John Leseur all new members. Patricia was new to the lunch and brought her daughter Makala. Welcome to all.



John Laseur, Bob Underhill and Laurier " Duke" Cadeaux.

John is a new member at the lunch and is well known to many of us. John and the author served as RCMP Reserve members and were able to catch up with personalities and experiences in the reserve program.



Karen Frost, Ken and Gloria HOKAZONO

Ken was the first Japanese Canadian to join the RCMP in 1964. After requesting a BC posting he was assigned to Prince Albert, Sask. Ken explained, jovially how some of the members there were surprised that he wasn't as big as they were and sharply pointed out that many residents like to fight with the local police! Ken retired in 1997.

BUGLE CALL

Our lunches will resume on Thursday September 14th 2023, 11.30am am to 2.00pm at the

Chilliwack Curling Center

45550 Spadina Ave,

Chilliwack, B.C. V2P 1V4

Speaker will be :-

Laurie White
RCMP Sgt (Retf).



150TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

Please see President’s message on page 1. The new Veterans ensign. Mentioned in Rons narrative is reproduced here and will be present and “raised” at the September lunch meeting.



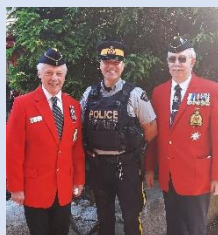
CAPILANO SUSPENSION BRIDGE

Wednesday June 7th 2023 8.00 am

This iconic photo was devised as a cooperative



event from many different Detachments and Divisions of E Division including support and civilian staff and veterans. Vancouver Division was represented by Bob Underhill and Dave Reece and are easily spotted amongst the bridge lineup!! Bob is halfway between The Flag and Dave and Dave is standing next to a K9 unit. If you can see that your eyes are in first class shape! (Ha Ha) Here they are in close up with Cst Paul Reece of the North Vancouver



Detachment. The numbers were about 200 and assembled early in the morning before the bridge opened publicly. Photo was taken by E Division Aerial drones unit headed by Jason Worobets the drone pilot expert. Dep. Comm Dwayne McDonald was present along with his staff. (They are somewhere in the middle!) A Video was filmed and includes an address by Dwayne McDonald it can be viewed on You Tube at this link

<https://youtu.be/mogC4w8SPyY>

MUSICAL RIDE IN LOWER MAINLAND

June 24th and 25th saw the ride in action at the Stetson Bowl in Surrey. Part of the 150th Anniversary events, it was staged in Surrey to support the Forces position on Surrey Policing. All shows were a sellout. Vancouver Division members were present and had a tent set up in the display ground next to The Bowl. A good turnout by retired member’s and lots of visits from regular member’s including AC Brian Edwards and his SM. The public wandered in too some of which thought we, the veterans were recruiting! (See Photo Gallery) On Monday 26th June the Musical Ride performed at Swanguard Stadium in Burnaby. Again, Vancouver Division members turned out to assist with ushering and other duties. The stadium was sold out for both shows.

MUSICAL RIDE @ SURREY, BC.

Saturday June 25th 2023



Tynan and show stealer with President Ron Morse and SM Heather Lew. Truly a family event and this young man came prepared for the real thing! He has aid to his family he wants to be a Mountie when he grows up.



Al MacIntyre A/Com ret'd, President Ron Morse and Editor. Nice to see Al up and on his feet after a long illness. Well done Al!



Laurier "Duke" Cadieux, Pierre McConnell and Bob Underhill. All working stiffs at the show !

L to R Pierre McConnell, George Garret, Murray Clarke and Ron Morse. More event volunteers



"ONE DAY THAT'S GONNA BE ME"!!



Tynan again...this time with Tynan's Sam Browne maker Bob Underhill

WHAT WAS IT WAS LIKE BEING AN RCMP RIDER AT THE KINGS CORONATION ON MAY 6TH 2023?

Was the question I posed to Sergeant Major Scott Williamson earlier in June when I was able to speak at length with him, he being the current Musical Ride Riding Master, about the

team's involvement in the Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II and the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla.

Though I was primarily interested in the Coronation, Scott pointed out that this was subsidiary to the Queens Funeral, the file of which he had had for some time. "Operation London Bridge" had been in the planning for many years and after Scott took the RCMP file over he had a number of visits to London and met the late Queen. Scott described her as adorable but had a real sense of guilt that this was all taking place while Her Majesty was still living. However, part of the planning was the succession procession after the new Kings Crowning about which Queen Elizabeth had been in firm control. Scott was only too aware that for the late Queens Coronation in 1953, the RCMP contingent had been substantial and vast in contrast to what this one was going to be in on May 6th 2023.

Resources were slim, the staffing levels at the ride having been decimated by Covid. Coupled with requirements placed on the ride for the 150th year it was a struggle to cope but cope they did. In March this year the RCMP sent a new ride to the Crown, Noble and this made up 5 RCMP donated mounts in the monarchs stable, all required by the ride for the Platinum Jubilee, the Funeral and Coronation.

The Musical Ride Contingent for the Coronation as requested by the British authorities for the previous events was 1 Commissioned Officer i.e. Inspector, One Warrant Officer i.e., Sergeant Major, 5 cavalry riders. Kevin Fahey was OIC, Scott Williamson was the WO and Sgt Jeremy Dawson accompanied the troop. Scott Williamson gave up his spot in the procession to Sgt Dawson who had more service with the ride. All travelled by Canadian Forces military transport without mounts which were already at the Royal stables by donation. (Can't have jet lagged horses!)

The mounts and riders were not familiar with each other so a great deal of pre schooling was required to break in riders, livery and mounts to each other. They were billeted in the Royal Mews dormitories at Windsor Castle, unlike our military who stayed with their British counterparts at one of the Central London barracks. RCMP accommodation was on insistence by the late Queen Elizabeth who always referred to “my Mounties” and insisted they be close to her at Windsor. Windsor is far outside Central London so very little opportunity existed for members sight seeing. All food was provided; some of the members had their first experience of the full English breakfast and British fish and chips. Windsor is a historic and quaint town and the members were able to go out in evening off duty time to enjoy local restaurants and pubs. Their accents were soon recognized by the locals and friendly conversation often ensued.

The night time practices in London required trucking riders and mounts into Central London at 8pm returning after 2 am. So, the days were very long but non the less rewarding.

On the day of the Coronation our riders and staff were up at 4 am and were trucked in to London by 10am. A quick “schooling” session with mounts and riders to get the “spice” out of the mounts and ready to go by 1pm. Garrison Sergeant Major Vern Stokes, Coldstream Guards, who was in overall charge of the procession process had made sure the riders were in the right place, right in front of the Gold Coach with King and Queen inside as it left Westminster Abbey on its journey to Buckingham Palace.

Sgt Major Stokes was following the late Queens instructions to the letter! *(see his photo to the right)*



The riders had met the new King without his Queen Camilla during the week before the Coronation. He spoke to each member in turn and was easy to speak to, charming and convivial throughout. At the same event the



King was made honorary commissioner of the RCMP by the present Commissioner Mike Duheme. All this took place at Windsor Castle. The only other Royal Family member they met there was the Duke of York who rode from the same stables every day. He was always jovial and charming with our members. Canadians may know him better as Prince Andrew. Many of the other Royals were seen in and around Windsor Castle but no opportunity arose for any formal meetings.

The procession left Westminster Abbey on time following the Coronation. The riders described how they took their rides in formation in front of the King and Queen along Whitehall, through Trafalgar Square and Admiralty Arch and on to The Mall leading up to Queen Victoria’s Grande statue in front of Buckingham Palace. This was the most breathtaking part of the whole procession as laid out in front of our riders as they emerged from the Arch was a wide street lined with thousands of people behind barriers and the Union Jack and flags of all nations, including of course ours, at every few feet on both sides hanging down in full view. A truly memorable sight and occasion. The horses behaved beautifully and Scott explained its always difficult to get the mounts to walk

slowly; their natural instinct being to gallop off. Despite this it all worked out very well indeed.

After the procession and back at Windsor our members were all invited to a casual champagne cocktail party before turning in after a long day.

Sunday afterwards was the Coronation concert and seats were reserved for the RCMP contingent right in front of the Royal families seating. A relaxing time for a job well done! Lionel Ritchie captured the mood at that point on *"Easy like Sunday morning....!"*

Monday was the last day and all kit was packed and shipped with the contingent back home via Canadian Forces transport.

The Musical Ride has a keen commitment to its and our veterans with whom it has contact throughout the year and attends a Veterans Gala each fall. Ride members are awarded various trophies including the Long Shank Spurs to members of the Musical Ride who make lasting and keen links with veterans and serving members.

For those of us who like facts and figures here is a break down of the staffing of the RCMP Musical Ride; Authorised strength is 35 constables, 10 Cpls, 3 Sgts and 1 Sergeant Major and one Inspector. Right now, the current staff is 24 member's total! Based still at Rockcliffe Ottawa they have 85 horses on hand and 50 to 65 at the breeding Farms at Pakenham, Ont. So, there are lots of vacancies. 95 % of applicants have no riding experience and 50% of applicants don't make it through selection. Riding experience is not discouraged but the applicant has to know that RCMP riding is about cavalry drill not anything like riding in commerce, farming, racing show jumping and the like.

Short Video of King Charles accepting Honorary Commissioner.

<https://youtu.be/avaqYrN8oTI>

EDITORS BOOK REVIEW

CUNNING EDGE- by Kim Marsh -RCMP retd - For me this was an excellent read my having a background and keen interest in Financial Crime investigations including UC ops. Kim takes us back to some very early days in the 1980s and some of the work he was involved in. U/c ops as we all know is not something you can open up about and tell the world - putting lives and reputations at risk and many times I found myself saying "what really happened "or this is too general we need to know more" still the reader isn't left completely in the dark with many of his successful uc ops in the private sector included in detail. What Kim refers to as The Libyan Caper "is a case in point. This had all the makings of a huge confidence trick yet Kim and his colleagues were able to steer through it without finding themselves embarrassed or victimized; great skill and nerve by all concerned. Too many books, essays, inter views etc. pay blind confidence in management but



not Kim. His description of wanting to work only with senior people who get the job done and not concerned solely with their own career advancement was refreshing

His interactions with Rod Stammer former RCMP ACOM and a personality I've admired for his principled stands was also enlightening. During my time I spent many hours passing through Canadas embassies abroad and working with the L. O's so to read about Kimm's assignments to London and his work inside former soviet Russia left me wanting to know much more. Kim is right on the money (plse excuse the pun!) about his assessment of the people who run the British finance system in the City of London. That on itself is a huge eye

opener and scandal on its own and for me is addictive reading. *(Quotation-Over and over again we have seen that there is in Great Britain another power than that which has its seat at Westminster. The City of London, a convenient term for a collection of financial interests is able to assert itself against the government of the country. Those in control of money can pursue a policy at home and abroad contrary to that which has been decided by the people. - Clement Attlee British Prime Minister 1945 to 1951)* His further reading titles bear warrant and if asked I could add to his list!!! I'd recommend this as a good read to anyone interested in financial crime investigations and or UC ops. As a text book it is lacking in an index always useful when referring back to get at facts. The book is available through Kim at Vancouver Division, a member (contact info on application) \$25.00 well worth it. *David Reece*

STOP PRESS July 25th 2023 – William Majcher mentioned in the book, it was announced today by Global News report, had been arrested in Vancouver in connection with the Chinese Interference Investigation by the Force in Ottawa. The same Global News report named Kim Marsh as an alleged co-conspirator.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

None reported

SPORTS

For various reasons, our annual Veterans golf tournament fell by the wayside a few years ago. Our late comrade, Bill Duckworth, was a key organizer of this annual event. As many of you know, a lot of effort goes into putting together a golf tournament and it is likely too late to attempt revival for this year. If the interest is there, however, we may be able to book a block of tee times at one of the local courses to get together. If you are interested in exploring this or interested in organizing an event please contact the Vancouver Division Executive.

NEWS FROM THE FORCE

This years RCMP Memorial parade will be held at Depot Division on Sunday September 10th

2023. On September 8th 2023 at the same venue there will be the dedication of the RCMP Guidon. Full details will be forthcoming.

HONOR GUARD

No reports

GOOD and WELFARE

George Garrett is in Peace Arch Hospital recovering from a heart attack. Get well soon George.

Editors Note

Dear Members and Friends of the RCMP Veterans Vancouver Division. I was asked to compile a newsletter on your behalf and this is the second Members edition. I hope you find it of interest. I will try my best to provide current & relevant material but the content really is a team effort from all your Executive Members and yourselves. If you have articles or items which may be of interest to Division members, please don't be shy in sending on to us. The only criteria we apply is that we want material of interest to Vancouver Division members and subject to rules of decency and professionalism in publication. Controversial issues are welcome but please remain civil and we may have to caveat that the writers' opinions and submissions are not policy of the Vancouver Division Executive or Membership. We know there is a host of writing and other talent among all our 360 or so members and as this is your newsletter, we all want to hear from you. Please also note that if, like me, you like to read a newsletter in your favorite comfy chair with coffee or something stronger then this format is designed to be easily printed in tabloid form on 11x17 paper. Simply load it into a thumbnail drive and take it to Staples who will print it for modest cost! If you are really computer savvy you can upload the newsletter to your account at Staples who will have it printed for you to collect at modest charge. This will also facilitate our printing for our members who are unable to use computers to view this newsletter. Best regards and welcome to the newsletter! - Dave Reece -Editor