



## **RCMP VETERANS' ASSOCIATION**

**SOUTH OKANAGAN DIVISION**

**OCTOBER 2024 NEWS BULLETIN**

### **In this issue:**

- We honour the brave men and women of the RCMP ERT
- Ron Lyver is awarded the Medal of Bravery from Gov. General
- Book your table for the Annual Christmas Luncheon – Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>!!!
- Osoyoos Luncheon big success with important guest speaker
- Our Benefit Support Team provides new information
- Minutes of the October 11<sup>th</sup> Executive Meeting - Highlights



## **THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (ERT) – AN ELITE POLICE TACTICAL UNIT COMPRISED OF 16 RCMP MEN AND WOMEN**

*Formed in 1977, in 31 centres across Canada, the ERT is a group of highly-trained RCMP members capable of employing specialized weapons, equipment and tactics to resolve extremely high-risk situations. ERTs operate as a floating work-site team which allows them to be called from their residences and not necessarily when on duty. Of interest, the ERT teams are legally bound to operate in Canada and overseas when required.*

*Prospective male and female ERT candidates are required to have two years of operational experience as well as to score a total of 225 or more in their PPC qualifications. Once selected they must complete a nine week ERT Course in Ottawa consisting of theoretical, firearms and tactical training. In addition, Sniper/Observer Course; the Aircraft Assault Course; and the Marine Operations Course are open to ERT members. In 2001 the duties of the ERT were described as follows:*

- *Resolving incidents involving armed and barricaded persons.*
- *Aircraft interventions and Marine armed ship boarding*
- *High-risk searches and arrests*
- *High-risk prisoner transport*
- *VIP and witness protection duties*
- *Covert surveillance and intelligence gathering*
- *Rural tracking operations.*



*In the event our readers would like to try the physical admission test it is listed below, although it has since been replaced by a timed Obstacle Training Course.*

- *Run 1.5 mile in under 11 minutes.*
- *Complete 40 consecutive and uninterrupted push-ups.*
- *5 wide-grip pull-ups.*
- *Bench-press a weight of 135 pounds.*

*Without a doubt it takes a special police officer to meet the criteria and training to complete the ERT requirements. We thank these brave members who assist our detachment members to peacefully or with minimum casualties resolve the many potentially dangerous situations they are required to deal with in our increasingly dangerous society. TAKE CARE!!*

**RON LYVER OF SOUTH OKANAGAN DIV., RECEIVES MEDAL OF BRAVERY**

**On October 24<sup>th</sup> at Rideau Hall in Ottawa, our Division member Ron Lyver was among 40 recipients of Decorations for Bravery. In Ron's case he received the Medal of Bravery, one of Canada's most prestigious honours. *Congratulations Ron, a very proud moment!***



**On December 3, 2011, in Breton, Alberta Corporals Peter King and Guy Johnson and Constable Ron Lyver, saved a colleague who was shot on duty. Responding to an active shooter situation, Cpl. Johnson provided cover as Cpl. King and Cst. Lyver ran to assist the victim, with Cpl. King (Now Supt.) getting shot twice. Cst. Lyver returned fire allowing them to move their colleague to safety. Also receiving the Medal of Bravery were Cpl. Johnson of Red Deer, and Supt. Peter King of Grand Prairie.**

## RCMPVA SOUTH OKANAGAN DIVISION

### MINUTES of the EXECUTIVE MEETING 2024-10-11

**LOCATION:** Penticton Golf and Country Club (Board Room)

**TIME:** Friday, October 11 commencing at 10:00am

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**ATTENDEES:** Rob, Orv, Bob, Mel, Finn, Bruce, Bill N, Elizabeth, WIH, Beth, Kerry

**REGRETS:** Lin and Ted, Jack M and Bob Heywood

#### AGENDA:

1. **Opening remarks:** President Rob opened the meeting with comments as to the arrival of Fall and those members who will be heading off to warmer climates. As well there has been some concern with the dues created by MMS. It outlines two ways to pay the dues for the upcoming year, either online or by contacting their local treasurer in keeping with the payment processes that have been available for the past four years.

2. **Approval of the Minutes:** Last Executive Meeting: 2024-09-13 (Bill N, Bob O & Passed)

3. **Treasurer's report:** Our Financial position shows a current income of \$837.22 We still have members who have unpaid dues for previous years. The Division's GIC has been renewed for another year.

4. **Secretary's/Membership Director report:**

- a. Two members have been struck from the Registry by request.
- c. Current membership – Last meeting: 92 Active members
- d. Service Bars earned –to be presented at the Christmas Lunch
- e. The membership of Pat Domodossola and Blaine Gervais were confirmed

5. **Support & Advocacy Team report**– Moving Forward

Our goal of the Advocate Team is to increase awareness of the support our Veterans' Assoc. can provide and each Assoc. newsletter will have a "Benefit Support Team" article – info that is interesting & helpful. The team is considering having a Team member at Koffee Klatches to answer any Benefits/Support questions &/or a planned monthly meeting where attendees can ask questions. We will host a series of workshops at each of our region's detachments coordinating dates through the Regional Directors, Detachment Commanders - Starting in Penticton, all serving and retired (Assoc. members and civilian, auxiliary & municipal employees are welcome. The development of a "Benefits Information

Workshop” and will highlight support available beyond the RCMP (CAF, Legion, Provincial programs) & our Benefit Support Team is here to help. Focus will be on reviewing the “Executor & Survivor Information Package,” Civilian Survivor Information Package” and the various topics that will arise out of the review. On the Benefit area Elizabeth thought she would ask at the AGM (and I suppose at luncheons) what specific areas of concern are there regarding benefit clarification etc. Possible future workshops will include guest speakers (Veterans’ Affairs CANADA, and NAFR) other topics requested by attendees.

## **6. New Business**

### **Resolution No. 2 – AMENDMENTS TO SOUTH OKANAGAN DIVISION BY-LAW Vote required at AGM**

This following issue was raised in the Minutes of the Executive Meeting March 15th, 2024, and published in the Minutes of the meeting where additional Director positions were approved specifically:

- a. Two members shall be appointed to hold the office of Director Responsible for Support & Advocacy
- b. Two members shall be appointed to hold the office of Director Responsible for Penticton

### **Resolution No. 3 – AMENDMENTS TO SOUTH OKANAGAN DIVISION ANNUAL DUES**

As published both on the Executive minutes and the Newsletter, in response to Peter's Aug 26 bulletin, the South Okanagan Division membership dues will increase by \$10 in 2025 (for a total of \$80 which includes a total of \$60 for the Association per member, therefore a raise in dues by \$10.00. A vote will be called to those members attending the AGM to vote on this resolution.

## **7. New Issues or follow-up from the floor:**

- a. The next Luncheon to be held on Oct 19 at the golf course in Osoyoos. We are fortunate to have a special speaker: Nancy Evanson, President of the National Association of Federal Retirees for the South Okanagan. An update email will be sent out to our members and those planning to attend please notify your attendance and menu options to Osoyoos Director Ted at email: cronmill@telus.net; or phone at 250-495-4040.
- b. Under new business fund raising was a big discussion which included looking at lottery, 50/50, selling Roch's maple sugar gift baskets in Cherry Lane Mall for Christmas. We make \$10 per basket. No decision was made but baskets seemed the best option. Also, some would buy and bring to the Chinese Auction (Charity) as their contribution. We also felt that Cops for Kids and Women in Need (SOWINS) would be the two charities that we would identify to potential sponsors of anyone who contributes to our division. Treasurer Beth mentioned she has not received any donation or money from current membership.

## **8. NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING Nov. 8, 2024; LOCATION: PENTICTON G&CC TIME: 10:00am**

Prepared by: Kerry Bennington, Secretary RCMVA South Okanagan Division

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## **Advocates Corner**

### **Clothing Allowance**

If you are receiving a “disability benefit” for a condition that causes wear and tear on your clothing or requires you to wear specially made clothing, you may qualify for a monthly tax-free clothing allowance. Contact VAC 1-866-522-2122

### **Health Care Benefits - From VAC**

Discharged RCMP Regular members and Active and discharged RCMP Civilian members, are eligible to receive health care benefits related to their specific Disability Pensioned condition(s). This includes items such as: hearing aids; vision care; dental and medical costs; prescriptions; special equipment; physiotherapy; occupational therapy; psychological services; nursing services

### **Pensioners Dental Services Plan (PDSP)**

Just a reminder that Canada Life take over on November 1, 2025. Be sure your dentist is supplied with your new certificate and plan number.

**For any assistance please contact Division Advocates; Bruce Cieslikowski 778-476-1154 or Elizabeth Smith 778-839-5316**

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## **CENTRE OF CLINICAL EXCELLENCE – VETERANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS**

Our Benefit Support Team (Bruce and Elizabeth) and Pres. Rob Boulet want you to be aware of the many services that the Centre of Clinical Excellence provides to the RCMP, Armed Forces and First Responders. Recently the Director of Education and Exercise Programming was a guest speaker at a meeting of the Vancouver Division of our Veterans’ Association. Their President Ron Morse was kind enough to forward the undernoted information.

Tailored specifically for Veterans, First Responders and their families, services encompass a holistic approach to support the uique needs of these individuals. From specialized medical treatments to mental health counselling and family oriented programs, the Centre is committed to fostering a supportive environment for those who have dedicated their lives to service..

Services include: Medical assessments; Clinical counselling; Kinesiology and clinical exercise; Massage therapy; Naturopathic medicine, neurological physiotherapy; nutrition and oral health, physiotherapy; and, cognitive research study. For more information please visit their website at <https://vhrh.ca/>

## **Osoyoos Golf Course Venue for Successful October Luncheon:**

As arranged by Osoyoos Director Ted Cronmiller, the October Luncheon was held in the Lounge at the Osoyoos Golf Course on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, commencing at 11:00 AM and attended by 45 plus members of the South Okanagan Division. It was a treat to catch up with many members during the social hour before lunch. With 4 choices for menu items everyone's palate was well treated, particularly for the reasonable price of \$26.00 per person. President Rob Boulet welcomed everyone with Director Ted offering prayer prior to lunch being served by the excellent restaurant staff.

Following lunch Penticton Director Bob Ogden introduced Nancy Evanson, President and Advocacy Officer for the South Okanagan Region of the National Association of Federal Retirees (NAFR). Ms. Evanson delivered a very interesting outline of the services the NAFR provides its 176000 membership. If you receive the excellent SAGE you are a member of the association. But, as emphasized by the speaker, many members are not fully aware or utilizing the many benefits enjoyed by its membership. Also as an advocacy for retired members of the RCMP and military the NAFR has improved many benefits. An abbreviated list follows:

- Secured full pension indexation for all federal retirees.
- Created the Pensioners' Dental Services
- Lobbied successfully for a Seniors' Cabinet Minister at the Federal level
- Lobbied to continue survivor benefits for surviving spouses
- Challenged the \$30 billion pension surplus grab in the superannuation accounts
- Established preferred partners and saving for travel and home insurance and many savings for its membership.

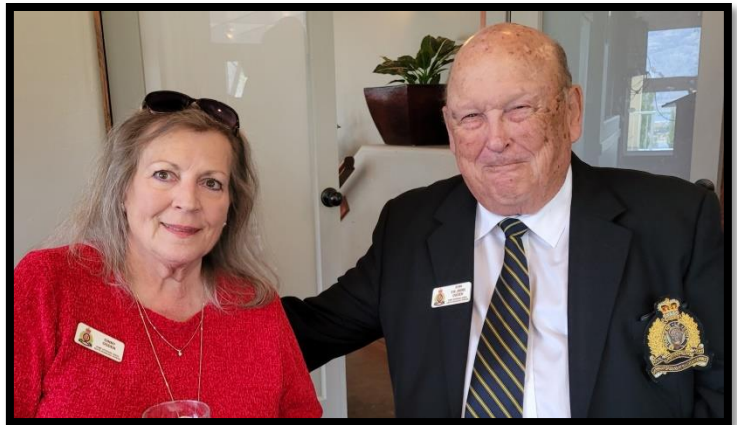
Joining the NAFR is easily done by calling 1-855-304-4700, ext 300 or [service@federalretirees.ca](mailto:service@federalretirees.ca).

President Rob thanked Ms. Evanson and presented her with an RCMP Centennial mug.

*(Note: special thanks to our members Bill Hacock for arranging the speaker and Bob Ogden for providing transportation from Penticton to the Meeting.)*



**LUNCHEON PICTURES FROM OCT. 19<sup>TH</sup>.**



***Clockwise: Carol Boan & Elizabeth Bullock; Harley Boys Claude Dusseault and BradThompson; Dee Sellner & Mimi & Wayne Symes; Ginny & Bob Ogden; Marlene Anderson & Vern Allard; Darcy McGifford and Bruce Cieslikowski.***





*Clockwise: Wade & Diane Blake; Jack & Janet Ross; Joyce Cronmiller & Bill Hacock; Roger & Maria Phillippe & Cathy Thompson; Orv Robson & Joe Driscoll.*



**RCMP VETERANS' ASSOCIATION  
SOUTH OKANAGAN DIVISION**

**CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON & INSTALLATION OF EXECUTIVE**

**PENTICTON GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6th, 2024**

**11:00 AM GATHER: SOCIAL**

**12:00 PM BUFFET LUNCH IS SERVED**

**ROAST TURKEY, VEGETABLES, BREADS, COFFEE, TEA**

**1:15 PM PROGRAM & INSTALLATION OF EXECUTIVE**

**CHINESE AUCTION RESULTS**

**COST: \$32.00 PER PERSON**

**\$37.00 FOR NON-MEMBERS**

**PAY BY CHEQUE PAYABLE TO RCMP VETS SOUTH OKANAGAN DIVISION  
MAILED OR DROPPED OFF TO BETH MCGIFFORD AT 105 SUNGLO DR, PENTICTON  
V2A 8X6 OR BY E-TRANSFER TO BETH\_PEACHFEST@HOTMAIL.COM**

**PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY NOVEMBER 25TH, 2024**

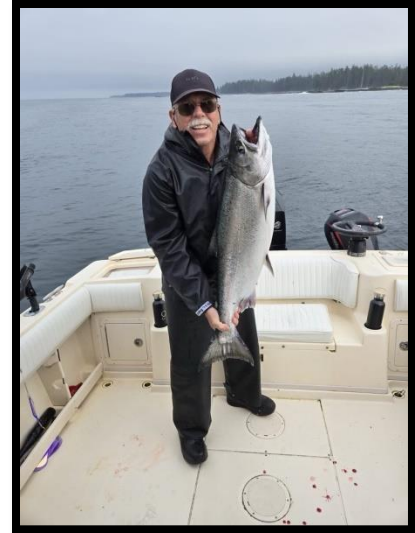
**FUNDRAISING SILENT CHINESE AUCTION**

**PLEASE BRING GENTLY USED OR NEW ITEMS YOU WISH TO DONATE.**

**PLEASE BRING NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEM FOR THE FOOD HAMPER**

## **Members of our Division in action:**

We enjoy featuring our members who in retirement find many interesting pursuits. First we have a great picture of our member Glenn Hooper who on his 80th birthday took time away from his wood crafts and wine making to catch the record setting 27 pound Chinook near Haida Gwaii. Congratulations Glenn!



You may not have known that our Division has its very own “Easy Riders”. Yes, the wide open road is often the venue for Claude Dusseault and Brad Thompson as they ride their Harleys across Canada and the United States. A trip to California is on the books and we look forward to hearing about their open road adventures. If you want the “Easy Rider” feeling I suggest you YouTube the opening scene of Easy Rider, and turn up the music to Canada’s own Steppenwolf as they perform “Born to be Wild”.



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**PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND THE A.G.M. ON NOV. 16<sup>TH</sup> IN PENTICTON**