



Presidents **Message**

As my term as President of the Vancouver Division comes to a close at the end of December, this will be my final

communication in this role. I'm pleased to announce that John Sherstone has been elected by acclamation as our new President. I wish John every success in his upcoming term. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to the members of our executive board for their hard work and dedication over the past two years. They have invested countless hours to help strengthen and improve our association.

The holiday season is upon us, and with it comes a busy calendar of events. In past years, we've held our Veterans' Levee as a dinner gathering in early December. However, given the numerous activities taking place during this time, we have decided to try something different this year. The Levee will now be held as an afternoon event on January 11. Many of our members prefer not to drive at night, which has led to a

decrease in attendance, so we hope this change will encourage more people to join us for a relaxed and enjoyable afternoon social. Details of the event are posted in this newsletter and on our website

(<http://www.rcmpveteransvancouver.com/rcmp-veterans-association-levee-january-11-2025/>). Our Historian has suggested that this would be a wonderful opportunity for our members to wear their "walking out order" uniforms. For those fortunate enough to have uniforms that haven't suffered from "closet shrinkage," we invite you to proudly wear your red serge.

Our October General Meeting took place at the Cloverdale Legion on October 19. We were honored to have Deputy Commissioner Dwayne MacDonald, Commanding Officer of "E" Division, and Assistant Commissioner Brian Edwards, Officer in Charge of the Surrey Detachment, as our guest speakers. They shared insights on the transition to Surrey Police Service as the new Police of Jurisdiction. Both expressed immense pride in the dedication and resilience of the Surrey Detachment RCMP members as they navigate this challenging transition.

Five members of Vancouver Division were honored with the King Charles III Coronation Medal. Dorothy

Martinson, our long-time Director of Social Events, was the Vancouver Division nominee. Donna Morse, John Sherstone, Murray Macham, and Jane Hall were nominated by the Association. Congratulations to all recipients and thank you for your tireless dedication and hard work. D/Comm. MacDonald had the honor of presenting the medals to Dorothy, Donna, and John at our October meeting. Unfortunately, Murray and Jane were unable to attend, but their medals will be presented at a later date. I would also like to congratulate Ric Hall and Donna Morse for receiving a Commanding Officer's Commendation in recognition of their "exemplary voluntary activities, which have had a significant impact on the RCMP, benefiting both our Veterans and current members."

As I figuratively saddle up and ride off into the sunset, I want to express my thanks to the members of Vancouver Division for entrusting me with the leadership of the Division over the past two years. I wish you and your families all the very best this holiday season and look forward to seeing you at the Levee.

LAST POST

CROISDALE, James Earl ROD Auxiliary Constable B April 20th, 1943, Died November 29th, 2024, Divisions E Funeral Mass Sacred Heart Church Kimberley BC on Saturday December 21st, 2024, 1 am.



GRUDGEFIELD Donald Edward, ROD Corporal, B January 22nd, 1948, died September 15th, 2024, Years of Service Dec 3rd, 1969, to April 27th, 1994. Divisions E and Depot. Memorial Service on February 1st, 2025, 1.00pmat Christian Reformed Church Smithers BC.



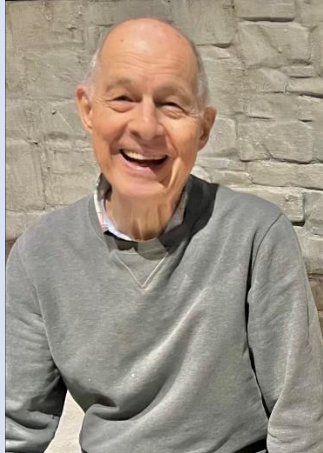
Cpl. Donald E. GRUDGEFIELD, (Front Row; 2nd from left) along with Troop 1 (1982-83) at Depot Division (Regina). Troop 1 trained from April 8, 1982, to October 4, 1982.

Photo Credit: The Quarterly - Vol. 48, No. 2 (Spring, 1983)

POWELL George Herbert Reg No 17809/0.769 ROD Chief Superintendent Born January 6th, 1933, Died November 23rd, 2024. Service Dates 1952 to 1968. Divisions N, B, J, O, HQ and E.



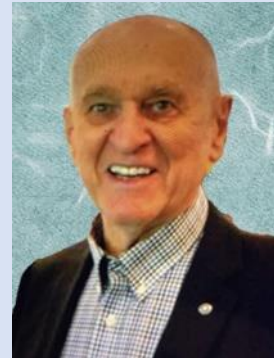
DZUBA Henry Eric Reg No 20067, ROD Staff Sergeant, June 25th, 1938, Died November 13th, 2024, Service Dates 1957 to 1995. Divisions E, J, and HQ.



ROWLAND John Peter ROD Sergeant Reg No 23823 Born November 5th, 1944, died November 26th, 2024, Years of Service January 15th, 1965, to 1988. Divisions O, E and the Musical Ride. Obituary -His grandfather, Sgt. Percy Cutting, #3149 joined the NWMP in 1896 serving in Yukon during the Gold Rush. He retired in 1924. His uncle, Sgt. George Arundel Cutting, #10980, joined the RNWMP as a Trumpeter in 1913. He served in No. 1 Provost Corps during WW2 and was a riding instructor at Depot. Hence John 3rd generation of family RCMP members.

NAZAR Gary James Reg No 20173 ROD Constable. Born September 17th, 1938, died December 21, 2024. Service Dates 1957 to 1963 Divisions O, G and E. Obituary -After joining the RCMP, where he obtained his pilot's license. He later used his airplane for business and

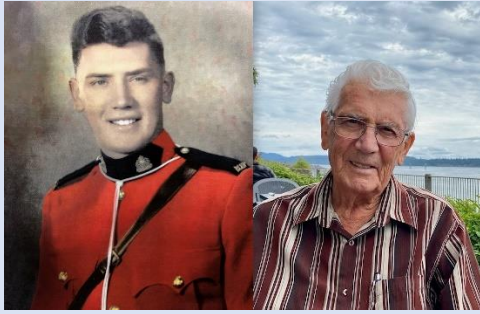
pleasure. His RCMP postings were in Ontario, the Eastern Arctic, and Victoria,



BC, where he met his wife Dorothy, of 62 years. After leaving the RCMP, he attended the University of Victoria, where he acquired his knowledge in business. He became President and CEO of two GM dealerships in BC and numerous oil companies in Calgary. He was a dedicated volunteer and member of Rotary International for over 40 years, serving as President of Powell River Rotary Club, Director of Calgary South Rotary Club, Rotary Assistant District Governor, and a member of Oak Bay Rotary Club. He had many lifelong friends and enjoyed telling his stories to all those who would listen. He was noted for a very dry and spontaneous sense of humour. In lieu of flowers, if friends so desire, memorial tributes may be made directly to the Arthur J.E. Child Comprehensive Cancer Centre, 3395 Hospital Drive NW, Calgary, Alberta, T2N 5G2, 1-844-465-6330, www.albertacancer.ca.

FAIRHURST Robert James Reg No 19695, ROD Staff Sergeant, Born January 27th, 1937, died November 15th, 2024, Service Dates 1956 to 1980 Divisions E, G, and A.

RCMPVA, Okanagan Division.



BATES Lewis Gray Reg No -N/D ROD- N/D Born November 9th, 1950, died August 11th, 2024. Service Dates- N/D. Divisions E. Obituary – Born in Calgary moved to BC on discharge from Depot serving in Cranbrook Prince George, Fort Nelson, Dawson Creek and Fort St. John. He retired to Taylor BC. A lifelong love of the outdoors Lew was an accomplished horseback rider, hunter, hiker, gunsmith, dog lover and family man.

MICHALSKI Frank Reg No 21253 ROD Sergeant, born May 10, 1938 – Died November 30, 2024. Service Dates 1960 to 1988. Had other Service with the MATSQUI Police



Department (later absorbed into the Abbotsford Police Department). Divisions E. Obituary-Frank served in many places around the Division ending up as Exhibits Custodian at Surrey Detachment. He was an accomplished outdoors man and a talented musician, the harmonica being his chosen instrument. A celebration of Frank's life will take place in the late

spring or early summer of 2025. In lieu of flowers, donations in Frank's memory may be made to the BC Lung Foundation at giving@bclung.ca or by calling 604-731-5864 ext. 120.

YATES David Reg No 24608 ROD- Staff Sergeant, Born September 10, 1946 – Died December 17, 2024. Service Dates February 25, 1966. July 20, 1995. Divisions F, E and K.

BURDICK Norman Douglas Reg No 27846 ROD Corporal, Born 1946 to November 20th, 2024, Service Dates N/D Divisions E, K and D.

ANDERSON Carl Oscar Reg No 17980 ROD Staff Sergeant Born 1933 Died 2024 Service Dates 1952 to 1977 Divisions E, A, HQ and F.

JONES Kenneth Edward Reg No 23354, ROD Corporal Born 1944 Died December 3rd, 2024, Service Dates April 3rd, 1964, to 1976. Divisions E and F including Kelowna, BC.



WOODS Donald Irving Reg No 19924 ROD Staff Sergeant, Born February 23rd, 1937, Died December 5th, 2024. Service Dates 1957 to 1990. Divisions E.



Donald Irving Woods

BARNET George Edward Reg No 42668
ROD Constable B March 14th, 1947, Died
November 23rd, 2024, Service Dates June
1979 until April 2006. Divisions E.



NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED

SALLIS Michael, Reg No 50870, ROD Constable,
Service Dates Jan 26th, 2004, to April 3rd, 2024.
Divisions E.

WHIDDEN Richard, Reg No 28162, ROD
Sergeant, Service Dates June 15th, 1970, to
May 1st, 2003. Divisions E and O.

PLOUGHMAN Robert, Reg No 49217, ROD
Sergeant, Service Dates Dec 17th, 2001, to April
1st, 2025. Divisions E.

BAYDA Mervin, Reg No 27083, ROD Staff
Sergeant, Service Dates February 4th, 1969, to
January 5th, 2016.

TUPPER Heather, Reg No 44812, ROD Sergeant,
Service Dates November 15th, 1993, to Jan 1st,
2025. Divisions E.

SALES Francisco, Reg No 41876, ROD
Constable, Service Dates March 19th, 1990, to
January 23rd, 2025. Divisions E.

SIDHU Gail, Reg No 43729, ROD Special
Constable, Service Dates November 29th, 1991,
to Dec 4th, 2019. And Sep 21, 1990, to Sept 22,
2024. Divisions E

BUTTAR Ruggy Reg No 42999 ROD Inspector
Service Dates Sept 22nd, 1990, to Sept 24,
2024, Divisions E and O.

DOUANGCHANH David Reg No 50993 ROD
Aux/Special Constable, Granted Associate
Membership, Still Serving as Staff Sergeant
Major sworn in March 15th 2004. Divisions-
Depot Division, Regina and Police Dog Service
Innisfail, E.

WILSON Mike Reg No S/3635/42656 ROD
Sergeant, Service Dates 1st July 1987 to
October 11th, 2017. Divisions E.

BUGLE CALL

RCMP-VA Vancouver Division Annual Levee

Date: Saturday, January 11, 2025

Time: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Location: NCOs Mess (Heather Stables)

14200 Green Timbers Way

Surrey, BC

The RCMPVA, Vancouver Division invites
members of the Veterans' Association, their
significant others / guests, serving or retired
RCMP members, Auxiliary Members, Civilian
Members, Public Service and Municipal
Employees to please join us at our annual
Veterans Levee.

Dress: RCMP Walking Out Order (We realize
that the red serge is prone to "closet shrinkage"
over the years, but, if it still fits, it would be a
great opportunity to wear it.) Veterans' blazer,
Business suit, Sports jacket. Ladies –
comparable dress.

Note: There is no charge for weekend visitor parking at the RCMP Green Timbers Complex.

Social Coordinator, Dorothy Martinson at 4630demartinson@shaw.ca January 2, 2025.

Vancouver Division Stores Office

John Sherstone requests all members be notified that we no longer have a stores or supply capability. Members wishing to order any RCMP VA Kit should contact the Edmonton Office as follows.

RCMP Gift Shop
11140 109th Street
Edmonton AB. T5G 2T4, ph. 1-780-412-5572
Email: orders@rcmpgiftshop.ca.

The Kit Shop will only accept orders from members of the RCMP VA. Contact your membership coordinator (Ray Powers in Vancouver Division - rayjpower@yahoo.com) who will send e mail to kit shop informing them of applicant's active membership status. For more info here is the link.

[About – RCMP Gift Shop](#)

HISTORICAL CORNER

THE RECOVERY OF THE CREMATED REMAINS OF SUPERINTENDENT JOE ATHERTON RCMP



Joe Atherton retired from the RCMP in 1967 in E Division where he spent most of his service. He passed away in December 1988. In all that has been written about him and his service and those who knew him are clear he was as dedicated as anyone could be to the RCMP. Before his passing Joe had asked that his cremated remains be buried on hallowed ground i.e. RCMP property. Following his cremation some of his close friends and colleagues with family approval carried out

Hoes last wish. I spot was identified beneath the flagpole at Heather Barracks on the HQ Site 4949 Heather St. Vancouver. With the future of this site uncertain it not being under the control of the RCMP anymore, researchers decided to find out all about the original "interment", its actual location and to have Joes remains removed and placed in a permanent RCMP location. Vancouver Divisions Donna Morse and Ric Hall carried out the research and the exact spot was established. This past summer various RCMP members including forensic services carried out the dig and recovered the remains. It is anticipated that Joes cremated remains will be interred with a fresh Urn at the RCMP Cemetery at Depot Division.



*Photo,
Recovery
Crew*

The full detailed story with pictured can be found on the RCMP

website and here is the link for our members wishing to review the entire episode. [BC RCMP - Search for one Mountie's cremated remains at the former BC RCMP Headquarters in Vancouver, successful.](#)

HONOURS and AWARDS

CORONATION MEDAL PRESENTATIONS.

It is customary in Britain, Canada and the Commonwealth that when a new sovereign is crowned commemorative medals are struck with the new and old monarchs head. Thus in 2023 when Charles Mountbatten-Windsor, The Prince of Wales ascended to the throne on the death of his mother Queen Elizabeth the 2nd medals were struck in Britain and other countries where the British Monarch is the

titular head of state. In Canada 30,000 of these medals were struck and distributed by the Chancellery of Honours at Rideau Hall to Federal Agencies and the Provinces and



Territories. (The CAF were allocated 4000 the RCMP not as many. *Ed. Note I was unable to ascertain how many exactly*) This included allocations to various veterans' organisations and charities including the RCMP Veterans. Vancouver Division nominations from our membership of 350 plus resulted in the five individuals mentioned here being decorated. Criteria for qualification differed from Great Britain¹ in that the persons awarded have made a

significant contribution to Canada or to a particular province, territory, region or community of Canada, and be alive on 6 May 2023(!); in other words, they have to earn it! Vancouver Division members awarded the medals were;

Donna Morse

John Sherstone

Murray Macham²,

Dorothy Martinson and Jane Hill.

All are dedicated and hardworking individuals who have given freely of their time and efforts over a very long period to the Vancouver Division.

The awards were presented to Donna, John and Dorothy by Deputy Commissioner Dwayne McDonald, Commanding Officer E Division RCMP on October 17th, 2024, at the Division

General Meeting at Cloverdale Legion. Hearty Congratulations to Donna, John, Murray Dorothy and Jane.

PRESENTATIONS

King Charles III Coronation Medal

Donna Morse received her medal from Dwayne McDonald.



John Sherstone receiving his medal from Dwayne McDonald



¹ UK all police officers and Armed Forces who were serving on 6th May 2023 were awarded the decoration. Veterans were allocated a lesser number.

² Murray and Jane Hills have yet been presented. Not yet presented

Dorothy Martinson receives her medal from
Dwayne McDonald.



And wearing it!

OCTOBER 17TH GENERAL MEETING

Royal Canadian Legion Branch #8

17567 57th Ave, Surrey, BC.

Over 70 people attended. Highlights were:

Initially the National Anthem was sung and the Last Posts read out followed by Moment of Silence.

Members were addressed by firstly Brian Edwards the last RCMP CO of Surrey Detachment prior to transfer to Surrey Police Service. A/Comm Edwards described the current process of handover and his views relating thereto. He also described some of the valuable and important community activities going on including the promotion of the new mascot Sergeant Bison (see photos) The Surrey RCMP have invited school children to submit suggestions for Sgt Bisons First Name. So, if you have children (more likely grandchildren in our case!) in Surrey school system please encourage them to participate.

Deputy Commissioner Dwayne McDonald Pacific Region CO addressed the Crowd again giving his views on the situation that brought about the RCMP ending their contract in Surrey. Both he and Brian Edwards stressed their determination that RCMP Members who are remaining with the Force will be posted to where they want to serve, bearing in mind

many of them have family and mortgages based in Surrey itself or on easy commuting distances.

Our members present who had previous service in Surrey Detachment were asked to stand and received a round of applause (photos attached)

The meeting was adjourned for lunch and the food came out fast and furious from pre-meeting orders. The staff and volunteers assisted in getting the food out and were constantly shouting out numbers identifying plates for dinners. So loud and frequent were these passers by outside could have been forgiven that a Bingo game was in progress!!! Not unusual at Legion Halls!

Following Lunch S/Sgt. Trevor Dinwoodie, National Police Federation, Director Pacific/North Region gave a presentation. More on Trevor here.

<https://npf-fpn.com/board-of-directors-trevor-dinwoodie-director-pacific-north-region/>

PHOTO GALLERY



Retired members who had served in Surrey were asked to stand by Brian Edwards and were given a huge round of applause. The splendidly turned-out gentleman seated in the foreground is your hard-working Membership Director Ray Power. (Editor)



Brian Edwards now the former OIC Surrey Detachment stressing one of many points!



Dwayne McDonald similarly had some interesting and forceful points to make about the Surrey Police transition. All welcomed by his audience that day. Dwayne McDonald significantly promotes the activities of the RCMP VA and the Vancouver Div especially. He is always welcome at our events.



Shaun Brownrigge and Karen Frost. Former colleagues in FSOC.



L to R Nigel Busche retd OIC of E-Air Services. Rich Bergevin retd from E-FSOC and Larry Kostiuk who served but did not retire from the Force.



L to R Brian MacDonald retd from Burnaby Det. Dave Woods Surrey Det. Merv Korolek retd from E Div HQ and Cathy McConnell retd from E Div Professional Standards.



Assembled meeting attendees. Well, most of 'em anyway! Others were attending bar meetings! (Editor)



Sgt BISON - Surrey RCMP's Youth Section is the largest Youth Section in the RCMP with 24 full time members and they service Surrey, the second largest School District in Canada.

The Surrey RCMP's Youth Section conducts numerous Youth and Community engagement activities. The current Surrey Detachment mascot Safety Bear attracts a small amount of our school and community population. We needed a newer mascot that would align with the RCMP's modernization path. We developed a new mascot to target a larger audience demographic and more in line with current society. Hence, Sgt. BISON was born. Sgt. BISON has a couple of outfits. The traditional Red Serge for community engagement and a sports outfit to engage the crowds at school and sports events. We hope that Sgt. BISON can bridge the gap and open doors to positively engage with our youths and the public. Sgt. BISON is the first and only one in the RCMP.

The RCMP's Toy Car was slated to be crushed because it hasn't been used for years. Last year, Surrey RCMP's Youth Section saw the potential of the Toy Car to be utilized at our schools. The Surrey RCMP took ownership of the Toy Car and revitalized it. It is now used for Youth and Community Engagement all over the Lower Mainland of BC. In the summer of 2024, the Toy Car won First Place at the Cloverdale Rodeo's Parade for the Best Commercial Vehicle Float.

(Submitted by Staff Sergeant Eusebius Wong of the Surrey Detachment.

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2024



NATIONAL MEMORIAL - OTTAWA

Below North Vancouver Detachments attendance this year at the Victoria Park Cenotaph, North Vancouver.



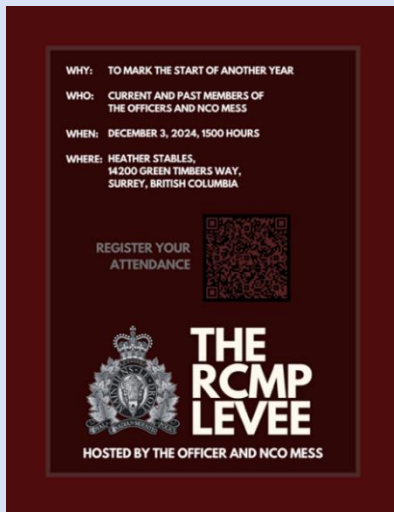
Fell Armories afterwards Front Row Cst Paul Reece, Staff Sergeant Sean Powell. RCMP Veteran Dave Reece, Insp Vaz Kassam Supt Jayson Lucash.



Forming Up for Parade.



Many familiar faces here from the Vancouver Division as well as E Div serving staff. Our members include Donna Morse, Karen Frost and John Snow.



Editor's Note

LAST POST SECTION. - Your editor must apologize to any family members who are disappointed that their deceased loved ones do not appear in our last post section. It is very sad and unfortunate that the lead up to the Holiday Season often results in a higher number of natural deaths. Your editor has attended 5 celebrations of life in the last 8 weeks! 2024 has been no exception. Ralph Mahar from the National Office does an amazing job of documenting the passing of all RCMP members throughout the year so if I have missed any please log on to the national site and or the MP Mates Facebook pages or the RCMP Quarterly where I'm sure you will find your loved ones listed. This editor will work hard to ensure those I have missed since the last issue of Scarlet and Gold Newsletter are included in the next one. David Reece

TO ALL OUR READERS

Please Note that we wish to extend our most sincere greetings of the Season and hope all our members families and friends have a

happy and prosperous New Year 🍷 🎄 📢

David Reece

North Vancouver, 2024.