



**RCMP
VETERANS'
ASSOCIATION
Ottawa Division**

**ASSOCIATION
DES VÉTÉRANS
DE LA GRC
Division d'Ottawa**

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Events - Événements

September 28 Septembre —Police and Peace Officer Memorial Parade on Parliament Hill / Le service commémoratif national des policiers et des agents de la paix canadiens ;

October 13 Octobre—Thanksgiving / action de grâces ;

November 9 Novembre—Remembrance Day Ceremony at Beechwood / Cérémonie du jour du Souvenir à Beechwood ;

December 7 Décembre—Ottawa Division Holiday Brunch at Orchard View Event Centre / Brunch de Noël de la division d'Ottawa.

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National Memorial Cemetery		
Beechwood	Kevin Mole	Cimetière commémoratif national, à Beechwood
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Education / Bursaries	Ron Lewis	Education / Bourses
Memorial Maintenance Program	Joe Healy	Programme d'entretien des mémoriaux

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COVER PHOTO: Jacks Island, off the beach at Ocean Stone Resort, St Margaret's Bay, Nova Scotia.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the year winds down, I wonder where the last four and a half years have gone. Not long ago, I agreed to succeed Michel Pelletier as President of the Ottawa Division. Yet here we are now looking to see who my replacement as President for the coming years will be. Yes, it is that time. Time for another individual with innovative ideas to step forward and lead this great Division forward. The Nomination Committee has been established for this year's Annual General Meeting in December, during which volunteers will be invited to build upon the outstanding work accomplished to date.



This Fall, we look forward to several things coming to fruition. The Division website is close to completion and is expected to be live when this edition is published. The Division's Procedures Manual is currently being revised, and this process has been ongoing for several months. It is my goal to have this ready for review and acceptance by the membership at this year's AGM in December.

Social plans include bringing back the Holiday Brunch at Orchard View Wedding & Event Centre. Please keep an eye on the email notifications as well as the Events Page of the new website for more information on dates and ticket prices.

Last but certainly not least, there is an article in this edition of The Spirit that covers the RCMP Veterans' Legacy Pathway at the RCMP National Memorial Cemetery at Beechwood. Who would have thought that in 2001, when the RCMP Veterans' Association (RCMPVA) researched the possibility of establishing an RCMP cemetery in Ottawa, the birthplace of the original Force, we would find ourselves completing the final planned phase with the Legacy Pathway. Please take the time to read this article which delivers on a promise to "Maintain the Legacy".

Who We Are

Our Association is a network of retired RCMP employees who are dedicated to retaining our strong ties forged in the Force, investing in each other to maintain and expand a coordinated network of mutual support for today, tomorrow, and always.

What We Do

Our primary role is to provide a network of support for one another. This aligns with our mission "To be responsive to the physical, psychological, social and economic welfare of all former employees of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and their families."

Join Our Leadership Team Today!

Be part of our network of support and advocacy. You will be joining a distinguished group of former RCMP employees and supporters whose dedicated service to their colleagues and to Canada is both valued and exceptional. Together we are committed to supporting and advocating for all of those who have been part of this journey.



MESSAGE DU PRÉSIDENT

Alors que l'année tire à sa fin, je me demande où sont passées ces quatre dernières années et demie. Il n'y a pas si longtemps, j'ai accepté de succéder à Michel Pelletier à titre de Président de la Division d'Ottawa. Et nous voici aujourd'hui à la recherche de mon successeur à la présidence pour les années à venir. Oui, nous en sommes déjà là. En effet, il est temps qu'une autre personne aux idées novatrices, prenne la relève et fasse progresser cette formidable Division. Le comité de mises en candidatures a été créé en prévision de l'assemblée générale annuelle qui se tiendra en décembre prochain, au cours de laquelle des bénévoles seront invités à poursuivre l'excellent travail accompli jusqu'à présent.



Cet automne, nous attendons avec impatience l'aboutissement de plusieurs projets. Le site Web de la Division est presque terminé et devrait être mis en ligne au moment de la publication de cette édition. Le Manuel des procédures de la Division est actuellement en train d'être révisé; un processus qui est en cours depuis plusieurs mois. J'ai pour objectif de le soumettre à l'examen et à l'approbation des membres lors de l'assemblée générale annuelle qui se tiendra en décembre prochain.

Parmi les projets sociaux, citons le retour du brunch des Fêtes à l'*Orchard View Wedding & Event Centre*. Pour plus d'informations sur les dates et les prix des billets, veuillez consulter les notifications par courriel ainsi que l'onglet « Calendrier » (information en anglais seulement) du nouveau site web.

En dernier lieu, mais non le moindre, vous trouverez dans ce numéro de la revue *The Spirit* un article consacré au Sentier de l'héritage des Vétérans de la GRC au Cimetière commémoratif national de la GRC à Beechwood. Qui aurait cru en 2001, alors que l'Association des Vétérans de la GRC (AVGRC) explorait la possibilité d'établir un cimetière de la GRC à Ottawa (lieu de naissance de la Gendarmerie) nous en serions aujourd'hui à achever la dernière phase prévue avec le Sentier commémoratif des Vétérans. Prenez le temps de lire cet article qui tient la promesse de « préserver l'héritage ».

Qui nous sommes

Notre Association est un réseau d'employés retraités de la GRC qui sont déterminés à conserver les liens solides qu'ils ont tissés au sein de la GRC, en investissant les uns dans les autres afin de maintenir et d'élargir un réseau coordonné de soutien mutuel aujourd'hui, demain et toujours.

Ce que nous faisons

Notre rôle principal est de fournir un réseau de soutien mutuel. Cela s'inscrit dans le cadre de notre mission « Être attentif au bien-être physique, psychologique, social et économique de tous les anciens employés de la Gendarmerie royale du Canada et de leurs familles ».

Joignez-vous à notre équipe de leadership dès aujourd'hui !

Joignez-vous à notre réseau de soutien et de plaidoyer. Vous rejoindrez un groupe distingué d'anciens employés et sympathisants de la GRC dont le dévouement envers leurs collègues et le Canada est à la fois précieux et exceptionnel. Ensemble, nous nous engageons à soutenir et à défendre tous ceux qui ont pris part à cette aventure.



**YOUR MIND IS WHERE
YOU STAY MOST OF THE
TIME, MAKE SURE IT'S
A GOOD PLACE TO BE.**

Photo Credit: With Permission Terry Penney, OH&S Specialist, Calgary, AB



**May 23, 2025: Opening the
RCMP Veterans'
Legacy Pathway
RCMP National Memorial
Cemetery at Beechwood
Ottawa, Ontario**

Following a welcome by Elder Jim Potts, honoured guests RCMP Commissioners Phil Murray and Senator Beverly Ann Busson participated in a ribbon cutting to officially open the Pathway and a large RCMP Veterans' Crest—installed on a massive stone rock—was unveiled as a central feature.

Veteran Dave Jeggo, ODVA 2nd Vice President, provided an overview of the origin of the RCMP Veterans' Association Crest, relating its importance as a strong reflection of the Association's essential relationship with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police... "the Veteran's crest is patterned after the Force's own crest and includes the Royal Crown to represent our Monarch, the Bison who signifies our origins in the prairie grasslands where the Mounted Police performed their first duties and depended on this majestic animal for food fuel and clothing. Our Veteran's crest also includes the maple leaves and scroll with "Canada" representing our service to our great Nation and our lifelong commitment to Maintiens le Droit."



**23 mai 2025 : Ouverture du
sentier des Vétérans de la
GRC**

**Cimetière commémoratif na-
tional de la GRC à Bee-
chwood, Ottawa (Ontario)**

Après un mot de bienvenue prononcé par l'aîné Jim Potts, les invités d'honneur, les commissaires

de la GRC Phil Murray et la sénatrice Beverly Ann Busson, ont participé à une cérémonie d'inauguration officielle du sentier et un grand emblème des Vétérans de la GRC—installé sur un énorme rocher en pierre—a été dévoilé comme élément central.

Vétérant Dave Jeggo, deuxième vice-président de l'AVDO, a donné un aperçu de l'origine de l'emblème de l'Association des vétérans de la GRC, soulignant son importance en tant que reflet fort de la relation essentielle de l'Association avec la Gendarmerie royale du Canada... "L'écusson des vétérans s'inspire de celui de la Gendarmerie royale et comprend la couronne royale, symbole de notre monarque, le bison, symbole de nos origines dans les prairies où la Police à cheval a accompli ses premières missions et dépendait de ce majestueux animal pour se nourrir, se ravitailler et se vêtir. Notre écusson des vétérans comprend également les feuilles d'érable et le parchemin portant le mot « Canada », symbole de notre service à notre grande nation et de notre engagement de toute une vie envers Maintiens le Droit."

L to R Veter-
ans Fred Lyle,
Michel Séguin,
Jack Briscoe
and Mel Oikle





**May 23, 2025: Opening the RCMP
Veterans' Legacy Pathway
RCMP National Memorial Cemetery at
Beechwood
Ottawa, Ontario**

A ceremonial Troop of RCMP Veterans marched along the Pathway symbolically re-enacting "the March West" and the passage of eras from the North-West Mounted Police (1873-1904), the Royal North-West Mounted Police (1904-1920) and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (1920—Present).

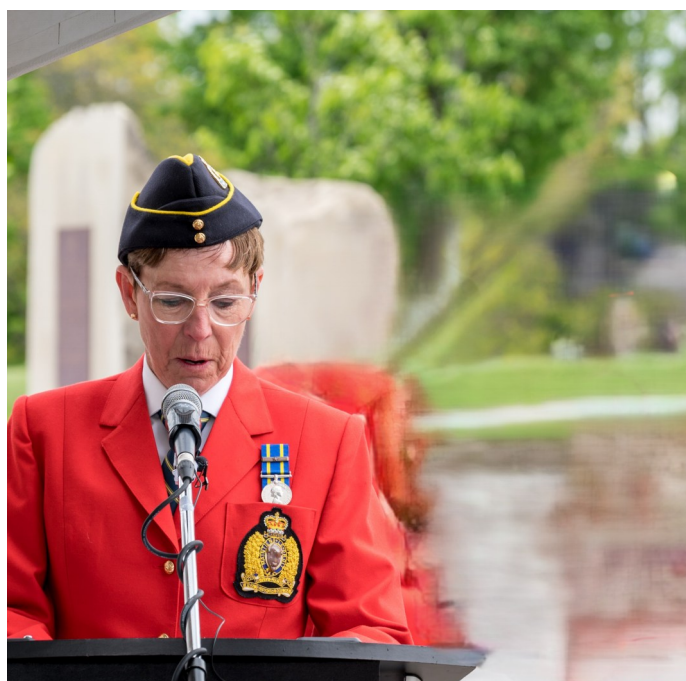
Veteran Christine Windover shared an historical overview of the origins of the Force and the creation of the RCMP National Memorial Cemetery in 2004. RCMP Assistant Commissioner Rob Gilchrist offered remarks for the RCMP; Sandra Conlin, President RCMP Veterans' Association offered remarks on behalf of Veterans; Nicolas McCarthy, Director of Marketing, Communications and Outreach spoke on behalf of Beechwood Cemetery.

**23 mai 2025 : Ouverture du sentier des
Vétérans de la GRC**

**Cimetière commémoratif national de la GRC
à Beechwood, Ottawa (Ontario)**

Une troupe cérémonielle des Vétérans de la GRC a défilé le long du sentier, reconstituant symboliquement « la marche vers l'Ouest » et le passage des époques de la Police à cheval du Nord-Ouest (1873-1904), de la Royale Gendarmerie à cheval du Nord-Ouest (1904-1920) et de la Gendarmerie royale du Canada (1920 à aujourd'hui).

La vétérane Christine Windover a présenté un aperçu historique des origines de la Gendarmerie et de la création du Cimetière commémoratif national de la GRC en 2004. Le commissaire adjoint de la GRC, Rob Gilchrist, a prononcé une allocution au nom de la GRC ; Sandra Conlin, présidente de l'Association des Vétérans de la GRC, a prononcé une allocution au nom des Vétérans; Nicolas McCarthy, directeur du marketing, des communications et de la sensibilisation, a parlé au nom du cimetière Beechwood.





**May 23, 2025: Opening the RCMP
Veterans' Legacy Pathway
RCMP National Memorial Cemetery at
Beechwood
Ottawa, Ontario**

When visiting this RCMP Veterans' Pathway, we pay tribute to every person who is, and has ever been, part of the Mounted Police Family, throughout Canada—and around the world.

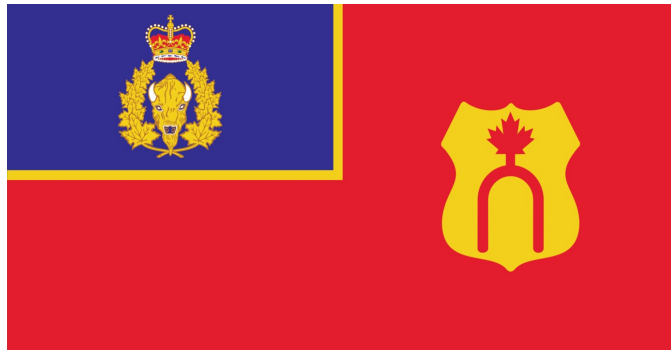
RCMP Chaplain Pierre Bélanger offered words of spiritual reflection to conclude the ceremony.

**23 mai 2025 : Ouverture du sentier des
Vétérans de la GRC**

**Cimetière commémoratif national de la GRC
à Beechwood, Ottawa (Ontario)**

En visitant ce sentier des vétérans de la GRC, nous rendons hommage à chaque personne qui fait et a fait partie de la famille de la Police montée, partout au Canada et dans le monde.

L'aumônier de la GRC, Pierre Bélanger, a prononcé un discours de réflexion spirituelle pour conclure la cérémonie.





**May 23, 2025: Opening the RCMP Veterans' Legacy Pathway
RCMP National Memorial Cemetery at Beechwood
Ottawa, Ontario**

**23 mai 2025 : Ouverture du sentier des Vétérans de la GRC
Cimetière commémoratif national de la GRC à Beechwood, Ottawa (Ontario)**

Enjoy the photos from this event...not all but a few. Photographic work done by Veteran Gilbert Bouffard.
Admirez les photos de cet événement... pas toutes, mais quelques-unes. Les photos ont été réalisées par le Vétéran Gilbert Bouffard.







RCMP Veterans' Legacy Pathway RCMP National Memorial Cemetery at Beechwood Ottawa, Ontario

*Celebrating our RCMP
Veterans
Telling of the 150-year
history of Canada's
Mounted Police*

When construction of a memorial cemetery, designed especially as a final resting place for RCMP Veterans and their families, was finally underway in 2002, many were already planning for how meaningful this site would become many decades into the future. On 4.2 acres of land situated on a hill centrally located in Beechwood Cemetery – Canada's National Cemetery, and positioned adjacent to Canada's National Military Cemetery, RCMP veterans at Ottawa Division had finally secured a home to share with their comrades from across the country; the only RCMP-designated cemetery east of Saskatchewan. Planning was underway immediately for an official opening in October 2004, followed by years of construction of a central monument, various pathways, flagpoles, a parade square, a cenotaph, columbarium, monuments and eventually a historical wall detailing the unique and long history of the Mounted Police. This final wall project was to be dedicated to the service and careers of all categories of RCMP veterans and their families

The Veterans' Legacy Pathway Project

By 2017, Ottawa Division (ODVA) partnering with the Beechwood Cemetery Foundation and with encouragement from the RCMP, had accomplished all of the tasks to complete the cemetery's 2002 vision, with one exception; the historical wall. A project team of veteran volunteers – Roy Berlinquette, Michel Pelletier, Louise Morel, Suzanne Sarault and Kevin Mole under the direction of the Ottawa Division Executive set out a five-year plan for a project that would be ready in time for the RCMP's sesquicentennial – 150th anniversary, in 2023. Provided with a governance structure that reflected these roles, the project team reported regularly on the progress to the ODVA Division Executive and at Regional General Meetings.





RCMP Veterans' Legacy Pathway—Continued

The intent of this project was:

- to capture the highlights of the history of the RCMP from its inception in 1873,
- to recognize all those who served throughout the years and,
- to educate Canadians on how the RCMP contributed to the development of Canada.

As the RCMP National Memorial Cemetery at Beechwood is a partnership of RCMP veterans, Beechwood and the RCMP, it was important to define the roles of each in approaching this project. Beechwood would assist with various in-kind contributions as well as manage the construction. The RCMP would be supportive of the project and assist with communications when requested but faced with limitations defined by the Treasury Board of Canada, could provide no funding. The ODVA was left responsible to fundraise, design and manage with Beechwood the construction of the project. It was also important to respect the 2009 bilateral lease arrangement between the RCMP and Beechwood, where the RCMP would be consulted on any memorials considered for these "RCMP Cemetery Lands".

Telling the Mounted Police Story – The Start

Each of our ODVA Project Team members was responsible to lead various aspects of the project; the planning, promotion and communication, the design of the site, fundraising, the preparation of the historical text and finally construction. Each of these tasks seemed straight-forward but proved difficult in their own way. While one member would lead the task, it was the team that collaborated and approved each of the steps along the way. The job of crafting the appropriate wording or text for the wall panels was critically important to the final design. To ensure completeness, the team set out a number of principles to guide the process when considering the text; that it would

- consider the total 150 years commencing 1873 to present with a statement to the future;
- be considerate of official languages, no more than 10 panels in bilingual format (5 English, 5 French);
- ensure that each panel would cover specific periods;
- be important to recognize or celebrate significant or unique community achievements;
- stress the many unique services that Canada has sought from the Force;
- highlight a police service whose past and present is linked to military service, and
- there would an effort to recognize the Force's past difficulties or systemic issues, demonstrating that the Force is not, nor has it been, perfect.

Several design plans were considered for this project and approved. However, as the design was dependent on the progress of the fundraising, planning continued to evolve as lowering expectations for financial help were considered. The COVID-19 pandemic stole two full years from the efforts as did personal issues faced by some of the volunteers, including the passing of one of our team members. Regrettably, the project was delayed by two years, missing the Force's sesqui-centennial in May 2023.

The design for the construction eventually settled on a broad pathway that would traverse on an arc from the southern corner of our cemetery north-west (just as the mounted riders on the March West had) along 150 metres of paver stone, adorned with flower beds, sugar maple trees, stone



RCMP Veterans' Legacy Pathway—Continued

benches, a flagpole and prairie tall grass. The highlight of the Pathway would be large upright monolith stones taken from the same quarry that was supplying stone for Canada's Parliament Hill Centre Block restoration project; a fitting tribute to the interconnectedness of this great nation and its national police service. Each of these stone monoliths would display a panel detailing briefly the unique periods of the Force's history. Visitors to the site could follow in chronological order from its entrance to the Pathway's exit near the RCMP Fallen Member Cenotaph & Honour Roll.

Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) was the first to provide funding for this project. VAC was supportive specifically of our veteran efforts at communication through the use of these historical panels as well as our eventual plan to install Near Field Communications (NFC) at the site. Through the use of NFC, visitors particularly youth and students would be able to seek out and learn more about the Force and the dedication and service of its veterans. VAC however, was not involved in helping to script any text for the panels.

Looking Back 150 Years – Recognizing the Mounted Police Uniqueness

In 2021, the project lead for the historical text for the panels recruited a retired Civilian Member who had served as the Force historian to assist in the initial drafts. With later input and edits from the entire project team, an outline was agreed to that included the following:

NWMP 1873/1903 (early years March West, NW Rebellion, SA War);

RNWMP 1904/1919 ("Royal" designation, First World War) & **RCMP 1920/1938**

(Dominion Police, new name and federal role, HQ move to Ottawa, Contract Policing);

RCMP 1939/1973 (2nd World War, Provost, Canada Centennial, RCMP Centennial);

RCMP 1974/1998 (Women in Uniform, loss of Security Service, Aboriginal Policing);

RCMP 1999 to present (Terrorism, CIVPOL, Afghanistan, 1st Woman Commissioner, diversity efforts, Truth & Reconciliation, MMIWG, and thoughts on the future)

Drafts were prepared for each panel, keeping a close eye for accuracy but also brevity to meet the space limitations. While the project team had found that most of the Force's history was not difficult to define by period or events/achievements, the final period of "1999 to Present" with a statement about the future was the most problematic to write. The project team accepted that while it was important to include this difficult period of reflection where the RCMP had acknowledged the organization's deficiencies, it would also have to be sensitive to how current RCMP employees and the RCMP veteran community might view its inclusion. Another difficulty for the project team obviously would be to speak of the RCMP's plans for the future.

Stitching together history – threading the needle

As the project team had committed from the beginning, there would be an honest effort to not only celebrate the overwhelming positives of the Force's history, but as well to recognize some of its organizational problems and systemic issues; the most sensitive being the troubling outcomes of recent years' Indigenous Peoples-related Federal inquiries; Indian Residential School system, National Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the National Inquiry into



RCMP Veterans' Legacy Pathway—Continued

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG).

It is well understood that an important and honourable part of the North West Mounted Police's original mandate was to establish relations with and to protect the Indigenous Peoples of western Canada. However, while the Force was instrumental in facilitating the treaty-making process and continued to protect and work with Indigenous People throughout its 150-year history, it had also responded to direction from government to take action that is considered today to have caused pain and suffering to Indigenous Peoples. Some examples of these actions include the NWMP being called upon in 1885 to fight Métis and First Nations, and the RCMP being directed to aid in the removal of indigenous children from their homes and to place them in Indian residential schools where many were abused and perished under those administrations. Examining closely this history, the RCMP has acknowledged that as a police service the organization did not do enough in investigating some of the missing and murdered indigenous women and girls in Canada, and that many believe that it did not do enough to address the Force's shortcomings in attracting and retaining Indigenous People into the RCMP. And over the last twenty years, several RCMP Commissioners have stood to apologize to Indigenous Peoples in Canada on behalf of the organization, including:

In May 2004 Commissioner Zaccardelli speaking to the Assembly of First Nations apologized to Indigenous Peoples for the RCMP's involvement in the Indian Residential School system, stating: ***"...To those of you who suffered tragedies at Residential Schools, we are very sorry for your experience... Canadians can never forget what happened and they never should. The RCMP is optimistic that we can all work together to learn from this Residential School system experience and ensure that it never happens again... We - I, as Commissioner of the RCMP - am truly sorry for what role we played in the Residential School system and the abuse that took place in that system."***

In March 2014 Commissioner Paulson speaking at a National Truth and Reconciliation Commission Event in Alberta, apologized to Indigenous Peoples affected by the Indian Residential School System for the RCMP's involvement, stating: ***"... I say to you all here today, as Commissioner of the RCMP, on behalf of the RCMP and on behalf of all men and women who comprise the RCMP or have ever been a part of it, I am deeply sorry for what has happened to you and the part my organization played in it."***

In June 2018 Commissioner Lucki speaking at the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG), apologized to Indigenous Peoples, stating: ***"On behalf of myself and my organization, I'm truly sorry for the loss of your loved ones and the pain that this has caused you and your families and your communities" ... I'm sorry that for too many of you, the RCMP was not the police service that it needed to be during this terrible time in your life. It is very clear to me that the RCMP could have done better and I promise to you we will do better."***



RCMP Veterans' Legacy Pathway—Continued

In July 2018, the President of the RCMP Veterans' Association Steve Walker brought to Commissioner Lucki concerns that were being raised by RCMP veterans that her apology at the MMIWG had left some RCMP veterans feeling that, while they fully empathized with the pain the families, friends and communities have gone through, and the loss they have suffered, they felt that the apology had discredited their life's work within indigenous communities and reflected poorly upon their character and integrity. The President reported back that: ***"Commissioner Lucki noted the incredibly difficult and tireless work so many RCMP members have performed in the past, and continue to perform today, to reunite families and to bring justice to victims and closure to their loved ones. Commissioner Lucki recognizes that the vast number of investigations were handled properly and concluded professionally. The apology was never meant to undermine the excellent and thorough work done by generations of RCMP officers over the past several decades. But it is intended to acknowledge the many cases where, regrettably, those same professional standards were not applied, and where disrespect was incurred."***

Commissioner Lucki's July 2018 above response to the President of the RCMPVA was an attempt to reassure RCMP veterans particularly, that it was not the members or employees of the RCMP who were the primary focus of this troubling past, but rather the behaviour of the RCMP organization itself.

Taking into consideration what we know of the history of these tragic events in some indigenous communities, the many national public hearings, and the pronouncements of the RCMP Commissioners, it was felt that this was an important piece of the Force's history that would need to be recognized; and more importantly one where the RCMP has stated its commitment to change. Messaging on the panels relating to the future of the RCMP's relations with Indigenous Peoples would have to be provided by the RCMP.

In the view of the project team, the veterans and currently serving members who have served with distinction in indigenous communities and who have dedicated significant parts of their careers in improving the lives of indigenous people, were not the subject of the RCMP's apologies or its acceptance of responsibility. Our wording would need to reflect that.

Bringing It All Together – Celebrating History, Confronting Past Difficulties

Several iterations of the text for each of the panels were considered before the project team finally sought the RCMP's input in April 2022. RCMP Communications staff were asked to work with the project team to help craft appropriate wording that would meet our goal of providing an accurate and clear portrayal of the Force's history. Several more iterations supplied by the RCMP were reviewed by the project team before final satisfactory drafts were readied for translation. The panels were ordered in June of 2023 and held for the construction phase.

RCMP Veterans' Legacy Pathway—Continued

On May 23, 2025, the RCMP Veterans' Legacy Pathway at the RCMP National Memorial Cemetery at Beechwood was officially opened in time to celebrate the Force's 152nd anniversary. The pathway stretches as it was designed to the north-west with the upright stone monoliths, each detailing the history of the Force from its inception in 1873. At the centre of the pathway stands an impressive singular monolith that bears the crest of the RCMP Veterans' Association. Immediately to the rear of the pathway, the RCMP Veterans' ensign flag proudly flies. There will be additions made to this memorial, including work to incorporate a student learning component through Near Field Communications (NFC). And RCMP veterans will continue their volunteer work to ensure that the RCMP Veterans' Legacy Pathway as well as the RCMP National Cemetery at Beechwood continues to be a world-class venue to commemorate and learn about the history of the Mounted Police and its people.



The Pathway Project – Delivering on a Promise to Maintain the Legacy

This RCMP Veterans' Legacy Pathway details a great and unique history of the RCMP. An organization that has its roots in a small regional police force, has grown over the last 150 years to provide critical services in remote Canadian communities, towns, cities, provinces and nationally, on battlefronts, and in embassies and consulates around the globe. No police service anywhere in the world has thrived on a more complex mandate or has had its personnel more proudly and continually strive to meet its citizen expectations.

It remains our veteran commitment to ensure that those who have served in many capacities in the RCMP in all corners of this country, and those as well in critically important postings around the world during peacetime and in war; are remembered, that their accomplishments and achievements commemorated and their contributions to the Force and to Canada not forgotten.

The RCMP National Memorial Cemetery at Beechwood continues to be very much a sacred place that is welcoming and respectful of the legacy of our veterans, their families and the historical achievements of Canada's Mounted Police.

Kevin M. Mole
RCMP Veterans' Association,
Ottawa Division
Committee Chair
RCMP National Memorial Cemetery at Beechwood

W.A. (Wayne) Jacquard, President
RCMP Veterans' Association,
Ottawa Division





**Le sentier de l'héritage
des vétérans de la GRC
- Cimetière commémo-
ratif national de la GRC
à Beechwood
Ottawa (Ontario)**

***Honneur à nos vétérans de
la GRC
Retracer les 150 ans d'his-
toire de la Gendarmerie
royale du Canada***

Lorsque la construction d'un cimetière commémoratif, spécialement conçu pour servir de lieu de repos aux vétérans de la GRC et à leurs familles, a finalement débuté en 2002, nombreux étaient ceux qui prévoyaient déjà l'importance que ce lieu revêtirait pour les décennies à venir. Sur un terrain de 4,2 acres situé sur une colline au cœur du cimetière Beechwood – le cimetière national du Canada – et adjacent au cimetière militaire national du Canada, les vétérans de la GRC de la Division d'Ottawa ont enfin trouvé un lieu de repos digne à partager avec leurs camarades venus de partout au pays; il s'agit du seul cimetière désigné par la GRC à l'est de la Saskatchewan. La planification a immédiatement commencé en vue d'une inauguration officielle en octobre 2004, suivie de plusieurs années de construction: un monument central, divers sentiers pour se recueillir, des mâts de drapeau, un terrain de parade, un cénotaphe, un columbarium, des monuments et, finalement, un mur historique a été érigé afin de retracer la longue et unique histoire de la Police montée. Ce mur a été dédié au service et à la carrière de toutes les catégories de vétérans de la GRC et de leurs familles.

Le projet du Sentier de l'héritage des vétérans de la GRC

En 2017, l'Association des vétérans – Division d'Ottawa (AVDO), en partenariat avec la Fondation du cimetière Beechwood et avec le soutien actif de la GRC, avait accompli toutes les tâches nécessaires à la réalisation de la vision du cimetière de 2002, à une exception près: le mur historique. Une équipe de projet composée des vétérans bénévoles—Roy Berlinquette, Michel Pelletier, Louise Morrel, Suzanne Sarault et Kevin Mole – sous la direction du conseil exécutif de la Division d'Ottawa,





Le sentier de l'héritage des vétérans de la GRC - Suite

a établi un plan quinquennal visant à achever ce projet pour le 150^e anniversaire de la GRC en 2023. Dotée d'une structure de gouvernance reflétant ces rôles, l'équipe de projet a régulièrement rendu compte de l'avancement des travaux à la direction de l'AVDO ainsi qu'au cours des assemblées générales régionales. L'objectif de ce projet était de:

- retracer les moments forts de l'histoire de la GRC depuis sa création en 1873;
- rendre hommage à tous ceux qui ont servi au fil des ans; et
- sensibiliser les Canadiens à la contribution de la GRC au développement du Canada.

Le Cimetière commémoratif national de la GRC à Beechwood étant un partenariat entre des vétérans de la GRC, Beechwood et la GRC, il était important de définir les rôles de chacun dans la gestion du projet. Beechwood apporterait diverses contributions en nature et gérerait la construction. La GRC offrirait son soutien au projet et participerait aux communications sur demande. Mais, compte tenu des restrictions imposées par le Conseil du Trésor du Canada, la GRC n'était pas en mesure d'apporter un soutien financier direct. L'AVDO s'est vu confier la collecte de fonds, la conception et de la gestion du projet, en collaboration avec Beechwood pour sa mise en œuvre. Il était également important de respecter l'accord de bail bilatéral de 2009 entre la GRC et Beechwood, selon lequel la GRC serait consultée sur tout monument commémoratif envisagé pour ces « terrains du cimetière de la GRC ».

Raconter l'histoire de la Police montée – le début

Chaque membre de l'équipe de projet de l'AVDO était responsable de la gestion de différents aspects du projet: la planification, la promotion et la communication, la conception du site, la collecte de fonds, la préparation du texte historique et enfin la construction. Bien que ces tâches aient pu paraître simples à première vue, elles se sont avérées complexes à leurs manières. Si un membre dirigeait la tâche, c'est l'équipe qui collaborait et validait chaque étape du processus. La rédaction d'un texte approprié pour les panneaux muraux représentait une phase cruciale de la conception finale. Afin de garantir l'exhaustivité du contenu, l'équipe a établi un certain nombre de principes pour encadrer le processus lors de l'examen du texte, à savoir:

- prendre en compte les 150 années écoulées depuis 1873 et présenter une perspective d'avenir;
- respecter les langues officielles et ne pas inclure plus de 10 panneaux bilingues (5 en anglais et 5 en français) ;
- veiller à ce que chaque panneau couvre des périodes précises;
- reconnaître ou célébrer des réalisations communautaires importantes ou uniques;
- souligner les nombreux services uniques que le Canada a demandés à la Gendarmerie;
- mettre en valeur un service de police dont le passé et le présent sont liés au service militaire; et
- s'efforcer de reconnaître les difficultés passées ou les problèmes systémiques de la GRC, démontrant ainsi que la GRC n'est pas parfaite et ne l'a jamais été.

Plusieurs plans de conception ont été envisagés et approuvés dans le cadre de ce projet. Cependant, la conception étant tributaire de l'avancement de la collecte de fonds, la planification a continué d'évoluer, les attentes en matière de soutien financier étant revues à la baisse. La pandémie de COVID-19 a privé les bénévoles de deux années complètes de travail, tout comme les



Le sentier de l'héritage des vétérans de la GRC - Suite

difficultés personnelles rencontrées par certains, notamment le décès d'un membre de notre équipe. Malheureusement, le projet a été retardé de deux ans, manquant ainsi le 150e anniversaire de la Gendarmerie en mai 2023.

Le projet de construction s'est finalement arrêté sur un large sentier qui traverserait un arc de cercle depuis l'angle sud de notre cimetière vers le nord-ouest (à l'instar des membres originaux de la Marche vers l'Ouest), le long de 150 mètres de pavés, serpente entre des massifs de fleuries, d'érables à sucre, de bancs en pierre, d'un mât de drapeau et de hautes herbes des prairies. Le point culminant du sentier serait marqué par l'érection de grands monolithes verticaux provenant de la même carrière qui a fourni les pierres ayant servi à la restauration de l'édifice du Centre sur la Colline du Parlement canadien; un hommage mérité à l'interdépendance de cette grande nation et de son service de police national. Chacun de ces monolithes de pierre arborerait un panneau détaillant brièvement les périodes uniques de l'histoire de la GRC. Les visiteurs du site pourraient suivre le sentier chronologiquement, de l'entrée jusqu'à la sortie, près du cénotaphe et du tableau d'honneur des membres de la GRC morts en service.

Anciens Combattants Canada (ACC) a été le premier à financer ce projet. ACC a soutenu nos efforts de communication avec nos vétérans grâce à ces panneaux historiques, ainsi que notre projet d'installer un système de Communication en champ proche (CCP) sur le site. Grâce à la CCP, les visiteurs, notamment les jeunes et les étudiants, pourront en apprendre davantage sur la Gendarmerie, le dévouement et le service de ses vétérans. ACC n'a toutefois pas participé à la rédaction des textes des panneaux.

Retour sur 150 ans – reconnaissance du caractère unique de la Police montée

En 2021, le chef de projet du texte historique des panneaux a recruté un membre civil à la retraite qui avait servi comme historien de la Gendarmerie pour aider aux premières ébauches. Grâce aux contributions et modifications ultérieures de l'ensemble de l'équipe de projet, un plan a été convenu, comprenant les éléments suivants :

Police à cheval du Nord-Ouest (1873-1903) (début de la Marche vers l'Ouest, rébellion du Nord-Ouest, guerre d'Afrique du Sud) ;

Police à cheval du Nord-Ouest (1904-1919) (appellation « royale », Première Guerre mondiale) et **GRC (1920-1938)** (Police du Dominion, nouveau nom et rôle fédéral, déménagement du QG à Ottawa, services de police contractuels) ;

GRC (1939-1973) (Seconde Guerre mondiale, prévôt, centenaire du Canada, centenaire de la GRC) ;

GRC (1974-1998) (femmes en uniforme, disparition du service de sécurité, services de police autochtones) ;

GRC (1999 à aujourd'hui) (terrorisme, CIVPOL, Afghanistan, première femme commissaire, efforts en matière de diversité, vérité et réconciliation, FFADA et réflexions sur l'avenir) .

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Des ébauches ont été préparées pour chacun des panneaux, en veillant à l'exactitude et à la concision afin de respecter les contraintes d'espace. Si l'équipe de projet avait constaté que la majeure partie de l'histoire de la GRC était facile à définir par période ou par événement/réalisations, la dernière période, « de 1999 à aujourd'hui », avec une déclaration sur l'avenir, était la plus problématique à rédiger. L'équipe de projet a reconnu l'importance d'inclure cette période de remise en question, au cours de laquelle la GRC a reconnu ses lacunes organisationnelles. Il fallait également faire preuve de sensibilité quant à la manière dont ce récit pourrait être perçu par les employés actuels et la communauté des vétérans de la GRC. Une autre difficulté pour l'équipe de projet serait évidemment d'aborder les projets d'avenir de la GRC.

Trouver un compromis

Comme l'équipe de projet s'y était engagée dès le départ, un effort sincère serait déployé non seulement pour célébrer les aspects positifs de l'histoire de la Gendarmerie, mais aussi pour reconnaître certains de ses problèmes organisationnels et questions systémiques. Parmi les éléments les plus sensibles étaient les résultats troublants des enquêtes fédérales des dernières années portant sur les peuples autochtones: le système des pensionnats indiens, la Commission nationale de vérité et de réconciliation et l'Enquête nationale sur les femmes et les filles autochtones disparues et assassinées (FFADA).

Il est bien connu qu'une part importante et honorable du mandat initial de la Police à cheval du Nord-Ouest consistait à établir des relations avec les peuples autochtones de l'Ouest canadien et à les protéger. Cependant, au fil de ses 150 ans d'histoire, la Gendarmerie a joué un rôle déterminant dans la facilitation du processus de conclusion des traités et a continué de protéger et de collaborer avec les peuples autochtones. Elle a également été appelée à mettre en œuvre des directives du gouvernement qui sont aujourd'hui considérées comme ayant causé souffrances et préjudices durables aux peuples autochtones. Parmi ces actions, mentionnons le recours à la Police à cheval du Nord-Ouest en 1885 pour combattre les Métis et les Premières Nations et l'ordre que la GRC a reçu d'aider à retirer des enfants autochtones de leurs foyers et à les placer dans des pensionnats indiens, où nombre d'entre eux ont été maltraités et ont péri sous ces administrations. Après un examen approfondi de cette histoire, la GRC a reconnu qu'en tant que service de police, elle a failli à enquêter adéquatement sur certains cas de femmes et de filles autochtones disparues et assassinées au Canada, et que plusieurs soulignent l'insuffisance des efforts déployés pour corriger les lacunes de la Gendarmerie pour attirer et retenir les Autochtones au sein de la GRC. Au cours des vingt dernières années, plusieurs commissaires de la GRC ont présenté des excuses aux peuples autochtones du Canada au nom de l'organisation, notamment:

En mai 2004, le commissaire Zaccardelli, s'adressant à l'Assemblée des Premières Nations, a présenté ses excuses aux peuples autochtones pour l'implication de la GRC dans le système des pensionnats indiens. Il a déclaré: **« À ceux d'entre vous qui ont vécu des tragédies dans les pensionnats, nous sommes profondément désolés de votre expérience... Les Canadiens ne pourront jamais oublier ce qui s'est passé et ils ne devraient jamais l'oublier. La GRC est optimiste quant à notre capacité à travailler ensemble pour tirer les leçons de cette expérience vécue dans les pensionnats et veiller à ce que cela ne se reproduise plus jamais... »**

Le sentier de l'héritage des vétérans de la GRC - Suite

Nous – et moi, en tant que commissaire de la GRC – sommes sincèrement désolés du rôle que nous avons joué dans le système des pensionnats indiens et des abus qui y ont été commis. »

En mars 2014, le commissaire Paulson, s'exprimant lors d'un événement de la Commission nationale de vérité et de réconciliation en Alberta, a présenté ses excuses aux peuples autochtones touchés par le système des pensionnats indiens pour l'implication de la GRC, déclarant: ***« ... Je vous dis à tous ici aujourd'hui, en tant que commissaire de la GRC, au nom de la GRC et au nom de tous les hommes et femmes qui composent la GRC ou en ont déjà fait partie, que je suis profondément désolé pour ce qui vous est arrivé et pour le rôle que mon organisation y a joué. »***

En juin 2018, lors de l'Enquête nationale sur les femmes et les filles autochtones disparues et assassinées (FFADA), la commissaire Lucki a présenté ses excuses aux peuples autochtones: ***« En mon nom et au nom de mon organisation, je suis sincèrement désolée pour la perte de vos proches et pour la douleur que cela vous a causée, à vous, à vos familles et à vos communautés... Je suis désolée que pour un trop grand nombre d'entre vous, la GRC n'ait pas été le service de police qu'elle aurait dû être pendant cette terrible période de votre vie. Il est clair pour moi que la GRC aurait pu faire mieux et je vous promets que nous ferons mieux. »***

En juillet 2018, le président de l'Association des vétérans de la GRC, Steve Walker, a fait part à la commissaire Lucki des préoccupations exprimées par les vétérans de la GRC. Selon eux, ses excuses présentées lors de l'enquête sur les femmes et les filles autochtones disparues et assassinées avaient laissé certains vétérans de la GRC avec le sentiment que, même s'ils comprenaient pleinement la douleur et la perte subies par leurs familles, leurs amis et leurs communautés, ces excuses avaient discrédité le travail qu'ils avaient accompli toute leur vie au sein des communautés autochtones et avaient terni leur réputation et leur intégrité. Le président a répondu: ***« La commissaire Lucki a souligné le travail incroyablement difficile et inlassable que tant de membres de la GRC ont accompli par le passé, et continuent d'accomplir aujourd'hui, pour réunir les familles, rendre justice aux victimes et permettre à leurs proches de tourner la page. La commissaire Lucki reconnaît que les nombreuses enquêtes ont été menées correctement et conclues avec professionnalisme. Ces excuses n'ont jamais eu pour but de saper l'excellent travail minutieux accompli par des générations d'agents de la GRC au cours des dernières décennies. Elles visent plutôt à reconnaître les nombreux cas où, malheureusement, ces mêmes normes professionnelles n'ont pas été appliquées et où un manque de respect a été constaté. »***

La réponse ci-dessus de la commissaire Lucki de juillet 2018 au président de l'Association des vétérans de la GRC visait à rassurer les vétérans de la GRC. En particulier, elle tenait à préciser que ce passé troublant ne mettait pas en cause les membres ou les employés de la GRC qui étaient la principale cible, mais concernait plutôt le comportement de la GRC en tant qu'organisation.



Le sentier de l'héritage des vétérans de la GRC - Suite

Compte tenu de ce que nous savons de l'histoire de ces événements tragiques dans certaines communautés autochtones, des nombreuses audiences publiques nationales et des déclarations des commissaires de la GRC, nous avons estimé qu'il s'agissait d'un élément important de l'histoire de la GRC qui devait être reconnu; et surtout, un élément où la GRC a affirmé son engagement envers le changement. Les messages sur l'avenir des relations entre la GRC et les peuples autochtones devraient être transmis par la GRC sur les panneaux.

De l'avis de l'équipe de projet, les vétérans et les membres en service actif qui ont servi avec distinction dans les communautés autochtones et qui ont consacré une partie importante de leur carrière à améliorer la vie des peuples autochtones n'ont pas fait l'objet des excuses ni de la reconnaissance de responsabilité de la GRC. Notre formulation devrait en tenir compte.

Rassembler le tout – célébrer l'histoire, affronter les difficultés passées

Plusieurs versions du texte de chaque panneau ont été étudiées avant que l'équipe de projet sollicite finalement l'avis de la GRC en avril 2022. Le personnel des communications de la GRC a été invité à collaborer avec l'équipe de projet afin d'élaborer une formulation appropriée qui répondrait à notre objectif de présenter un portrait précis et clair de l'histoire de la Gendarmerie. Plusieurs autres versions fournies par la GRC ont été révisées par l'équipe de projet avant que des versions finales jugées satisfaisantes ne soient prêtes pour la traduction. Les panneaux ont été commandés en juin 2023 et conservés pour la phase de construction.

Le 23 mai 2025, le sentier de l'héritage des vétérans de la GRC au Cimetière commémoratif national de la GRC à Beechwood a été officiellement inauguré, juste à temps pour célébrer le 152^e anniversaire de la Gendarmerie. Le sentier s'étend, tel qu'il a été conçu, vers le nord-ouest, avec ses monolithes de pierre dressés, chacun retraçant l'histoire de la Gendarmerie depuis sa création en 1873. Au centre du sentier se dresse un impressionnant monolithe portant l'emblème de l'Association des vétérans de la GRC. Juste au fond du sentier, le drapeau des vétérans de la GRC flotte fièrement. Des ajouts seront apportés à ce monument commémoratif, notamment l'intégration d'un volet d'apprentissage pour les élèves grâce à la communication en champ proche (CCP). Les vétérans de la GRC poursuivront leur travail bénévole pour que le sentier de l'héritage des vétérans de la GRC et le Cimetière national de la GRC à Beechwood demeurent un lieu de renommée mondiale pour commémorer et découvrir l'histoire de la Gendarmerie royale du Canada et de ses membres.

Le projet Sentier de l'héritage des vétérans – tenir sa promesse de préserver l'héritage

Ce sentier de l'héritage des vétérans de la GRC retrace l'histoire remarquable et unique de la GRC. Issue d'un petit service de police régional, cette organisation s'est développée au cours des 150 dernières années pour offrir des services essentiels dans les collectivités, les villes, les provinces et les villages éloignés du Canada, ainsi qu'à l'échelle nationale, sur les champs de bataille et dans les ambassades et consulats du monde entier. Aucun service de police au monde n'a réussi à s'acquitter d'un mandat aussi complexe ni n'a vu son personnel s'efforcer avec autant de fierté et de constance de répondre aux attentes des citoyens.

Le sentier de l'héritage des vétérans de la GRC - Suite

Nous restons fidèles à notre engagement à veiller à ce que ceux qui ont servi à de nombreuses fonctions au sein de la GRC dans tous les coins du pays, ainsi que ceux qui ont occupé des postes d'importance cruciale partout dans le monde, en temps de paix et en temps de guerre, soient honorés, que leurs réalisations et leurs accomplissements soient commémorés et que leurs contributions à la Gendarmerie et au Canada ne soient pas oubliées.



Le Cimetière commémoratif national de la GRC à Beechwood demeure un lieu très sacré, accueillant et respectueux de l'héritage de nos vétérans, de leurs familles et des réalisations historiques de la Police montée du Canada.

Kevin M. Mole
Association des vétérans de la GRC,
Division d'Ottawa
Président du comité
Cimetière commémoratif national de la GRC à Beechwood

W.A. (Wayne) Jacquard, président
Association des vétérans de la GRC,
Division d'Ottawa



50 YEARS WOMEN IN UNIFORM / 50 ANS DE FEMMES EN UNIFORME

Bay Island Girl by Joanne White

AUTHOR'S NOTE: Although Annie is a fictional character, she is an amalgam of men and women who carry the badge. The weight of the uniform is heavy and for those who have suffered, please know that you are not alone.

Chapter One: Welcome to Bay Island

Bay Island, Newfoundland

THIS IS PART 2, CONTINUED FROM SPRING EDITION:

Annie recognized one of her colleagues she'd already met because of the light blue stripe on his cargo pants. Constable Matt had one male in handcuffs, but the chaos was far from over. Jim leaned down and told her it was sentencing day in Bay Island. A monthly event in which a visiting Judge presides and processes a lengthy docket of mostly misdemeanors with a few serious felonies sprinkled in for good measure.

On this day, the uncle of a young girl was found guilty of invitation to touch him in a sexual manner, and a local was caught by Wildlife Officers for poaching a moose. These creatures were plentiful and almost every male – and most females – had a moose license as they provided the main source of protein for the year. Apparently, they didn't mind killing moose in season, but poaching was frowned upon and considered a reprehensible infraction.

The Judge sentenced the moose poacher to 12 months probation, forfeiture of his pick-up truck, and a hefty fine. The molester was given two years probation, a smaller fine, and time served as he had been incarcerated since his arrest several months prior. Even though the sentencing was within the ascribed limits and the accused spent months in jail, a wave of despondency filled the courtroom.

The juxtaposition of a dead moose out of season and a young girl forever changed and trust shattered was more than an inequity in sentencing. The victim's family was outraged, and the girl's cousins got in a sucker punch as the uncle left the accused's box. The cousin was the fellow Constable Matt had handcuffed for the uncle's own safety. Onlookers screamed, "Finish him off! Let him rot in hell!"

Annie made eye contact with Constable Matt and pushed her way to him. "Are you okay? How can I help?"

"Sorry to meet like this, Annie," Matt said, watching the angry courtroom. "I was flat out and thought they were going to turn on me. Can you stay for a bit? There's two people left on the docket and only one to be sentenced. He's easy, and Jim knows him well."

"Sure, Matt. No problem."

Annie glanced at her waist and remembered she had no tools of the trade yet. Her instincts took hold and she clenched her jaw. This melee was far worse and could have more serious personal repercussions than the joyride to the Court House. She moved carefully through the crowd, calming the people down as best she could with a disarming smile. Between her intervention and Jim's large presence, they restored order to the courtroom. With the room secured, Annie joined her new friend Jim in the back where they could both keep an eye on things.

50 YEARS WOMEN IN UNIFORM / 50 ANS DE FEMMES EN UNIFORME

Bay Island Girl - Continued

She drank in the various sights around the courtroom while Jim whispered an ongoing monologue in her ear. Annie's head swiveled left and right as the pungent odour of cigarette smoke became overbearing, but she was too polite to make it obvious. Most of the spectators in the gallery attended for entertainment and had no personal connection with the pending cases. This was a town gathering, an event. Jim said following proceedings, people would leave and hang out at the post office all day and amuse themselves with stories from the Court House.

The Court Clerk called the room to order, and Judge Dean entered from his break, narrowed his gaze and addressed the next accused. "Please rise, state your name and occupation for the courtroom." The man jumped to his feet.

"Bobby Dunn, Social Assistance, yer Honour."

The spectators giggled. The Judge was neither impressed with Bobby's smart-ass response nor the snickering.

Bobby pled guilty to theft under \$5,000. He had stolen some work tools from a neighbour's car. It was Bobby's second theft. He was fined \$750, about five times more than the tools were worth, and given a one-year probation with conditions to stay 1000 feet away from the neighbour. He didn't care much about the first two but had issues with the 1000 feet and how that would work – frankly, so did Annie bearing in mind the tiny Bay Island streets and colourful salt-box homes almost sitting on top of each other. Judge Dean dismissed Bobby's concerns, walloped the gavel into the mahogany desk. "We are done. I don't want to see your face again in my courtroom." Bobby gingerly turned and shuffled to the back to sign the recognizance form with the clerk.

The next person on the docket was the reason Annie sat with Jim in the courtroom with no gun. His name was Henry Parsons. Henry stood about 5 feet 6 although probably taller if he had better posture. His biological age was 26, but his weary face and weathered skin told a different story. Annie surveyed his side profile and there was a spark of honesty and warmth in it, and she knew there must be quite a back-story for this young man to be in these circumstances. Judge Dean summoned Henry to stand and didn't even ask the usual name and occupation question.

"I'm sick of seeing you in my courtroom, Henry. I don't want to hear any other lame excuses because you are wasting both the taxpayer's and my time."

Judge Dean collected and joined stacks of paper, all the while glaring at Henry. "I think I can finally say that someone has a record as long as my arm." Annie had heard this expression before but had never visualized it, nor had any other observers by the sound of the audible gasps in the gallery. Henry had been incarcerated and out on day parole, and breached provisions by drinking alcohol which, was one of his many demons according to Jim. The Judge seemed eager to lock him up and throw away the proverbial key, but instead, he inhaled deeply and relaxed his shoulders. "Henry, do you have anything to say for yourself?"

50 YEARS WOMEN IN UNIFORM / 50 ANS DE FEMMES EN UNIFORME

Bay Island Girl - Continued

Henry lowered his head. He licked his lips; his hands and voice trembled. Annie thought this reaction could also be from detoxing while waiting for the court date, but she didn't know Henry well enough to be certain. "I'm sorry, yer honour. I wants to do weekends this time so I can get me life together and get me a job."

Judge Dean peered over the tiny glasses set on his nose. His eyebrows almost met his forehead. The man had obviously been lied to before, and suspected Henry's plea to be disingenuous. He ordered him to serve 4 months in jail and banged the gavel thereby sealing the deal – and Henry's fate. Jim leaned over and said, "Henry's now our responsibility. Better take him to the clerk's desk." After she escorted Henry to the back of the room, she noticed him struggle when signing the document. He printed several letters, grunted, and tossed the pen aside.

It was only a seven-minute ride from the Court House to the Bay Island detachment; however, Annie exerted her authority and grabbed the keys from Jim. Henry bent his head, an apparently well-practiced motion, and slid in the back seat. Unlike most "passengers", he didn't seem to mind the plexi-glass partition which prevented many from having any real leg room. He leaned forward in Jim's direction and nodded. "How are ya gettin' on, Jim?"

"I'm good, Henry bye. Probably better than you are right now. What are you doing breaking those conditions from the Judge?"

Henry gazed out the window. "I know I done wrong. I had lots goin' on with the new missus and went out on a bender. The next thing I knows is, I'm in handcuffs by one of the Constables doin' a foot patrol. I didn't mean to do nothin'."

Annie interrupted the friendly banter. "Hello, Henry. I'm Constable Annie. We didn't formally meet when you were signing your recognizance."

"Sorry, Annie. I thought youse had met – don't mind me," Jim said with a big smile.

Henry returned his gaze to the driver's seat. "I only figured you was a lady cop when you took those keys from Jim. I never seen one in real life, and thought you was one of the social workers tha's usually in court."

Annie knew how difficult it was to be taken seriously when she arrived upon a scene, and the people there expected a chiselled male to save the day. It didn't help that she was, by and large, the girl-next-door type and wore her uniform well. But she struggled to keep all that hair in a bun for an entire shift. *I really do need to find a hair shop here.*

The police station was quintessential, set back from the road, with an immense sign on the front lawn. At the back of the building, a stone pathway led to a massive steel door protecting the holding cells where prisoners traditionally remained until escorted to the larger penitentiary in the city. Adjacent to the steel door were heavy-duty garage doors that opened for prisoner transfer from the police car. Jim pointed out which garage to use, and she pulled in. The procedure was designed to lessen the chances of a prisoner escaping from the car, but Henry appeared resigned to his fate. Annie and Jim directed him into the cells.

50 YEARS WOMEN IN UNIFORM / 50 ANS DE FEMMES EN UNIFORME

Bay Island Girl - Continued

Although detachments differed in their design from town to town, the typical prison cell varied little. The cells in the Bay Island block were a standard eight by six feet, with a metal bed tray bolted to the wall, a sink, and a toilet. Some cells in other detachments had small, frosted windows allowing sunlight to creep in; however, this block did not. The design had a dormitory set-up, with two bunks in case of overcrowding. But only one bunk was required right now. Peering from the inside there is not much to look at other than four pale yellow walls decorated with graffiti and gouges from previous tenants.

Annie processed Henry while Jim fetched clean linen, pillow and roll of toilet tissue. The postal code and faces may have been new to Annie, but the D-777 prisoner intake form remained constant. Taking stock of all Henry's possessions would not be daunting. He carried his things in a plastic grocery sack and a small, haggard prison-issued kit bag that had been logged in many holding cells over the years. Annie took inventory: gum, health card, a few photos, cigarettes, lighter, several t-shirts that had seen better days, jogging pants, one pair of jeans, underwear, and socks. Given the amount of friendly exchange between Henry and Jim during the drive to the station, Annie recognized that Henry wasn't a bad sort even if he did lack judgment. She quickly learned that he was also a victim of circumstance and the only person he ever hurt was himself. Environment and good old-fashioned luck had not been kind to this young man, and Jim made no secret that he took great care of people he felt were hard done by.

Henry removed his shoes, socks, and laces, watching Annie carefully catalogue every item. "How long is you here for?"

"I'm not entirely sure, but probably two or three years."

"See any icebergs yet?"

Annie glanced up from her paperwork. "I haven't really seen much of anything." She smirked at Jim. "My first official shift is tomorrow. I've only seen the Court House and the detachment."

"Well, everyone that gets posted here loves the icebergs and the people aren't that bad either. We just drinks too much and get into trouble." Henry paused. "Some of us, anyways."

"Yes. I've heard about the beautiful scenery and that was one of the reasons I chose to work here."

Henry smiled and the spaces where teeth once stood were slightly black with smears of hardened yellow. Annie thought if circumstances were different, this young guy could be on the other side of freedom with a full set of pearly whites.

"Can I keep that picture wit me?"

Annie motioned to lock Henry in the cell when he asked to keep one of the polaroids with him. This was forbidden. All effects had to be kept out of reach for safety reasons. He showed the photograph to her. It was a picture of a girl in her mid-twenties, Annie guessed, with a large belly. Henry explained that was his girlfriend of six months and she was eight months pregnant, and he was going to support her and be a real father to the baby. Annie wasn't sure what he meant by that, but she wasn't about to find out or even question whether Henry was aware of the normal gestation period of a baby prior to birth. He may struggle with math as much as he did his signature at the Court House.

50 YEARS WOMEN IN UNIFORM / 50 ANS DE FEMMES EN UNIFORME

Bay Island Girl - Continued

The other cells were empty and after a side-glance at Jim, who nodded ever so slightly, Annie handed over the treasured polaroid. Henry held it tightly as he made himself comfortable in his new temporary home. Jim locked the cell door and directed her down the hallway toward the main working quarters. Along the way, he provided Annie with more insight concerning her new posting.

“Look Annie, about 50% of the population here lives below the poverty line and most of the crime is a result of too much liquor and not enough work and money. But the people here are good, I tell ya. That young fella don’t know any better and I’m not trying to be a softie or anything like that. I just feels like sometimes they get treated better here than with their own families.”

Annie glanced at Jim. “Have you ever had a prisoner escape?”

“Nope. Never. They all know it’s a small place and I know where they live. Besides, I’m good to them and most are here just because they made mistakes and found themselves on hard luck”.

“So, I assume you get a fair share of repeat offenders in cells?”

“Yeah, we does. Most of them breaks the law more than once, especially when times are tough. The odd one leaves town and heads to the mainland after they does their time.”

Because the cells are technically a private incarceration facility, the prisoner log wasn’t subject to the same disclosure as public counterparts and so Jim said the Sergeant in charge allowed the low-risk offenders out to walk around and wash police cars and see the outside from time to time. He said if they were at a minimum-security facility, they would be allowed out to work, walk around the grounds, use fitness facilities, and visit a library. Jim was only doing what he thought was fair. Since the Provincial facility was chock full, Henry’s time would be served at Bay Island cells, which also meant Jim had steady employment as a guard. Henry’s misery turned out to benefit them both.

Annie had been in Bay Island for a full 24 hours now and her first official shift began tomorrow. She needed a good rest. Jim drove her home – in his own car – and Annie couldn’t stop yawning from everything that happened that day. She was long overdue for a good night’s sleep. She grabbed a quick bite and fell into bed.

Hours passed. Annie lay awake due to her complicated relationship with sleep. She reminded herself that she cannot change the ending of her memories and, to make matters worse, her internal clock was screwed up because of the years of night shifts and call backs. The book she read after the visit with Dr. Mac Donald said experts believe sleep is tied to memory, specifically, emotional memories. Annie allows the memory to get in and can not shut it down. It simply remains until it’s gone.

Like now. Eventually, the haunting image of the cold, grey baby vanished as quickly as it had come. Annie rolled over, focused on breathing and positive imagery, and hoped to muster in a few hours of shut eye. Despite everything that happened, and the shock of her early morning wake-up call from Jim, she knew she’d made the right decision to come to Bay Island.

Annie smiled and pulled the covers around her. *Tomorrow will be a new beginning. My escape is now complete.*



50 YEARS WOMEN IN UNIFORM / 50 ANS DE FEMMES EN UNIFORME



At the February RGM, Ottawa Division members celebrated 50 years of Women in Uniform with the presentation of the RCMP Veterans' Association Challenge Coin. Recipients were presented their Challenge Coins by Commissioner Brenda Lucki.

Pictured here, L-R: Luisa Russo-Lemay, Hollie Maffenbeier, Brenda Lucki, Manon McSween-Séguin, Linda McEwen, Susan Munn, Diana Hampson, Joanne White and Christine Windover. Camera shy recipients included Louise Morel, Carole Raymond and Karen Ziezold.

PEI Division celebrated their Veteran Women in Uniform on March 19, 2025. Recipients L-R: Front Row: Bernie Chapman, Kim Hendrickson, Anne Marie O'Shaugnessey.

Back Row: Jeannette Galant, Louanne McQuaid, Aletha MacDonald, Ruby Burns, Sarah-Louise Murray, Ronna Lee Rattray.





be so positive
That negative people don't
want to be around you



On June 25, 2025, ODVA Veterans Graham Muir and Marc Dureau were presented with the Kings Charles III Coronation medal by Commissioner Duheme at a ceremony at RCMP Headquarters. Congratulations from all of your colleagues and thank you for all that you do for the Veterans.

Le 25 juin 2025, les vétérans de l'ODVA Graham Muir et Marc Dureau ont reçu la médaille du couronnement du roi Charles III des mains du commissaire Duheme lors d'une cérémonie au quartier général de la GRC. Félicitations de la part de tous vos collègues et merci pour tout ce que vous faites pour les vétérans.



Photos courtesy of Serge Gouin—RCMP / Photos gracieuseté de Serge Gouin—GRC

Ottawa Division Veterans: First Annual Kit Collection, A Bountiful Harvest

Collecting kit and clothing is not a new thing for the Ottawa Division of the RCMP Veterans' Association (ODVA). In fact, it's been going on quietly behind the scenes for many years, typically at the request of association members, former members, or their families once they've passed on. Our Sergeant-at-arms, Marc Dureau, has a small team of like-minded mates that lends a hand in responding to incoming calls.

But a proactive, advertised 'active offer of service' is another matter entirely. This spring, Marc released an ODVA email bulletin announcing a one-day pick up & drop off event. Saturday April 16th was marked as the day of reconning. More than 30 association and former members signed up to have kit collected from their homes. And roughly 15 chose to make the trip to the collection point at the Canadian Police College in 'E' Block (Equitation Branch).

As it turned out, word got around and there were several cases of friends and colleagues dropping off at one of the 30 plus houses on the collection list, knowing that their gear would find its way to 'E' Block.

Having divided the greater Ottawa area (including Hull and Gatineau) into three catchment areas – centre, east and west – Marc was joined by Ralph Mahar and Graham Muir to make the rounds. Truth be told, it was necessary to get a head start a few days in advance of collection day to make sure that the job was done on schedule.

The Musical Ride classroom in the basement of 'E' Block became the collection and sorting depot for the day. And it was a long, long day! Marc's son, Jonathan, donated his strong back to the cause and Michel Pelletier waded into the fray as boxes and bags of kit were off-loaded, sorted and stacked. Brass was stripped, pockets were emptied, and piles were made of all and sundry things. A picture is worth a thousand words: *[L-R Muir, Dureau, Pelletier, Mahar]*



As a quick aside, even before this harvest got underway, Marc had answered the call from Depot Division by collecting and shipping more than 30 pairs of high brown Strathcona boots to the Academy. This was done on an emergent basis, across various divisions of our Association, due to procurement shortages in Depot's quartermaster inventory.

It goes without saying that much of what gets collected is destined for a landfill site. But that does not change the fact that our ODVA team flies under the banner of "We recycle!". Value is in the eye of the beholder and there were several beneficiaries of this year's harvest:

A Bountiful Harvest—Continued

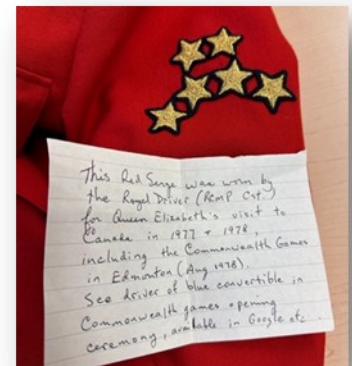
- The Musical Ride received 34 pairs of high browns and 19 Stetsons.
- The Musical Ride Reception Centre [historical display] inherited several artifacts including well-preserved arctic gear and a vintage Stetson, complete with its hat box, from Christies, London England.
- The ODVA acquired 2 red blazers, 1 blue blazer, 1 pair of grey trousers, assorted pairs of black gloves and several blue overcoats.
- The RCMP Tailor Shop at National Headquarters reclaimed 11 officers' pattern red serge tunics suitable for re-issue.
- The RCMP National Warrant Program [Sergeants Major] recovered several officers' pattern ceremonial belts and Sam Brownes. At the expressed request of our 'K' Division SM, 5 sets of officers' mess kit and sundry brass accoutrements will be sent west.
- The RCMP Pipe Band claimed 43 red serge tunics, 15 ceremonial belts, 9 black leather duty belts, 7 pairs of black oxford shoes and a box of brass [collar dogs, shoulder and hat badges, and buttons].



New homes have yet to be found for a large quantity of serviceable winter storm coats, pea coats and patrol jackets. Once badges and brass are removed, we anticipate that these garments will find their way to local charitable organizations.

There is no escaping the fact that much of what gets collected cannot be recycled and must be disposed of. As disappointing as that may seem, there are also those 'hidden gems' revealed that make the whole exercise worthwhile. As noted, we do check pockets – it's an old occupational reflex. In the breast pocket of a red serge, we came across a hand-written note that reads as follows:

'This Red Serge was worn by the Royal Driver (RCMP Cst.) for Queen Elizabeth's visit to Canada in 1977 and 1978, including the Commonwealth Games in Edmonton (August 1978). See driver of blue convertible in Commonwealth Games opening ceremony, available in Google etc.'



As has happened in the past, we await the moment when this tunic finds its way back into service – most likely with a member of our RCMP Pipes and Drums. The provenance and legacy will be



Article prepared and submitted by Veteran Graham Muir



Birthday Greetings extended to Ottawa Division Veteran Maz Mufti (C0812) who celebrated his 90th birthday on September 4, 2025. Congratulations and Best Wishes Maz from all your friends.

Vœux d'anniversaire adressés au vétéran de la division d'Ottawa Maz Mufti (C0812) qui a célébré son 90e anniversaire le 4 septembre 2025. Félicitations et meilleurs vœux Maz de la part de tous tes amis.

Ron Mostrey, Terence McDonald and Lia Eichele lining up for a spot at the BBQ pits during the 10th Annual Long Island BBQ which took

A photograph of three people smiling for a selfie outdoors. On the left is a man with short brown hair and a mustache, wearing a black t-shirt with yellow text. In the center is a man wearing a maroon button-down shirt and a dark baseball cap. On the right is a woman with short white hair, wearing a light-colored top. They are standing in front of a green lawn and trees.

place on June 10, 2025. Sorry, but these are the only pictures that were salvaged from the event, which was a sell out with 114 attending. Master of Ceremonies was expertly handled by Chaplain Pierre Bélanger. Master craftsman and Veteran Mike Shaver donated a couple of wood pieces that were handed out as door prizes. Other door prizes included a golf package for two, donated by Timber Run Golf Course in Lanark and some valuable gift card from Tim Hortons, Canadian Tire and Esso. The weather was perfect and the food was equally as tasty as last year. Many thanks to Louise Ross and her helpers for organizing another successful BBQ event.

Another BBQ event to report took place at the hacienda of Michel and Judy Saurette in Perth, Ontario on June 19. Forty two hungry guests took advantage of excellent summer weather and superb hosting by Michel and Judy. There was a Bingo extravaganza that was, apparently, enjoyed by all, with prizes consisting of wood-working projects donated by Master wood worker Mike Shaver.



President Wayne Jacquard took the opportunity to present Veteran Mel Dillon (19797) with his 35 year certificate and pin commemorating his service in ODVA. Congratulations and Best Wishes Mel.

**RCMP VETERANS' ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION
FONDATION DE L'ASSOCIATION DES VÉTÉRANS DE LA GRC**

Support. Honour. Serve.

The RCMP Veterans' Association Foundation is very pleased to announce that our public website has launched!

It is now available to provide information to the public, and to gratefully accept donations to support the causes and needs that our charitable mandate permits.

Highlights of our purpose, our charitable work to date, and directions on how to make a donation are provided here below.

We encourage you to come check out our website, and also please to share it widely. We have good work to do. To accomplish that, we have to be seen. Please help us help those who served and are serving with with honour.

Feel free to 'share' our website on your own social media. We are very grateful for your support!

Please read on and learn more about us.



Soutenir. Honorer. Servir.

La Fondation de l'Association des vétérans de la GRC est très heureuse d'annoncer le lancement de son site Web public !

Il est désormais accessible au public et permet de recueillir des dons destinés à soutenir les causes et les besoins que notre mandat caritatif nous au-

torise à défendre.

Vous trouverez ci-dessous les points forts de notre mission, les actions caritatives que nous avons menées jusqu'à présent et les modalités pour faire un don.

Nous vous encourageons à visiter notre site Web et à le partager largement. Nous avons un travail important à accomplir. Pour y parvenir, nous devons être visibles. Aidez-nous à aider ceux qui ont servi et qui servent avec honneur.

N'hésitez pas à partager notre site Web sur vos propres réseaux sociaux. Nous vous sommes très reconnaissants de votre soutien !

Poursuivez votre lecture pour en savoir plus sur nous.



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT / AU CAS OÙ VOUS L'AURIEZ
MANQUÉ

RCMP VETERANS' ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION FONDATION DE L'ASSOCIATION DES VÉTÉRANS DE LA GRC

[The RCMPVA Foundation](#) is the official charitable arm of the RCMP Veterans' Association.

Aside from the RCMP Benefit Trust Fund, it is the only RCMP-affiliated organization dedicated to offering financial assistance to current or former RCMP members or employees and/or their immediate families and/or their dependents serving and retired RCMP employees.

CRA-designated, it accepts donations and issues tax-deductible receipts to support its mission.

Our Guiding Purpose

We provide vital support to current or former RCMP members or employees and/or their immediate families and/or their dependents through financial aid, disability assistance, grief support, and educational opportunities.

Our Charitable Work

The RCMPVA Foundation is the charitable arm of the Veterans' Association. Outside of the RCMP Benefit Trust Fund, it is the only RCMP affiliated entity that is dedicated to providing financial assistance to serving and retired employees of the RCMP. It is designated by the CRA to receive funds and issue an official receipt for income tax purposes to carry out its approved purposes.

Recent examples

As of August 3, 2024, the RCMPVA Foundation has provided emergency financial assistance in relation to the following incidents:

[La Fondation des vétérans de la GRC](#) est l'organisme de bienfaisance officiel de l'Association des vétérans de la GRC.

Outre le Fonds fiduciaire de bienfaisance de la GRC, elle est le seul organisme affilié à la GRC à offrir une aide financière aux membres ou employés, actuels ou anciens, de la GRC, à leur famille immédiate et aux personnes à leur charge, qu'ils soient en service ou retraités.

Désignée par l'ARC, elle accepte les dons et délivre des reçus fiscaux pour soutenir sa mission.

Notre objectif principal

Nous offrons un soutien essentiel aux membres ou employés actuels ou anciens de la GRC et/ou à leurs familles immédiates et/ou à leurs personnes à charge par le biais d'une aide financière, d'une aide aux personnes handicapées, d'un soutien au deuil et de possibilités d'éducation.

Notre travail caritatif

La Fondation des vétérans de la GRC est l'organisme de bienfaisance de l'Association des vétérans. Outre le Fonds fiduciaire de bienfaisance de la GRC, elle est la seule entité affiliée à la GRC à offrir une aide financière aux employés actifs et retraités de la GRC. Elle est désignée par l'ARC pour recevoir des fonds et délivrer un reçu officiel aux fins de l'impôt sur le revenu afin de réaliser ses objectifs approuvés.

Exemples récents

En date du 3 août 2024, la Fondation RCMPVA a fourni une aide financière d'urgence en lien avec les incidents suivants :



RCMP VETERANS' ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION
FONDATION DE L'ASSOCIATION DES VÉTÉRANS DE LA GRC

[The RCMPVA Foundation](#) Continued:

- Lytton, BC wildfire – 4 regular members, 2 PSEs, 2 former members and one widowed spouse of a former member.
- Halifax, NS area wildfire – 6 regular members, 3 PSEs, 1 former member
- Maple Ridge, BC house fire – 1 regular member
- Jasper, AB wildfire – 9 regular members; 1 PSE: 1 retired member
- In addition, memorial donations to designated charities, currently in the amount of \$200, are made upon division request on the death of Active and Life Members (40 in 2024; 47 in 2023; 18 in 2022; 43 in 2021).
- Donations received on behalf of the memorial for Cst. Patton in SK for the completion of the memorial park.
- annual contribution provided to Ned's Wish to support the care of former PSDs; and
- transition financial support for special applicants to the RCMP Benefit Trust Fund, until the BTF application is resolved.

NOTE: that 84% of the emergency financial support over the past three years has gone to serving employees of the RCMP.

[La Fondation des vétérans de la GRC](#) - suite

- Incendie de forêt à Lytton, en Colombie-Britannique – 4 membres réguliers, 2 membres du personnel de soutien, 2 anciens membres et une conjointe veuve d'un ancien membre.
- Incendies de forêt dans la région d'Halifax (N.-É.) – 6 membres réguliers, 3 membres du personnel de soutien, 1 ancien membre
- Incendie d'une maison à Maple Ridge, en Colombie-Britannique – 1 membre régulier
- Incendie de forêt à Jasper (Alberta) – 9 membres réguliers; 1 membre du personnel de soutien et 1 membre retraité
- De plus, des dons commémoratifs à des organismes de bienfaisance désignés, actuellement d'un montant de 200 \$, sont faits sur demande de division au décès des membres actifs et à vie (40 en 2024; 47 en 2023; 18 en 2022; 43 en 2021).
- dons reçus au nom du mémorial du gendarme Patton en Saskatchewan pour l'achèvement du parc commémoratif.
- contribution annuelle versée à Ned's Wish pour soutenir les soins des anciens PSD ; et
- soutien financier de transition pour les demandeurs spéciaux au Fonds fiduciaire de bienfaisance de la GRC, jusqu'à ce que la demande du Fonds fiduciaire de bienfaisance de la GRC soit résolue.

REMARQUE : 84 % du soutien financier d'urgence au cours des trois dernières années a été versé aux employés en service de la GRC.



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT / AU CAS OÙ VOUS L'AURIEZ
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**RCMP VETERANS' ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION
FONDATION DE L'ASSOCIATION DES VÉTÉRANS DE LA GRC**

[The RCMPVA Foundation](#) Continued:

How to Donate:

Make your donation using one of the three methods below.

We can accept donations by e-transfer, online payment, or cheque by mail.

Visit our [website](#) for guidance on how to donate.

Get in Touch:

Contact us to support or assist current and former RCMP members and employees, and their family/dependents in need.

Email Us:

rcmpvafoundation@gmail.com

In cases of an emergent nature, efforts should be made to contact your local RCMPVA Division to seek the assistance you may require in an emergency.

[La Fondation des vétérans de la GRC](#) - suite

Comment faire un don :

Faites votre don en utilisant l'une des trois méthodes ci-dessous.

Nous pouvons accepter les dons par virement électronique, paiement en ligne ou chèque par courrier.

Visitez notre [site Web](#) pour obtenir des conseils sur la manière de faire un don.

Entrer en contact :

Contactez-nous pour soutenir ou aider les membres et employés actuels et anciens de la GRC, ainsi que leur famille et leurs personnes à charge dans le besoin.

Envoyez-nous un e-mail :

rcmpvafoundation@gmail.com

En cas d'urgence, des efforts doivent être faits pour contacter votre division locale de la GRCVA afin d'obtenir l'aide dont vous pourriez avoir besoin en cas d'urgence.

**RCMPVA
FOUNDATION**



**FONDATION
AVGRC**

**RCMPVA
FOUNDATION**



**FONDATION
AVGRC**



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT / AU CAS OÙ VOUS L'AURIEZ
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The following information was recently published by Veterans Affairs Canada and is directed serving members and **Veterans** of the RCMP:

If you have a service-related illness or injury, you may qualify for services and benefits. This includes the disability pension, a monthly tax-free financial payment.

Learn more about your options: <https://ow.ly/LcKV50WJxGy>

[Disability pension programs and services](#)

Financial payments provided for a service-related illness or injury.

[Medical costs](#)

Get help paying for healthcare services and expenses related to your health needs.

[Talk to a professional now](#)

Financial payments provided for a service-related illness or injury.

[Talk to someone who can relate](#)

There are peer support networks for members or Veterans of the CAF or the RCMP living with an operational stress injury (OSI).

[You and your family](#)

Services for you and your family when you leave the RCMP.

[Sexual trauma and harassment](#)

[Transition interview](#)

Leaving the RCMP can be a big change for you and your family. Schedule a transition interview to learn how we can help.

[Guided support](#)

Sometimes life situations can be challenging. When the challenge is too much to handle independently, Guided Support services can help you and your family.

QUESTIONS: CALL 1-866-522-2122

VAC Assistance Service (1-800-268-7708) can provide you with psychological support. It is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The service is for Veterans, former RCMP members, their families, and caregivers and is provided at no cost. You do not need to be a client of VAC to receive services.



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT / AU CAS OÙ VOUS L'AURIEZ
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Les informations suivantes ont été récemment publiées par Anciens Combattants Canada et sont destinées aux membres en service et aux Vétérans de la GRC :

Si vous avez une maladie ou une blessure liée au service, vous pourriez être admissible à des services et à des prestations. Cela inclut la pension d'invalidité, un paiement financier mensuel non imposable.

En savoir plus sur vos options : <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/fr/gendarmerie-royale-du-canada-grc>

Programme de pension d'invalidité et services

Paieement financier en cas de maladie ou de blessure liée au service.

Frais médicaux

Recevez une aide pour le paiement des services de soins de santé et des dépenses liées à vos besoins en matière de santé.

Parlez à un professionnel dès aujourd'hui

Obtenez dès maintenant le soutien d'un professionnel de la santé mentale en composant le 1-800-268-7708.

Parlez à quelqu'un qui comprend

Il existe des réseaux de soutien par les pairs pour les membres ou les vétérans des FAC ou de la GRC vivant avec une blessure de stress opérationnel (TSO).

Vous et votre famille

Services pour vous et votre famille au moment de quitter la GRC.

Entrevue de transition

Quitter la GRC est généralement un grand changement pour vous et votre famille. Planifiez une entrevue de transition pour savoir comment nous pouvons vous aider.

Traumatisme sexuel et harcèlement

Soutien dirigé Parfois des situations de vie peuvent être stressantes. Lorsque vous n'êtes plus capable de composer seul avec les difficultés que vous rencontrez, les services de soutien dirigé peut vous aider, vous et votre famille.

Des questions? Appelez-nous. 1-866-522-2022

Le Service d'aide d'ACC (1-800-268-7708) vous offre de soutien psychologique, disponible 24 heures par jour, 365 jours par année. Le Service d'aide d'ACC est offert gratuitement aux vétérans, aux anciens membres de la GRC, ainsi qu'à leur famille et aux aidants. Il n'est pas nécessaire d'être un client d'ACC pour bénéficier des services.



This is a reprint from the Spring Edition as a reminder of the Joint Calgary Division / Ned's Wish project with the sale of Challenge Coins honouring the 90th Anniversary of the Police Service Dog Program,. There are coins still available.

Joint Project - Calgary Division and Ned's Wish: 2025 Challenge Coin

RCMP Veterans Calgary Division and Ned's Wish are jointly participating in a program to raise funds in 2025. Although both organizations will benefit, it is the intention for the majority of surplus funds to go to Ned's Wish.



We are celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the RCMP Canine Section. Dale was the first RCMP dog, and Ned, who recently passed, is the dog behind this charity. We all recog-

nize the value of the RCMP dogs, these special members that assisted us during our service. Today the RCMP has the largest dog section in the world, with 160 dogs and their own breeding program. Ned's Wish accepts dogs at retirement from the RCMP, the Canadian Military, and any Canadian Police Force. Ned's Wish will do their best to find homes for each and every dog and will also pay for the food and medical bills associated with these dogs. You can imagine how big a job this is, and the financial commitment required to carry it out. These dogs were our colleagues, and they dedicated their lives to helping us every day. Ned's Wish, a licenced Canadian Charity, founded by Stacey Talbot, an RCMP Veteran member, is doing its best to provide these special members with a dignified and happy retirement.

Ned's Wish™ is a charitable organization dedicated to preserving and enhancing the quality of life for Retired Police and Military service dogs by providing financial and educational support for their medical well-being. Ned's Wish Ned's Wish needs your support!

The coin shown above is available for sale for \$25 per coin. Prepayment is necessary. Delivery should be no longer than 10 weeks and oldmanhenry77@gmail.com or Bob Ellergodt at bob_ellergodt@telus.net and that you e-transfer your prepayment to invoicingcalgaryrcmpvets@gmail.com.

Challenge coins are not only saved by collectors, but make wonderful gifts to children, grandchildren, family, friends, and first responders that you meet in your travels around the world.



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK / DU BUREAU DE L'ÉDITEUR

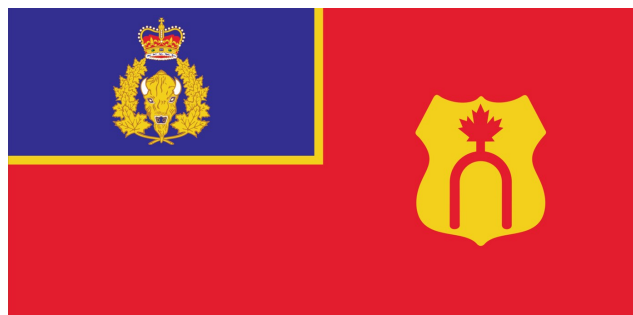
Opportunity to be the new Editor of *The Spirit* Magazine

The *Spirit* magazine is a critical element of the RCMP Veterans' Ottawa Division communications strategy. It is disseminated in hard copy and in digital format. In addition to being distributed to all RCMP Veterans in the Ottawa area, *The Spirit* is also available on the Division's website and in all RCMP Buildings in the National Capital Region.

The Editor is responsible for gathering and layout of articles and accompanying photos using MS Publisher, determines and chooses copy, edits articles, co-ordinates translation, printing and distribution, and renewal of advertising. While the current publication is built using MS Publisher, there are other software and possible AI tools that could be used to assemble this magazine.

The Spirit is published quarterly with flexible deadlines to accommodate your retirement responsibilities and pursuits. Although not completely bilingual, there is a strong commitment to translation of major articles or those which are of most interest to readers.

If you are an experienced communicator who is comfortable with computer software, willing to learn new (and relatively easy) skills, dedicated to good grammar and making sure the facts are right, and interested in the work and interests of Ottawa Division Veterans, consider putting your name forward to Ron Lamb, Director Communications at ottawa.dircomms@rcmpva.org, or Wayne Jacquard, President Ottawa Division at ottawa.president@rcmpva.org.



Possibilité d'être le nouvel éditeur du magazine *The Spirit*

Le magazine *The Spirit* est un élément essentiel de la stratégie de communication de la Division Ottawa des Vétérans de la GRC. Il est diffusé en version papier et en format numérique. En plus, d'être distribué à tous les Vétérans de la GRC dans la région d'Ottawa, *The Spirit* est disponible sur le site Web de la division et dans tous les bâtiments de la GRC dans la région de la capitale nationale.

L'éditeur est responsable de rassembler et d'élaborer des articles et des photos accompagnant en utilisant **MS Publisher**, déterminer et choisir une copie, modifier des articles, coordonner la traduction et l'impression, assurer le renouvellement annuel de la publicité. Bien que la publication actuelle soit construite à l'aide de **MS Publisher**, il existe d'autres logiciels et outils d'IA possibles qui pourraient être utilisés pour assembler ce magazine.

Le magazine *The Spirit* est publié trimestriellement avec délais flexibles pour tenir compte de vos responsabilités et de vos devoirs de retraite. Bien que l'actuelle publication soit réalisée à l'aide de MS Publisher, il existe d'autres logiciels ainsi que des outils d'intelligence artificielle qui pourraient être utilisés afin d'assembler cette revue.

Si vous êtes un communicateur expérimenté, à l'aise avec les logiciels informatiques, désireux d'acquérir de nouvelles compétences (relativement faciles), soucieux de la qualité de la grammaire et de l'exactitude des faits, et que vous vous intéressez au travail et aux intérêts des Vétérans de la Division d'Ottawa, nous vous invitons à soumettre votre candidature à Ron Lamb, Directeur Communications à ottawa.dircomms@rcmpva.org, ou Wayne Jacquard, Président Ottawa Division à ottawa.president@rcmpva.org.





SPIRIT



LAST POST - DERNIÈRE SONNERIE

Reg / Service #	Surname	Given Names	Age	Date of Death	Place of Death
17846	WARNER	Joseph Ralph	91	October 29, 2023	Winnipeg, MB
C/3726	WARD	Mervyn R.	87	October 30, 2024	Boca Chica, Dominican Republic
C/1395	MELVIN	Francis	99	December 8, 2024	Ottawa, ON
19780	MARTYN	Charles Frederick	87	December 13, 2024	Brighton, ON
21073	RIDDLE	John	83	January 11, 2025	Kitimat, BC
29564	WOLFENDEN	Glenn	72	January 30, 2025	Regina, SK
22485	ROSSANDER	David Peter	84	February 3, 2025	Richmond, BC
ME	TIPPE	Margaret Mary (Née MacDougall)	83	March 17, 2025	Coquitlam, BC
Aux Cst	MacKAY	Donald Simon	88	March 18, 2025	Hampton, NB
30737	FIELDING	George Edward	77	April 4, 2025	Chilliwack, BC
15409	ROWDEN	Meredith "Mert"	96	April 4, 2025	Vancouver, BC
34703	LOWREY	Wayne Alexander	71	April 6, 2025	Sheridan Lake, BC
Aux Cst	RAMEY	Bertrum Eugene	85	April 7, 2025	Bridgetown, NS
24538	FYDIRCHUK	Eugene	79	April 8, 2025	St. Albert, AB
20251	PARROTT	William Clarence	91	April 8, 2025	Surrey, BC
25931	GRAY	Christopher Robin	77	April 10, 2025	Winnipeg, MB
17909	BOWYER	Hugh Dickson	92	April 16, 2025	Langley, BC
21890 / O1371	YARD	Gilbert Fraser	84	April 16, 2025	Pender Harbour, BC
29532	JOHNSON	Michael Jerome	74	April 16, 2025	Powell River, BC
16946	ZAWYRUCHA	John	93	April 22, 2025	Vernon, BC
28749	CUSATOR	James Edward	73	April 22, 2025	Shellbrook, SK
27187	BURSEY	Thomas Albert	77	April 22, 2025	Gatineau, QC
Aux Cst	BROWN	George David	86	April 26, 2025	Saint John, NB

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LAST POST - DERNIÈRE SONNERIE

Reg / Service #	Surname	Given Names	Age	Date of Death	Place of Death
17831 / O.903	TORRESAN	Merne Francis	92	April 26, 2025	Port Moody, BC
29728	NOBLE	Murray Paul	75	April 28, 2025	Fredericton, NB
20344 / O.1229	LAFRAMBOISE	Ronald Leslie	88	29 avril 2025	Hawkesbury, ON
C/5766 (DWS)	ALDRED	Katherine	55	April 29, 2025	Ottawa, ON
35672 / O.2254	DELORME	Luc	66	30 avril 2025	Gatineau, QC
C/0305	MERTENS	Jean-Paul	82	April 30, 2025	Ottawa, ON
41885	McANDREW	Daryle	79	May 1, 2025	Lachute, QC
21159	KITTLE	Clinton Neil	86	May 1, 2025	Nanaimo, BC
24138 / O.1368	DENNIS	Edward George	79	May 3, 2025	Brantford, ON
23977	RAMSAY	Robert John	82	May 4, 2025	Ottawa, ON
S/625	PAYETTE	Jacques	75	May 6, 2025	Ottawa, ON
18492 / O.911	FUREY	Ignatius Edward	92	May 6, 2025	Cole Harbour, NS
S/742	WHITE	John "Jack" Francis	95	May 6, 2025	Lethbridge, AB
42583	ROBITAILLE	Michel Charles	73	May 6, 2025	Ottawa, ON
42538	FREEMAN	Ralph Joseph	74	May 7, 2025	Shaughnessy, AB
18908	BREKER	Roinald Michael	91	May 7, 2025	Coquitlam, BC
C/1340	FUNG	Pui King	87	May 7, 2025	Ottawa, ON
25550	HALLETT	James Roscoe	78	May 7, 2025	Fredericton, NB
42873	McDONALD	Clarence Roger	73	May 8, 2025	Truro, NS
19504	CROSBY-JONES	Phillip	92	May 8, 2025	Abbotsford, BC
23587	BISHOP	Thomas E.	80	May 9, 2025	Parksville, BC
22362	KLIMEK	Merril Murray	83	May 9, 2025	Prince Albert, SK
18213	WIEBE	John	90	May 13, 2025	White Rock, BC
21562 / O.1395	BEATON	Roy Leonard	84	May 14, 2025	Red Deer, AB

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Reg / Service #	Surname	Given Names	Age	Date of Death	Place of Death
20123	ROBERGE	René	85	15 mai 2025	Lévis, QC
18876	OLFERT	Edward Isaac	89	May 15, 2025	Abbotsford, BC
21377 / O.1043	MAAS	Donald Harold	86	May 16, 2025	Hanover, ON
24363	SIGURDSON	Garry Leonard	79	May 16, 2025	Sherwood Park, AB
19738	LAMOUREUX	Joseph Bernard Gustave	91	17 mai 2025	Gatineau, QC
27988	HALL	Richard George Stanley	87	May 20, 2025	Campbell River, BC
36178	ICETON	Terence Richard	67	May 20, 2025	Penticton, BC
18870	SIMPSON	Keith	90	May 21, 2025	Victoria, BC
43678	ISIAH	Gordon Thomas	55	May 22, 2025	Fort Simpson, NWT
26466	NICHOLSON	Robert W.	77	May 24, 2025	Cambridge, ON
25131	FALLS	Thomas David	80	May 25, 2025	Vernon, BC
23072	FALLON	Michael James	82	May 25, 2025	Parksville, BC
21604	LeBLANC	J. Robert C.	84	May 25, 2025	Fredericton, NB
18071	POTTER	Carlyle Whitman	91	May 26, 2025	Collingwood, ON
23067	CAIN	Lloyd Stephen	81	May 26, 2025	Riverview, NL
21555	OLSHEWSKI	Garry Joseph	84	May 27, 2025	Edmonton, AB
43803	McLEOD	Roxanne Julie (Née Thompson)	58	May 28, 2025	Prince Albert, SK
C/0910	CRANE	Adrian C.	77	May 28, 2025	Edmonton, AB
26062	MATHER	Raymond Wade	77	May 29, 2025	Fredericton, NB
23103	DUNN	Wayne H.	83	May 29, 2025	Georgian Bay, ON
30665	WILLIAMS	William Patrick	74	May 30, 2025	Cranbrook, BC
15966 / O.674	GAZEY	Peter Stanley	94	May 31, 2025	Almonte, ON
24084	De SNAYER	Dirk Cornelius	79	June 1, 2025	Orleans, ON
31066	CHARLEBOIS	Luc	71	June 2, 2025	Moncton, NB

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LAST POST - DERNIÈRE SONNERIE



Reg / Service #	Surname	Given Names	Age	Date of Death	Place of Death
23235	ANTONSON	Dennis Brian "Skip"	81	June 3, 2025	Prince Albert, SK
30388	GRAINGER	Martin G.T	73	June 3, 2025	Winnipeg, MB
34262	GOSSELIN	Gilles	71	3 juin 2025	Saints-Martyrs-Canadiens, QC
23456	ATKINSON	David Bruce	80	June 3, 2025	Shelburne, NS
52959	RUTH	Lee Brent	42	June 4, 2025	Summerside, NL
S/0369	PAMAK	Thomas Jona	85	June 5, 2025	Nain, NL
CM	JACOBSEN	Josephine May (Née Ananachuk	88	June 6, 2025	Ottawa, ON
32024	CHARLTON	Walter Leslie	77	June 7, 2025	Chilliwack, BC
18509	PORTER	Robert F.	89	June 7, 2025	Calgary, AB
44248	KENNEY	Jean-Pierre	83	9 juin 2025	Gatineau, QC
42555	DELORME	Augustin Joseph	75	June 9, 2025	Winnipeg, MB
C/4501	CHARRON	Michel J.A.	80	June 11, 2025	Rockland, ON
27382	TERRY	Edward Frances	76	June 13, 2025	London, ON
19533 / O.1143	MAFFETT	William C.	89	June 14, 2025	Orléans, ON
19515	MOROZ	Walter	89	June 14, 2025	Ottawa, ON
40526	BISHOP	Robert George	75	June 15, 2025	Millet, AB
22495 / O.1364	WASS	Robert William	82	June 16, 2025	Winnipeg, MB
43134	EBURNE	Kenneth Maitland	79	June 16, 2025	Chatham, ON
20057	DOUGHTY	Lewis George	88	June 17, 2025	Barrie, ON
C/2191	VAILLANCOURT	Mary Theresa (Née Daly)	95	June 17, 2025	Ottawa, ON
47299	TRIBBLING	Christine Dawn	51	June 19, 2025	Mount Herbert, PE
16835	ROY	Gérard	93	19 juin 2025	Saint Bruno de Montarville, QC
21321 / O.1251	THORHAUGE	Rolf	84	June 20, 2025	Ottawa, ON
20834	WOLOSZYN	Peter	85	June 20, 2025	Orangeville, ON



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LAST POST - DERNIÈRE SONNERIE



Reg / Service #	Surname	Given Names	Age	Date of Death	Place of Death
34045	BUSST	John Herbert	75	June 20, 2025	Vancouver, BC
31273	KINAS	Eduard Gustav	71	June 21, 2025	Moncton, NB
C/8848	JACOB	Chidozie Gracious	56	June 21, 2025	Ottawa, ON
PSE	CORRIGAN	Maureen	78	June 23, 2025	South Harbour, NS
20228	HARVEY	Ronald Leslie	86	June 24, 2025	Calgary, AB
PSE	LAWSON	Lorna Lee (Née Brown)	73	June 25, 2025	Miami, MB
35104	BANKS	Dale Reginald	75	June 25, 2025	Springhill, NS
22539	MIDDLEMISS	James	83	June 26, 2025	Penticton, BC
32973	WALL	Lloyd Joseph Stephen	72	June 26, 2025	Calgary, AB
32005	LINDSAY	John Everett	70	June 26, 2025	Fredericton, NB
18442 / O.805	ROY	Jack McNaughton	91	June 27, 2025	Qualicum Beach, BC
S/100	ARCHAMBAULT	Alphonse	95	28 juin 2025	Granby, QC
29012	BATES	Barry Philip	76	June 29, 2025	Edmonton, AB
S/1658	HANSEN	Jorgen Gunnar	95	July 1, 2025	Calgary, AB
31139	JOHNSON	Philip Blair	70	July 2, 2025	Foam Lake, SK
22346	COOPER	Alan Gene	84	July 2, 2025	Ottawa, ON
C/2753	GRAHAM	Judith	93	July 4, 2025	North York, ON
18864 / O.1048	TEDESCHINI	Remo Anthony	91	July 5, 2025	Edmonton, AB
17107	FRANK	Wilfred	93	July 7, 2025	Oshawa, ON
49052	TURNER	Derek	55	July 7, 2025	Whitehorse, YT
47425	WYNN	Kevin Andrew	56	July 10, 2025	Belleville, ON
21932	GILLESPIE	Harland Dale	84	July 11, 2025	Edmonton, AB
M/100	MacNEILL	Douglas Gregory	87	July 12, 2025	Sarnia, ON

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Reg / Service #	Surname	Given Names	Age	Date of Death	Place of Death
26512	McBRATNEY	William H.	79	July 12, 2025	Parksville, BC
C/3415	JANES	Emmeline Doreen (Née Hiscock)	96	July 12, 2025	Cornerbrook, NL
50228	LEARNING	Craig Stewart	45	July 15, 2025	Lewisporte, NL
23825 / O.1274	MARTELL	Wayne Francis	80	July 17, 2025	Ottawa, ON
21200	GRAHAM	Robert Boyd	86	July 17, 2025	Penticton, BC
PSE	WHEELER	Dianne Louise (Née Avery)	84	July 18, 2025	Ottawa, ON
40965	LITTLE	Robert Gordon	89	July 18, 2025	Westfield, NB
C/4946	St-JEAN	Joseph Robert Ern- est	65	18 juillet 2025	Ottawa, ON
26020	DANILOWICH	Ron Stanley	79	July 19, 2025	Krydor, SK
43940	MULDOON	David Adam	73	July 19, 2025	Toronto, ON
22917	MULDER	Lucas	81	July 19, 2025	Airdrie, AB
35132	DEAN	Patrick James	68	July 20, 2025	Kennedy, SK
C/5294	MÉNARD	Mathieu Stéphane	53	20 juillet 2025	Ottawa, ON
31996	MARSHINEW	Richard Wayne	72	July 20, 2025	Kelowna, BC
24648 / O.1541	CURISTON	Robert Patrick	78	July 21, 2025	Stouffville, ON
21723	STANLEY	William Neal	84	July 23, 2025	Edmonton, AB
32795	LOGAN	Hugh Garfield Collin	73	July 25, 2025	Cranbrook, BC
S/1740	CRAWSHAW	Donald Leslie	82	July 25, 2025	Calgary, AB
23991	LUTTRELL	J. Floyd	91	July 26, 2025	Saint John, NB
36620	FLYNN	Raymond Francis	68	July 28, 2025	Yarmouth, NS
22369	BARBER	Douglas	84	July 29, 2025	Truro, NS
31664	MARSH	Robert Edward	71	July 30, 2025	Red Deer, AB
27108 / O.1572	SAWATSKY	Murray John	76	July 31, 2025	Regina, SK
31004	HILL	Bruce Allison	76	August 1, 2025	Regina, SK
43385	MARTIN	Patrick George	66	August 1, 2025	Prince George, BC

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LAST POST - DERNIÈRE SONNERIE



Reg / Service #	Surname	Given Names	Age	Date of Death	Place of Death
36804	KOZLOVICH	Steven James	64	August 1, 2025	Kapuskasing, ON
41678	FOERSTER	Frederick George	60	August 2, 2025	Regina, SK
20443	BOULANGER	Royal	86	3 août 2025	Beloeil, QC
27988	HABBERFIELD	Alvin Roy	74	August 5, 2025	Carstairs, AB
27525	LEHOUX	Guy	75	5 août 2025	Brossard, QC
20687	CARRADICE	Albert Garvin	88	August 5, 2025	Calgary, AB
20622 / O.1301	BURLEIGH	Francis Peter	85	August 6, 2025	Kelowna, BC
C/0138	RADYCH	William	98	August 6, 2025	Ottawa, ON
19549	KYLE	Norman Edward	89	August 7, 2025	Ottawa, ON
C/2106	BEWCYK	Nina Theresa Maria	70	August 8, 2025	Maple Ridge, BC
22294	RIEGER	Charles Edward	85	August 8, 2025	Nanaimo, BC
22150	INESON	Peter Gordon	82	August 9, 2025	Halifax, NS
20362	ANDERSON	Wayne Orville	87	August 9, 2025	Ottawa, ON
26141	MEIJER	Hendrikus	77	August 9, 2025	Terrace, BC
19310	O'HALLORAN	John Leonard	88	August 10, 2025	Wakefield, NB
C/7429	KESSEL	Nicole	45	August 10, 2025	Red Deer, AB
C/3086	NIKAIDO	Hiroshi "Roy"	89	August 11, 2025	Abbotsford, BC
Second Man	PILOT	Lois Frances (Née Alsford)	83	August 12, 2025	Vancouver, BC
34566	McCOLLISTER	Wesley Crawford	67	August 12, 2025	Sparwood, BC
20006	KOVALICK	John	87	August 15, 2025	Surrey, BC
19603	MackAY	John Joseph	88	August 17, 2025	Brampton, ON
25049	PRETTY	Edgar John	78	August 17, 2025	New Perth, PE
33867	BREWSTER	Michael Patrick	71	August 17, 2025	Chilliwack, BC
C/0795	BOOTH	Thomas Beverley	82	August 18, 2025	Ottawa, ON



Reg / Service #	Surname	Given Names	Age	Date of Death	Place of Death
23027	BURKI	Willy	83	August 19, 2025	Thunder Bay, ON
43390	GALLIFORD	Catherine A.	58	August 19, 2025	Kamloops, BC
19455	OROBKO	Steve	89	August 20, 2025	New Hamburg, ON
19888	SIPLEY	Lindsay Walter	89	August 21, 2025	Warman, SK
23142	MARKUS	William Ted	82	August 21, 2025	Saskatoon, SK
25069	ENGLISH	Richard Byron	81	August 27, 2025	Cranbrook, BC
21525	BOYD	David McCutcheon	85	August 27, 2025	Kennebec Lake, ON
27481	MILLER	Ralph	76	August 29, 2025	Renfrew, ON
31410	FIANDER	Gower James	70	August 29, 2025	Brookfield, NS
A17950	APPLIN	Edward George	67	August 30, 2025	Saskatoon, SK
33015	SIMARD	Clarence	69	31 août 2025	Ottawa, ON
22169	SHEFFIELD	Ronald Elwyn	83	September 2, 2025	Edmonton, AB
20621	BURRY	Ross Wayne	85	September 2, 2025	St. John's, NL
39954	JOHNSTON	Jennifer Bette (Née Plant)	57	September 4, 2025	Riverview, NB
22089	STECKEL	Roy Edward	84	September 4, 2025	Cambridge, ON
67281 (DWS)	LILLEY	Evan Joseph Keith	28	September 6, 2025	Portage La Prairie, MB
24397 / O.1648	BOYD	Robert James G.	79	September 7, 2025	Rosetown, SK
20881 / O.1042	WALKER	James D.	86	September 8, 2025	Ottawa, ON



SPIRIT

LAST POST - DERNIÈRE SONNERIE



The following story was published in the Medicine Hat News on June 19, 2025. Written by journalist Collin Gallant, it tells the story of the lost grave site of NWMP Regimental Number 3099, John Henry PARRY, Great Grandfather of 30802 / O.1688 Curt Tugnum. You can find the story online [here](#).

Curt Tugnum's quest brought him to the shade of a huge spruce tree in Medicine Hat on Wednesday, to the foot of an unmarked grave and the almost forgotten resting place of his great-grandfather.

"One year ago, I never thought I'd be here," Tugnum said during brief remarks at a ceremony at Hillside Cemetery to rededicate the grave of John Henry Parry. "I didn't think we would ever find this place ... It's far beyond what I ever expected."

The North West Mounted Police officer was only a name on a family tree when Tugnum, a retired Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer, became interested in genealogy and began investigating.

Years later, Tugnum knows the Welshman arrived in Canada in 1891, worked his way west along the rail line, joined the NWMP, married a widow with six children, had two of his own while farm steading in Saskatchewan and died of tuberculosis, which would claim many members of that family.

Tugnum also knows how Parry arrived in Medicine Hat "a pauper" to be treated at Medicine Hat General Hospital – dropped off by a friend who adopted his daughters – but died within three days and was buried with the hospital covering the \$3 charge.

The surviving daughter, Tugnum's grandmother, started another branch of the family tree that is a "continuation" that now counts five generations of RCMP members.

Through it, said Tugnum, the journey has strengthened the "family of my own and a family of my profession."



Wednesday's ceremony was attended by 13 members of the Retired RCMP Officers Association, Cypress Hills Division, a serving member from the RCMP detachment in Redcliff and a half dozen members of Tugnum's extended family.

Rev. Ken Wells, the chaplain of the Retired Officers branch, said the research paints a picture of a hardworking, religious man who faced incredible trials in life.

"The events that affect us do not leave us alone, but do not leave

us without hope," said Wells. "We gather to remember those who serve ... that service has deep meaning, and remembrance puts flesh to memories."



THE SPIRIT

LAST POST - DERNIÈRE SONNERIE



3099 PARRY, Continued



Several extended family members also attended the service, including Parry's great-great-grandson Geordie Simpson, a recently retired 25-year member of the RCMP. "I've been to Medicine Hat many times, but had no idea he was here," said Simpson.

Tugnum mused that his great grandfather had likely been accepted into the NWMP at Depot in Regina because he was a painter by trade and records show he was engaged in the construction of a chapel aside one part of a mess hall at Depot.

Tugnum was the Chief Superintendent at RCMP's main training facility before retiring in 2005.

"When I think of how many times I sat there," said Tugnum, who extended thanks to staff at the Esplanade Archives for "extraordinary effort" of searching hospital records, the staff at Hillside Cemetery and Medicine Hat Monumental.

"It's not an end, but it's an accomplishment that I'm proud of." Tugnum now plans to turn his full attention to researching the life of his great-grandmother Elizabeth, Parry's wife.

"You can't know who you are or where you are going without knowing something about who you were," said Tugnum.

"That's helped me know who I am, and that's the continuum that I think is really important."



Removing the funeral pall from the new marker: (L): Reg.#46942, Corporal G. Simpson & (R): Reg.#30802, C/Supt. C. Tugnum
Courtesy of Volunteer Jess Pollock. 2025



COFFEE TIME / LES P'TITS CAFÉS

For the information of the members in the National Capital Region, here are the updated dates and times for various Breakfast /Lunch Clubs. Hope you all enjoy the meetings.

À titre d'information des membres de la région de la capitale nationale, voici les dates et heures mises à jour pour les différents clubs de petits-déjeuners/déjeuners. J'espère que vous apprécierez tous les rendez-vous.

PERTH: The Perth Veterans are happy to inform everyone that their monthly breakfast is back. With a new management team, **The Perth Restaurant (23 Gore Street East)** will once again be hosting all former employees of the RCMP and their families on the **first Wednesday of every month** at 09:00 for a hearty breakfast. / Les Vétérans de Perth ont le plaisir de vous informer que leur petit déjeuner mensuel est de retour. La nouvelle administration du Perth Restaurant (au **23 rue Gore E.**) accueillera à nouveau tous les employés retraités de la GRC et leurs familles **le premier mercredi de chaque mois** à 9 h pour un petit déjeuner copieux.

Contact: Michel Saurette at/à michel.saurette@hotmail.com

OTTAWA EAST: Second Monday of the month at 07:45 am; fourth Monday of the month at 09:00 am; Gabriel Pizza Restaurant, 2160 St Joseph Blvd, Orleans, ON.

OTTAWA EST: Deuxième lundi du mois à 07h45 ; quatrième lundi du mois à 09h00 ; Gabriel Pizza Restaurant, 2160 St Joseph Blvd, Orleans, ON.

Contact: Sig Sigurdson at/à eastenders@sympatico.ca

OTTAWA CENTRAL: Every other Wednesday starting May 25, 2022, 07:30 am, Stacked Smoked Meat and Grill, 2679 Bank Street, Ottawa, ON.

CENTRE D'OTTAWA: Tous les deux mercredis à partir du 25 mai 2022, 07h30, Stacked Smoked Meat and Grill, 2679 rue Bank, Ottawa, ON.

Contact: Brent MacDonald at/à brent.macdonald@rogers.com

OTTAWA WEST: Second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 10:00 am, Busters Bar and Grill, 420 Hazeldean Rd, Kanata, ON.

OTTAWA OUEST: Deuxième et quatrième mercredi de chaque mois à 10 h, Busters Bar and Grill, 420 Hazeldean Rd, Kanata, ON.

Contact: Bill Sandzuik (613) 828-8329

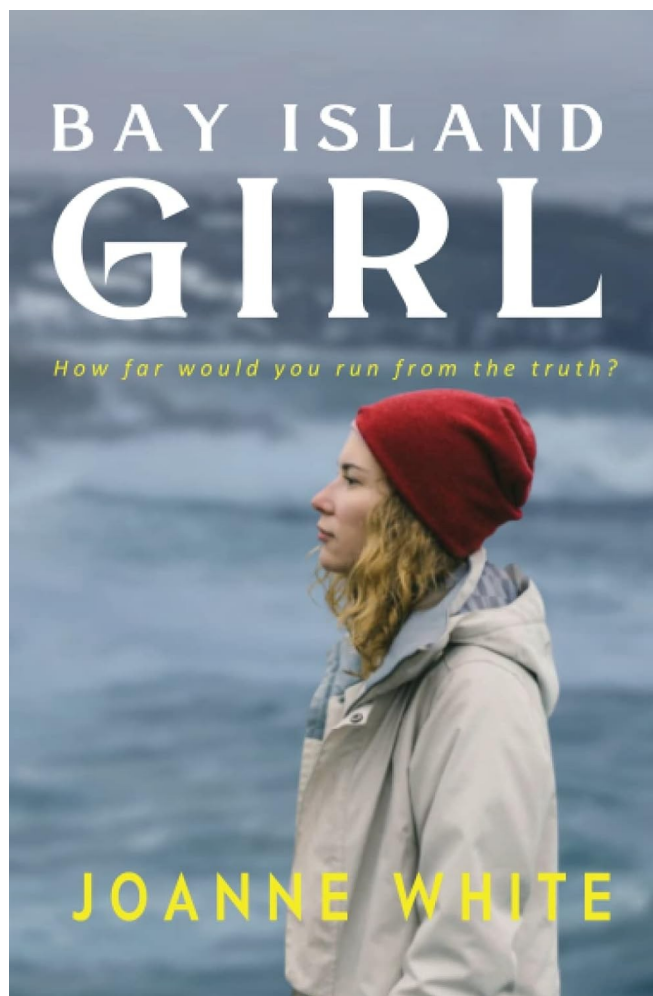
LES BONS VIVANTS DE GATINEAU: Retirees luncheon: At 11:30 a.m. last Thursday of every month at La Cage aux Sports, 325, blvd. Gréber, Gatineau, QC

Déjeuner des retraités : À 11 h 30, le dernier jeudi de chaque mois, à La Cage aux Sports, 325, boul. Gréber, Gatineau, QC

Contact: Michel Beland at/à meraille@videotron.ca

Important Phone Numbers and Website Links

- Ottawa Division: Assist as part of a pool of Peer Support Volunteers for Operational Stress Injury (VSOSI/ SOSI program. / Assister en tant que bénévole dans le cadre d'un groupe de soutien par les pairs pour le programme de Soutien-blessures de stress opérationnel des vétérans (« VSOSI / SOSI») : Paul Woods: 613-720-1335; paul.w.vsosi@gmail.com.
- RCMP Veterans' National Association: <https://rcmpva.org>. 1-877-251-1771 (Toll Free)
- Veterans Affairs (VAC) My VAC Account: http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/e_services and 1-866-522-2122 / Anciens Combattants Canada Mon dossier ACC = <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/fra/endirect/> 1-866-522-2122
- Veterans Affairs Liaison Officers: (1) Graeme Shaw – Sgt. Retired; RCMP Liaison Officer with Veterans Affairs Canada; National Compensation Services, RCMP; (902) 388-7592; graeme.shaw@rcmp-grc.gc.ca or graeme.shaw@veterans.gc.ca (2) Sgt. Clay Wortman; RCMP Liaison Officer to VAC; Agent de liaison de la GRC à ACC; Phone/Tél. (902) 397-2597; clay.wortman@rcmp-grc.gc.ca or clay.wortman@veterans.gc.ca
- Group Life and Disability Insurance (replaces Morneau Shepell) 1-877-778-8084 or <https://fp.seb-admin.com/fpconnect/#/rcmp-grc>
- Public Works Government Services Canada - PWGSC - Pension Administration: 1-855-502-7090
- Old Age Security (OAS) /Pension de la Sécurité de vieillesse & Canada Pension Plan (CPP)/Régime de Pensions du Canada: 1-800-277-9914
- Public Service Health Care Plan: Canada Life: 1-855-415-4414/ <https://welcome.canadalife.com/pshcp>; Public Service Health Care Plan, Dental Benefit: <http://www.pshcp.ca/coverage/extendedhealth-provision/dental>
- Sun Life Financial (Claims): Phone: 1-888-757-7427 or 613-247-5100 (National Capital Region)
- Service Canada: <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/portfolio/service-canada.html>; 1-800-622-6232
- Canada Revenue Agency/Agence du Revenu du Canada 1-800-959-8281
- Employment Insurance/Assurance-employ/Social Insurance/Numéro d'assurance sociale: 1-800-206-7218
- Immigration & Citizenship/ Immigration et citoyenneté/Canada 1-888-242-2100
- Passport Canada/Passeport Canadiens: 1-800-567-6868
- Service Ontario: 1-800-267-1234
- Ontario Disability Support Program/ Programme ontarien de soutien aux personnes handicapées: 1-800-267-5111
- Family Responsibility Office/ Bureau des obligations familiales: 1-800-267-7263
- Francophone Affairs/Ministère des affaires francophone: 1-800-268-7507
- Consumer Protection Ontario/Protection du consommateur de l'Ontario: 1-800-889-9763
- Drive Test Ontario/Test au Volant: 1-800-489-845



Bay Island Girl by Joanne White:

Her mother's lost battle with cancer.

Betrayal of the deepest order.

And a baby's death that haunts her every night...

Constable Annie Gillis needs a fresh start. She leaves the West Coast hoping that a relocation to a scenic East Coast fishing village will help her escape the tragedy of the past. But Annie soon realizes that she cannot hide from the paralyzing nightmares waging war in her mind.

While pursuing justice and searching for her own happiness, Annie continually faces uncertainty, danger, and calls to service that are unlike anything she experienced in Vancouver thanks to the quirky and colourful Bay Island residents. And, while desperately trying to prove her worth and competence, she remains trapped in her past trauma. With the help of a caring psychologist, she ultimately enters those dark corners of her mind where few dare to go...

Some comments from readers:

"This is one of the most enjoyable books I have read in years. In describing Annie and her history and then allowing us to be a fly on the wall of her working and per-

sonal reality, the author has told the story of a young female police officer transiting from a large urban reality to a small rural life. The Annie we get to see is depicted in a manner that is truly realistic."

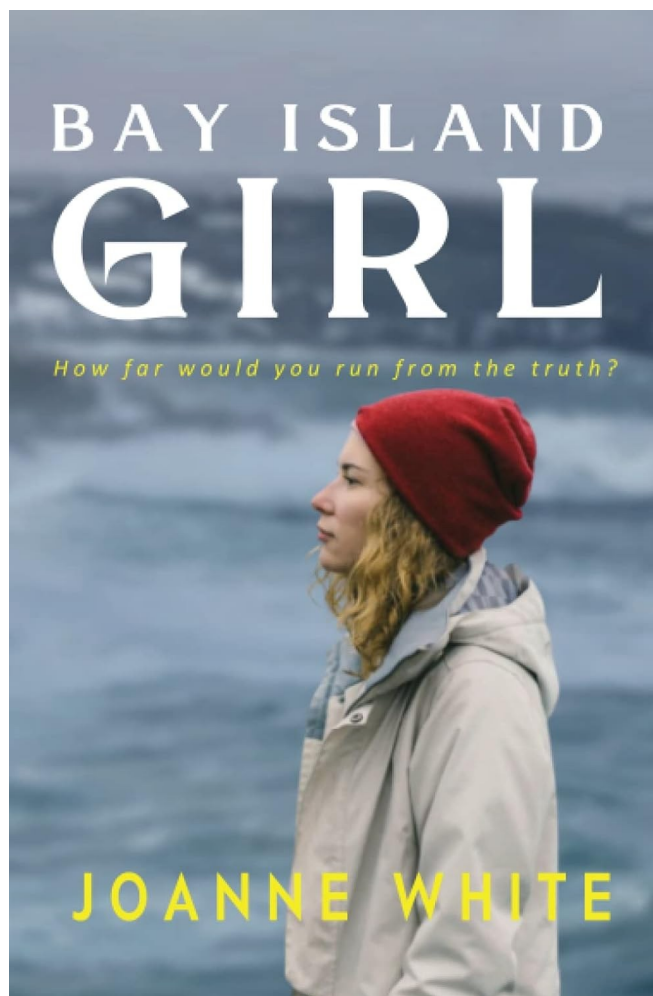
"Really enjoyed this book. Funny parts, heartbreaking parts, and lots in between."

"The author writes in a direct raw manner making the characters seem real. It makes for an interesting read, especially for a first book. I hope to see more books by this author in the future."

This book is available on Amazon [here](#).

Author is Ottawa Division Veteran Joanne White (41533). Look for an excerpt in this edition of The Spirit as well as the Summer Edition.

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Bay Island Girl par Joanne White :

**Sa mère a perdu son combat contre le cancer.
Victime de la plus grande des trahisons.
Et la mort d'un bébé qui la hante chaque nuit...**

La gendarme *Annie Gillis* a besoin de repartir zéro. Elle quitte la côte ouest en espérant que son transfert dans un village de pêcheurs de la côte est lui permettra d'échapper à la tragédie du passé. Mais Annie réalise très vite qu'elle ne peut pas se cacher des cauchemars paralysants qui ravagent ses pensées.

Alors qu'elle cherche à ce que justice soit faite et à trouver son bonheur, Annie est continuellement confrontée à l'incertitude, au danger et à des appels de service qui ne ressemblent en rien à ce qu'elle a connu à Vancouver, en raison des habitants excentriques et colorés de l'île de *Bay Island*. Bien qu'elle essaie désespérément de prouver sa valeur et ses compétences, elle reste prisonnière de ses traumatismes passés. Avec l'aide d'une psychologue dévouée, elle finit par pénétrer dans les recoins sombres de son esprit, là où peu de gens osent aller...

Quelques commentaires de lecteurs :

« C'est l'un des livres les plus divertissants que j'ai lus depuis des années. En décrivant Annie et son parcours, puis en nous permettant d'être une mouche sur un mur, nous laissant découvrir sa réalité professionnelle et personnelle, l'auteure nous présente l'histoire

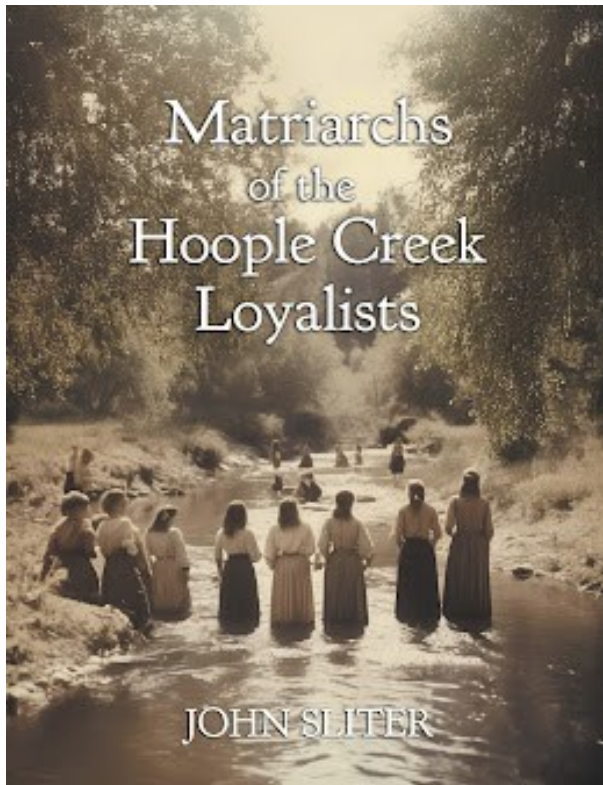
d'une jeune policière qui passe d'une grande réalité urbaine à une petite vie rurale. L'Annie que nous voyons est dépeinte d'une manière qui est véritablement réaliste. »

« J'ai vraiment apprécié ce livre. Des passages drôles, des passages déchirants, et beaucoup de différentes émotions entremêlées. »

« L'auteure écrit de manière directe et crue, conférant un caractère réel à ses personnages. C'est une lecture intéressante, surtout pour un premier livre. J'espère que cette auteure publiera d'autres livres ultérieurement. »

Ce livre est disponible (en anglais seulement) sur Amazon [ici](#).

L'auteure est Joanne M. White (41533), une vétérane de la Division d'Ottawa. Un extrait de ce livre sera publié dans la présente édition de la revue *The Spirit* ainsi que dans l'édition de cet été.



“Matriarchs of the Hoople Creek Loyalists”, by John Sliter, is a series of historical fiction stories about seventeen women and their families who helped to settle Upper Canada along a small creek in eastern Ontario. Their stories reflect their struggle to survive hunger, disease, and even war as they married and raised their children in a new, heavily forested and seeming impenetrable land. The first people to live along Hoople Creek were United Empire Loyalists forced to travel hundreds of miles under harsh conditions to escape the patriots of the United States in order to remain loyal to the United Kingdom. They began their new lives north of the Saint Lawrence River and along Hoople Creek, and somehow managed to survive. Many of their descendants re-

main in the area and have gone from a people fighting for mere survival, to an environmentally conscious, empathetic, and fair society striving to be inclusive while maintaining equality for all. It was refugees like the Hoople Creek matriarchs and their families who helped make Canadians who they are today.

There is a short video clip, prepared by the author [here](#).

The book is available at [Amazon.ca](#) or from [Friesen Press](#)

Author is Veteran R. John Sliter (35744). The illustrator for this book is daughter, Jillian SLITER.



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