



Scotia Vets

Fall

December 12, 2024

Greetings to you all and seeing how it is so close to the traditional festive season, greetings in that regard as well. I hope you all enjoy time with family, friends and your favorite activities. In this edition, you will find the customary offerings along with regional submissions. There are awards and recognitions to report, meetings to explore and, I have included an updated contact sheet for services you may wish to use in the future. I encourage you to extract it and replace the old one as it is out of date. Thank you to our sponsors whose material you will find inside. Our own Gary Grant has entered into the publishing world with his recent release of 'Walking Life's Yellow Line My Way', a collection of stories from his days on 'the street'. Enjoy the read and keep the contributions coming.

Something to ponder:

What happens to you if you get scared half to death twice?

Pat Moran, Editor

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This is one of many interviews conducted with retired members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Marine Division. This interview was conducted on June 14th, 2016, by Garry McCay.

William Arthur Patrick Edmonds

William (Bill) Edmonds, Reg. # M/32 and Reg. # 21617 was a retired member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Marine Division and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Land Force. Bill was born in Halifax on March 17th, 1931. Before he enlisted in the RCMP, Bill said "I was a ship fitter at the Halifax Shipyards, helping to build ships. I was not involved in building any of the RCMP ships".

"I joined the Force on October 7, 1953 in Halifax as a Special Constable. My family was very happy with my decision. I did a written examination and an oral examination where I was talking one on one with the Inspector. I don't remember his name."

"I trained in Rockcliffe, Ontario but I didn't go there right away. It was about a year after the interview I went there. I went to the "Depot" ship which was the RCMP 'French', tied up in Halifax Harbour. I waited there for a posting. When you first joined, you would either join as a seaman or as an engineer. I worked on the ship while I was waiting for a posting on either the 'Irvine' or the 'MacBrien'.

"I went to training in Rockville about a year later for six weeks. We took pretty well what the Land Force would have taken but we didn't have the horses. I wasn't part of any duties involving the horses. I did physical training and classes where you learned about the various Acts you would be enforcing and that sort of thing."

"We lived in barracks. There were fifteen or sixteen to a room, I believe. My group had people from Nova Scotia and all over Canada."

When asked what he missed the most about home, he responded, "Just my brothers and sisters and the things around home but I was compensated by the way you were treated in training because your troop mates had the same goals as you did and we used to have a lot of fun".

"What I liked most about training was drill, PT (physical training) and boxing. We never had any swimming. We never got into that."

When asked if he disliked anything about training, he said, "I found it all pretty interesting. I don't think I can think of anything I disliked. Everything was pretty informative and really well disciplined with the instructors.

"PT was the hardest part of training. We would do pushups, back bends, up the ropes and general exercises, sitting on the bench with your troop mate holding your ankles and bending back with your shoulders on the floor. Almost like sit ups. We did quite a bit of running around the gym."

"I didn't have a lot of free time in training, but we did have some free time in the evenings. It was lights out at 10:30 PM. We would just play cards with troop mates. On Saturday, we only had a half day, and we would usually go into Ottawa and go to a show or something like that."

"I found our instructors taught us a lot of discipline and I found it very good. You know, with a group of people like that it was a very good training, and I appreciated what I got out of it. On graduation day, I was glad that I had finished and went back to my posting."

"We didn't have an official graduation. We were given a train ticket, and we had a get together that night with the instructors and it was quite nice."

When asked about wearing the red serge for the first time, Bill said, "It was always something I dreamed about doing and I was very happy and to know that I had finally achieved that. I wore it on two of the Queen's visits. One in Halifax and the other one was when I was in Kingston, Ontario".

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“The ‘Cutknife II’ was probably the flagship of the small boats. It was really like a big yacht. The Queen and the Duke came to Ottawa for a visit and we went up the Rideau Canal from Kingston and down past the Chateau Laurier to the Ottawa area. There is a hundred locks there and they were all pumped by hand. It was in the fall of the year and it was the most beautiful time of the year because you could see all the leaves and everything. It was really a fantastic trip.”

“The second trip was the Queen’s visit to Halifax. I was on the harbour boat then. We came down and escorted them out to the Britannia”.

“I did a lot of work with fellows on detachment. I used to go on highway patrol with them and did the Lands and Forests Act in Cape Breton. I did the Canada Shipping Act, the Migratory Bird Act and searched a lot of foreign ships.”

“My first police call was to go down and help out with a search down the south end of Halifax on a foreign ship. I worked with a guy on GIS (General Investigation Section). I forget his name now. I worked with him a couple of times on searches. We used to search a lot of ships that came in here.”

“It was always fun doing that because you never knew what you were going to find. Over the top of a bulkhead or over a doorway. You just had to look where the paint was scratched and lift that board off and find a bottle or something.”

When asked if he had a trainer when he was out in the field, he said, “Basically, you were on your own because I was learning more about the engines and the engine room. I had to rebuild my own engines because when we came back in the wintertime, we weren’t working too much with detachments and we would come back here and work on engines. Then you would have one ready in case one went.”

“I was issued a Smith and Wesson .38 revolver and handcuffs. It was a nice gun. I also had a riding crop.”

When asked about his postings, Bill replied, “I was on the ‘Irvine’. From there, I went to the ‘MacBrien’ and back to the ‘French’ again. Then I went to smaller boats. The first one was the ‘Slideout’. She patrolled Halifax Harbour and up and down the east coast”.

“One thing I remember about that was when I first reported to the boat in Liverpool. We had to go there on a Saturday morning when I went there and there was a farmer out in the woods and he had a great big cabbage patch. People were stealing the cabbages out of patch. So, the Corporal on the ‘Slideout’, Stan Pitts and I went and sat in the cabbage patch with the mosquitoes. We had a lot of fun there, but nobody showed up. We worked an extra shift. We were there from about eight o’clock until two or three in the morning. Back in those days you worked long hours and I never minded the hours.”

“We got time off but from June until the end of October, there would be spaces where you wouldn’t get any time at all. When I was the engineer, we burned all the gas in the week and had to wait until the tanker came and filled her up again. The hours never meant anything to us in those days. You worked whatever you had to work.”

Bill was asked if there was any decision he made during his career that he wished he had made differently and he said, “No. I stayed in the Force for nine years. When I purchased my discharge, I was quite undecided. I really didn’t want to purchase but I thought I had better because my wife and I started to build a house here and it was about half finished and I got a posting to Newfoundland, to Harbour Breton. There wasn’t anything there but a telephone and the Land Force detachment. I was away from home three weeks of every month and our daughter was just starting school and our son was just a couple of years old”.

“I had an offer to go with Coca Cola so I decided that I would try that. I did well a Coca Cola and got a good pension and everything. I put in thirty years at Coca Cola.”

“I started to see things changing in the late 50’s and early 60’s. That was just before they disbanded Marine Division. They were taking a lot of us at that time if you had a ticket and you were transferred to the Land Force. I was interviewed for that but I decided against it.”

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When asked if there was a specific case that stood out in his mind, he replied “One of my transfers to North Sydney. I was the new guy in town with my own private car. The only people who knew me were the people at the detachment. There was a case starting up where there was a group of people that were going to raid the co-op in Washabuck. They detailed me to go into the tavern because a group of them were going to be there.”

“So, I went to the tavern and at that time I had never even had a beer. I never used to drink. I sat there for two or three hours nursing this beer while getting as much of a description as I could of the guys I was sitting close to. Every week, they were somehow getting tips. They didn’t know when they were going to make the next raid or where it was going to be.”

“So every Monday, I used to take my own car and go outside of North Sydney around where they lived and I watched them when they were leaving. Finally, one Monday night, they were off. So, I reported this and the constable there said ‘Okay Willy, you are with us and away we went. I set up on the top of the Iona Bridge that used to go across the lake there. But they never came that way. They got them anyways.”

“I worked a little bit in Labrador. When I was on the ‘Irvine’, we used to take two different trips. The first trip was to take a year’s supply of provisions for our detachments there like oil, butter, food and everything. We delivered that to Nain, Cartwright and all those northern places.

The other reason, the other time that we worked up there, was to take a crew of dentists and x-ray technicians to x-ray teeth and whatever.”

“I never feared for my life at any time while on duty. I was lucky that way. I enjoyed my time in the Force. There were so many different things.”

Bill was an artist and craftsman. For a hobby, Bill designed and made ballpoint pens from different types of wood.

** Unfortunately, Bill passed away on November 30th, 2019. We thank him for his service.



Submitted by Garry A. McCay
Director of History and Artifacts, Nova Scotia Division

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Just a wee reminder Updating Contact Information

If there are any changes to your contact information (phone, email, address, etc.), please don't forget to let us know. This will ensure that your information is up-to-date on our nominal roll and contact list.

AND, you will also need to update your member profile on the RCMPVA website at:

[Member Login - RCMP Veterans' Association / Association des Vétérans de la GRC \(rcmpva.org\)](http://rcmpva.org)

Type in your email address and password and your personal profile page will appear. Select View Profile/Edit Profile to make the necessary changes, and click the SAVE button to retain the changes. If your email address is one of the items that needs to be updated, please sign in with your old email address and password first. Once you are finished updating the information and have saved your entry, simply sign out of the site.

If you have not logged in previously or are having difficulty logging in, send an email to Member Administrator [membership.admin@rcmpva.org] and request assistance.

HISTORY – PRESIDENTS OF THE RCMP VETERANS' ASSOCIATION, NOVA SCOTIA



The 31st President of this Division was Reg. # 30204, Allan Gerard (Gerry) LaPierre. He was born on April 29, 1951 at Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Gerry enlisted in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police on November 27, 1972 at Halifax, Nova Scotia. He trained at "Depot" Division, Regina, Saskatchewan and then served in "K" Division at Flare Square Detachment as a member of the RCMP Centennial Troop. He then transferred to "B" Division, Newfoundland and served at Corner Brook Rural Detachment, Corner Brook City Detachment, Corner Brook Sub/Division Drugs and Gander Sub/Division Drugs.

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Gerry was then transferred to “H” Division, Nova Scotia and served at Digby Town and Rural Detachments, Cole Harbour Detachment, Halifax Detachment and Sackville Highway Patrol. He was seconded to the Department in Public Works as the Government of Canada Workplace Campaign person for Atlantic Canada. Gerry also served at “H” Division Headquarters.

Gerry retired from the Force on April 8, 2010 at the rank of Constable.

He received the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Long Service Medal, the Queens Jubilee Medal, Nova Scotia Police medal for 25 years of service. He was also recognized by the ATV Maritimer of the Week award. He also received the Commissioner’s Certificate of Appreciation and the Deputy Commissioner’s Certificate of Appreciation.

Gerry was the first serving member of the RCMP to join the RCMP Veterans’ Association as an Associate member in March 2010 and joined as an active member upon his retirement in April 2010.

Gerry served as Director of Membership, 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President, President of the Nova Scotia Association in 2014 and 2015 and as Past President of the Veterans’ Association.

Submitted by Garry A. McCay
Director of History and Artifacts

Did you know @belairdirect offers exclusive discounts and enhanced coverage on home and car insurance that are tailored just for you? Get your quote today! Visit belairdirect.com/savings (link to: [Group member discounts on car and home insurance | belairdirect](#))

A promotional banner for Belairdirect. On the left, a red pill-shaped button contains the word "EXCLUSIVE" in white. Below it, the text "The savings have landed." is written in a bold, red, sans-serif font. In the center is a small, stylized illustration of a silver robot with a red flag on its chest that has a white letter "b" on it. On the right, the "belairdirect." logo is displayed in a bold, red, sans-serif font, with "car and home insurance" in a smaller, grey, sans-serif font underneath.

*“The RCMP Veterans’ Association, Nova Scotia Division, provides this information to our Association Members **for information purposes only**, and will not accept any liability whatsoever for any failure of an advertised product or service to meet any advertised standards, or otherwise warrant the quality of a product or service. Such liability will be the sole responsibility of the advertiser.”*

Did you know that there are more members celebrating birthdays in Nova Scotia Division each month than most all other Divisions have in one year!!

NATIONAL RECOGNITION

On November 28th, George Madden, national Manager RCMP Spiritual Wellness Services, presented the **RCMP National Chaplain of the Year Award** to Chaplain Katherine Bourbonniere from Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. Katherine was chosen from national submissions from RCMP Divisions across Canada, for the outstanding support that she provides for the employees and families in H Division. Her passion and desire for serving as an RCMP chaplain is to be a support to help employees and their families have a healthy, balanced career and finish strong in fulfilling their calling as Police Officers and support staff. Archdeacon Katherine Bourbonniere is also the Chaplain for the Nova Scotia RCMP Veterans' Association. The award was presented during a two-day session of all H Division Chaplains held at RCMP H Division HQ.



The following day, Archdeacon Bourbonniere chaired a second day's session in which the group was addressed by CROPS officer C/Supt Dan Morrow. Following his presentation, the RCMP Veterans' Association was invited to present information related to various programs, benefits, and supports that the Association can provide to the RCMP family. Steve Graham, RCMP VA National Coordinator of the Benefit Trust Fund spoke of the

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requirements for accessing the fund to support both serving and former members of the RCMP and their dependents in both long-term and short-term instances. Following this, Ian Atkins briefed the Chaplains on the provisions from the RCMP Veterans' Association Foundation (a charitable foundation) that can react quickly to requests for immediate financial assistance to all RCMP employees and dependents. As national contacts for these programs, both Steve and Ian provided examples of the two funds working together in the short and long-term to alleviate "need" for the applicants.

The final part of the presentation was dedicated to familiarizing the Chaplains with the Support and Advocacy Committee presented by Vic and Jan Gorman. Various aspects of the activities were covered – from assistance with applications for VAC benefits, CRA DTC and other programs, to post-death visits to assist survivors with transition of pensions and benefits, to some other aspects of the program, many of which are available to both serving and former RCMP employees and dependents.

Submitted by Jan Gorman
RCMPVA NS Support and Advocacy



Back: Allan Lynk, Walter Ivany, Ian Atkins, Dave Sutherland, George Madden, Steve Graham, Jim Richards, Cpl Brad Beadman RCMP Wellness Coordinator, Vic Gorman
Front: Katherine Bourbonniere, Heather Manuel, Cindy Dunnetts, Jan Gorman, Ida Armstrong-Whitehouse

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50th Anniversary of Women in RCMP Celebration at Government House

On September 26, 2024, the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, Honourable Arthur J. Leblanc, and his wife Patsy, hosted a celebration at Government House to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of women in the RCMP. Also present was the Commanding Officer of H Division, A/Comm Dennis Daley. The celebration was held in the ballroom and there were regular and retired female members present. Notably present was retired Cpl. Sharon Sissons, who was a member of the first female troop to go through Depot in 1974.



Submitted by Angie Hawryluk



Fred Gallop and a number of RCMP Vets and a serving member embarked on a 4-Wheeler trek across Newfoundland in September 2024, traveling via the old railway line. They had a wonderful trip and they have claimed Gaff Topsail a Republic of "H" Division Vets and the Flag has been planted (see photo for the participants).

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For those who may not know, Gaff Topsail is an abandoned railway settlement located in the interior of **Newfoundland**, between the communities of Millertown Junction to the east and Kitty's Brook to the west.

Needless to say, a message was sent to the President of B Division RCMP Vets Association to advise them of this fact.

Submitted by Fred Gallup

'Saving Sammy' documentary on CTV Atlantic and the RCMP 150th plan to recognize him. Truro Raceway, September 15, 2024



During the planning of the events for the RCMP 150th Anniversary, the RCMP Vets were invited to participate and help by reaching out to organizations to come up with some events that would promote a positive image of the RCMP.

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In case you missed the CTV Atlantic coverage, please open the attached link for some information on “Saving Sammy” [Saving Sammy: Horse returns to the races | CTV News](#)

During the planning of the events for the RCMP 150th Anniversary, the RCMP Vets were invited to participate and help by reaching out to organizations to come up with some events that would promote a positive image of the RCMP. H Division RCMP Veterans' Association proposed two main projects. The first project consisted of placing an Indigenous female mannequin, in Red Serge, in the Arrivals Section of the Halifax International Airport. This project was completed before the Indigenous Games and was approved by the elders. Many Indigenous people were present and spoke at this unveiling. (please see article in the Winter 2024 edition)

The second project involved recognizing Sammy the Horse and Sammy’s owners, the Baxter family from Lower Sackville. It was first suggested that perhaps the Association could investigate the possibility of having Sammy made an honorary Ride horse. Unfortunately, that idea quickly changed when six months passed with no response from the Ride. So, we moved to simply have the Force recognize the Baxters for their unprecedented efforts to save Sammy. The initial plans did not materialize, but the Truro Raceway had a plan to honour the Baxters for what they did, and they are happy to have the RCMP join them in the celebration.

We have secured another connection to the RCMP on Sammy, through Paul Kelly, a former member of the RCMP, who died of brain cancer in 1995. Paul was married to Sylvia Kelly who was a telecoms operator for the Force (also now deceased). Paul and Sylvie’s son Josh Kelly is married to Katie Kelly of CTV Atlantic. She was a coworker of Jason’s until his recent retirement from CTV Atlantic. Josh and Katie wanted to donate Paul’s Shabrack to the Baxters and so it was done.

A prepared narrative was read out revealing the history of equine inclusion in the earliest days of the North West Mounted Police. Included in the narrative was a description and purpose of the shabrack. *“The Royal Canadian Mounted police began as the North-West mounted police on May 23rd, 1873. It was a mounted police force using horses for transportation on duty. The Shabrack represents the cavalry in the history of the RCMP.”*

Larry Bergeron, a member of the RCMP Pipes and Drums – Nova Scotia and an artist presented a painting he created to Mr. Baxter with Sammy. This event was attended by several members of the RCMPVA Nova Scotia Division, The Baxter family, representatives of the Truro Raceway and of course, Sammy.

Submitted by Brian Carter

If your car could travel at the speed of light, would your headlights work?



2025 Nova Scotia Police Curling Championships



Hosted by the Truro Curling Club, Truro, NS

January 24-26, 2025

Price per team \$400

(Curlers without a team, contact the Host Chair.)

Host Chair: Angie Hawryluk

Contact: angiehawryluk@gmail.com or
902-751-2367 to register a team



Registration/Commitment Deadline: **January 3, 2025**

NATIONAL QUALIFIER winner to represent Nova Scotia at the Canadian Police Association Championships April 2025 in Winnipeg, Manitoba

Teams are competing for the Alexander Keith's Stu Ryder Cup and the right to represent Nova Scotia at the Canadian Police Curling Championship in Winnipeg, Manitoba



Inn on Prince Hotel & Conference Centre
437 Prince Street, Truro, NS
902-895-1651
Booking Reference: ??



Eligibility:

- Sworn Peace Officers in their Province, County, Municipality, City or Town.
- Retired Peace Officers with minimum 10 years service.
- Including but is not restricted to full time, **Canadian Border Services, Military Police, Customs, Corrections, Conservation, Fisheries Officers and more** (contact Chair for complete list)



The NCPA is a proud supporter of Tourette Canada. **The Host Committee is asking that each player bring an item to the event for a fundraiser to be held in support of this tremendous group of volunteers.**

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RCMPVA NS Division's 2024 AGM was held at the Oakfield Golf and Country Club on November 16. Our guest speaker, Asst. Comm. Dennis Daley, Commanding Officer of H Division, spoke to our attendees in depth about the present and future journey of policing (in general) across Canada, the RCMP's role in Canada and worked his way to the outlook of policing within Nova Scotia.

Current trends and the recommendations of the Mass Casualty Commission's Report had an influence on his commentary. While present, he presented King Charles III medals to some of our Association members. They are pictured above from left to right –

Ian Atkins, Steve Graham, Sandy Glenn, A/Comm. Daley, Vic Gorman, Jan Gorman and Fred Gallup. All except Fred Gallup were nominated by the National Committee, Fred Gallup was nominated within his community for his volunteer work. One well deserving recipient, Joanne Caruso (not present) was nominated by our Association in Nova Scotia and she received her award in Ottawa.

Congratulations to you all.



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Constable Heidi Stevenson Memorial Award.

Established in 2020 in honour of Constable Heidi Stevenson ('93) Acadia University

The following information on the [Constable Heidi Stevenson \('93\) Memorial Award](#) at Acadia was received through channels (Peter W. Webster, British Columbia)

There is \$48,714.14 in the endowment fund (invested) and \$3,557.75 in the expendable fund (available to spend).

There have been 67 total donations from a total of 79 donors including 2 RCMP donors Duane Thomas (ID 5568) and John Langille (ID 70545) and a donation from The New Brunswick Division of the RCMP Veterans' Association. There have been 13 anonymous donations and 3 donations from unknown donors.

The recipients since inception are:

Constable Heidi Stevenson Memorial Award

Year	Recipient Name	Program
2020-2021	Sara Stein	Bachelor of Arts in Music
2021-2022	Catherine Kadiri	Bachelor of Business Administration (Accounting)
2022-2023	Marie Dulay	Bachelor of Arts in Psychology
2023-2024	Harleen Sethi	Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Psychology

Thank you for all you are doing to promote this meaningful award.

Warmest regards,

Nancy Handrigan

Vice-President, External Relations, Acadia University

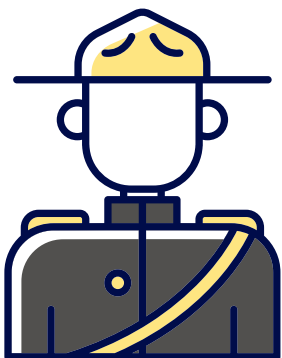
WALKING LIFE'S YELLOW LINE MY WAY



So you think you know what the life of a Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer looks like. Yes, you've watched the TV shows and tried to figure out the whodunnits of police work. My writings as seen through my eyes will take you through many of the circumstances and events that I travelled through in my 25 years of service in the RCMP. This flood of human events consists of tragedies, fear and, yes, comedies in dealing with the human aspects of the people that I impacted or who have impacted me. This view is from inside the mind of a then serving member of the RCMP.

You will laugh, you will cry and perhaps, during your journey through these short stories recapturing some of my personal events in the RCMP, you will see police work from a different perspective.

Now open your mind and let the journey begin.



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ABOUT AUTHOR GARY C. GRANT

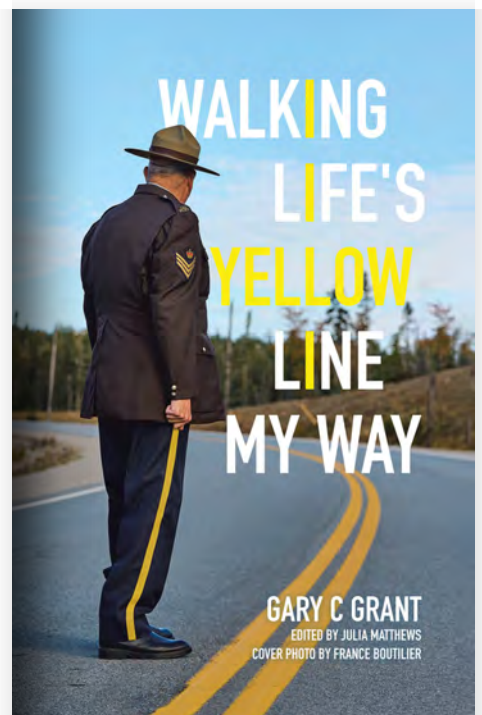
Gary C. Grant is a 26-year veteran of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. His professional postings included Ottawa (Ontario); Ferryland and Whitbourne (Newfoundland); and Liverpool, Bridgewater, and Halifax (Nova Scotia).

Gary holds the Commanding Officer's Commendation for innovative drug education development with the Nova Scotia Commission on Drug Dependency. Gary was the Director of Loss Prevention for Oshawa Group and Loblaws Co. Ltd. from April 1993 to 2007. He was responsible for all security in Eastern Canada for these companies. Gary served on the Nova Scotia Board of Gambling and Addictions for 6 years and has been a member in good standing of the Nova Scotia Veterans' Association for 30 years.

Gary lives in Hammonds Plains, Nova Scotia.

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Further to Manuge et al v. His Majesty The King – calculations between 2003-2023 on all VAC Pensions

Now that the VAC Class-Action payments have started to roll out across the country today for those with an existing payment relationship with VAC as a pensioned person or as a survivor, the next focus will be to ensure that the final group will be adequately informed so they too may benefit from the payouts resulting from the calculation error.

This final group relates to the ESTATES of previous VAC pension recipients. Example: a former member of the military in WW2 or a more recently served DND member or - a serving or retired RCMP member - was in receipt of a disability pension from injuries incurred in that service between 2003-2023. He/she passed away at some point and for the next many years, his/her wife/husband collected the VAC Survivor's Pension. He/she has also since passed away, however he/she collected pension during the years that this Class Action covered. (2003-2023)

In that case, his/her estate is entitled to a portion of that payout as well. There may have been a claim by the estate to the payout from the previous class action a couple of years ago. However, it is likely that many estate beneficiaries did not know of that suit nor of this one, even though both have been widely advertised for some time by the firm KPMG and by veterans' groups across the country. If you had a parent or friend who may have been in this situation, please inform them that they may qualify as beneficiaries of an estate. An application must be made for payments.

PLEASE read and share this link – the Claim Form is here for further submissions.

<https://veteranspensionsettlement.kpmg.ca/>



ALL CLAIMS MUST BE MADE BY MARCH 19, 2025.

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On Wednesday, September 11th, 2024, 26 teams of RCMP veterans, family and friends plus two teams from the NS Special Olympics golf program, gathered at Eaglecrest Golf Club in Centreville, NS for the 12^h Annual Stu Ryder Memorial Golf Tournament.

Mother Nature blessed us with another gorgeous weather day, which makes the golfing so enjoyable and very competitive. The course was in fantastic shape, giving the teams the opportunity to post some impressive scores! We had participants travel from Cape Breton, Yarmouth, the South Shore, Colchester, Northeast and Metro areas and New Brunswick. We are always pleased to welcome new golfers to the tournament.

We are pleased to welcome a new tournament sponsor – the Commissionaires of Nova Scotia. They sponsored the female/male closest to the line, female closest to the hole and male closest to the hole. They also sponsored our pregame coffee service, and we look forward to working with them in future events.

Kings Honda again sponsored a chance to win a two-year lease on a Honda CRV with a hole in one on Hole #1. Unfortunately, no one was skilled enough to win the lease. Gary Grant was the MC and kept the golfers entertained during the luncheon, awards and draws for door prizes.

This year's winning team was new to the winning circle, with an impressive score of 62. Pictured below is the winning team – L to R – Phil Bradfield, President Dan McNaughton presenting the belairdirect trophy to Greg Lawlor and John Wells.. Missing from the photo is John Smith'



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The second-place team of Lee Fraser, Russ Ward, Darlene McEachren and Ryan McEachren had a 62, making for a very close finish for the top two teams.

We again hosted two teams from the NS Special Olympics golf program at our tournament. Dan McNaughton and Julie Matthews are shown in the photo below with the Special Olympic golfers presenting them with the Participation plaque for 2024. The RCMP Veterans' Association presented the Special Olympics Nova Scotia with a donation cheque in support of their golf program.

This year's organizing Committee of Julia Matthews, Art AuCoin and Pat Delaney would like to thank Eaglecrest Golf Club, and our volunteers for their support and assistance in helping to make this year's tournament another success.

Thank you as well to the golfers for supporting our 12th Annual Stu Ryder Memorial Tournament. We appreciate all of you and look forward to welcoming everyone back in 2025.



Julie Matthews (l) and Dan McNaughton (r) bookending our Nova Scotia Special Olympics teams.

Submitted by Julie Matthews

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Support and Advocacy Committee and Consultants

RCMP VA Nova Scotia Division

Fall 2024 Activities

The activities of the Nova Scotia Support & Advocacy Committee have continued throughout the summer and into the early fall of 2024. Several new contacts were made with veterans and families, with one-on-one discussions conducted either in person, by telephone or through email exchanges. Support has been offered to several folks who experienced a death in their family, with arrangements made for the transition of pensions to survivors, and many of the Committee joined other members of the Association in attending funeral services and celebrations of life.

Support & Advocacy Training Day - October 21/24

On October 21, the Support & Advocacy Committee and Region Consultants province-wide attended the annual Training Day in Dartmouth to share experiences and to hear guest speakers. The purpose of these yearly sessions is to provide those working around the province with a venue to share knowledge, to exchange best-practices, and to also learn of new resources that could provide support and relief for both still-serving RCMP employees, for retirees and former members, and for their spouses and families.



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In total, 32 members of the Nova Scotia Support and Advocacy network attended the full day. There were also two representatives in attendance from each of the New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island Committees; they were taking part in the information sharing as they continue to build on their committees.

This year there were two guest presentations. The first was by **COMMISSIONAIRES NOVA SCOTIA**. This well-known organization has expanded its hiring programs to include spouses and young adults – to offer flexible employment, and as an avenue for additional earnings into retirement, and to provide work-experience to those just beginning their work-life while giving them an insight into some of the law enforcement environment. **Mark Butler and Teresa Yetman** from CNS welcome enquiries to their head office in Bedford at 902 429-8101, by messaging commissionaires.ns.ca or at one of their other NS locations in Kentville, Truro and Sydney.

The second guest speaker, **Graham Walsh** was from a new health clinic in the Halifax area (with a new office in St. John's NF and plans to soon expand to Fredericton NB). **ECHELON WELLNESS** offers its services only to the military and RCMP (veterans and serving). They offer a variety of wellness practitioners, and all the treatments are covered by the patients' VAC pensions. Services include chiropractic, massage and physiotherapy sessions, counselling services and specialized treatments for other conditions. ECHELON can be contacted by calling (902) 707-9098 or by email at bedford@echelonwellness.ca

Those in attendance also received updates on activities in NS from the NS RCMP Veterans' Association President Dan McNaughton, and on the efforts across the country from the immediate Past President of the RCMP Veterans' Association Sandy Glenn. Brian Carter introduced the new program to identify Homeless Veterans for which the VA has received funding for the next four years.

The final portion of the day was taken up with Co-Directors of the S&A Committee introducing program updates, new resources, and reinforcing processes such as with VAC applications and re-assessments, with the Canada Life health and dental coverage, the Canada Revenue Agency Disability Tax Credit, the sharing of mobility aids available.

Benefits and Information Workshop – November 1/24 – Sydney



Scotia Vets

Recently, the 21st Benefits and Information Workshop was conducted in Sydney, NS with a full house and a turnout of 64 Association members, non-members, and spouses in attendance for the day.

The day began with **Ian Atkins, Treasurer of the RCMP VA Nova Scotia Division** providing an overview of the expenses and operating costs for the Division, and explaining the dues payments. Ian also passed along information related to the Not-for-Profit Act under which the Association must conduct its business affairs. He also explained the role of the RCMP Veterans' Foundation and how it has assisted members and families in times of disaster and how it can provide some financial relief in certain circumstances.

Just before the morning coffee break, **Joe Gillis of Canada House** reviewed the services provided in assisting all military and RCMP veterans and serving members with applications for VAC pensions, with understanding the value and use of cannabis products and in directing clients to reliable resources. Canada House is in the Sydney area. See: [Canada House Medical Cannabis Clinics in Canada](#) .

Following the break, **Mark Butler and Teresa Yetman of Commissionaires Nova Scotia** provided the attendees with an overview of the opportunities for retirees, spouses and young adults within the Commissionaires and the benefits that come with being an employee. They also highlighted that 2025 is the 100th anniversary of the Commissionaires in Canada (85 years in Nova Scotia). One current paid position that may be of interest is the Veterans' Support Role. Here is a link to the position: <https://commissionaires.bamboohr.com/careers/135>. There may also be some persons interested in being part of the Commissionaires Governance Committees. This link guides interested parties to the posting on the CNS website: <https://commissionaires.bamboohr.com/careers/115>

Prior to the lunch break, **Sandy Glenn, Past President of the RCMP Veterans' Association** reviewed several of the national initiatives underway to benefit the membership. Sandy spoke of the Homeless initiative that had just been publicly announced earlier that morning, the continued work to remove the "marriage after 60" clause related to federal work pensions, and to financial matters within the Association.

The afternoon guest speakers were **Elizabeth Dieltgens and Rebekah Boudreau from Nova Scotia Health Authority Continuing Care**. They provided clarification on programs related to aging in place with the many homecare options available and they reviewed the processes for entry into long-term nursing care facilities. Their presentation dispelled several myths related to making payments for the care received at home and once in long-term care. This marked the fifth time that knowledgeable Home Care Coordinators from NS Health have been included in the various Workshops around the Province. Each time, those in attendance have benefitted from the knowledge shared by the respective professionals from NS Health. To access programs and **to seek further information call 1-800-225-7225**.

The final part of the day was dedicated to the S&A Committee Co-Directors Jan and Vic Gorman providing a review of the various benefits such as Canada Life (dental and health), VAC pensions, reassessments and Attendance Allowance, the CRA Disability Tax Credit, MEDOC provisions and other benefits to the retirees and spouses and members of the Association.

Thanks to Region Director John Ryan and to Jean Ryan for arranging all the logistical details for the day – the attendees were provided with a delicious homemade lunch provided by a local caterer and the Y's Mens Community Centre was a convenient and well-equipped venue for the Workshop. Thanks to all who attended – the questions and comments during the sessions all contributed to the valuable information shared.

Scotia Vets

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST:

- **Just announced – the 2025 Indexing rate is 2.7%.** This increase will apply to all federal pensions such as OAS, CPP, RCMP pensions, military pensions and Veteran's Affairs Canada disability pensions and allowances. It will appear on deposits at the end of January 2025.
- **Canada Life** now administers BOTH the PSHCP (health) and the PDSP (dental). The contact number for questions on either plan is: **1-855-415-4414.**

Submitted by Jan and Vic Gorman



Joint Colchester/East Hants RCMP Vets & NAFR members' Christmas lunch



On Wednesday, December 11, we joined with the Branch 72 NS, National Association of Federal Employees (NAFR) to enjoy lunch together at the Airforce Club (102 Wing RCAF Association) in Truro. There were 77 people present in total, 35 were RCMP Vets - some of whom were also NAFR members. The room was at full seating capacity. A turkey dinner was served with apple crisp for dessert. Tim Bower and friends provided live music. There was much camaraderie and new acquaintances made.

Merry Christmas to all!

Allan Wellwood

Uniforms Change. You Don't.

Join **Commissionaires Nova Scotia**, the province's largest not-for-profit employer of military and RCMP veterans. Commissionaires recognizes the value a retired member of the RCMP, your applied experience is an asset to our team.

We offer competitive pay, health and dental benefits, and meaningful work where your experience continues to make a difference. [Apply now by clicking here](#) at or call **902 429 8101** and ask to speak with a recruiter.

Cecilia Dove, retired RCMP, now works in Parking & Curbside Services at Halifax Airport

Sue Sarkany, retired RCMP Security Service member, now serves as a Recruiter for Commissionaires NS

Stephen Grant, retired RCMP Intelligence Officer, became a Risk & Resilience Advisor at CNS Head Office



Scotia Vets

December 2024 Firearms Prohibition

On December 5, 2024, the Government of Canada amended the *Regulations Prescribing Certain Firearms and Other Weapons, Components and Parts of Weapons, Accessories, Cartridge Magazines, Ammunition and Projectiles as Prohibited or Restricted* (commonly referred to as the “Classification Regulations.”) The amendments have the effect of reclassifying certain named firearms and their variants as prohibited.

The detailed list of the 324 unique makes and models of the newly prohibited firearms can be found at <https://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2024/2024-12-06-x3/html/sor-dors248-eng.html>.

As the holder of a valid firearms licence, you are being contacted by the Canadian Firearms Program as you may be in possession of one of these firearms.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU:

- As of December 5, 2024, these firearms are now classified as prohibited.
- An Amnesty Order, expiring October 30, 2025, has been introduced which protects owners who were in legal possession of one or more of these newly prohibited firearms on the day the amendments to the Classification Regulations came into force, December 5, 2024.
- The Amnesty Order allows individuals the time to come into compliance with the law.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE NEWLY PROHIBITED FIREARMS:

- Owners are to keep them securely stored in accordance with their previous classification.
- They cannot be legally used, sold or imported.
- They may only be transported under limited circumstances as set out in the Amnesty Order.
- They cannot be legally used for hunting unless allowed through the Amnesty Order.*
- They cannot be used for sport shooting, either at a range or elsewhere.

**The amnesty period allows for the continued use of previously non-restricted firearms in limited circumstances (e.g., by Indigenous persons exercising Aboriginal or treaty rights to hunt and by those who hunt or trap to sustain themselves or their families), until the end of the amnesty period.*

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WHAT ARE YOUR OPTIONS:

- Securely store the affected firearms in accordance with their previous classification and wait for further information from the Government of Canada on next steps.
- Have your firearms deactivated by a licensed firearms business certified in deactivation.
- Legally export your firearm.

MORE INFORMATION:

For a list of newly prohibited firearms: <https://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2024/2024-12-06-x3/html/sor-dors248-eng.html>.

Information about the announcement of the prohibition: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2024/12/government-of-canada-extends-list-of-prohibited-assault-style-firearms-and-moves-forward-on-regulatory-changes-to-strengthen-gun-control0.html>.

Canadian Firearms Program website: <https://rcmp.ca/en/firearms>.

Canadian Firearms Program
Royal Canadian Mounted Police
<https://rcmp.ca/en/firearms>
Tel: 1-800-731-4000 (toll free)

Pension & Benefits Reference Contacts – Nov 1, 2024

Pertains To	Website	Phone #	Details
<p>RCMP Pension administered by</p> <p>Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">www.rcmp-grc.pension.gc.ca</p> <p style="text-align: center;">https://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/remuneration-compensation/index-eng.html</p>	<p>1-855-502-7090 (all ranks other than below)</p> <p>1-855-502-7088 (for levels EX-01-C/Supt. & above)</p> <p>1-800-561-7930 Public Servants</p>	<p>Have the Pension number and/or HRMIS number available.</p>
<p>Veteran's Affairs Canada (VAC)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">www.veterans.gc.ca</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Select My VAC Account Select Sign In Sign-in Partner or GC Key Input Username & Password</p>	<p>1-866-522-2122</p>	<p>Have the CSDN – "K" Number available.</p>
<p>Canada Pension Plan (CPP) Old Age Security (OAS) Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) Survivor's Benefit Disability Payments</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/publicpensions.html</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Select language of choice Select Benefits Select Pensions</p>	<p>1-800-277-9914</p>	<p>Have the Social Insurance Number (SIN) available.</p>
<p>RCMP Group Life and Accidental Death and Dismemberment Plan</p> <p>Administered by SEB Administrative Services</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">www.pbs-sra.ca</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Input User ID & Password You may enter as GUEST or SURVIVOR</p> <p>On June 14, 2021, the administration of the RCMP Group Life Insurance Plans was transferred to SEB Administrative Services. For information or to make changes to your group life insurance coverage, please visit https://fp.seb-admin.com/fpconnect/#/rcmp-grc or contact the RCMP Group Life Insurance Centre from Monday to Friday between 7:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time (E.T.) at: 1-877-778-8084.</p>	<p>1-877-778-8084</p>	<p>Have Pension number &/or HRMIS number &/or other personal information available.</p>
<p>Public Service Health Care Plan – PSHCP (Canada Life)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Canadalife.com/pshcp and Public Service Health Care Plan - Canada.ca</p> <p>Each member's Contract number depends upon month of birth (EG - dependent's contract number could be 52115 or other similar) Certificate Number remains as before.</p>	<p>1-855-415-4414</p>	<p>Have individual Group Contract Number & Certificate number available</p>

Blue Cross - Medavie	www.medaviebc.ca Select Account Login Select VAC Input Username & Password	1-888-261-4033	Have Client Number available.
Pensioners' Dental Services Plan - PDSP (Canada Life)	NOV 1/2024 – CANADA LIFE takes over PDSP Contract number Each member's Contract number depends upon month of birth (EG - dependent's contract number could be 92115 or other similar) Certificate Number remains as before.	1-865-415-4414 Canada Life	Have Group Contract Number & Certificate Number available.
Bureau of Pension Advocates (VAC)	www.veterans.gc.ca <u>How to review or appeal a decision - Veterans' rights - Veterans Affairs Canada</u>	1-877-228-2250	If you applied for disability benefits from VAC & received a negative response to the application, you may qualify for support from the Bureau of Pensions Advocates.
Canada Revenue Agency Disability Tax Credit (DTC)	https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/segments/tax-credits-deductions-persons-disabilities/disability-tax-credit.html	1-800-959-8281	Require SIN
GST Office	https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-d&q=gst+office+canada	1-800-959-8281	
VAC ASSISTANCE SERVICE	24/7 PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT FOR VETERANS & SPOUSES and FAMILIES	1-800-268-7708	NO FEE
Canada wide suicide call line	Support for all	988	No charge