



**Presidents
Message**



Season's Greetings
to everyone!
December can
indeed be a busy
time of the year for

everyone, offering numerous opportunities to connect with family, friends and colleagues. The Vancouver Division commenced the month with a well-attended Christmas luncheon in Chilliwack on December 4. A heartfelt thank you goes to Art Hoivik and Murray Macham for their meticulous planning and coordination of the event.

On the following day, the Officers' and NCOS' Messes hosted the annual Levee, drawing participation from numerous members of the Association and other retired members. The Vancouver Division Levee took place on December 13, where we welcomed several serving members, including our esteemed guest speaker, Deputy Commissioner Dwayne McDonald. Once again, our sincere appreciation goes to Dorothy Martinson for her dedicated efforts in ensuring the success of this event. D/Comm. McDonald took the opportunity to present awards to Ric Hall and Donna Morse for their "outstanding dedication and contributions to preserving the history of

the RCMP". Congratulations to Ric & Donna. Our Division again supported Keian's Holiday Wish Toy Drive organized by Surrey Detachment with a contribution of \$1174.00 in addition to toys.

The First Responders luncheon on December 14, organized by Brian Honeybourne, saw the attendance of many veterans and retired members of the Force. Coupled with various informal coffee and lunch gatherings, the season undeniably brings about a sense of busyness and camaraderie.

In addition to various Remembrance Day ceremonies attended by our veterans, there were a couple of other noteworthy events this fall. Burnaby Detachment conducted a ceremony on October 18 to unveil a plaque honoring Cst. Shaelyn Yang on the cenotaph at the Detachment, marking the first anniversary of her tragic death.

Burnaby Detachment also hosted a ceremony in November during which Assistant Commissioner (retired) Les Holmes returned a ceremonial headdress to the Blackfoot Nation. The headdress was originally presented to A/Comm. Holmes during his tenure as the Commanding Officer of "K" Division.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our Division Executive for their unwavering commitment throughout the past year. The dedication and hard work of each member has significantly contributed to the success and smooth operation of our Vancouver Division. A heartfelt thank you goes out to John Sherstone, Rupert Bullock, Karen Frost, Ric Hall, Dorothy Martinson, Art Hoivik, Ray Power, Eric Ross, Murray Macham, Laurier Cadieux, Fraser Macrae, Dave Reece and Gord Cave.

Special recognition is due to Bev Bullock for her outstanding efforts in keeping the information on our website consistently up to date. Her diligence has played a crucial role in maintaining our online presence and ensuring that our members have access to relevant and timely information.

I would also like to acknowledge the significant contributions of John, Murray, and Alain Duplantie to the Support & Advocacy program. Their tireless efforts have kept the program running smoothly, and we recognize the importance of their work in supporting our veterans community.

It is with mixed emotions that we announce the retirement of our Treasurer, Rupert Bullock, from the Executive at the end of this year. Rupert has done an excellent job over the past few years, and his dedication to the financial well-being of our Division has not gone unnoticed. We extend our deepest thanks to Rupert for his invaluable service.

To fill the void left by Rupert, we welcome Bud Cramm to take on the role of Treasurer. We are confident that Bud's skills and experience will contribute to the continued success of our financial management.

Additionally, we are pleased to announce the addition of Pierre McConnell to the Executive. We look forward to benefiting from Pierre's expertise and assistance in the coming year. With the arrival of 2024, there are several initiatives on the horizon that we are eager to introduce. With the collaboration of the Force, our goal is to extend the Veterans Award program to other Detachments. Originating in Surrey a few years ago, this award is presented annually to a member of the Detachment who best exemplifies the core values of the Force. A significant milestone in 2024 will be the 50th anniversary of women becoming regular members of the Force, and this historic event will serve as the central theme for the Veterans Levee.

Looking ahead to the Christmas season, many of us will reflect on the shifts of we worked during this time of the year. We express our gratitude to the members and support staff

who continue to provide outstanding service to their communities throughout the holiday season. We pray for them for to stay safe. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Ron

LAST POST

Chipman (Chip) Ross TAYLOR Corporal (Retired)
Reg #21175
Years of Service: 1959 - 1980
Postings: "E", "O", "H" and "J" Divisions

Roy Jack KLEININGER Staff Sergeant (Retired)
Reg #19422
Years of Service: 1956 - 1991
Postings: Depot, "K", "M" and "F" Divisions
December 13, 1936 - November 25, 2023

Raymond Gemmell BENNIE Corporal (Retired)
Reg #32265
Years of Service: 1975 - 2008
Postings: "E" Division
RCMP Veterans' Association Member Vancouver
Division
January 2, 1949 - November 16, 2023

Ralph Lambert de GROOT Superintendent
(Retired) #20284 / O.1092
Years of Service: 1957 - 1991
Postings: Depot, "H", "K", "N", "O", "A"
Divisions and HQ Foreign Service Directorate
(Bonn, Vienna, Mexico City and Washington)
RCMP Veterans' Association Life Member
Toronto Division
August 2, 1937 - November 23, 2023

John Helmut NEUFELD Staff Sergeant (Retired)
Reg #33189
Years of Service: 1976 - 2010
Postings: "D" Division
RCMP Veterans' Association Member Manitoba
Division
August 10, 1948 ~ October 24, 2023

Neil Graham Winston DICKSON Staff Sergeant
(Retired) Reg #21905
Years of Service: 1961 - 1991
Postings: "E", "D" and "G" Divisions
RCMP Veterans' Association Member Okanagan
Division
January 8, 1942 - October 15, 2023

Douglas Anthony KWIATKOWSKI Sergeant
(Retired) Reg #34997
Years of Service: 1978 - 2011
Postings: "K", "M", "G", "V" and "F" Divisions
RCMP Veterans' Association Member Vancouver
Division
October 2, 1953 ~ April 24, 2023

NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED

Mathew Ericson ROD Cst, 2004 to 2023, E Div.
William Cameron Scott, ROD Sgt 1969 to 2003
Regina and EDIV PDS
Harry Shardlow ROD Sgt. 1969 to 1996 E Div
Regina and E Div PDS, G Div.
Myron Misyk 1957 to 1980 ROD St/Sgt E Div
Sunny Parmar (Associate) Special Cst 1996 to
undisclosed date. E Div HQ
Shane Tuckey ROD S/Sgt, 1978 to 2011 E Div
Greg Proudman ROD Cst, 1973 to 1985
Nigel Bushe ROD Inspector, 1985 to 2020 E Div
and National Div (Former A Div)
Shiv Acari ROD S/Sgt retd 2023. E Div and HQ
Div.
Barbara Lamontagne ROD Sgt 1987 to 2023 E
Div

Vancouver Division Veteran Les Holmes Returns Native Headdress at First Nation Ceremony, Burnaby Detachment.

On November 25th Les and his wife Violet
ceremoniously returned a First Nation
Headdress Les had been presented with when
he was CO of K Division in 1992. Les had
received the headdress at an Annual Aboriginal
RCMP Christmas Ball from Distinguished Blood

Elder Harold Warnock Healey "*Aapihkitopii*"
("White Horse Rider")* who transferred his
headdress along with the name "*Kon-Nai-Cha*"
("Chief of all Chiefs") to A/Comm Les Holmes.
Les explained he proudly wore the headdress at
Harold Healey's funeral and his own Change of
Command when he retired in 1993. Les decided
to return the headdress now as is the custom
having possessed and used it for 31 yrs.! Harold
and his wife Jean Healey are sadly no longer
with us but their daughter Carol with her
husband Jim Mason, himself an RCMP veteran,
travelled from Calgary to receive the heirloom.
Also in the photo on Les's right is Char Aleck of
the Tsleil-Watuth Nation who attended as the
representative of these lands. The ceremony
was attended by Burnaby OIC Graham de la
Gorgeendiere (Ch Supt), Inspector Perry
Mainwaring and Sgt Major David Douangchanh



Les, over the years had also inspired and
helped introduced an RCMP tartan and a
permanent pipe band so it was fitting that a

piper was present. Char Alecks people put on the ceremony and provided a drummer, "smudging" and blessed prayer. A fitting and honourable end to a long and happy attachment; very nice to see. See attached link



to history of Harold Warnock Healey (left) a giant in the Alberta First Nation Community and an outstanding devotee to hockey representing his nation internationally including meeting the late Queen Elizabeth II in England and being hosted by the Duke of Kent. [HEALY](#)

[Harold > Gone But Not Forgotten](#)

BUGLE CALL

No upcoming Events

REMEMBRANCE DAY



Bob Underhill at Victory Square



North Vancouver Det. Contingent preparing for parade.

SGT. TUFF



Ric Hall sent this in for Remembrance Day. " Years ago, while I was on duty in Whitehorse, I found a stuffed Mountie figure. I have taken him on my travels, promoting him to Sgt. I.M. Tuff. When I come upon interesting

locations or people I ask if I can take a photo.

So, when we had a power outage due to the wind and rain early Sunday morning, I was laying in bed listening to the storm and glanced over to see what time it was. I just had enough time to catch the time and the power went out. I thought there goes the Remembrance Day Ceremonies. I missed the two CFL final games, the power came on just in time to see the Blue Bombers be interviewed for their win over BC. The weather cleared and the Remembrance Day Ceremonies went on as in years past. I was walking down to the little Abby cenotaph to lay my poppy. Walking up the hill towards me was

an Abby PD Senior Officer (I knew because he had a lot of brass on his shoulders). I thought it might be the new police chief. So, being an Abby citizen, I stopped and introduced myself. He was not the new chief but a Deputy Chief, Jason Burrows. (photo below)



He said "Are you Dave Hall's dad? "Dave being Supt David Hall OIC Major Crimes for "K" Div. "Yes" says I. Turns out while they were both going to university, they both worked part time at Federal Corrections. I asked him if I could take a photo of him and Sgt. Tuff. No problem! Up the walk come two more senior officers. Jason says "there's the new chief". He calls the two over and introduces me to them and tells the story about Sgt. Tuff. I asked if I could take a picture, "No Problem". Turns out the new chief came from Victoria and he had also worked with David when David was on Vancouver Island. Small world indeed!"



(Ed Note: Jason Burrows' father, Colin Burrows was a member of the New Westminster Police Department and retired with 30 yrs service. He and Jason's mum Linda were close friends for many years especially when the children were small ie Jason and his brother! Sadly Colin is no longer with us but Linda is well and thriving and still in contact, Dave R)

RCMP 150th Anniversary

Nothing to report

Chilliwack Christmas Lunch.

Monday December 4th 2023 at Chilliwack Curling Club.



L to R Greg Proudman, Trish and Don Harder, Ron and Donna Morse.

Art Hoivik writes; Greetings Fellow Vets, Ladies & Friends, Thank you all for attending the 2023

Christmas Luncheon. I hope everyone had a great time. I sure did, you all made my day. We were 96 this year, 70 last year. Getting better every year. Your food and toy donations will be enjoyed by some needy families and happy kids at Christmas. Your kindness is very much appreciated, Mary and I delivered the food, toys and \$455.00 in cash to the Sally Ann Church on Brooks Avenue in Chilliwack. Have a safe Christmas and a Happy New Year.

2023 Vancouver Division Christmas Levee.

President Ron Morse – D/Commissioner
Dwayne McDonald



Held this year at the Hazelmere Golf and Country Club in South Surrey on Wednesday December 13th from 3.30pm to 8pm. (Last stragglers were through the door by 9pm !!) 45 people paid to attend and only a few cancelled at last minute. The images convey the wonderful time we had and the renewed and continued contact with colleagues old and new. Our Guest of Honour Dwayne McDonald spoke at length of the happy time of year and the achievements of The Force and in E Division which he commands; at the same time remembering the tragic events at losing Rick O'Brien and Shaelyn Yang within almost a year of one another. The Deputy Commissioner re-stated his commitment to the RCMP Veterans Association and thanked Vancouver Division members for all the help and assistance provided at Ricks funeral and all the other 150th

events during the year. It was heartening to know that Dwayne appreciates having conversations with our members in which it is often the case that their experiences reinforce the correctness of some of his thoughts relating to duty. On behalf of all the members of E Division he wished all of us in our Association a very happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year!

Donna Morse and Ric Hall received awards from Dwayne McDonald in appreciation of Donna's and Ric's commitment to outstanding Communications and extensive Historical work respectively on behalf of E Division as well as the RCMP Veterans Association.



Donna Morse, Dwayne McDonald, Ric Hall and Heather Lew.

Santa came earlier and dropped off many gifts for the guests which were raffled off. These together with the table decorations were organised by Dorothy Martinson and her daughters Denise and Dianne. Dorothy, our Social Director put together this whole event with Dorothy, Denise and Dianne. Marvelous

job.



Ron, Dorothy, Denise and Dianne Martinson.

Our Treasurer, Rupert Bullock will step down at the end of the year and he is handing over to the very capable hands of Bud Cramm.



Bud Cramm and Rupert Bullock.

Thanks to Rupert and his wife Bev for all the years of service to the RCMP Veterans. (More Photos in the Photo Gallery in final section)

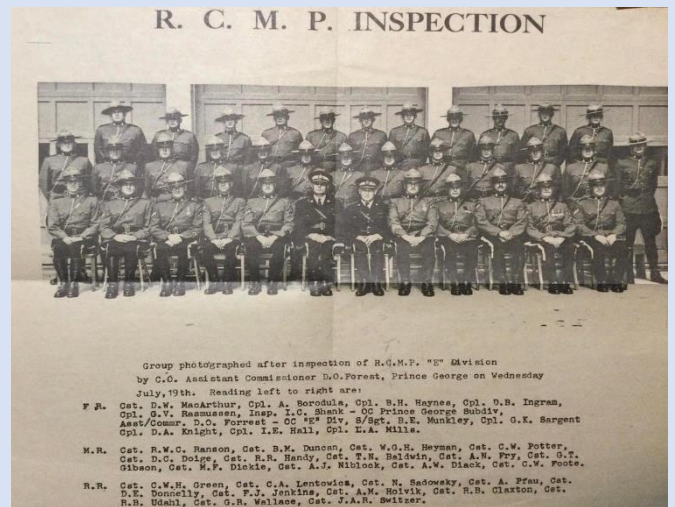
50/50 Draw winner was Wanda Cameron and there were 20 Christmas draw winners.

HISTORICAL CORNER



Art Hoivik sent in this photo of one of his inspections when posted to Prince George Detachment. Art Hoivik – “I live in Chilliwack, BC. I retired in 1994 after 35 yrs. Service. In November 1958 I travelled by train

from Calgary, Alberta to Ottawa, Ontario and joined Troop 46 at “N” Division for training. We were held back for Church Parades and the Queens visit. The instructor called out our postings. Hoivik, Prince George “E” Division. Tough town the instructor said, they will tear the Red Serge right off your back. I was raised on a farm at Carbon, Alberta. Carbon has 400 souls then and still has 400 souls but Carbon produced 7 sons who would join the Mounted Police. Prince George was a tough town then and it still is. Policing was a lot



different then. In July 1960 we were inspected by D.O. Forrest the C.O. “E” Division. We were lined up for the official Inspection which included a revolver Inspection. One of the members forgot to unload his revolver and when presented to the CO, the bullets hit the cement floor! This photo brings back a lot of

memories. Several members were in Prince George on the 3-year marriage plan, a punishment posting for getting married early. I still recall the 12 midnight to 1am foot patrols in 50 below weather in short Buffalo Coats on Third and George. Alleys and fronts shaking doorknobs. We worked hard and we played hard. What a wake-up call for a 19-year-old farm boy from Carbon, Alberta.

Art Hoivik Reg. Sgt. (Retired)

A Proud Member of Vancouver Division RCMP Veterans Association.”

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

None

NEWS FROM THE FORCE

Nil

HONOR GUARD

Nil

GOOD and WELFARE

Nil

PHOTO GALLERY

BURNABY LUNCH BUNCH

Laird Allan sent us this happy crowd get together: Laird - “The Burnaby lunch bunch have been meeting around the LMD/Fraser Valley going back a lot of years. Probably meet about four times a year and will continue to do so. Met today (November 28th) at Dublin’s Crossing Irish Pub, Surrey, BC for a lot of laughs and the exaggerations of our stories from our glory days. All these members served at one time or another at the Burnaby Detachment.



Clockwise from left, starting with the left side member (partially cut off.) Rick Bamford , Surrey - D. Laird Allan, Surrey, Sabrina Mill, HQ - BJ Brown, Burnaby - RJ Cousins, Surrey, Lou Turner, Surrey -Dick Brock, Burnaby, Tim Evans, HQ - Murray Ross, Burnaby - Ron Hobbs, Burnaby. Each member chose the Detachment they wanted beside their name. All here are retired. Everyone stay safe and you can all add your own lunch/coffee clutch photos. Laird 👉”

MORE IMAGES FROM 2023 CHRISTMAS LEVEE.



L to R Ron Currie, Brian Whitta, Murray Macham, Ray Kielan, Les Holmes and Pat Wilson.



L to R Veronica Fox, Jon Snow, Heather Lew, Kathleen Darby, Donna Morse, Ron Morse and Dwayne MacDonald



Dwayne MacDonald was a draw winner with a bottle of Buffalo Rum!



L to R Peirre McConnell, Karen Frost, Dave & Carol Reece, Jen and Paul Reece and John Ibbitson.



Dorothy, Denise and Dianne Martinson made these superb table decorations.

Editors Note

Dear Members and Friends of the RCMP Veterans Vancouver Division. I was asked to compile a newsletter on your behalf. I hope you find it of interest. I will try my best to provide interesting material but the content really is a team effort from all your Executive Members and yourselves. If you have articles or items of interest, 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 or opinions of the Vancouver Division executive or membership. We know there is a host of writing and other talent among all our members and as this is your newsletter, we all want to hear from you. Plse 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 an account at



L to R Heather Lew, Paul Reece and Kathleen Darby

*Staples who will have it printed for you to collect!
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 new newsletter! -
Dave Reece RCMP retd E Div North Van Det.*