



RCMP VETERAN'S ASSOCIATION

SOUTH OKANAGAN DIVISION

February 2024 News Bulletin

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FIRST LUNCHEON OF 2024 HUGE SUCCESS: Penticton Director Bob Ogden welcomed 41 members and guests to our first luncheon meeting of 2024 held at the new and improved Asian Gardens on Skaha Lake Road on Saturday, Feb. 17th. Greeter Mel Murton made sure all guests were made comfortable in the new seating arrangement. After a busy social hour and catching up with old friends, it was time to try the new Western and Asian cuisine and guests were not disappointed. Following lunch Director Bob introduced Erica Markus-Pawliuk, Assistant Executive Director of the South Okanagan Women in Need Society (SOWINS) who provided a very informative and somewhat disturbing presentation on the important work this charity provides women and families who are victims of spousal abuse. Erica is very qualified to speak on this subject as she has a BA in Child and Youth Care and a Master's Degree in Counselling Psychology. She has accreditation as a Registered Clinical Counsellor with the BC Association of Clinical Counsellors. Erica also serves as the Director of Community Based Programs and Services.

With an annual budget of \$400,00.00 and over 50 staff and volunteers, SOWINS provides 3 transition facilities for those seeking shelter and support from abusive relationships with various programs for both adults and children. The emergency shelter provides 36 beds for women and children and has also allowed the families to bring their pets which lessens the stress. While there is no specific youth shelter SOWINS does provide 3 spaces for affected youths. SOWINS can provide support, counselling and shelter for up to 6 months. Children are taken to parks and recreation facilities by volunteers.

The increase in addiction has led to increased incidents of spousal abuse and the need in the community to offer a safe environment which SOWINS provides. Programs include Sexual Assault Programs including visits to hospitals; Education Series for Safety in Attending Bars; Healthy Food Preparation and even has established long term housing for victims. One alarming trend is that abused women are now being diagnosed with brain injury due to repeated chokings at the hands of their abuser. Some noteworthy statistics are: 1 in 3 women will experience abuse in their lifetime; SOWINS provided over 1400 counselling sessions last year for women and children; provided over 2100 overnight stays for children; and answered over 2000 crisis calls and, serves Penticton, Summerland, Okanagan Falls, Oliver and nearby communities. All services are gratis!

Our readers are invited to visit the SOWINS website @ <https://sowins.com>

Note: Pictured on Page 1 is Director Bob Ogden thanking Erica and we are happy to announce that our Association and several members made donations to SOWINS which was very appreciated by this important charity.

PASSAGES: With profound sadness we announce the passing of Barbara Robson, wife of our Past President Orv Robson, on February 6th, 2024. Barbara passed peacefully with her family by her side ending a long and valiant battle with cancer. Barbara was a strong supporter of the Veterans' Association and we will miss her presence at our future events. On behalf of President Rob Boulet and all members of our South Okanagan Division we offer our sincere condolences to Orv, Nicole and Kimberly and the Robson family. Barbara's obituary can be found on the following link: [Obituary for Barbara "Barb" \(McIvor\) Robson @ Providence Funeral Homes & Crematorium.](#)



REGIONAL UPDATES:

Penticton: Director Bob Ogden has been busy establishing dates for upcoming events: March Luncheon Meeting is set for Saturday, March 23rd, 2024 commencing at 11:00 AM at the Lounge of the Penticton Golf Club. Guest speaker is being finalized. On this occasion the lunch menu will be "Order off the Lounge Menu". More information will be forthcoming. The final date for the May Association "GOLF CLASSIC" at Skaha Meadows Golf Course is will be announced shortly. (Joe Driscoll is already at Doc's Driving Range polishing his game!)

Summerland: Director Orv Robson has arranged the April Lunch Meeting to be held at the Summerland Legion on Saturday, April 20th commencing at 11:00 AM. Details on the menu will be advised later. The guest speaker will be Supt. Beth McAndie, Officer In Charge of Penticton and the South Okanagan Similkameen District. This will be our first opportunity to meet the new Officer in Charge.

Osoyoos: Director Ted Cronmiller has determined that the best venue for the May 25th Luncheon Meeting will likely be Smitty's Restaurant which has provided an excellent meeting room and great food in the past. Details re menu and a guest speaker is pending.

Oliver/Okanagan Falls: Director Lin Springer has tentatively arranged the popular skeet shoot at the Sportsmen Bowl for April with final date pending. Other activities in the planning stages is a wine tour (YES!!) and a venue for the scheduled September luncheon meeting. Stay tuned!

DUES UPDATE FROM TREASURER BETH MCGIFFORD: 68 members of the Division are in good standing having paid their 2024 dues either directly to the National Office or our Division. There are 24 members still to remit their current dues and a handful from 2023! If not sure if your dues are current please reach out to Beth. A reminder will be sent out to those

whose dues are not received by March 1st. Please be mindful that our division share of the \$70.00 dues is only \$15.00 so it's critical to receive these to be able to fund the expenses we incur in serving and providing assistance to our membership and division operations.

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BOOK OF MEMORY MEMORIAL SERVICE: Prior to 2019, the memorial service was held every 3 years recognizing the passing of those members from our Division and others who may have served in Penticton or one of the satellite Detachments that our South Okanagan Division serves. All services including the one held in 2019 were held at the Providence Funeral Home Chapel in Penticton. The service hosted by our Division President included a full program with our Division Chaplain, a Piper and Trumpeter and the local Superintendent of the RCMP as guest speaker. The program typically lasted an hour and following a light lunch and coffee with family of the honorees was held at no cost. The family of those honored at the service were very supportive of the event and it is hoped one can be arranged for September of this year. Our Governor Bill Newhouse has maintained the Book of Memory which given the time since 2019 will require extensive updating. A final decision with respect to holding this event will be made at a future Executive Meeting. Any comments in this regard will be welcomed by any executive member of our Division.



Director Bob Ogden.

CAN YOU HELP FIND RETIRED CPL J.G. CAMPBELL, REG. NO. 32909?

Our member Krista Lyver is trying to help Retired S/Sgt Ed Plitz residing in Alberta find a troop mate (Cpl Cambell) to notify him of a planned troop reunion. Any help would be appreciated. If you can help please contact Ed Plitz or Krista at: klyver1@shaw.ca.

GRAVE HEADSTONES: A recent inquiry was made from a Division member and our Benefit Support Advocate Bruce Cieslikowski was quick to provide the following information:

- The Force will pay for manufacture, transportation and erection of a regimental head stone to a grave in Canada.
- There are 3 styles: 1) upright granite 30" high, 18" wide, 3" thick; 2) granite, flat to ground 12" long, 20" wide, 3" thick, 3) flat to ground bronze 12"x 20" x ¼" thick.
- The marker must contain RCMP crest, Reg. No. and name of member, Date of Birth and Death.

- Another option is to pay \$220 toward a self- purchased headstone with the condition that some reference of member’s service must be on it. A receipt of purchase and photo have to be produced for reimbursement.
- Application or inquiries can be made at:

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RCMP E DIVISION, Employee & Management Relations, 14200 Green Timbers Way, Mail Stop # 1103, Surrey BC V3T 6P3, Telephone: 778-290-2671.

CARE AT HOME (FROM THE ADVOCATE DESK)

The Care at Home Resource Guide is available to help Veterans and their families or friends understand the Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) programs that can help Veterans stay independent at home. This guide is for Veterans looking for programs and financial support to stay at home. It will also be helpful for families and other caregivers who are part of the Veterans daily life. This guide give information about four VAC programs.

1. Treatment Benefits Program – provides for a variety of benefits, those most relevant to independence at home include aids for daily living, certain nursing services and special equipment.
2. Attendance Allowance – provides a monthly tax-free amount to help cover the cost of hiring a caregiver. To determine eligibility for any programs, one must meet certain guidelines which are available through your advocate and if further clarification is needed. Veterans Affairs can be consulted at 1-866-522-2122,

Veterans on Disability Pensions have a much larger Resource Guide available to them, administered by Veterans Affairs.

More Health Care Benefits for RCMP Veterans are available through Eligibility Health Care Programs – RCMP – Veterans Affairs Canada.

Please call Benefit Support Advocate Bruce Cieslikowski at 778-476-1154 with any enquiries.

RCMP SUPERANNUATION – MARRIAGE OVER 60 CLAUSE

President Rob wants to draw our members attention to the article on the above subject included in the February edition of the excellent Communications Update from our National Office. It is somewhat legalese but is important reading. In essence “*it stipulated if pensioners of the RCMP, Canadian Armed Forces, and other government departments get married after the age of 60 years, their spouse is not eligible for any portion of his/her pension once the pensioner dies.*”

(Editor’s note) The mentioned Communications Update has become a “must read” document and while not every article may not be of interest it does contain important information.)

PICTURES FROM OUR FEB. 17TH LUNCHEON

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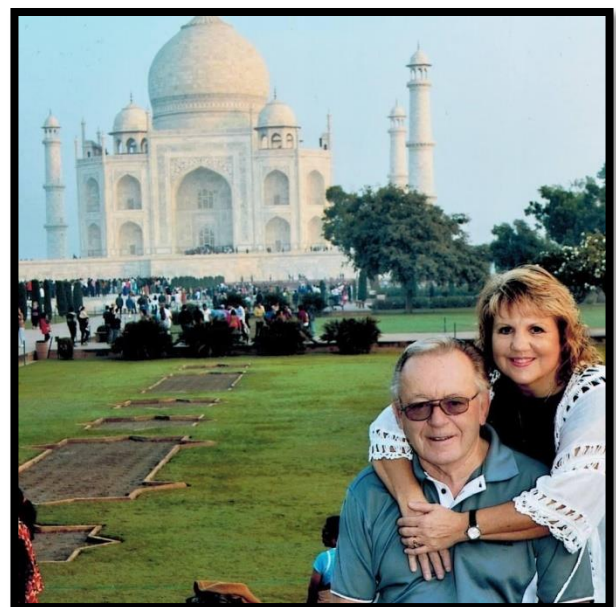
THE NAMES OF THESE HAPPY ASSOCIATION MEMBERS ARE BELOW:

Page 6 clockwise: Kerry Baxter and Cathy Milsted; Greeter Mel Murton and Clem Jones; Nicole Robson and Alida Erickson; Beth McGifford and Claude Dusseault; Barry Erickson and Orv Robson; Theresa Baxter and Laurie Milsted.

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Page 7 clockwise: Jack and Janet Ross; Denise and Jim Goldsack; Sandy Foreman and Dee Sellner; Bobbi and Alex Bodden; Brian and Rosemary Vance; Heather Hacock and Elizabeth Bullock. Editor's note: Apologies to the members I was unable to include. Next time!!

Are you travelling the world? We continue to feature photos of our members who have the wanderlust. This month it's the "Travelling Baxters" who have left their mark on most of the world's seven wonders as shown at the Taj Mahal and Antarctica:



MINUTES FROM EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY FEB. 9TH/2024

LOCATION: The Bear's Den, Penticton

Time: 10:00 AM

ATTENDEES: Bruce Cieslikowski, Bob Ogden, Bill Newhouse, Finn Nielsen, Beth McGifford, Bill Hacock, Lin Springer, Kerry Bennington, Jack McDonald

REGRETS: Rob Boulet, Ted Cronmiller, Orv Robson, Bob Heywood.

AGENDA:

1. Opening remarks from Penticton Director Bob Ogden on behalf of Pres. Rob (AOL). Bob advised the sad news that Past President Orv's wife Barbara had passed away peacefully at home on Feb. 6th, following a valiant battle with cancer.

2. Approval of the Minutes from the last Executive Meeting 24-01-12. Motion to approve: Bill Newhouse, seconded by Bill Hacock, all in favour. Passed.

3. **Treasurer's report:** Year-end statements were presented and discussion concerning the Profit and Loss – Net Income deficit of \$824.24. Balance Sheet – Total Assets of \$13,055.83.

4. **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Following up after the discussion of the Membership Research Initiative 2023-24 Finn, Bruce and Kerry prepared their conclusions on the new program. First, the initiative has no relevance to our division other than our current RCMVA BROCHURE that is posted in the South Okanagan Detachments and having our newsletters delivered by the Division Directors to Detachments and talk to members so they can understand the benefits of the RCMPVA. The best action we have had for years is word of mouth and talking to the members who may be interested after retirement.
2. Motion to approve the application for membership by Pasquale Domodossola for membership was deferred as nothing is known of this member.

5. **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. As brought forward last meeting a division phone list for distribution to all members of the Division has been approved. This new format was agreed upon in that only Last Name, First Name and Phone Number will be released.

6. **BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR::**

1. Discussion concerning the Division By-Laws currently allow only Past Presidents to become Governors which prohibits others in the Division to become Governors. The By-Law found at Section 4(1) also stands on a specific number of Division Governors. This will be discussed at a later meeting prior to considering an amendment and it must be approved by the membership at the AGM.
2. Consideration to hold the Book of Memory Memorial Service which has not been held since 2019 and honors the members of the South Okanagan Division and others who have served in this area. Bob Ogden will present a proposal to the Executive.
3. Advocate Bruce C. advised that the final tally of the number of enquiries to the Advocacy by retired members, widows and serving members has been forwarded to National.

7. **NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING: March 15th, Penticton Golf Course**

SHORT BYTES:

- **Our Executive maintains a “Keep Connected” list of our senior members both men and ladies and endeavour to call them on a regular basis. If you know of someone who has been missed or needs a call or visit please let your Regional Director know. THIS IS SO IMPORTANT AND WE CAN ALL DO BETTER!!**

- The regional Coffee Klatches provides an opportunity to share the many stories from years of law enforcement and dealing with a variety of publics, some sad some humorous. Next time bring a friend and introduce them to the great camaraderie in our Veterans' Association. Time and Place: 1st Tuesday at Smitty's in Osoyoos; 2nd Tuesday Oliver at M&J's Country Kitchen; 3rd Tuesday Penticton Golf Course; last Tuesday of month at Second Home Café in Summerland. All times at 9:30 AM. See you there!
- I note Murray Macham of the Vancouver Division provides an lot of valuable benefit information to both retired and serving members on the Facebook group MP Mates.

RCMP AND FIRST RESPONDERS FACE MOUNTING CHALLENGES: In downtown Penticton's Memorial Park set behind the impressive Cenotaph is a stone monument that is dedicated to the valiant service of the RCMP and First Responders. Ironically, adjacent to the park is the imposing Penticton Court House in which justice is meted out to the offenders of Canada's Criminal Code and Provincial Statutes. Sadly, the risks faced by all police and first responders in today's violent society is troubling when superimposed by the issue of dangerous repeat offenders and daily gangland shootings in



most Canadian cities. The point is that serving the public has never been more dangerous and we all need to support our dedicated police and first responders to the utmost of our individual and organizational abilities!



South Okanagan Division Executive for 2024:

Pres. Rob Boulet, 250-488-1528, robert55boulet@gmail.com; Past Pres. Orv Robson, 250-494-1504, orvrobson@shaw.ca; Treasurer Beth McGifford, 250-493-8234, beth_peachfest@hotmail.com; Secretary & Membership Director Kerry Bennington, 250-826-8143, kerrybennington52@gmail.com; Summerland Director Orv Robson, Penticton Director Bob Ogden, 250-493-1049, bobogden@gmail.com; Oliver Director Lin Springer, 250-485-8604, linmya@telus.net; Osoyoos Director Ted Cronmiller, 250-495-4040, cronmill@telus.net; Benefit Support Advocate Bruce Cieslikowski, 778-476-1154, papabruce50@shaw.ca; Newsletter Director Finn Nielsen, 250-497-5123, nielsenms@shaw.ca; Governors: Bill Newhouse 250-770-1435, bnewhouse20@gmail.com; Jack McDonald, 250-493-4739, jackmcdonald@shaw.ca; Mel Murton, 250-493-0176, mmmurton@telus.net; Robert Heywood, 236-422-3713, rnheywood1@gmail.com; Bill Hacock, 250-493-1664, wih@telus.net; Chaplain Rick Gay, 250-5194, rickgay@gmail.com.