



**VETS' VIEWS**  
**THE NEWSLETTER OF THE**  
**RCMP VETERANS' ASSOCIATION – VICTORIA, BC**  
**Honour – Service – Respect**  
**October 2023**

President's Message:

Good Day to Everyone!

The weather has been stunning, but cool, the last few days. Even the flowers in my garden are confused as some of them are blooming when they shouldn't be! November will be the month to enjoy and slow down before the craziness of December and Christmas all too soon catch up with us.

The Christmas party is starting to fill up and you will note an earlier message went out about how to purchase tickets for the luncheon. Good old fashioned cash is still accepted and Steve will be at the regular November 16<sup>th</sup> luncheon meeting to accept it. There will also be an early bird draw for those of you who have paid your 2024 dues. Steve will accept cash for that as well!

I'm pleased to add that we have again extended an invitation to the RCMP and Municipal members of the International Police Association (IPA) Region 13, Vancouver Island, and spouses to join us at our Christmas Luncheon.

Stay safe and healthy..... and warm over the next few weeks! Glad we didn't get the snow that up island received.

Cheers everyone

Rosie

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# VICTORIA RCMP VETERANS' ASSOCIATION

## MEETING MINUTES

October 19, 2023

**CALL TO ORDER:** Secretary Derren Lench called the meeting to order at 11:30 AM at the meeting room of the Lakes Restaurant, Elk Lake Inn, 4670 Elk Lake Dr, Victoria, BC V8Z 5M1.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** 20 Members and Guests.

**ACT OF REMEMBRANCE:** Secretary Derren Lench led the membership in a moment of silence for all officers who have died on duty especially recently slain RCMP officer Cst. Rick O'Brien of Ridge-Meadows Detachment who was killed on duty in Coquitlam on September 23, 2023 and Cst. Shaelyn Yang of Burnaby Detachment who was killed on duty on October 18, 2022.

**WELCOME TO MEMBERS AND GUESTS:** Rosie is currently away. Secretary Derren Lench welcomed new members and guest Brian Gateley. New members, Bob Jackson and Russ Howard introduced themselves and provided a background of their careers.

**BIRTHDAYS IN OCTOBER:** Birthday wishes are extended to the following members celebrating this month: Frank Campbell, Ryan George, Bob Baker, Dick Waller, Kristine Wood, Johannes de Jong, Mike Byrne and Derren Lench.

**MEMBERS UNDER THE WEATHER:** Rick Lawson continues to work at getting healthy.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT:** Treasurer Steve Lefler presented the financial report for the period ending October 19,2023:

Chequing \$ 21,452.08

Investments \$ 0.00

Total Assets \$ 21452.08

O/S Liabilities – None

111 total Active Members in Database

Active Members - 2023 Dues – Paid to date 90

Active Members – 2023 Dues – Unpaid 13

Active Members – 2022/2023 – Unpaid 8

Subtotal 111

Associate/Honorary/Life 7

Total 118

Active Members - 2024 Dues – Paid to date - 12

Steve also noted that under the by-laws of the Association, Members in arrears more than 2 years will be automatically removed from the membership roster and archived in the database. Payment of dues will be required to reactivate membership.

2023 ANNUAL DUES \$60.00 / 2024 ANNUAL DUES \$65.00

Three ways to pay:

- Pay on-line by signing into your member account on the RCMP Vets National Website.
- Mail payment by cheque payable to Victoria RCMP Veterans' Assn. to Treasurer, Steve Lefler at: 4710 Sunnymead Way, Victoria, BC V8Y 3B8, or
- Remit payment by eTransfer to: rcmpvetsvictoria.treasurer@gmail.com

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**RCMP Record of Service Card:** Derren showed his service card to the members and explained that it isn't a Veteran's card per say however shows as an ex-member with photograph. Not sure if everyone was aware of it. Can send an email to RCMP.RetiredID-IDRetraite.GRC@rcmp-grc.gc.ca to obtain one.

**Veteran's Week (Nov 5-11):** – The National Association is seeking interest from any veteran willing to share their stories for Veteran's week.

**Information provided from the National Association:** "We have come up with a communications plan to showcase gratitude for RCMP veterans' service and sacrifice and the ongoing contributions of the veteran community.

On social media, we would like to post veterans' stories that highlight why they continue to give back to their communities, even in retirement. We would like to post a photo of the member while serving and then in retirement plus a quote from the retired member".

**Report from the National Association:** Based on feedback from the Board, Divisions and the AGM, three working groups have been formed to work on key areas of Information sharing, Data Management and Structure. Rosie Bowman is participating and others are welcome.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**BC Wildfires:** Thank you received for Victoria Division's \$100.00 donation.

**Executive Election:** Reminder that elections for Victoria Division's Executive for the 2024- 2025 term is fast approaching. We are seeking volunteers for Executive and Director positions. Please give some thought to volunteering,

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**Annual Christmas Gala Luncheon:** – Liz provided an update on the luncheon. 11:00 am, Thursday, December 7, 2023 at Royal Colwood Golf Club, 629 Goldstream Avenue, Victoria, BC V9B 2W9. Members, spouses, and guests are most welcome. Cost is \$65.00 per person – Please confirm attendance with Liz Wortman at sectorwest@yahoo.ca or by telephone at: 250-383-5036.

Please remit payment to Treasurer, Steve Lefler, at the next Luncheon Meeting on November 16, 2023, or

by cheque to: 4710 Sunnymead Way, Victoria, BC V8Y 3B8, or

by eTransfer to: rcmpvetsvictoria.treasurer@gmail.com no later than the November 23, 2022 cutoff date.

**ANYTHING FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:** General discussion on submitting claims through Canada Life and frustration for some in trying to speak to someone. Others provided input on success in submitting claims on-line with a quick turnaround.

**NEXT VETS LUNCHEON MEETING:** November 16, 2023, 11:00 hrs. Lakes Restaurant, Elk Lake Inn, 4670 Elk Lake Dr, Victoria, BC V8Z 5M1


**BLESSING FOR THE MEAL:** Victoria Division Chaplain Lon Towstego

**MEETING ADJOURNED (for lunch):** 12:00 P.M.

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## Ongoing Victoria Division Items of Interest:

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- 1) **Red Blazer.** Victoria Division has contacted Farid Rohani, owner of Claymore Custom Tailoring, Telephone (604) 251-6311, 1201 Pender Street E, Vancouver BC V6A 1W7. This company makes up the red blazer for the members of the Vancouver Vets. A photo is attached from the company's Facebook page. Contact Rick Saville, Victoria Division for further details at [rpmsaville@gmail.com](mailto:rpmsaville@gmail.com)  
Additional information regarding wearing of official dress can be found at: [www.edmrcmpvets.ca/dress%20code.pdf](http://www.edmrcmpvets.ca/dress%20code.pdf)
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- 2) **RCMP Tartan Clothing and Accessories** – Available from Burnett's & Struth Scottish Regalia Ltd., 570 Bryne Dr, Barrie, ON L4N 9P6. Items can be found on the following web-site at: [www.burnetts-struth.com](http://www.burnetts-struth.com) Customer Service contact is Lisa Catania, Tel: 705-728-3232. A 20% discount is available on all purchases with code: RCMP20
  - 3) **RCMP Record of Service Card** - The RCMP has developed a Record of Service Card for former and retired members as a replacement for the Retired Members ID Card. The Card will serve to recognize the service that retired and former regular members and civilian members have provided to the Force and to assist in identifying them as Veterans of Canada. This card is available to all former members. The new card is not mandatory for departing members. Those who possess the former Retired Members ID Card are not required to return it or replace it with the new Record of Service Card. Departed members who would like to obtain the new Record of Service card should send an email to: [RCMP.RetiredID-IDRetraite.GRC@rcmp-grc.gc.ca](mailto:RCMP.RetiredID-IDRetraite.GRC@rcmp-grc.gc.ca)
  - 4) **The Military CF One Appreciation Card** may be obtained by visiting their web site. You will note RCMP Veterans are eligible as follows:  
<https://www.cfmws.com/en/OurServices/CFOne/Eligibility/Pages/Definitions.aspx>  
The CFOne main web site is:  
<https://www.cfappreciation.ca/en/pages/default.aspx>
  - 5) **Veterans Affairs Canada** (My VAC Account provides access to available services, including service related disabilities: [http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/e\\_services](http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/e_services)  
The RCMP has a liaison officer (Sgt. Clay Wortman) located in the VAC office in PEI. The Office of the Veterans Affairs Ombudsman is in Ottawa.
  - 6) **National Association of Federal Retirees** and the "Sage" Magazine plus the local chapter ([www.federalretireesvictoria.ca](http://www.federalretireesvictoria.ca) (also has "preferred partners" for discounts, e.g. Medoc (travel insurance, home insurance, car rentals etc.)  
<https://www.federalretirees.ca/>
  - 7) **RCMP Veterans Association National web site** (new and improved) <https://rcmpva.org/> including many Division web sites across Canada containing a wealth of specific information on a variety of subjects and topics (e.g. Regimental Dress for Veterans, Executor Guidelines etc., far too numerous to include here.

- 8) **The RCMP National web site** has a useful Veterans area. <https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/>
- 9) **Victoria Division Member Name Tags:** Quartermaster Kjell Johansen has a new supplier of name tags, with magnet backing or pin backing at \$14 each. In addition to a number of dress items such as cufflink sets, etc., The **RCMP crest** below measures 6.5 inches in height and 6 inches width. Also available RCMP Veterans Wedge Cap in size 7 1/8. Other items such as the Shabrack below can be obtained from the Edmonton Vets Shop: <http://www.rcmpgiftshop.ca/product-category/Awards-Recognitions>.



- 10) **Winter Tire Advisory:** Effective October 1<sup>st</sup>, when travelling the Malahat or elsewhere on Vancouver Island, your vehicle must be equipped with “winter tires” defined as *Mud and Snow* with the **M+S** designation or *Snow Tires* with the **Mountain and Snowflake** designation. Most good quality All Season tires carry the M+S designation. Tires must be in good condition and have a minimum tread depth of 3.5 millimeters.
- 11) **Monday Morning Coffee:** On the first and third Monday of the month at 10:00 am in the Food Court at the Hillside Shopping Centre, 1644 Hillside Ave, (at Shelbourne Street) Victoria, BC V8T 2C5.
- 12) **Wednesday Morning Coffee:** Wednesday mornings at 8:30 am in the Restaurant at Quality Foods, 977 Langford Parkway, Langford, BC.

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**THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS**



**BELAIR DIRECT INSURANCE**



**BOSTON PIZZA – UPTOWN & LANGFORD**

## Victoria Division RCMP Veterans' Association

### Victoria Division Executive:

- **President:** Rosie Bowman, 250-655-0096, [rosiebowman@shaw.ca](mailto:rosiebowman@shaw.ca)
- **Vice President:** Carter MacDonald, 250-477-4849, [cmacdonald@shaw.ca](mailto:cmacdonald@shaw.ca)
- **Secretary:** Derren Lench, 250-580-6562, [dlench@shaw.ca](mailto:dlench@shaw.ca)
- **Treasurer:** Steve Lefler, 250-658-8377, [sjlefler1@gmail.com](mailto:sjlefler1@gmail.com)
- **Past President:** Rick Saville, 250-477-0997, [rpmsaville@gmail.com](mailto:rpmsaville@gmail.com)

### Directors:

- **Entertainment:** Liz Wortman, 250-383-5036, [sectorwest@yahoo.ca](mailto:sectorwest@yahoo.ca)
- **Membership:** Mike Byrne, 1-250-537-9988, [monami2@shaw.ca](mailto:monami2@shaw.ca)
- **Communications:** Rick Saville, 250-477-0997, [rpmsaville@gmail.com](mailto:rpmsaville@gmail.com)
- **Division Advocate:** Rick Saville, 250-477-0997, [rpmsaville@gmail.com](mailto:rpmsaville@gmail.com)
- **Quartermaster:** Kjell Johansen, 250-592-6477, [purol@shaw.ca](mailto:purol@shaw.ca)
- **Sick & Visiting:** - Rick Saville, 250-477-0997, [rpmsaville@gmail.com](mailto:rpmsaville@gmail.com)  
- Gil Shoesmith, 778-440-8044, [gil.d.shoesmith@gmail.com](mailto:gil.d.shoesmith@gmail.com)
- **Need a Drive Coordinator:** Brian McQuarrie, 250-598-0942, [sbmcq@telus.net](mailto:sbmcq@telus.net)
- **Director-at-Large:** Rick Lawson, 250-721-0282, [La2743961@aol.com](mailto:La2743961@aol.com)
- **Director-at-Large:** Ron Gosselin, 250-544-8262, [rongooselin@icloud.com](mailto:rongooselin@icloud.com)
- **Chaplain:** The Venerable Dr. Lon Towstego, 250-208-9949, [ltowstego@shaw.ca](mailto:ltowstego@shaw.ca)
- **Co-Chaplain:** Rev. Gil Shoesmith, 778-440-8044, [gil.d.shoesmith@gmail.com](mailto:gil.d.shoesmith@gmail.com)

### Governors:

- **Brian McQuarrie,** 250-598-0942, [sbmcq@telus.net](mailto:sbmcq@telus.net)

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