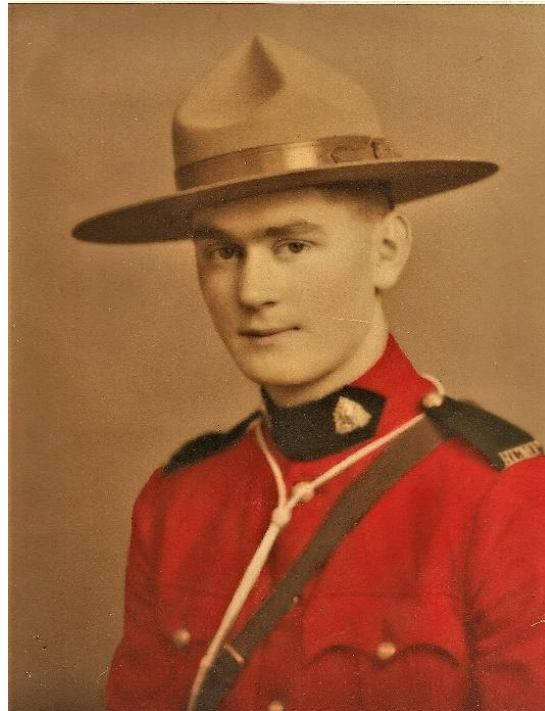


## An Exceptional Celebration!

The afternoon of July 7<sup>th</sup> saw an exceptional celebration take place in the Mess at "H" Division Headquarters. The occasion was the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party for Sergeant (Ret'd) Harold Searle (Regimental Number 14011). Born in Mortlach, Saskatchewan on July 10<sup>th</sup> 1918, Harold joined the RCMP in 1941 and served for twenty-five years in various postings in Nova Scotia including Windsor, Halifax, Chester and Antigonish until he retired in 1966.



Following retirement, Harold continued to serve Canada as a probation officer and as a reserve officer with the RCAF for many more years. Joining the Nova Scotia RCMP Veterans' Association in 1967, he was later made a Life Member of the Association and he remains an active member to this day, attending meetings and social functions and proudly wearing his RCMP Veterans' blazer. Harold often contributes articles to the NS RCMP VA Newsletter and is always willing to share his experiences with serving members.

At a **Police Day event at "H" Division HQ in May 2018**, Harold had been the special guest of the Commanding Officer "H" Division A/Comm Brian Brennan. He had been taken on a ride-along at that time and then introduced to the specialized command units and equipment now used by the Force. Serving members engaged in conversation with Harold as they shared experiences and it was obvious that all parties gained knowledge of each other's working conditions. At that event, A/Comm Brennan presented Harold with a shabrack to honor his service.



**The 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration** was a joint effort by Harold's family and the Nova Scotia RCMP Veterans' Association. The afternoon included an opportunity for each of the 150 guests to meet Harold individually and to pass along their personal congratulations. An Honor Guard of retired members in Red Serge then escorted Harold and his lady friend Dorothy Honsburger to the head of the room. There followed a short program of speeches and presentations, first by A/Comm Brian Brennan who delivered greetings from HM Queen Elizabeth II, Governor General of Canada Julie Payette, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia Arthur J LeBlanc, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Premier Stephen McNeil, MP Scott Brison, and other dignitaries. A/Comm Brennan also presented Harold with a message and gift from RCMP Commissioner Brenda Lucki and then he delivered greetings, many cards and a gift from "H" Division.



Nova Scotia RCMP Veterans' Association President Sandy Glenn then passed along to Harold the congratulatory letter from RCMP Veterans' Association President Steve Walker and then presented a gift and heartfelt congratulations from the Nova Scotia Division.



The afternoon wrapped up with a toast to Harold delivered by Garry McCay, a short thank you by Harold's daughter on behalf of her Father, cutting an amazing cake and socializing amongst the guests. Harold's children and extended family were in attendance to support him on his special day, including daughter Helen, and sons Jack and Greg and families.



A few days later, in a locally televised story about Harold on his actual birthday (July 10<sup>th</sup>), the centenarian was interviewed about his life and family provided comments as well. When asked for his comments, the CO remarked that Harold had actually collected twice as many pension cheques as he had pay cheques! [https://atlantic.ctvnews.ca/retired-nova-scotia-mountie-celebrates-100th-birthday-1.4008405#\\_gus&\\_gucid=&\\_gup=Facebook&\\_gsc=wEmdL0h](https://atlantic.ctvnews.ca/retired-nova-scotia-mountie-celebrates-100th-birthday-1.4008405#_gus&_gucid=&_gup=Facebook&_gsc=wEmdL0h)