

# FRIENDLY NOTES

Friends Of The Mounted Police Heritage Centre

Les Amis Du Centre Du Patrimoine De La GRC

# NOTES AMICALES

VOLUME 24  
ISSUE 2 SPRING 2014

## THE "HALF-MAST" FLAG JANUARY 10, 1978

PROUD  
SUPPORTERS  
OF/FIERS  
D'APPUYER

RCMP  
HERITAGE  
CENTRE



LE CENTRE  
DU PATRIMOINE  
DE LA GRC

RCMP  
HISTORICAL  
COLLECTIONS  
UNIT



GROUPE DES  
COLLECTIONS  
HISTORIQUES

4:55 pm:

I glanced out my office window and noticed the flag pole aglow from the last rays of the January setting sun. The flag fluttered listlessly at half-mast.

On each side of the flag was a half-grown spruce, it's branches laden with snow. The tips of both spruce pointed inward, as if to re-direct my attention

to the half-mast Maple Leaf... and then I was reminded WHY the flag was still thus. Today was the day for burial of our two Members in New Brunswick. By now, with the time change – the sun would have long set on the widows and their children. They would soon be left alone with their grief.

*continued on page 2*



## THE “HALF-MAST” FLAG

*continued from page 1*

I was in the process of completing the Shift Schedule for the next four weeks. Giving this man a night-shift here, that one two days off there, another finally back to day-shift; oh, yes, one going on course – further training. Yes – further training, for what?

Is there any way you can teach a man how to dodge a bullet? How to out-guess the shrewdness of a maniac? What to tell his wife on how to react – if she ever should get that final message?

It all becomes so routine, and perspective. The flick of the pencil from Column 1 to column 2, yeah, we got a road-block that day – so better give him the next day off instead. A routine road-block, a routine domestic complaint, a routine driving complaint... ROUTINE? Only the outcome will tell.

How often aren't we seconds away from making headlines? An appointment missed – a phone call unanswered – a fork in the road.

\* \* \* \* \*

The sun is set now, the flag will come down and tomorrow it will go all the way up to start another day.

Where are you and what are you doing, oh members of the yellow stripe? Do you have problems, worries, concerns for your career and your future? Your next transfer – your next promotion – your next raise in pay?

COMPLAIN not and FEAR not. The half-mast flag does not yet fly for YOU.

Sgt. B.F. Nowell  
Swift Current, Sask.

## READER'S WRITE

*The following brief article and photo was received from a member of the “Friends” one Russell Knott, of Barkisland, Halifax, Yorkshire, United Kingdom.*

The Photo is of a Cemetery grave of a member of the RNWMP, who joined the Force Oct. 10th, 1918, and died on Dec. 12th, 1918. He was Reg. #7501, Cst. William John Henderson, and was buried at Cherkov, Russia. Apparently the RNWMP had a contingent serving in Russia, in WWI. The site is the Russian Naval Cemetery in Churkov Russia.



*The Grave Cross marker reads:*

No. 2772673.  
TPR. W. J. HENDERSON, C.E. FISI.  
ROYAL NORTH-WEST MOUNTED POLICE.  
DIED ON SERVICE. DEC. 29TH, 1918.

*– Editor.*



# LIFE MEMBERSHIP PRESENTATIONS



On March 8th, 2013, at the regular meeting of the Central Vancouver Island Vets Association meeting, President Gary Forbes of Vancouver Island presented RCMP Veteran Mike Clegg and wife Audrey with a Life Membership Plaque and Pin, on behalf of the “Friends” of the Mounted Police Heritage Centre. The presentation is in appreciation of their service and generous contributions over the years.

*Photo: Gary Forbes.*



On February 28th, 2014, on the occasion of her visit to the Creston B.C. Veterans Meeting, Mrs. Evelyn Thachik was presented with a Life Membership Plaque and Lapel Pin by RCMP Veteran Sgt. P. H. (Hank) Schauerte, on behalf of the “Friends” of the Mounted Police Heritage Centre. The presentation was in appreciation of her generous contributions and support of the RCMP Heritage Centre and Historical Collections Unit.

*Photo: Creston Vets. Assoc.*

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# TWENTY FOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

The Twenty Fourth Annual General Meeting (AGM) of The Friends of the Mounted Police Heritage Centre was held In Regina, Saskatchewan, on Wednesday March 26th, 2014, in the Heritage Room at the Heritage Centre. The meeting started at 6:10 PM.

Fifty persons were in attendance at the meeting, and the President was in possession of 401 proxy votes.

Regrets were received from the Commissioner; Assistant Commissioner Butterworth-Carr, C.O."F" Division, and Jean Freeman, long time member of the "Friends", and actress with "Corner Gas"

President Bob Smart welcomed all guests, particularly Assistant Commissioner Louise LaFrance, C.O. "Depot" Division; C/Supt. Kevin Jones, representing C.O."F" Division; Al Nicholson, CEO RCMP Heritage Centre; and staff members of the Heritage Centre; and other honoured guests – Jean Thue, widow of Ivan Thue, one of our founding members; Malcolm Wake, former curator of the museum, and a founding member of the "Friends"; Doreen Light, wife of Tom Light, past president; Murray Grant & Willem de Lint, long time members, and regular attendees. And Jim Sutherland, of Winnipeg, member of the Friends. who travelled to Regina to attend this meeting. Also Steve Smedley. director, who is leaving the Board this year, but who will continue with his "cheque insert" project, and Lorna Loftus, perennial best volunteer.

President Bob called on Al Nicholson, CEO of the Heritage Centre, Rhonda Lamb, Manger of the Historical Collections Unit, and Barrie Nowell, Editor of the "Friendly Notes" and Annual Report. Al gave a brief, but quite comprehensive report on the activities of the Heritage Centre during the year , and the many upcoming

events planned for the near future. Of particular importance was his success in bringing some financial stability to the operation. With the City of Regina, the Province of Saskatchewan, and the federal government, through the RCMP, stepping up with financial support. He mentioned several announcements that will be forthcoming in May 2014, and commented on the "matching program" with Mosaic company. Also the corporate membership program which hopefully, will attract members and memberships. Rhonda thanked the "Friends" for six years of assistance, particularly mentioning, the refurbishing of the painting "Beyond the Law", financed by the "Friends", and the purchase of the George Hunter collection of photographs along the MacKenzie River in the early 1920's. Barrie reviewed the recent quarterly newsletters, and annual report.

Motion/S/C Bill Greenslade/Barrie Nowell That we accept the Board of Directors report

Motion/S/C Bob Mills/Malcolm Wake That we accept the financial report

Motion/S/C Marj Ostrum/Tex Shearer That we have Select Bookkeeping as our auditor for 2014

Motion/S/C Steve Smedley/Pat Smith That we confirm Directors as follows: for 3 years – Barker, Greenslade & Nowell; for 2 years – Cocks, Klatt, Ostrum, and Worthington

Presentation of Life Membership plaques and pins were made to Ted & Lois Andrew and to Tex and Bernice Shearer.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 on a motion by Kenn Barker

President Bob Invited everyone to partake of dinner (prepared by Division Mess) and refreshments.





Back Row, (L to Rt.) Supt. Gerry Gourlay, Force Observer; Bill Greenslade, Past President; Barrie Nowell, Director & Newsletter Editor; Al Nicholson, CEO, RCMP Heritage Centre; Bob Cocks, Director; Ron Ostrum, Secretary;

Front Row: Bob Smart, President; Rhonda Lamb, Manager, RCMP Historical Collections Unit; Louise LaFrance, Assistant Commissioner, C.O. "Depot" Division; C/Supt. Kevin Jones, representing C.O. "F" Division; Kenn Barker, Past President.



Sanford Fisher, a Canadian Treaty Indian, is one of the greatest living artists, of the Plains Cree Indian Nation. Fisher is a leading member of the "Northern Plains Indian School" of painting in the provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. He is totally self taught. His artistic temperament is "realistic" with a dash of romanticism, as evidenced in his numerous depictions of the RCMP in action that complement his numerous scenes from reserve life and illustrates his admiration of the Mounties.

# FRED BAGLEY DIARY

## 1874-1884

**Editor note:**

*Frederick Bagley is the youth who kept a diary of his experiences when he joined the NWMP in Toronto in 1874 and trekked across Canada with the march West. His amazing adventures are chronicled in the Glenbow Archives and the following is an excerpt from the diary dated October 15/16, 1874.*

\* \* \* \* \*

October 15th. (Thurs.) Marched about 7 A.M., over burned prairie. Prairie fires in every direction. 22 miles without water, then halted for dinner at a small creek. After dinner made about 11 miles over very rough country, and arrived at Fort Qu Appelle after dark. Had some difficulty in getting down the steep side of the valley. Barking of dogs within the Fort, and the sound of the hooves of the Commissioner's horse on

boards cheerful and "home like" sounds. "Back to civilization again". We got some wood and hay from the Fort.

October 16th. (Fri.) Reveille at 6 A.M. The sight of a house this morning, the first we have seen during the past 4 months, brought thoughts of "home" to us poor wanderers. One man from each tent fitted out with "clean and presentable" clothes, and sent in to the Fort to get tobacco, pipes, and other small necessaries. Recent newspapers received by Mr. McLean, the Chief Factor here contain astonishing accounts of our progress and condition. One account has it that we have been wiped out to the last man by the Blackfeet. Prayers being said in all the churches of Eastern Canada for our welfare. We marched at 3 P.M. Crossed the Qu Appelle River, and camped on top of the hills opposite the Fort. Had to go a long distance — to the Lake — for water.

*Editor Note: The following Memo was received by an RCMP Detachment N.C.O. following the submission of a legitimate expense account for he and his wife who made a house-hunting trip to locate living quarters at the location they were being transferred to. Note: Only the names have been changed, to involve the innocent!*

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**Transfer & Movement of Personnel "F" Division**

*Authorized House-Hunting Trip –  
June 26 & 27, 1972*

26th – Meals & Incidental, self & wife:  
2(L) @ \$3.50; 2 (D) @ \$4.50 . . . . . 16.00

27th – 2 (B) @ \$1.90; 2 (L) @ \$3.75;  
2 (D) @ \$4.25 . . . . . 19.80

Total . . . . . \$35.80

Sgd. (with receipts) Cpl. R. Force.  
Paradise Detachment.

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NCO i/c Paradise Detachment:

**Re: Expense Voucher - June 16/30/72  
Cpl. R. Force, Reg. #00123**

1. The captionally F.93 (Exp. Acct) Voucher – is returned due to high meal rates.
2. Although C.S.O's does not set specific rates for meals on House-hunting Trips, the criteria for such claims are expected to be "actual and reasonable". While we do not insinuate the amounts claimed are not actual, we do consider Lunch and Dinner claims to be excessive.
3. This voucher should be adjusted and resubmitted with claims being made at a more reasonable rate.

W. L. Outlandish, Insp.  
Financial Services & Supply Officer.

## DONOR WALL OF APPRECIATION

The following changes/additions to the “Donor Wall” have been made since our last issue:

### **\$21,000**

Lloyd Libke, Cobourg, ON

### **\$1200 – LIFE**

George & Gwen Donald, St. Albert, AB

Evelyn Thachik, Creston, BC

Ted & Lois Andrew, Regina, SK

Mike & Audrey Clegg, Nanaimo, BC

Patrick W. Smale, Middleton, NS

George & Ellen Parchomchuk,

Saskatoon, SK

W. Verne Williams, Vernon, BC

### **\$500 – Friend**

Norm Ayers, Kimberley, BC

Christian Houghten-Larsen,

Saskatoon, SK

Mrs. Inez Nolan, Calgary, AB

Kornel Kereluk, Parksville, BC

Catol F. Bjorklund, Weyburn, SK

Roger Claussen, Regina, SK

Reg Chase, Delta, BC

Kay Stafford, Halifax, NS

Dennis & Isabel Roughley, Allison, ON

Alexander Moore, Edmonton, AB

Ralph De Groot, Peterborough, ON

Robert Fitzsimmons, Chilliwack, BC

Jim Evans, Penticton, BC

Gwen Brown, Vernon, BC

E.A. (Al) Marshall, Granville Ferry, NS

Mrs. Barbara Lehman, Ottawa, ON

D. James Troiano, Sorrento, BC

### **IN MEMORIAM**

\$100 – William Smith, Baddeck, NS

– in memory of Lois I. Smith

(annual in memoriam)

## FRIENDLY NOTES BY E-MAIL

Would you like to receive the *Friendly Notes* electronically?

This e-mail delivery allows you to view the *Friendly Notes* online rather than through the mail. If so, please provide your e-mail address to [bnowell@accesscomm.ca](mailto:bnowell@accesscomm.ca) and your e-mail address will be added to the mail-out list. The *Friendly Notes* will be sent in the Adobe Acrobat pdf format.

The benefits of taking advantage of this include:

- convenience and timely access to the *Friendly Notes* – you receive the *Friendly Notes* a week to ten days earlier,
- environmentally friendly, and
- reduces costs of printing and mailing.

It's easy! All you need is access to the Internet and an electronic mail address.

Thanks to those Members of the *Friends* who have already indicated they would like to receive the *Friendly Notes* electronically.

# MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

A warm welcome to the following persons who have become members of the Friends:

Sandra P. Biegaj, Milwaukee, WI, USA

Patrick W. Smale, Middleton, NS

## FRIENDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

President	Bob Smart, RCMP (Rtd.)
Immediate Past President	Bill Greenslade, RCMP (Rtd.)
Past President (ODS)	Tom Light, RCMP (Rtd.)
Secretary	Ron Ostrum, RCMP (Rtd.)
Director	Bob Cocks
Director	Murray Klatt, RCMP (Rtd.)
Director	Barrie Nowell, RCMP (Rtd.)
Director	John Worthington, RCMP (Rtd.)
Force Observer	Supt. Gerry Gourlay, RCMP
Historical Collections	
Unit Observer	Rhonda Lamb
Heritage Centre Observer	Al Nicholson
Historian Committee	Kenn Barker, RCMP (Rtd.)
Membership Committee	Ron Ostrum, RCMP (Rtd.)
Newsletter Editor	Barrie Nowell, RCMP (Rtd.)

### YES! I WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER/RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP WITH THE FRIENDS OF THE MOUNTED POLICE HERITAGE CENTRE

Membership  One Year (\$35)  Three Years (\$90)  
 Life Membership  \$1,200 single payment or cumulative over several years to \$1,200 level. Existing members will have past membership payments credited towards the \$1,200 level.  
 Donation  \_\_\_\_\_ (Any amount is eligible for a Canada Customs and Revenue Agency tax receipt. Canada Only)

American residents please add \$5.00 extra per year and international residents please add \$10.00 extra per year, to cover postage costs.

Total Enclosed Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Prov./State \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

My membership/donation will be paid by:

Cheque/check (payable to the Friends of the Mounted Police Museum)

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ (Visa, Master Card or American Express) Expiry \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

#### Return by Mail:

Friends of the Mounted Police Heritage Centre, 5907 Dewdney Avenue, Regina, Saskatchewan Canada S4T 0P4

#### Join or Renew Your Membership Online:

Purchase your membership of the *Friends* with a simple, secure, on-line transaction using Pay Pal. When we receive your payment, a receipt will be sent to you by mail. Visit our website at <http://www.rcmpheritagecentre.com/home/about-the-centre/friends-of-the-rcmp-hc> and click on "Join the Friends" at the bottom-left corner.