

# SCOTIA VETS

RCMP Veterans' Association Nova Scotia Division

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## From the Editor's Desk

I hope you like the new look of the newsletter. The previous format became difficult to manage so I opted for an alternative program to manage the collection of items I share with you. I am late in releasing the summer issue by design. There were some significant events occurring as of late that I wanted to capture and share. Most importantly - Heidi Stevenson's memorial held in late June, Father's Day social and others to name a few. As I mentioned in the last issue, the Citadel Cup is having a birthday and after much searching I managed to locate the original script for its introduction to the Division during a Mess Dinner. It is lengthy and carries within it a history lesson of sorts. I am forced to break it into several parts so the suspenseful conclusion will have to wait. As always, I would certainly entertain submissions including photos. Please ensure that all persons in the photos are identified along with a narrative of activities you find yourself involved in. They can be shared through the contact info to the left of this page.

Finally, I extend my sincerest thanks to our communications director, Joanne Caruso, for her assistance in the production of this newsletter.

Pat Moran



Heidi Stevenson Regimental # 45161

11 July 1971 - 19 April 2020

It is not often that you first meet a person and quickly determine — this one is special and has a disposition that will add to the lives of all they meet. Well, Heidi was that person. She came to Nova Scotia, her home province, as a recruit and quickly found her place in the hearts of her workmates, community, and the public at large. June 29, 2022, was a beautiful day and one to match her bright light, extinguished too early. A long awaited Regimental tribute took place in Cole Harbour and I am certain it was the event required to add the necessary closure sought by so many. Following, you will find a series of photos commemorating the event and of the assistance provided by our veterans here in Nova Scotia.





RCMPVA NS supported the memorial by providing ushers and drivers. Above are some of the ushers

(l-r) Sandy Glenn, Howard Eaton, Barry Gerrard, Anthony Pompeo, Ed Walsh, Dan McNaughton,  
Reg Reeves, Don MacRae, Greg McGrath, Pat McCloskey.

Missing from photo - Neil Fraser, Fred Gallop, Vic Gorman, Maarten Kramers and Phil Scharf.

Drivers unavailable for photograph are -

Peter Besson, John Elliott, Bruce MacDonald, Pat Moran and Don Southern.



## History - Presidents of the RCMP Veterans' Association, Nova Scotia

The 25<sup>th</sup> President of this Division was Reg. # 18492 / 0.911, Ignatius Edward (Ed) Furey. He was born on February 8, 1933 at Harbour Main, Newfoundland.

Ed enlisted in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police on January 5, 1954 at St. John's, Newfoundland.

He trained at "Depot" Division, and then served in "J" Division, at Fredericton, Moncton, Campbellton, Caraquet, Newcastle, St. Andrews, and St. George.

Ed also served in "L" Division, at Charlottetown and Alberton. He then served in "B" Division, at St. John's and Gander.

He then transferred to "H" Division, and served at "HQ" in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Ed retired from the Force on January 8, 1993 with the rank of Superintendent. After retirement, Ed worked for the Nova Scotia Gaming Commission.

He joined the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Veterans' Association, Nova Scotia on January 9, 1993 and served as President of the Association from 2002 to 2003 inclusive.

He was awarded the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Long Service Medal with Silver Clasp and is a Life Member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Veterans' Association, Nova Scotia.

Submitted by Garry A. McCay  
Director of History and Artifacts



Shane Coupland, guest speaker at the April general meeting, is pictured here with 1st VP, Dan McNaughton. He is with CAA and together with two of his co-workers, gave a very interesting presentation. He also gave away a door prize which was a hard carry on bag.

Commander Collin Forsberg, Royal Canadian Navy, was the guest speaker at the May General meeting. Colin is the Commander of HMCS Max Bernays, one of the DeWolff class northern patrol vessels just built in the Irving Ship Yard in Halifax. He gave a very detailed and interesting presentation on this class of ship and its roles and capabilities. It is of interest to the RCMP because of the close connections, future contacts and joint operations this ship and the others in her class will have with the Force for many years to come.



*Editor's note:*

*HMCS Max Bernays, the third of six Arctic and Offshore Patrol Vessels (AOPV), is named after Chief Petty Officer Max Bernays, a Canadian naval hero who served as the Coxswain of HMCS Assiniboine during the Second World War's Battle of the Atlantic.*

Cpl., soon to be Sgt. Yannick Gagnon, NCO Cheticamp Detachment and his wife Diane Blaquiere were each recipients of the Quilt of Honour for their service in the Canadian Armed forces. I was there to present the quilts along with the UN/Nato Veterans.

The quilts are given to those who have served honourably in the Military and are nominated by another individual and in this case, Yannick and Diane were nominated by their daughter, Andreane Gagnon.

Yannick served 16 years in the military as a marine engineer with service in the Gulf war. He has 11 years service with the RCMP and is being transferred to Yellowknife soon.

His wife Diane is also a military veteran, serving 9 years as a x-ray technician and completed a tour in Bosnia.

Every member of the Detachment was on site for the event and everyone was proud to be there.

This family is very proud of their service, both in military and RCMP.

Yannick is, to my knowledge, the 3rd RCMP member to receive a Quilt and if anyone knows of others in the Force who have served in the military and want to nominate them please contact me through the Master at Arms [email](#).



Submitted by Brian Carter

(L to R) Past President Brian Carter, Diane Blaquiere, Andreane Gagnon and Cpl. Yannick Gagnon

The following is first of two parts of the introduction narrative of the Citadel Cup made during a Regimental dinner held at Juno Tower, CFB Halifax - Stadacona shortly after the complex opened in 2005.



## **The Citadel Cup is introduced to "H" Division**

Your Honour, head table guests, fellow colleagues, ladies and gentlemen:

Good evening and welcome to Juno Tower. This splendid facility has been open a few short years and is erected on grounds that have a historical link to the city of Halifax and it is within a short walk of one of Canada's national treasures.

JUNO, the Protector and special counsellor of the Roman State and Queen of the Gods.

It shares its name with many things dear to Canadians, one being the beach on the shores of France where many of our grandfathers, fathers and uncles disembarked landing craft under enemy fire on June 6, 1944. We have one of those D-Day Veterans with us here tonight. I introduce to you Mr. Mike Burns. Mr. Burns.

I am about to take you on a 10 minute journey through history, and while it may seem fragmented at times while I do so, my aim is to bind the past with the present and future in the hopes that the Citadel Cup I will introduce to you shortly will then have its own story.

My name is Patrick Moran. I came to "H" Division as a young recruit in the spring of 1979. I have spent all of my service in Nova Scotia; 11 years in Yarmouth and the remainder in the greater Halifax Region, enjoying a variety of duties.

Throughout the years, I have had the opportunity to meet most of the serving and retired members here tonight throughout those years on an annual basis, through my affiliation with the skills maintenance program, specifically firearms training and other operational competencies.

This force has supported my travels throughout Canada and parts of the United States to compete on behalf of the RCMP. The competitions consisted of a variety of civilian and military small arms events, which are host to some of the most distinguished marksmen of the Allied Forces.

Members of the RCMP are invited to these primarily exclusively military events because we are the only civilian police force in the world that has military status. In Canada, members of the RCMP are considered as a Reserve Force of the Canadian Forces.

In some countries the police are the military and the military are the police. We are fortunate in Canada that these two entities are separate.

I, and my team mates, have been successful in many of the competitions we have been sponsored to participate in and, in return favour, I share my experience and expertise through instruction and annual mandatory skills maintenance.

I am sure it is quite evident that I am quite passionate about this field, and I encourage excellence in marksmanship, no matter the skill level achievable by an individual participant. I have been involved to some degree with firearms training and competition for a considerable time and as I find myself advancing into the twilight of my career, I will eventually have to withdraw from both. Not quite ready yet, but sometime in the next 6 years. It is crucial to Public and Police Safety that our future generations of peace officers strive to master and excel in this vital area of front-line policing skill development.

It is now time to fragment this a bit, and learn a little history, some of which will be new to most of you.

Let's first step into 1873, to the first uniform fitted to members of the North West Mounted Police. Originally, the British military had the responsibility for the security and protection of the lands claimed in the name of the monarch. These security needs were generally directed towards Upper Canada and the East. Western development is anticipated and becoming obvious.

Policing and security on the prairie with the uprisings, rebellions and lawlessness was not properly dealt with by the relatively young nation and soon to become a nation from sea to sea. The North West Mounted Police was formed and of course had to be outfitted with uniforms. The initial Scarlet Norfolk Tunic, and daily wear for that matter, was drawn from the British Militia stores in Ottawa. This uniform was chosen by the NWMP as it was quickly identifiable with the favourable reputation of their British predecessors, (not to be confused with the Americans who wore blue). This choice for a uniform aided in gaining the confidence and respect of the First Nations. This is one of our Force's first visible ties to the British military establishment. The Red Serge we employ today is a descendant of that first British Militia issue.

Let's now come back home to Halifax, but we'll back up 35 years before the birth of our good friend Alexander Keith. The year is 1749, Halifax is founded by the British and the main geographical attraction to them is the magnificent harbour just meters east of this room. Another strong draw to this area was a second, and equally important feature, a large hill overlooking the harbour and its approaches. Militarily, it was a natural defensive/offensive position. On this hill was constructed the central fortress for the defence of the new town and its naval base. The structure that remains today was completed in 1856 after 30 years of construction.

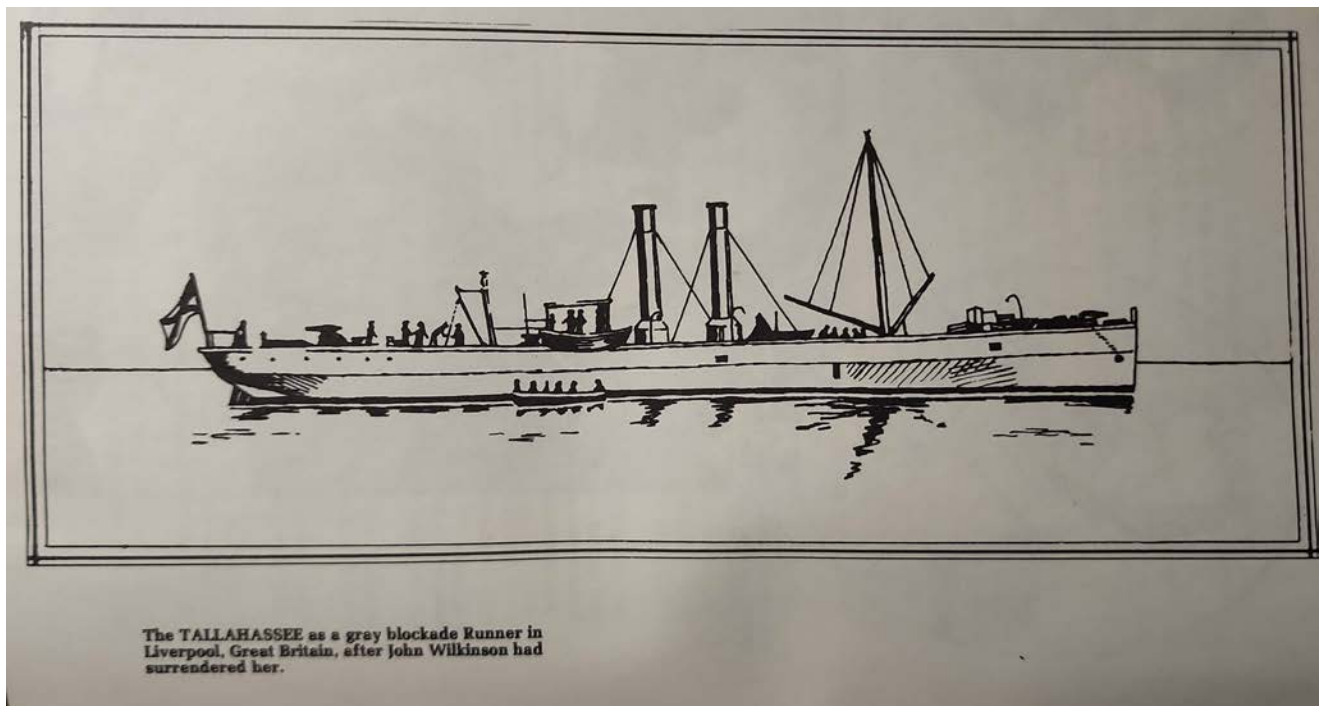
British troops occupied this 'Fortress Citadel,' now a National Historic Site, a structure that even today commands respect.

In describing the volume of gun powder held in her stores, Thomas Raddall, a respected Nova Scotia historian wrote -

***“ Citadel Hill was like Vesuvius over Pompei, a smiling monster with havoc in her belly” .***

Three years before Confederation, in 1864, during the American Civil War, the British manned the fortress at Halifax and sheltered its great navy in the nearby harbour. A Confederate cruiser named the Tallahassee was chased into Halifax Harbour by two Union warships, the Huron and the Nansemond.

This was the result of the Tallahassee harrying the shipping in New York Harbour and sinking, immobilizing or capturing 32 northern merchant vessels along the coast. The Union vessels waited at the mouth of the harbour under the watchful of eye of the Citadel's big guns and within easy reach of the British Fleet in the harbour. The presence of both being deterrents to attack on the Tallahassee. Under British neutrality laws, the Tallahassee had but 48 hours to take on coal and effect damage repair before it had to leave the protected harbour.



The Tallahassee's skipper was John Taylor WOOD, the grandson of General Zachary TAYLOR, the 12th President of the United States. The end of civil war hostilities in 1865, saw John Taylor WOOD settle in and call Halifax his home. His son, Zachary Taylor WOOD, served in the NWMP and the RNMWP from 1885 to 1915 rising to the rank of A/Commissioner. The Tallahassee Skipper's grandson, Stuart Taylor WOOD, the great-great grandson of the 12th President of the United States, became the 9th Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in 1938, a position held for 13 years. (1938-1951).

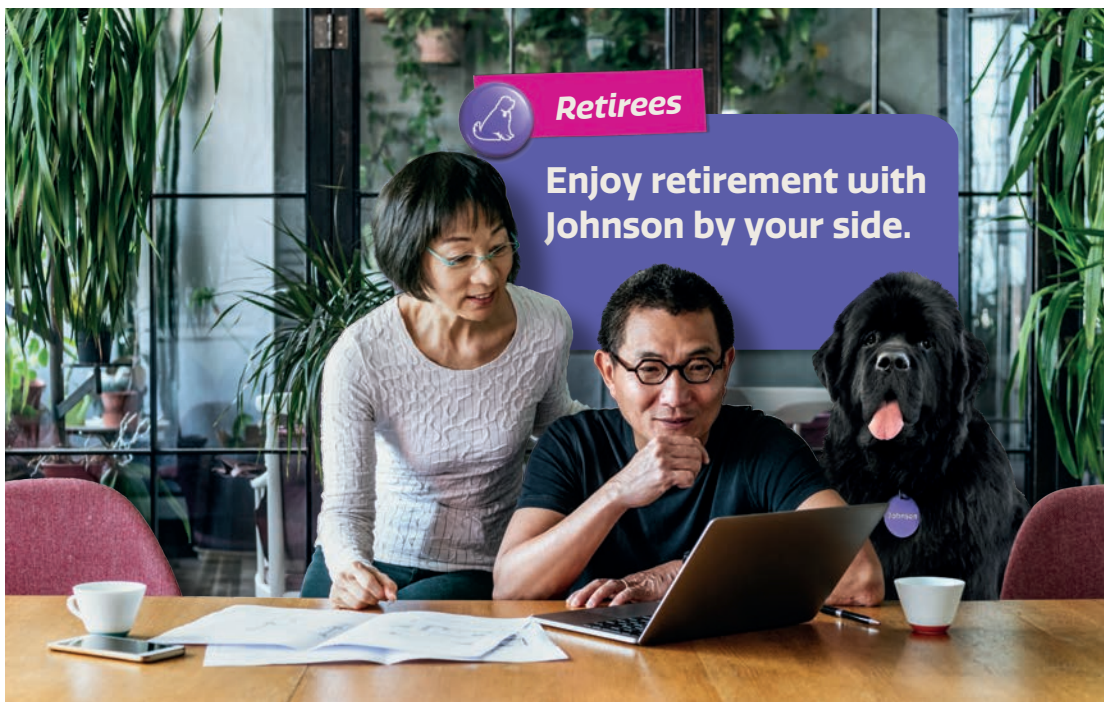
Commissioner WOOD had two sons serve in the RCMP, one was killed on duty in 1950 and the other retired in 1988 at the rank of Superintendent.

I will make a leap here and suggest that the eventual installation of Commissioner Wood may be an indirect consequence of the presence of the British Navy, a friendly British Admiral, and the defenses apparent on Citadel Hill.



RCMP Archives

The result of granting safe harbour to the Tallahassee in 1864 and her skipper's return to Halifax to raise his family has led to three generations of police service spanning a period exceeding 100 years.



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Are you finally going on that vacation you've been dreaming of? Before you head out, check out this list of tips from our partner @WeAreJohnson to help protect your home while you're away: [www.johnson.ca/blog/home/keep-home-protected-while-away](http://www.johnson.ca/blog/home/keep-home-protected-while-away) #JohnsonPartner

## Donation to Rally Point in Shelburne June 23<sup>rd</sup>

On June 12th, the UN/NATO Vets held an annual fundraiser called “The Ride in Red” to raise money for groups who support military and RCMP Vets. They had 250 bikes plus others on the back of bikes take part. They raised over \$8000.00.

The funds were split between two organizations; Rally Point Retreat received \$4000.00. I accompanied the UN/NATO vets to deliver the cheque to Rally Point Retreat. To my knowledge, there are only two RCMP veterans who are members of the UN/NATO Vets.

There were about 40 people present, mostly UN/NATO Vets. Brad LeBlanc, President of the UN/NATO Vets NS, presented the cheque to the Rally Point Retreat, along with Larry Bourgeon, the owner of the horse stables for Vets. Also in attendance was the owner of Serenity Acres Family Ranch in Ardoise, NS Our members go there for support and help as well. The owner’s father was a member of the Force.

RCMP members in attendance were S/Sgt. Mark MacPherson, Cst. Shawn Himmelman in red serge (a military veteran of Afghanistan) and Cst. Nick Grant in working uniform. The Minister of Mental Health NS, Brian Comer, and MLA for Shelburne, Nolan Young, were there with their teams as well.

Rally Point Retreat has supported our Vets in the past and our Association has donated to them previously. At present, two RCMP Vets are staying at Rally Point; one with terminal cancer and the other a female who was involved in a shooting in BC.

Of course, I took the time to inform both politicians why it was imperative that they keep the RCMP as provincial police, and I said a few words to everyone about how the RCMP are feeling right now after Portapique and the resulting negativity in the media. As well, S/Sgt. Mark MacPherson had the opportunity to meet his local MLA and speak with the Minister in private about RCMP mental health issues.

All in all, a great day!

*submitted by  
Brian Carter*

Brian Carter filling in the Minister,  
Brian Comer, on the hurt the RCMP  
are in right now



Our Father's Day BBQ was held on June 27<sup>th</sup> at Oakfield Golf & Country Club. It was a warm sunny day and for those who were unable to attend, it was a great day. Lots of stories, jokes and laughs were shared.

It is always nice to get out now that we can and this was a great location, which is well maintained by the staff.

Looking forward to the next function. Our thanks to Danny Mallet for organizing this event and chasing the clouds way to allow for the sun to shine.

*Brian Carter*





## Paul Calder named Amherst's 2022 volunteer of the year

Retired RCMP officer and longtime resident Paul Calder has been named Amherst's 2022 volunteer of the year.

Nominated for the award by the Rotary Club of Amherst, Calder was recognized for a lifetime of service to the community during a ceremony hosted by the Town of Amherst on Tuesday, April 26, 2022.

"It is volunteers like Paul Calder, who, by giving so much back to our community through their volunteer efforts, truly make Amherst an outstanding, caring community, a great place to live, work and play," Amherst Mayor David Kogon said. "Without volunteers like Paul, and countless others who give dozens upon dozens of hours of their time, this town's youth, sports, adult and seniors programs wouldn't be possible. We, the members of the Amherst town council, would like to thank Paul and all of our many volunteers for their dedication and service to the town".

A native of Amherst, Calder joined the RCMP after graduating from Saint Mary's University in 1973, serving in Sheet Harbour, Ottawa, Chester, Stellarton, Barrington and Amherst before retiring here in 2009.

Calder is the recipient of the Queen Elizabeth Golden Jubilee Medal for his community service while a RCMP member. He is a longtime member of Trinity-St. Stephen's United Church, where he served 12 years on its board of directors, holding positions of secretary and chairman. He presently chairs the church's ministry and personnel committee.

He served on the Amherst Regional High School advisory council for seven years, five of them as chairman. In addition, he was a member of the evaluation committee for the new high school and a member of the minister's education committee that helped develop a code of conduct for Nova Scotia schools.

Calder spent eight years on the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners, five of them as vice-chairman and three as chairman. He also served as the regional co-director for the RCMP Veterans' Association and served six years on the board of the local United Way Organization.

He joined the Rotary club in February 2005 and has been an active and dedicated member ever since. He has supported the club's annual radio auction, chaired the trip of the month campaign for several years and served on the Rotary Youth Exchange Committee.

Calder has also played major roles in the club's International Projects Committee and Refugee Project. He has also served on the board of directors and held positions of secretary, vice-president and president. His involvement with the Rotary club includes assisting with the blood donor program. He has been recognized by Canadian Blood Services for making 100 donations of blood. A strong supporter of the Rotary Foundation, Calder is a Paul Harris Fellow. He received the True Rotarian Award in 2015 and most recently, in 2021, the club's distinguished service award.

Calder will represent the town when the province holds its award ceremonies in September.

### **In other Amherst area news**

Mike Johnson and Murray Jones will be looking after RCMP Graves for the region to give Bill Spence a break after his excellent service for the last number of years.

A Celebration of Life for the late Insp. John Coleman (Ret'd) was held on June 25th.

In July, Dave Coleman, John's Dad, will be celebrating his **97th Birthday**. Dave is doing well overall but needless to say, John's death has taken a toll. Dave very much enjoys it when he hears from "his boys"!

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**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





**Nova Scotia RCMP Veterans' Association**

**2022 Lottery**

**4 Chances to Win a Cash Prize**

**1 X \$1000 and 3 X \$500**

Nova Scotia Lottery regulations prohibit ticket sales outside the province and our lottery license restricts ticket sales to members of the NS RCMP Veterans' Association. A condition of our Nova Scotia Lottery License also prohibits electronic payments, including e-transfers and PayPal. Therefore, the Association can only accept payment for Lottery Tickets by cash, cheque or money order.

Tickets purchased are eligible for all remaining draw-dates following the date of purchase as outlined in the DRAW SCHEDULE. One ticket will be drawn on each draw date and the drawn ticket will be returned to the drum and included in all remaining draws. The cost of a single ticket will be based on the number of draws remaining at the time of purchase.

To be entered in a draw, payment must be received by the Association at least one day prior to the draw as per the **DRAW SCHEDULE** below. Receipts will be issued for all tickets purchased.

**Purchase Options: Cash, Cheque or Money Order**

Please make all Cheques / Money Orders payable to:

**NS RCMP Vets' Association**

**In Person:** Cash / Cheque or Money Order [Pay directly to Treasurer - Ian Atkins]

**Mail:** Mail Cheque or Money Order to: *[Do not send Cash by Mail]*  
 Nova Scotia RCMP Veterans' Association  
 Mailstop# H-025  
 80 Garland Ave., Dartmouth, NS B3B 0J8 Attn: Treasurer  
 1. Include a notation the payment is for the 2022 Lottery  
 2. Include ticket owner's name & telephone #

**Draws: 5** A Cash Prize will be awarded according to the Draw Schedule  
**A Winning ticket will be returned to the Lottery Drum for all remaining Draws, so you could win more than once with the same ticket.**

\*\*\*\*\* **DRAW SCHEDULE** \*\*\*\*\*

Ticket Cost	Purchased prior to Draw on	Cash Prize	Eligible Draws
\$20	September 15 <sup>th</sup>	\$500	4
\$15	October 20 <sup>th</sup>	\$500	3
\$10	November 17 <sup>th</sup>	\$500	2
\$5	December 15 <sup>th</sup>	\$1,000	1
		NS Lottery Lic #	AGD-312882-21

**A few things for you to ponder through the summer and into the fall.**

I retired in 2014 and became a member of the RCMPVA Nova Scotia Division at that time. I have witnessed many aspects of the organization and the work that is tasked and completed on a regular basis. This division is one of the largest in the country and dare I say the busiest.

We are blessed in that we lead the country in assistance to our Vets and serving members through our various assistance programs and all of these take much effort from dedicated personnel.

Please consider helping out if you can. If you have skills in financial management, then perhaps a shadow opportunity with our treasurer of eight years, Ian Atkins, may interest you. The time will come when he may wish to relinquish his duties to a competent person. This is not yet the case, but it is a possibility in the coming years.

Other tasks that require additional hands are regional directors, event coordinators, etc. to name a few. The list is endless. The work of the Association is for the greater good and benefits all members and those close to it.

Have a great summer.

