



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

Presidents Message

I hope this finds everyone well and that you all had a wonderful summer. Sorry I missed the first luncheon but for good reason. Erin and I are currently in Greece enjoying a warm and wonderful holiday. Actually sitting by the pool as I write out my message.

As we move into the later part of the year I look forward to future events in which our members come together. Of course our luncheons are always a treat. We also have our Christmas luncheon in December which should be fantastic especially with our wives and others joining us.

The Executive continue to seek someone willing to take on the Secretary role. At this time Russ is doing double duty as the Treasurer too which isn't sustainable.

We should also take the time to remember those vet's that have recently passed on. There have been several over the past few months and their legacy will go on.

Well that is it for now. Will see you all very soon.

Derren

VICTORIA RCMP VETERANS ASSOCIATION

MEETING MINUTES

Sept 19, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: Past President Rosie Bowman 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: 32 Members, 1 Guest.

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE: Pastor Gil Shoemith led the membership in the Act of Remembrance.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS AND GUESTS:

New Members – Martin Nicholls, Gary Cameron, Jack Cronkhite

Guests – Ed Wright son of Huntley Wright

BIRTHDAYS IN JULY: Birthday wishes are extended to the following members: Merv Markell, Charlie Scheideman, Wayne Watson, George Braithwaite, Catherine Kitzler, Barry Hobbs, Terry Miles, Bruce Coleman, Chris Trops

BIRTHDAYS IN AUGUST: Birthday wishes are extended to the following members: Gord Gellatly, Garry Frazer, Ray Anholt, Brian Mcquarrie, Rejean Linteau, Larry Kirstein, Mark Dickinson, Pat Convey, John Deering, Shaun Fynes, Jamie Graham, Steve Lefler, Keith Gibson

BIRTHDAYS IN SEPTEMBER: Birthday wishes are extended to the following members: Moe Atkinson, William Neville, Larry Hein, Terry Morphy, Don Brown, Patrick Robertson, Peter Evans, The Rev Lon Towstego, Yves Antaya, Tim Walton,

MEMBERS UNDER THE WEATHER: Division Advocate Rick Saville spoke on members under the weather which included: Steve Lefler & Ken Handy

Passing of Reg. #19396, Chief Supt. John Vincent “Vince” CAIN (Rtd.), December 4, 1932 - August 20, 2024

Sad to report that a long-time member of the Victoria Division RCMP Vets, Vince Cain passed away on August, 20, 2024. He had been in poor health for the past several years. The funeral service was held at 10:00 AM on Saturday, September 7, 2024 at Holy Cross Church, 4049 Gordon Head Rd, Victoria.

Passing of Reg. #22165, S/Sgt. Michael "Mike" Leo HEWAT (Rtd.) November 27, 1941 - August 11, 2024

Sad news. Mike Hewat passed away at Sidney, BC on August 11, 2024. Some of you will know Mike from his posting to "E" Division HQ in Victoria from 1979 - 1981. Please keep Mike's wife Shirley and their family in your thoughts and prayers. No formal service will be held in accordance with Mike's wishes. The family will gather next year to remember him with happiness and stories.

Passing of Reg. #17296 Supt. Thomas McPherson “Scotty” GARDINER (Rtd.)

Mike Byrne received the following email from Colin Gardiner in regard to the passing of his father:

I'm not sure if you've already been contacted, or indeed if you are the right person to be contacted, but my father, Thomas McPherson “Scotty” Gardiner, who very proudly served in the RCMP from 1951-1983, died at the age of 93 last week, on July 28. Healthy and vibrant until virtually the end, an infection of C. difficile felled him in very short order.

His regimental number was 17296. He served in Manitoba from 1951-1967, then Ottawa for one year, then was an Inspector in Sydney, NS from 1968-1972 before being transferred to Edmonton (1972-1974) and, finally, Victoria 1974-1983, where he retired as a Superintendent.

The RCMP was a huge part of his life. Indeed, he wrote an autobiography called, “In the Mind of a Mountie”.

A memorial service was held at St. Mary's Anglican Church in Oak Bay at 1 PM on Friday, August 9.

Passing of Retired Member Don Rudgefield:

Pastor Lon Towstego informed the membership of the sudden death of Don Rudgefield which occurred on Sept 15, 2024. Don was driving his vehicle westbound on Highway 16 west of Smithers when he was

hit head on by a pickup truck driving eastbound. Don was pronounced dead at the scene while his wife was transported to the hospital with serious injuries. The driver of the pickup was also transported to the hospital with serious injuries. Smithers Highway Patrol suspect impairment of the pickup driver was a factor in the collision.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Treasurer Russ Howard presented the financial report for the period ending Sept 17, 2024.

Bank Balances as of Sept 17, 2024

Chequing	\$16,521.68
Investments	\$0.00
Total Assets	\$16,521.68

O/S Liabilities – None

112 total Active Members in Database

Active Members - 2024 Dues – Paid to date	91
Active Members – 2024 Dues – Unpaid	13
Active Members – 2024, 2023 Dues – Unpaid	6
Applications Pending	7
Subtotal	117
Associate/Honorary/Life	7
Total	124

Active Members - 2024 Dues – 91 members paid to date

Russ 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.

2025 ANNUAL DUES \$ \$70.00

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, Russ Howard **2-3120 Washington Ave, Victoria, BC, V9A 1P6**
- Or remit payment by eTransfer to: victoriavets.treasurer@gmail.com

OLD BUSINESS:

National AGM – June 6-8 in Edmonton. Rick Saville attended to represent the Division.

Summer Barbeque: Was held on Friday June 28th at 11:00 am at St. Stephens Church. There were 55 attendees. Mike Byrne reported that the barbeque went off very well.

Annual Award Camosun College - opportunity to have a specific award for Criminal Justice students. It would be an annual award with a cash amount of likely \$1000.00. There would be a presentation at their annual awards ceremony with positive recognition for the vet's. This would be different from the bursary program which is for all students. Rosie has suggested the potential renaming of the award to include Andy Anderson who was instrumental in starting this bursary. Currently the bursary account is sitting at \$177,000.00 with \$9,100.00 awarded this past year

Chris Riglar Memorial – Vice President Carter MacDonald is leading a project to determine if a highway overpass in Colwood could be named after Cst. Chris Riglar who was killed on duty in that area in 1991. Due to the forthcoming provincial election further follow-up on this will occur after the election.

Secretary – Still looking for someone to take over the position of Secretary/Communications. Russ is filling both Secretary/Communications & Treasurer positions at this time but would like to relinquish the Secretary/Communications position.

NEW BUSINESS:

Central Vancouver Island Luncheon – Victoria Division received an invitation to attend the CVI luncheon which was held on September 14th at the Chemainus Legion. Two members and their wives attended.

2024 BC Law Enforcement Memorial - ceremony being held at 1:00 PM on Sunday September 29, 2024 at the BC Legislature. We have been made aware of this by the Staff Sergeant Major at Island District. If you are planning on attending, please let Rosie know rosiebowman@shaw.ca. If you wish to march in the parade also let Rosie know and she will provide you with further information.

Scam Emails – action to take if you receive one from someone purporting to be the President or someone else on the Executive. These emails are requesting the recipient to purchase Amazon gift cards on their behalf. It is safe to say no one on the Executive will send an email requesting the purchase of Amazon or any other gift cards. Your safest action if you receive such an email is to delete the email without responding to it.

Board of Directors Strategic Planning Session – President Derren Lench, who is also the Secretary with the Board of Directors, is attending the session on October 7th and 8th in Ottawa.

Ride-Along Program – Rosie is proposing a ride-along program for vets to pick up vets and widows and transport them for various events including the monthly luncheons. Rosie is looking for a volunteer to coordinate this program.

Luncheon Cost Increase – The General Manager of the Lakes Restaurant has advised us with the rising costs in food, beverage and labour they have to increase their rate to \$28.00 per person which would include the meal, non alcoholic beverage (coffee, tea or soft drink), gratuity and taxes. This increase takes effect in Sept and remain at that price until June. Members at the September luncheon paid \$25.00 with the Division absorbing the \$3.00 difference per member that attended. **It is the general consensus of your Executive that commencing with the October luncheon the cost will be \$30.00 per person.**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Christmas Luncheon: to held at Langford Legion, located at 761 Station Ave, Langford on Wednesday, December 11th, 2024 beginning at 11:00 AM. Prices will be approximately \$45.00 per person. Further information to be distributed in October.

Other Events: Are there other events that the membership would like us to plan?


NEXT VETS MEETING, October 17th, 2024 at 11:00 am. - Lakes Restaurant, Elk Lake Inn, 4670 Elk Lake Dr, Victoria, BC V8Z 5M1

ANYTHING FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER – Nothing presented.

BLESSING FOR THE MEAL: Pastor Lon Towstego delivered the blessing

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>
- 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

<https://rcmpva.org/veterans-affairs-canada/> . The Office of the Veterans Affairs Ombudsman is in Ottawa. <https://ombudsman-veterans.gc.ca/en/contact-us>

- 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, there are a number of dress items such as cufflink sets, etc. Contact Kjell for information.
- 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.
- 12) **Wednesday Morning Coffee:** Wednesday mornings at 8:30 am in the Restaurant at Quality Foods, 977 Langford Parkway, Langford, BC.

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:** Russ Howard, 250-210-2503, howardxtwo@gmail.com
- **Past President:** Rosie Bowman, 250-655-0096, rosiebowman@shaw.ca

Directors:

- **Social Events:** Mike Byrne, 1-250-537-9988, monami2@shaw.ca
- **Membership:** Mike Byrne, 1-250-537-9988, monami2@shaw.ca
- **Communications:** Russ Howard, 250-210-2503, howardxtwo@gmail.com
- **Division Advocate:** Rick Saville, 250-477-0997, rpmsaville@gmail.com
- **Quartermaster:** Kjell Johansen, 250-592-6477, puro@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:** Ron Gosselin, 250-544-8262, rongo@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
- **Rick Saville,** 250-477-0997, rpmsaville@gmail.com

**Our Mailing Address: Victoria Division RCMP Veterans' Association
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