

# FRIENDLY NOTES

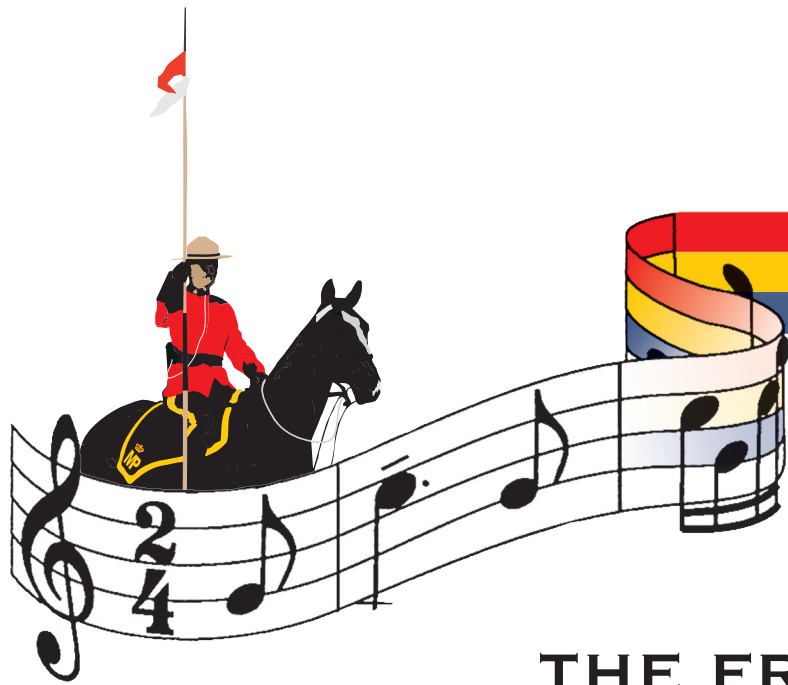
Friends Of The Mounted Police Heritage Centre

Les Amis Du Centre Du Patrimoine De La GRC

# NOTES AMICALES

VOLUME 27

ISSUE 1 SPRING 2017



PROUD  
SUPPORTERS  
OF/FIERS  
D'APPUYER

## THE FRIENDS OF THE MOUNTED POLICE HERITAGE CENTRE LOSES ONE OF IT'S STRONGEST SUPPORTERS

**RCMP  
HERITAGE  
CENTRE**



**LE CENTRE  
DU PATRIMOINE  
DE LA GRC**

RCMP  
HISTORICAL  
COLLECTIONS  
UNIT



**GROUPE DES  
COLLECTIONS  
HISTORIQUES**



*Kenn Barker*

On December 7, 2016 **Kenneth "Kenn" Barker**, S/Sgt. Ret'd RCMP died peacefully at the age of 94 years. Kenn was a member of the Friends for 23 years and the president from

1995 to 1998 inclusive. Kenn was born in Vancouver, BC on January 29, 1922 and spent his formative years in Edmonton, AB. In 1942 he joined the RCMP and was posted

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**KENN BARKER** *continued from page 1*

throughout Saskatchewan, spending 10 years as Dog Master based out of Saskatoon. After postings to Nipawin, Tisdale and Regina, he was again transferred to Saskatoon, serving as Section NCO, and retired in 1971. He then worked as an investigator for the Workers' Compensation Board for two years before he was persuaded in 1973 to join the newly established Office of the Ombudsman as Assistant to the Ombudsman. He served for a year as Acting Ombudsman in 1976, retiring for the second time in 1987. Another important facet of his life was his continuing association with the RCMP. He was very active with the RCMP Veterans, the Friends of the Mounted Police Museum and the Friends of

the Mounted Police Heritage Centre. Kenn was an excellent photographer. The Veterans and the Friends usually relied on Kenn to photograph their events, as did his family. He was always so generous with extra prints. Kenn dearly loved the RCMP Chapel. He spent countless hours researching the history of the Chapel and the cemetery, and treasured the time he devoted to assisting the chaplains. The celebration of Kenn's was held at the RCMP Chapel at the Training Academy and was the first time that two current and two retired Force Chaplains presided over the same service. Kenn's was a life of service: to his family, his country and his community. He was well loved and he will be missed.

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**ACCESS COMMUNICATIONS WINS AWARD FOR 'HERITAGE IN SCARLET'**

Access Communications of Regina created a number of ½ hour television programs shown over their network across Canada. The award was voted on by the 150 Access Communications locations across Canada, plus their viewers. 'Heritage in Scarlet' involved interviews with various retired members of the RCMP, to promote the Heritage of the Force. The first 6 programs are currently available at the Heritage Centre Gift Shop.

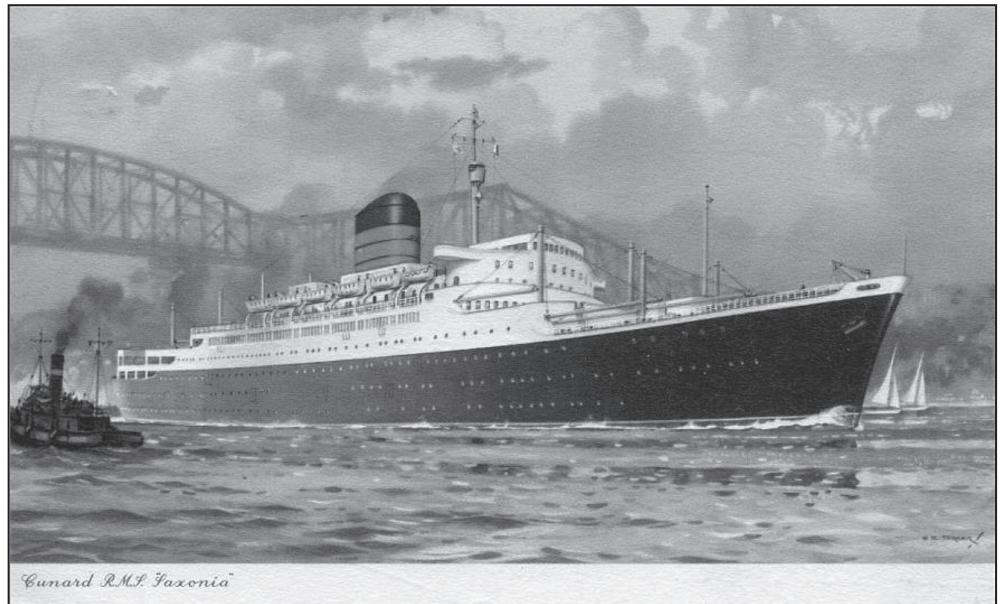
*Alex Matches career in the RCMP spanned the years 1954 to 1959. After training at Depot in Regina for 1 day, the troop headed to Ottawa for the balance of their training. His first posting was "A" Division, Protective Branch, and later "K" Division Calgary before joining the Musical Ride. After the Ride, Alex returned to General Duties in Calgary but only a short time later was transferred back to the Ride for a tour of Britain. Alex graciously agreed to let the 1957 Ride portion of his memoires be placed, verbatim, in our Friendly Notes. A hearty THANK YOU to Alex for sharing his memoires with the readers of the Friendly Notes. Please enjoy!*



# THE 1957 MUSICAL RIDE TO BRITAIN

The 1957 Ride was made up of most of the previous members with the addition of Wayne Porter (“B”), Bill Davidson (“D”), Gene Comeau (“HQ”) and Cpl. Bill Leitch from the PT staff at “N” Division.

Our training was pretty much a matter of brushing up on our previous year’s ride and was fairly routine. We rode and exercised our horses every day, got passports for the trip overseas and received new issues of boots, breeches and red serge. On March 29th we had the Commissioner’s Inspection, cleaned up any business before our departure and had a Farewell Party, apparently a first of its kind for any ride. On April 1st our trunks and ride gear was shipped off to Halifax.



We were up very early on April 3rd to load the horses onto the train by 7:00am for their trip to St. John, NB. They were leaving on the Donaldson Line’s SS *Corinaldo* on April 5th, accompanied by Staff Van Patten, Cpl. Ralph Cave, Ben Ewan, Bob Evans, Gerry Baker, Hank Borg, Garry Frazer, Doug Britton, Marvin Sheppard, Bud Webb and Huntley Wright. Later that afternoon the remaining members of the ride, with Inspector Downey, left Ottawa by CNR for Montreal and then overnight to Halifax, through Maine and New Brunswick. We arrived in Halifax at Pier 21, the famous immigration dock, where we boarded the RMS *Saxonía* for the trip to Liverpool. The ship sailed around midnight, April 4th and everyone got settled in for the night after an entertaining evening and after closing all the bars. The North Atlantic crossing at that time of year was as expected. The seas were rough for most of the crossing, mostly under sunny skies, but we had it better than the guys travelling with the horses. They had to deal with sea-sickness, both man and beast.



THE “MOUNTIES” IN LONDON. Men of the musical ride of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police arriving at Euston Station yesterday from Liverpool, where they landed from the liner *Saxonía*. They will appear at the Royal Windsor Horse Show and at agricultural and horse shows during the summer. The ride consists of a full troop of 32 men and horses.

Early on the morning of April 10th we arrived and anchored off Cobh, Ireland, where we took on passengers and dropped off mail and cargo. We sailed for Liverpool mid-morning and arrived around dinnertime and anchored in the Mersey River overnight, enjoying the ships activities for one more night. (We arrived in England exactly 45 years to the day after *Titanic* sailed from Southampton).

The next morning we left the ship and boarded a train to London, arriving in the early afternoon, then took another train to Windsor. We got into Windsor-Eton Riverside Station at 4:30pm and the whole town was out to meet and greet us, including the Lord Mayor and council and hundreds of school children. By late evening we were settled in the Combermere Barracks of the Royal Horse Guards, tired but glad to be settled for awhile. Our stay here would be for just over a month, until May 13th.

The first few days were free time to explore the area and take trips into London then on April 14th the horses arrived from Glasgow. We met them at the station and rode them up to the barracks where we had them settled by midnight. The following days we did exercise rides around Windsor and through Windsor Great Park and began practice rides. We were entertained royally in Windsor and London. One day we had an afternoon reception at the Dorchester Hotel in London hosted by Canada House and Seagram's and arrived back in Windsor on a late train that evening. Rehearsals began daily for our first show at the Royal Windsor Horse Show which began May 10th but most days and evenings were at receptions at local police constabularies, parties and socials with various groups and rides to hospitals and to visit kids equestrian groups.



*Easter weekend in Paris.*

On Easter weekend, three of us were granted permission for a weekend pass and we flew to Paris to see the sights. We managed to see all the highlights; the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, Napoleon's Tomb, Notre Dame Cathedral, Arch of Triumph, the Moulin Rouge in Rue Pigalle and Sacre Coeur in Montmartre and enjoyed several restaurants and bars. Sunday evening we got back to Windsor after our whirlwind trip and that weekend was definitely one of the biggest thrills of our trip overseas.

Receptions and cocktail parties continued at the Overseas League in London and another at the Black and Decker tool plant, also in London, then a day at the polo matches where Prince Philip played. Our barrack hosts put on a reception and formal dance with the dance band of the Life Guards entertaining and then a few days later, a dinner at the Sergeant's Mess, where we were made honorary members.



Exercise rides and rehearsals continued and on April 29th, Queen Elizabeth, Prince Philip and Charles and Anne came to inspect us at the barracks on a beautiful sunny day (after several days of rain).



*Insp. Downey with the Royal family and the Queen and I.*

Another day, the ride rode to the Canadian Red Cross Memorial Hospital to visit the patients, a memorable fifteen-mile trip.



*Exercise ride in Windsor Great Park*

The Sunday morning before the start of the show, we had a church parade followed by a reception at Windsor's Guildhall, attended by many distinguished guests and notable people including the ex-Governor-General of Canada, Field Marshal Earl Alexander of Tunis. That afternoon we rode to Windsor Great Park and paraded, still in review order, to the opening day of the polo season, with the Queen in attendance and in the evening, we were entertained by the Master of the Hounds at a champagne cocktail party and "a good time was had by all!" The next day we were given a tour of Windsor Castle and saw seventeen rooms in the royal apartments that are not open to the public.

# LIFE MEMBERSHIP PRESENTATIONS



**George Garrett** receiving plaque from Donna Morse, Vice President, Vancouver Area Veteran's Association.

*Photo:* Vancouver Division photographer, Sheldon Boles



Photo of Life Member plaque being presented to **Ed and Dunate Kaj**, at their home in Port Colbourne, Ontario.

*Photo:* Sef Ginter, Secretary Golden Horseshoe Division



# MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

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

Tracy Fahlman, Regina  
Dave Albert Pearce, Regina  
Monique Giffinet Miller, Regina

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

## LIFE MEMBERS

Tracy Fahlman, Regina  
S. Garth & Eleanor Hampson, Ottawa  
Jack & Edie Hiscock, Calgary

## \*FRIEND – \$500.00 +

Tim J. Popp, Battleford, SK  
John H. Willis, Wetaskiwin, AB  
Victor Petersen, Calgary  
Carolyn Ledwon, Tapley, BC  
James S. Steele, Regina

## \*BENEFACTOR – \$5,000.00 – \$9,999.00

Ladies Auxiliary to the RCMP Veterans’ Assoc.  
(Regina Division)  
John & Anne Tokarcsik, Regina  
Jock & Viola Forbes, Winnipeg, MB

## IN MEMORIAM

\$250.00 – Paul M. Belisle, Ottawa  
In memory of D/Commr J. Paul Drapeau  
\$200.00 – Carolyn Mary Ledwon, Tapley, BC  
In memory of #21576 Sgt. Erich Ledwon  
\$100.00 – E. Jean Thue, Regina,  
In memory of Kenn Barker  
\$100.00 – Shirley Williamson, Regina,  
In memory of Kenn Barker

\*These are cumulative amounts over the years

# FRIENDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

President	Bob Smart, RCMP (Rtd.)
Past President	Bill Greenslade, RCMP (Rtd.)
Secretary	Ron Ostrum, RCMP (Rtd.)
Director	Bob Cocks
Director	Murray Klatt, RCMP (Rtd.)
Director	Dave Hoeft, RCMP (Rtd.)
Director	Glen Berger
Director	Al Nicholson
Director	W. Douglas Keam
Force Observer	vacant
Historical Collections	
Unit Observer	Rhonda Lamb
Heritage Centre Observer	Al Nicholson
Membership Committee	Ron Ostrum, RCMP (Rtd.)
Newsletter Editor	Murray Klatt, RCMP (Rtd.)

## REQUEST FOR SUBMISSIONS TO THE FRIENDLY NOTES

Anyone who has an interesting article, note, or photo relating to the history of the RCMP and wishing the same to be published in the *Friendly Notes*, may submit it to Murray Klatt at: [m.klatt@sasktel.net](mailto:m.klatt@sasktel.net), or mail to:

The Editor, Friendly Notes  
c/o Friends of the Mounted Police  
Heritage Centre  
5907 Dewdney Avenue  
Regina, Saskatchewan Canada S4T 0P4

**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 or Master Card) 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.