



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

Presidents Message

Our latest luncheon held February 15th, 2024, was another success with 40 members and guests attending. It was a real mixture of newer and more 'seasoned' veterans attending. It was so neat to have two guests who are becoming members attend. They were Larry Olafson who has been retired 37 years and Bill Hillcoat returning after a 5-year absence. They both stood and provided their history with the force which was of great interest. One other member, Grant Froyland also introduced himself. Although he has been part of the division for several years, it was his first luncheon. I was pleased, as Grant and I have been friends since we attended Camosun College starting in 1978.

With recruiting in mind, it should be noted that Larry and Bill were invited to the meeting by Rick Saville after he attended an 80th birthday party for another member Hunter McDonald. It is so important to have our membership grow locally and nationally and one of the best strategies is having each veteran bring in a retired member. It doesn't matter how long a member has been retired, they will play an important role in shaping our association.

Speaking of Hunter, I was entertained when partway through my dialogue he asked out loud who I was. It was a good lesson to me to not assume everyone knows me or even that I'm now in the position of President. So, on that note I'll make best effort to work the room a little more and make sure everyone knows who I am.

The Executive and other working groups are continuing to plan some events for the association for all to enjoy. The June barbeque and Christmas luncheon planning are well on their way. We are also getting ready to send out a message on a visit to the BC Legislature on April 10th with a meal, viewing of the Question Period and a tour. Stay tuned for that.

Finally, I'm so honoured to announce that Rick Saville has been appointed as a Governor. He was eligible having previously been the President and past President. He continues to carry out

great work for our Association and we are lucky to have him. Please join me in congratulating him.

Hopefully we'll be able to continue enjoying weather that almost feels spring like and looking forward to seeing you at our next luncheon on March 21st .

Take care all,

Derren

VICTORIA RCMP VETERANS ASSOCIATION

MEETING MINUTES

February 15, 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: 40 Members and Guests.

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE: Rick Saville led the membership in the Act of Remembrance.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS AND GUESTS:

New Members - Grant Froyland introduced himself, Larry Olafson (retired 37 years) and Bill Hillcoat (back after 5 years), and both introduced themselves.

The President presented the 30 year bar to Bill Bresser.

BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY: Birthday wishes are extended to the following members: Bob Bell, Elliott Betty, Bill Bresser, Marty Cheliak, Bert Cowan, Monique Joubarne, Doug Linfield, Hunter McDonald, Cliff Spence, Ray Wilson

MEMBERS UNDER THE WEATHER: Advocate Rick Saville spoke on members under the weather which included: Bob Baker, Vince Cain, Rick Lawson, Lefty Nelson and Keith Simpson.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Treasurer Steve Lefler presented the financial report for the period ending February 15, 2024.

Bank Balances as of February 15, 2024

Chequing	\$ 19,264.67
Investments	\$ 0.00
Total Assets	\$ 19,264.67

O/S Liabilities – None

108 total Active Members in Database

Active Members - 2024 Dues – Paid to date	73
Active Members - 2024 Dues – Unpaid to date	27
Active Members – 2024, 2023 Dues – Unpaid	7
Applications Pending	1
Subtotal	108
Associate/Honorary/Life	8
Total	116

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 Sunnymeade Way, Victoria, BC V8Y 3B8** or
- Remit payment by eTransfer to: rcmpvetsvictoria.treasurer@gmail.com

OLD BUSINESS:

Question Period at B.C. Legislature: E-mail will be going out to determine interest for attending the legislature on Tuesday, April 10th with lunch at 11 and Question Period at 1:30 PM.

RCMP Appreciation Day: Held on February 1st. Letters sent to all the Detachments we support and Island District. All appreciative. Our past President Rosie took lunch to Sidney Detachment, Lorraine Cormie delivered lunch to West Shore Detachment and the President ordered lunch (pizza) for Sooke Detachment. All those who received food were also very thankful.

Cleanup of storage room at District: Rick Saville and Derren attended Island District to clean it up.

Article for Quarterly: Written by Len Meilleur entitled, “The Padre who STOLE our hearts”.

NEW BUSINESS:

Camosun College Bursary: Updated on the President’s meeting with their representative. Camosun College oversees the bursary and utilizes the interest off the principal to award recipients. The amount will be increased to \$1000.00 from \$500.00. The 2024 applicants are now being reviewed.

BC Afghanistan Memorial – March 12th at 13:45 hrs. Meet at the corner of Quadra and Courtney St. across from Christ Church Cathedral. Celebrate 10th anniversary of Canada’s withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Veteran’s Ombudsman – Attending from Ottawa and going to Shawnigan Lake Legion on March 12th from 19:00-21:00 hrs. and Victoria (411 Gorge Road East) on March 13th from 19:00-21:00 hrs.

National AGM – June 6-8 in Edmonton, normally President attends. I’m unable to so Rick Saville will represent us. Others are welcome to attend at their expense.

Telus Exclusive Partner Program (EPP) – Rick Saville advised the group that the RCMP Veterans’ Assn. has recently added the Telus Exclusive Partner Program (EPP) to the National Website in the “Discounts and Rewards” section. This enables current members of the Vets and their families to enjoy preferred pricing on Telus services such as Cell Phones, Internet, TV and Home Phone packages. Members of the RCMP Vets who are current Telus customers can transfer to EPP. Applicants for EPP are required to verify their membership in the RCMP Veterans’ Assn.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Summer Barbeque (Mike Byrne): To be held June 28th at 11:00 at St. Stephens Church. Same caterer as last year. Will need assistance this year with set up and take down (tables and chairs).

Christmas Luncheon: Mel Rioux and Terry Miles checked out the Langford Legion. They tentatively booked Thursday, December 19th. The organizing committee (Erin Lench, Carter MacDonald, and Brian McQuarrie) also attended to check out the site. There were some concerns that the 19th might be too close to Christmas. The working group was able to confirm a date of Wednesday, December 11th and a hold has been put on that date. Prices will be approximately \$45.00 per person.

NEXT VETS MEETING: Thursday, March 21st, 2024 at 11:00 am. - Lakes Restaurant, Holiday Inn – Elk Lake, 4670 Elk Lake Dr, Victoria, BC V8Z 5M1

ANYTHING FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER – Jack Cronkhite, a Regina Division “snowbird”, who has joined with us for several years in the winter months, advised that he is part of a volunteer group working on a Lancaster bomber being rebuilt at the Sidney Aviation Museum. Ryan George has also joined the group. Members were encouraged to check out the Museum.

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

Ongoing Victoria Division Items of Interest

- 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 website at: 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
- 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> (Please note: CF1 does not appear to be processing new memberships at this time)
- 5) **Veterans Affairs Canada** (My VAC Account provides access to available services, including service related disabilities: 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) (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 \$15 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 1st, 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.

THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS



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BOSTON PIZZA – UPTOWN & LANGFORD

Victoria Division RCMP Veterans' Association Executive 2024 - 2025

Victoria Division Executive:

- **President:** Derren Lench, 250-580-6562, dlench@shaw.ca
- **Vice President:** Carter MacDonald, 250-477-4849, ce13macdonald@gmail.com
- **Secretary:** Russ Howard, 250-210-2503, howardxtwo@gmail.com
- **Treasurer:** Steve Lefler, 250-658-8377, silefler1@gmail.com
- **Past President:** Rosie Bowman, 250-655-0096, rosiebowman@shaw.ca

Directors:

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

Governors:

- **Brian McQuarrie**, 250-598-0942, sbmcq@telus.net
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