



**VETS' VIEWS**  
**THE NEWSLETTER OF THE**  
**RCMP VETERANS' ASSOCIATION – VICTORIA, BC**  
**Honour – Service – Respect**  
**January 2024**

**President's Message**

Welcome all RCMP veterans as we move into 2024. I hope all had a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year.

We started the year off with record numbers attending our first luncheon. It was great to see all that came out. There was wonderful comradery, story telling and engagement of all that attended. Hopefully we can maintain that momentum as we move through the year. I was also pleased to still have strong attendance after the luncheon was re-scheduled due to snow the previous week. Sadly, the Victoria area does get snow occasionally but thankfully it didn't remain and those of us who love to golf are back on the links this week.

I am so honoured and proud to take on the role of President this year. I don't take this responsibility lightly and know there is a lot of history and achievements that have occurred in our Victoria Division. There is also so much wisdom and knowledge amongst the men and women who make up our veteran's group, both those that are with us and those that have left us. We pay tribute to those we have lost however their legacy remains.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention our outgoing President. Rosie has been a pillar of strength, enthusiasm, commitment, and energy for our organization and has done so much for us over her time on the Executive. Her 19 years as President are so impressive and I look forward to working alongside her on the new Executive.

There is an opportunity for someone to step up as the Secretary as that position has not been filled yet. As well Liz has stepped down as the Social Director. If anyone is interested in either role, please let me know.

I look forward to the upcoming year and participating in the various luncheons and activities that we have planned.

Thanks to all of you.

Derren Lench, President

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**VICTORIA RCMP VETERANS ASSOCIATION  
MEETING AGENDA  
January 25, 2024**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** 42 Members and Guests.

**ACT OF REMEMBRANCE:** Chaplain Lon Towstego led the membership in the Act of Remembrance.

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS AND GUESTS:**

**New Members:** Erin Lench introduced herself.

**Guests** – Jackie Early Stewart (Retired Inspector with United Kingdom Police) – introduced by Rosie Bowman. Ken Squirrell (Retired Sergeant with Calgary Police Service) – introduced by Mike Byrne

Rosie congratulated Derren for his two-year appointment to the RCMP Veterans' Association Board of Directors.

**BIRTHDAYS IN JANUARY:** Birthday wishes are extended to the following members: Ron Woolgar, Lorne Newson, Keith Simpson, Rick Lawson, Ken Rehman, Brian Paul, Lauren Grekul, Doug McLaughlin and Daniel Robinson.

**MEMBERS UNDER THE WEATHER:** Advocate Rick Saville spoke on members under the weather:

Keith Simpson, Bob Baker, Vince Cain, Lefty Nelson and Rick Lawson.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT:** Treasurer Steve Lefler presented the financial report for the period ending January 25, 2024

Chequing	\$ 19,732.74
Investments	\$ 0.00
Total Assets	\$ 19,732.74

O/S Liabilities – None

108 total Active Members in Database

Active Members - 2024 Dues – Paid to date	65
Active Members - 2024 Dues – Unpaid to date	32
Active Members – 2024, 2023 Dues – Unpaid	7
Applications Pending	4
Subtotal	108
Associate/Honorary/Life	8
Total	116

**Xmas Party -**

Ticket Revenues -	\$4,875.00
<u>Expenses -</u>	<u>\$4,646.25</u>
Balance -	\$ 228.75

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.

**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 to Treasurer, Steve Lefler **4710 Sunnymead Way, Victoria, BC V8Y 3B8** or
- Remit payment by eTransfer to: [rcmpvetsvictoria.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:rcmpvetsvictoria.treasurer@gmail.com)

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Positions Open on the Executive - Update:** Don Brown unable to carry out duties of Secretary and has stepped down. We are seeking someone to replace him.

Liz Wortman has stepped down as Social Director. We haven't found anyone to replace her. At this stage we will plan events through Committee.

**Chris Riglar Memorial Update (Steve Lefler):**

Steve Lefler provided the background on Cst. Riglar who was killed on duty on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 1991, in Colwood. There was a memorial at Island District HQ however that has been taken down. There will be follow-up to determine where a new memorial might be placed to recognize this deceased member. He is hoping to align this with the Police Memorial weekend.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Question Period at B.C. Legislature:** Inquiry through Vet's with Deputy Sgt. at Arms regarding question period and interest by vet's to attend. The calendar will be shared with the membership.

**RCMP Books and Quarterly Magazines:** Ron Woolgar's daughter advised he has a complete set of Quarterly's if anyone is interested. Also, a large collection of books on the RCMP, again if anyone is interested.

Rick Saville brought some other RCMP books and Quarterly's for anyone to look through and take if interested.

**RCMP Appreciation Day:** Being held February 1<sup>st</sup>. We will provide lunch to the larger detachments and send letters to all Detachments that we support.

**Stored items at Island District:** Steve advised that there had been a water leak in the room at Island District that stores some of our Associations papers, memorabilia, and other items. District will be having the room remediated and we'll need to look at the items to determine what can be salvaged. They will advise us when we need to go over. There are other items which may belong to the NCO's Mess and a previous District Officer.

Volunteers were sought to assist, and Tim Walton and Ryan George offered to assist.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**Robbie Burns Fundraising Luncheon:** Sunday, January 28, 2024, from 12 noon – 4 pm, Sooke Legion, 6726 Eustace Rd, Sooke. Email looking for interest was sent out, only one person responded. Members can seek tickets if not sold out.

**Summer Barbeque (Mike):** To be held June 28<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am at St. Stephens Church, 7921 St. Stephens Road, Saanichton, BC V8M 1S2. Same caterer as last year. Will need assistance this year with set up and take down (tables and chairs).

**Christmas Luncheon:** Few have stepped up to organize. Have put a temporary hold for Thursday, December 12 at Royal Colwood. Will look at other venues with consideration to cost, parking, accessibility, décor, etc. Mel Rioux and Terry Miles will be checking out the Langford Legion next week as a possible venue.

**Other Events:** The members were asked if their other events they would like to see planned. None were brought forward at this point.

**NEXT VETS MEETING, 11:00 AM, Thursday, February 15, 2024** - Lakes Restaurant, Holiday Inn - Elk Lake, 4670 Elk Lake Dr, Victoria, BC V8Z 5M1

**ANYTHING FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER** – Opportunity for members to speak, comment, etc. Nothing was mentioned by those in attendance.

**BLESSING FOR THE MEAL:** Chaplain Lon Towstego gave the blessing.


**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.** The RCMP Edmonton Gift Shop information is found at the following link: <http://www.rcmpgiftshop.ca/veterans-kit>. Information is provided on Veterans' Kit and Clothing, including the Regimental Red Blazer manufactured by Derks Men's Wear, Sherwood Park, Alberta. Contact the Gift shop at 1-780-412-5572 for further information.  

- 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 (Graeme Shaw) 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, and the Wedge Cap is size 7 1/8.



- 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 Executive 2024 - 2025

### Victoria Division Executive:

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

### Directors:

- **Entertainment:** (Temporary) Mike Byrne
- **Membership:** Mike Byrne, 1-250-537-9988, [monami2@shaw.ca](mailto:monami2@shaw.ca)
- **Communications:** (Temporary) Rick Saville
- **Division Advocate:** Rick Saville, 250-477-0997, [rpmsaville@gmail.com](mailto:rpmsaville@gmail.com)
- **Quartermaster:** Kjell Johansen, 250-592-6477, [puro@shaw.ca](mailto:puro@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, [rongo@icloud.com](mailto:rongo@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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