



# RCMP VETERAN'S ASSOCIATION

## SOUTH OKANAGAN DIVISION

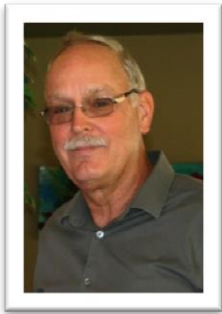
### January 2024 News Bulletin

#### In this issue:

- President's Message: Executive planning increased member activities
- Regional Directors busy planning lunches, guest speakers, events
- Catch up on October Luncheon with pictures
- Welcome Bruce Cieslikowski – Benefit Support Advocate
- Minutes of Executive Meeting held January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- Feature: You are never too old to travel the world
- Proposed Schedule of Events for 2024 – MARK YOUR CALENDARS
- Short Bytes – must know information for our membership

### **PENTICTON LEADS IN COMMUNITY TEAMWORK:**





**GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT ROB BOULET:** Good day all – We are looking to ramp up our social calendar for 2024. Editor Finn has provided a draft schedule of event in this newsletter to please mark your calendars. We are happy to welcome Bill Hacock to our Board. Treasurer Beth McGifford is also looking for help in exploring interesting activities for our Ladies Event Program. To avoid heat and smoke we are moving the popular Pot Luck at the Hoopers Vineyard to July from August. Our ramped up luncheon events will feature interesting guest speakers. I can confirm that Supt. Beth McAndie, the new Penticton Officer In Charge will be attending the April Luncheon Meeting in Summerland as guest speaker. We always appreciate our members input as to events and guest speakers. Please contact your regional directors or any members of our executive. I’m looking forward to seeing you all in April. *Rob.*

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**REGIONAL DIRECTORS PLANNING BUSY SPRING LUNCHEONS:** As noted in the 2024 Schedule of Events found later in this newsletter – planning for luncheon meetings and guest speakers is well underway. Penticton Director Bob Ogden has arranged for the February luncheon to be held at the new and highly rated Asian Gardens on Skaha Lake Drive in Penticton on Saturday February 17<sup>th</sup> commencing with a social hour at 11:00 AM. A very interesting guest speaker is being finalized and full details will shortly be sent out to our membership. The March Luncheon will also be held in Penticton with details pending. On April 20<sup>th</sup> Summerland Director Orv Robson has organized a return to the popular Royal Canadian Legion venue in Summerland with the new Officer In Charge Supt. Beth McAndie invited to speak. Osoyoos Director Ted Cronmiller is finalizing a venue and program for the May 25<sup>th</sup> Luncheon Meeting. Oliver/Okanagan Falls Director Lin Springer is reviewing venues and with the number of excellent wineries in the area the opportunities for tasting award winning wines are many. 2024 will also feature a return to a summer BBQ, Ladies Events and with the Covid Pandemic behind us a renewed effort to include our single ladies and gentlemen.



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**GOLFERS GET READY:** A 9 hole golf format tournament at the Skaha Meadows Golf Course for members and friends is in the planning stages by Penticton Director Bob Ogden which will include many prizes and a tasty BBQ.



## OCTOBER LUNCHEON FEATURES PENTICTON MAYOR BLOOMFIELD:

The Penticton Golf Course Lounge was the venue for the October 21<sup>st</sup> Luncheon Meeting that saw a good turnout of members who enjoyed the fellowship “catch up” with members after a long hot and smoky summer. Penticton Director introduced His Worship Julius Bloomfield who attended the luncheon with Mrs. Bloomfield. The mayor covered a number of important issues and new policies highlighting the reduction in criminal files due to the establishment of Community Safety Officers and excellent relations with Penticton Detachment members and leadership. Of interest is that the Community Safety Officers will be regarded as Peace Officers under current statutes. To date their presence has significantly reduced downtown crime. He also is working with Air Canada to resume flights into Penticton Airport which actually has continued (Ed. Note) One problem is the continual frustration with the province in respect of provision of affordable housing. Our Division President Rob Boulet thanked Mayor Bloomfield and presented him with a RCMP 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mug. Luncheon Attendees included Bill Newhouse, Orv Robson, Bill Bowen, Sandy Foreman, Dee Sellner, Glenn Deobald, Sandi Ellefson, Claude Dusseault, Brad Thomson.





Pictured above Beth & Darcy McGifford, Laurie & Cathy Milsted, Ron & Krista Lyver, Mel & Marjorie Murton, Jack McDonald & Bill Newhouse, Bruce Cieslikowsky & Ginny Ogden.

## **WELCOME BRUCE CIESLIKOWSKI – OUR NEW FULL-TIME DIVISION BENEFIT SUPPORT**

**ADVOCATE:** BRUCE IS AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE COMPETENT AND CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE ENSURING OUR DIVISION MEMBERS AND FAMILIES HAVE ACCESS TO IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE NAVIGATING THE COMPLEXITIES OF CLAIMING BENEFIT PAYMENTS PROVIDED THROUGH RCMP AND PUBLIC SERVICE POLICIES – IN A CHANGING LANDSCAPE. **CONTACT INFO: 778-476-1154**



The RCMP VETERAN'S BENEFITS INFORMATION BROCHURE provided some years ago is in need of updating which Bruce has undertaken as a high priority in 2024. In the interim an updated Estate Planning Short Notes is set out below. He will also be attending a Support Advocate Training program in the spring along with other across our Association advocates to make sure our Division members have the benefit of the latest information and policy changes. As we all know the transfer of the Public Service Health Plan to Canada Life has not been smooth and has caused much confusion. Add to this news our Dental Plan is also moving to Canada Life on July 1<sup>st</sup> of this year (but you still send claims to Sun Life until then!!!).

### **RCMP Veterans Estate Planning Short Notes:**

- 1. Surviving spouse of retired member will receive about 60% of members pension. You advise pension office Ottawa, they send forms for completion, which must be submitted along with marriage and death certificates. Phone: 1-855-502-7090**
- 2. Upon death there is available a \$10,000 Life Insurance from the Force. It must be reported to Smart Employees Benefit (SEB) and forms will be sent out for completion. Phone: 1-877-778-8084.**
- 3. A surviving spouse will receive about 60% of members Canada Pension Plan (CPP) upon submission of necessary forms. Phone: 1-800-277-9914 A one (1) time death payment of \$2,500 is payable to spouse, Funeral Homes have the necessary documents to be filled out and submitted by spouse with a copy of death certificate.**
- 4. If spouse is entitled to receive a portion of members pension, they can continue the Public Service Health and Dental Plans as administered by Canada Life and Sun Life by advising they wish to do so, this also includes the Provincial MSP: all costs will be deducted from the survivors pension. The necessary plan numbers will be required.**  
  

Canada Life (Health	Phone: 1-855-415-4414	Plan: 052115	Cert:0000	_____
Sun Life (Dental)	Phone: 1-888-757-7427	Plan: 055555	Cert:0000	_____
- 5. Because of many copies of the death certificates required, ask Funeral Home for multiple copies, there is only one "original" which you should keep, have some copies notarized as there will such a need.**
- 6. If a death occurs at home and the deceased was under Doctors care, it is not necessary to call 911, but let the Doctor and Funeral Home know of the time of occurrence.**
- 7. Assistance with RCMP Benefits is available from Vets locally by contacting Bruce Cieslikowski at Phone: 778-476-1154**

## **MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING OF 24-01-12**

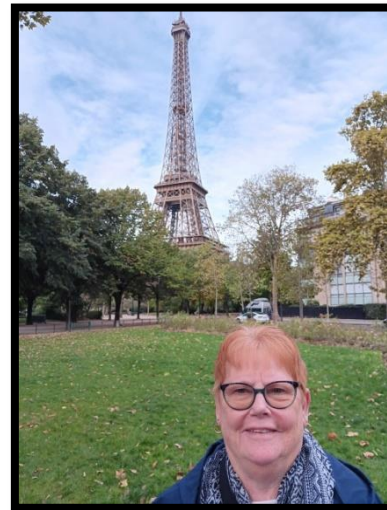
At 9:30 AM, Friday, Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> South Okanagan Division Executive met at Tootsie's Diner in Penticton. Present: Past President Orv Robson, Treasurer Beth McGifford, Penticton Director Bob Ogden, Oliver Director Lin Springer, Secretary Kerry Bennington, Governors Mel Murton, Bill Newhouse, Benefits Support Advocate Bruce Cieslikowksi, new Governor Bill Hacock, Newsletter Director Finn Nielsen. Regrets: President Rob Boulet, Osoyoos Director Ted Cronmiller, Governors Jack McDonald, Bob Heywood.

Meeting Highlights as provided by Secretary Kerry (plus editor's comments)

- Treasurer's Report: Year End Statements were provided. Profit and Loss = Loss of \$824.24. Balance Sheet = Total Assets of \$13,055.83. Given the high price of meals at all restaurants the policy of paying in advance is necessary to avoid financial deficits from luncheons. Details for payment will accompany notices of upcoming luncheons.
- Secretary's Report: Division Membership List – given privacy concerns a new format was agreed with Secretary to publish only First and Last names and contact phone number for Division members of those who have given consent.
- New Business:
  1. The Association's Board of Directors in launching a research project to recruit 1000 new members by June 2024. This initiative will emphasize contacting recent and upcoming retirees of the RCMP family to illustrate the value of membership in our Association. At the same time the Board wishes to conduct surveys to seek input as to the future direction and services of the Association. Secretary Bruce, Dir. Finn and Advocate Bruce will update the former Information Brochure which was provided to detachments and new retirees.
  2. Application for membership from Insp. Lee Chanin was approved unanimously. We welcome Lee and look forward to seeing Lee and Cindy at our next social event. As is known, all spouses, partners etc., are welcome to all our events and are designated as "Associate Members". The Chanins reside in beautiful Naramata.
  3. By unanimous vote Bill Hacock, former Penticton Director was approved as a new Governor. Congratulations Bill!! Our Division By Law Section 4.1 which deals with appointment to Governor position will be considered for amendment at our November AGM.
  4. Fund raising to ensure the financial stability of our Division was discussed including Christmas auction, meetings 50:50 pot, lobster dinner, skeet shooting and a spring golf tournament.
  5. The 2024 Schedule of Events was discussed and regional Directors will pursue updated venues in their area. The first luncheon meetings of 2024 will take place on Saturday Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> in Penticton.

6. Our new Division Benefit Support Advocate Bruce Cieslikowski was welcomed as a new member of the Executive. Bruce previously assisted President Rob Boulet in carrying out benefit support to our members and families. It is noteworthy that Association President Sandra Conlin in her Christmas Message stated: *“the active support we can access from our Support Advocates when we or a family member is in crisis is a priority service”*. In that connection Bruce will be attending an Advocate Training program in 2024.
  7. There was no old or new business raised from the floor. Next Executive Meeting scheduled for Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
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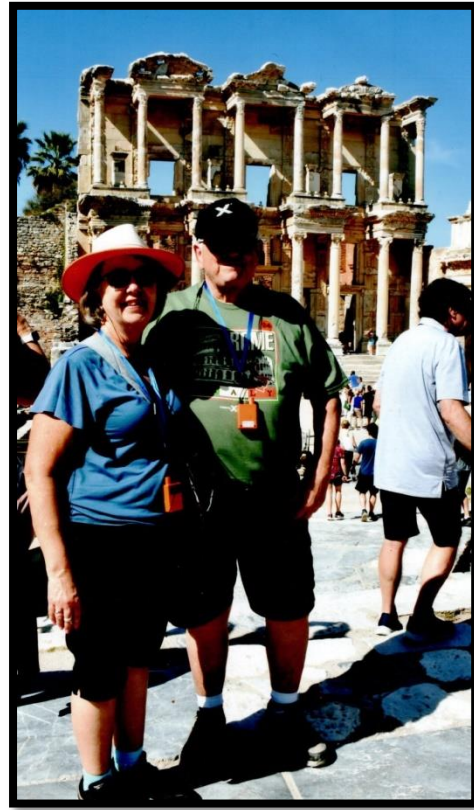
**HAVE PASSPORTS WILL TRAVEL:** It’s always interesting to catch up with our adventurous members who continue to have the initiative to see the world. In this issue we feature Kerry and Susan Bennington and Ted and Joyce Cronmiller. We thank them for sharing their vacation and invite other members to send in photos and a brief narrative.



**Pictured: Ted in front of Buckingham Palace and on bridge in Bruges Belgium. Joyce taking in Paris and the Eiffel Tower.**

**Next Page: The Benningtons started in Rome, on to Crete, Santorini and Mykonos, Istanbul, Ephesus and Athens, Naples and Pompeii and back to Rome and captured the Ancient History of Europe and Christianity.**





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**DID YOU KNOW?** A number of our members are receiving significant payments through the Governments DISABILITY BENEFITS AND DISABILITY ALLOWANCE BY APPLYING FOR THE MEDICAL TAX CREDIT. To learn more about this program check out the ‘GUIDE TO HEALTH BENEFITS AND SERVICES ADVOCACY’ information located under the “ADVOCACY” heading on the Association’s website. The Kamloops Division of our Association has made contact with a “facilitator” named Anders Johnson who is owner of Johnson Management Consulting. He will guide you through the application process which includes a medical confirmation of the disability from your doctor. He charges a fee of 20% of the potential and actual payment to the member of the Association. He can be contacted at 250-427-6016. **The South Okanagan Division does not endorse or recommend Mr. Johnson as a facilitator or consultant in any application for this tax credit you may wish to pursue. Our President Rob Boulet, however, wanted to provide this information to our membership in the event they qualify for this tax credit.**

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**DUES ARE DUE FOR 2024:** Dues for 2024 are \$70.00 of which \$55.00 is the portion used to support our National Office services and labour costs, Board of Directors and the Association’s Annual General Meeting expenses and comply with the high auditing costs as a Not For Profit Organization. Treasurer Beth advises the preferred method of payment is to log on to the Association Web Site Membership System @ [rcmpva.org](http://rcmpva.org) and pay by credit card.



***(PLEASE NOTE THE ASSOCIATION'S WEBSITE IS UNDERGOING A MAJOR UPDATE ON JANUARY 30<sup>TH</sup> AND FEBRUARY 1, AND THE MENU MAY CHANGE ON THE WEBSITE BANNER)*** If you don't do "e" banking please mail a cheque payable to the South Okanagan Division, RCMP Vets Assoc., to Beth McGifford, 105 Sunglo Drive, Penticton, BC, V2A 8X6. If you wish to pay by –transfer please send to [beth\\_peachfest@hotmail.com](mailto:beth_peachfest@hotmail.com). Follow up with an email directly to Beth advising of the answer to the security question that is used for the e-transfer. It's important to note the \$15.00 allotted to our South Okanagan Division is used for operating expenses, supporting social and charity events, assistance to members' families and individuals in time of need, floral and other tributes for hospital or funeral occasions, and attendance at special training and/or Annual General Meetings.

8:20 AM		RCMP Veterans - South Okanagan Division	
1/12/24		Balance Sheet	
Accrual Basis		As of December 31, 2023	
		<u>Dec 31, 23</u>	
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Current Assets			
Chequing/Savings			
BMO GIC #2		4,569.25	
CIBC Chequing Acct		7,451.58	
Total Chequing/Savings		<u>12,020.83</u>	
Accounts Receivable			
Accounts Receivable - Operating			
Total Accounts Receivable		<u>                    </u>	
Other Current Assets			
Petty Cash Float		100.00	
Prepaid Expenses		935.00	
Total Other Current Assets		<u>1,035.00</u>	
Total Current Assets		<u>13,055.83</u>	
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b><u>13,055.83</u></b>	
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>			
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable			
Accounts Payable			
Total Accounts Payable		<u>0.00</u>	
Other Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable - Prepaid Dues		1,355.00	
Total Other Current Liabilities		<u>1,355.00</u>	
Total Current Liabilities		<u>1,355.00</u>	
Total Liabilities		1,355.00	
Equity			
Opening Bal Equity		30,453.86	
Retained Earnings		-17,928.79	
Net Income		-824.24	
Total Equity		<u>11,700.83</u>	
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>		<b><u>13,055.83</u></b>	



**SOUTH OKANAGAN DIVISION –**

**2024 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

<b>January 2024 – No scheduled lunch for Jan. 6,</b>
<b>January 12<sup>th</sup>, Executive Meeting – 10:00 AM – Tootsies Diner, Penticton</b>
<b>February 9<sup>th</sup>, Executive Meeting – 10:00 AM – Venue TBD</b>
<b>Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>, General Meeting and Luncheon – Penticton – Asian Gardens- Guest Speaker – Social hour 11 AM.</b>
<b>March 15<sup>th</sup>, Executive Meeting – Penticton – Penticton Golf Course Boardroom. 10:00 AM</b>
<b>March 23<sup>rd</sup> – General Meeting and Luncheon – Penticton – Venue TBD – Guest Speaker – Social Hour 11 AM</b>
<b>April 5<sup>th</sup>, Friday, Annual Strategic Planning Session, 10 AM – Penticton Golf Course or RCMP Detachment Boardroom.</b>
<b>April 20<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, General Meeting and Luncheon with Guest Speaker- Social Hour 11 AM – Summerland – Venue TBD</b>
<b>May 10<sup>th</sup>, Friday – Executive Meeting – 10 AM – Oliver – Fairview Mountain Golf Course.</b>
<b>May 25 – Saturday – General Meeting and Luncheon with Guest Speaker – Osoyoos Golf Course – 11 AM Social Hour</b>
<b>June 14<sup>th</sup>, Friday – Executive Meeting – 10 AM – Summerland – Venue TBD</b>
<b>June 30<sup>th</sup>, Sunday – Annual BBQ – 3 PM – Venue TBD – Pending Decision</b>
<b>July 21<sup>st</sup>, Sunday – Annul Pot Luck Dinner – Hoopers Vinyard – Summerland – 3 PM</b>
<b>Sept 13<sup>th</sup>, Friday – Executive Meeting – 10 AM – Venue TBD</b>
<b>Sept 28<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, General Meeting and Guest Speaker – 11 AM Social Hour, Fairview Mountain Golf Course, Oliver</b>
<b>October 11<sup>th</sup>, Friday – 10 AM, Executive Meeting – Venue TBD</b>
<b>October 19<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, General Meeting and Luncheon with Guest Speaker, Social Hour 11 AM, Venue TBD – Summerland or Osoyoos</b>
<b>Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>, Friday, Executive Meeting – AGM and Remembrance Day Plans- 10AM – Venue TBD</b>
<b>Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>, Saturday, 11 AM – Annual General Meeting – Elections – Budget Approval – Executive Reports – Luncheon – RCMP Guest Speaker</b>
<b>Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, Christmas Luncheon – Installation of Officers- Awards, Auction – Christmas Menu – Social Hour 11 AM – Penticton Venue TBD.</b>

File: 2024vetsscheduledraft

**PLEASE NOTE THE ABOVE SCHEDULED EVENTS. SOME DATES MAY  
CHANGE BUT SUCH CHANGES WILL BE COMMUNICATED PROMPTLY.**

## CONGRATULATIONS:



Catching up on a couple of special events from last year: Ted and Joyce celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary!! And our long time member and past “Mr. Everything” Director, Vice-President – Tour Bus Driver Jim McMahon was presented a Certificate of Appreciation by our President Rob Boulet. We love showing special moments of our Division members!

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### SHORT NOTES:

- Remember – all South Okanagan Division members receive their monthly newsletter directly to their email inbox or via regular mail. If you wish to read the other division newsletters go to the Association Web Site at “News and Opinions”.
- If you are aware of any Division members or connected families that need help or are sick or in hospital please call our Benefit Support Advocate Bruce or any member of the Executive!!! Also if someone needs a drive to an appointment or our luncheons.
- As the recycled Newsletter Director I want to thank Secretary Kerry Bennington for producing a high class newsletter for our Division and the Association at large for the many past years. THANKS KERRY!!.
- Producing a newsletter is a labour of love, humour, research and innovation. As such I hope there is a potential newsletter editor waiting in our midst who would like to assist me this year and at some point take over. If so please let me know.
- Public Service Health Care Plan Travel and Emergency Assistance Benefits – This detailed document has important information if you are leaving Canada. While many use MEDOC via Johnson Insurance as extra coverage I found the PSHC Plan provides very good coverage for which we qualify as retired RCMP members.
- We welcome back to our Division from Kelowna – Ernie and Judy Brydon!

**FROM PAGE ONE:** Pictured is the first ever Mobile Integrated Crisis Response Team which is committed to innovative public strategies in dealing with today's mental health and addiction challenges. The team has both RCMP Officers and Interior Health Nurses working collectively to deal with situations that require both a law enforcement and medical component. Both Penticton Mayor Julius Bloomfield and Officer In Charge of the Penticton, South Okanagan and Similkameen Detachment Supt. Beth McAndie believe this is the new face of community policing. (Picture and story courtesy of Castanet News)

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**SOUTH OKANAGAN DIVISION EXECUTIVE FOR 2024:**

President Rob Boulet, 250-488-1528, [robert55boulet@gmail.com](mailto:robert55boulet@gmail.com), Past President Orv Robson, 250-494-1504, [orvrobson@shaw.ca](mailto:orvrobson@shaw.ca), Treasurer Beth McGifford, 250-493-8234, [beth\\_peachfest@hotmail.com](mailto:beth_peachfest@hotmail.com), Secretary, Membership Director & Quartermaster Kerry Bennington, 250-826-8143, [kerrybennington52@gmail.com](mailto:kerrybennington52@gmail.com), Directors: Orv Robson (Summerland); Bob Ogden (Penticton), 250-493-1049, [bobogden@gmail.com](mailto:bobogden@gmail.com), Lin Springer (Oliver) 250-485-8604, [linmya@telus.net](mailto:linmya@telus.net), Ted Cronmiller (Osoyoos) 250-495-4040, [cronmill@telus.net](mailto:cronmill@telus.net), Benefit Support Advocate Bruce Cieslikowski, 778-476-1154, [papabruce50@shaw.ca](mailto:papabruce50@shaw.ca), Newsletter Director Finn Nielsen, 250-497-5123, [nielsenms@shaw.ca](mailto:nielsenms@shaw.ca), Governors: Bill Newhouse 250-770-1435, [bnewhouse20@gmail.com](mailto:bnewhouse20@gmail.com), Jack McDonald, 250-493-4739, [jackmacdonald@shaw.ca](mailto:jackmacdonald@shaw.ca), Mel Murton 250-493-0176, [mmmurton@telus.net](mailto:mmmurton@telus.net), Robert Heywood, 236-422-3713, [rnheywood1@gmail.com](mailto:rnheywood1@gmail.com) Bill Hacock, 250-493-1664, [wih@telus.net](mailto:wih@telus.net),

CHAPLAIN: Rev. Rick Gay, 250-494-5194, [rickgay@gmail.com](mailto:rickgay@gmail.com).

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SEE YOU ALL AT THE ASIAN GARDENS IN PENTICTON ON SATURDAY FEBRUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2024, TO ENJOY FELLOWSHIP, GOOD FOOD AND A SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER.



IN THE MEANTIME TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER!