



FRIENDLY NOTES

Friends Of The Mounted Police Heritage Centre

Les Amis Du Centre Du Patrimoine De La GRC

NOTES AMICALES

VOLUME 21
ISSUE 3 JULY 2011

125TH ANNIVERSARY RCMP VETERANS' ASSOCIATION

**PROUD
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HERITAGE
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**LE CENTRE
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DE LA GRC**

**RCMP
HISTORICAL
COLLECTIONS
UNIT**



**GROUPE DES
COLLECTIONS
HISTORIQUES**

At the 2010 Annual General Meeting of the RCMP Veterans' Association, (AGM) held in Regina, Sask., from June 4th. to 6th, a Resolution regarding the 125th. Anniversary of the Association, was presented by Lynn Spring, President Lethbridge Division, to the National Council. The resolution stated that (The year 2011 be recognized as the 125th anniversary of the North West Mounted Police (NWMP), Royal Northwest Mounted Police (RNWMP) and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Veterans' Association.).

Ian Brownlee, Calgary Division RCMP Veterans' Association advised the AGM membership that on the 16th. of April 1886, 28 members of the NWMP met in Calgary Alberta and formed the Veterans' Association. This historic event was published in the Calgary Herald on the 17th April 1886 outlining the contents of the meeting and the election of officers. Brownlee produced the archived document as proof from the Calgary Herald.

The resolution was approved by the National Council and overwhelming by all members the next day at the AGM. To celebrate this significant date in history, National Secretary Alex Geddes, on the approval of the AGM, chaired a 125th Anniversary Coin Committee to develop a Commemorative Coin marking the 125th Anniversary in 2011.



(Reg. #O.18, Supt.) Colonel James Walker

1st President 1886 NWMP V.A.

The RCMP Veterans' Association Calgary Division, hosted a RCMP Veterans' Association 125th Anniversary Regimental Dinner at Ft. Calgary, Alberta on the 16th April 2011 to honour the exact date. The 2011 Calgary Division Executive and Board Members hosting the Program were Chairperson Ian Brownlee; Division President Bob Kells; and Past President Jack Lee-Knight. A toast to the Force was presented by RCMP Vets Assoc. National President Tim Hoban, and responded to by RCMP Senior Deputy Commissioner R.R. (Rod) Knecht.

Regina Division RCMP Veterans' Association and the Friends of the Mounted Police Heritage Centre were represented at the Dinner and Program by your "Friends" Editor, Barrie Nowell, who presented the Calgary Division President Bob Kells, with a mounted Print of a memorial 'ode to a fallen comrade', entitled: "A Mountie's Last Parade".

All those attending received the Commemorative Coin in a red velvet pouch, coin stamped with NWMP; RNWMP; and RCMP, with Veterans Association and Veterans Badge, on one side and Colonel James F. MacLeod on horseback, and 125 years 1886-2011, Maintains Le Droit, on the other side.

President Bob Kells thanked all present for an enjoyable evening and congratulated the RCMP Veterans for presenting a memorable program on this historical occasion.

Barrie Nowell, Editor

On April 16, 1886, 24 North-West Mounted Police (NWMP) veterans met to establish the NWMP Veterans' Association, Calgary Division. This was the first division in what is now a national organization, the RCMP Veterans' Association. In addition to assisting fellow veterans and volunteering for numerous community causes, the RCMP Veterans' Association, Calgary Division has been an integral part of the ongoing recognition and reclamation of the Fort Calgary site. As far back as 1917, they unveiled a memorial cairn which for many years provided the only visible reminder of Calgary's origins. In the 1970's, the RCMP Veterans were invaluable supporters of Alderman John Ayer's campaign to purchase the original Fort Calgary site from the Canadian National Railway, so that this nationally important historic site could be rehabilitated, preserved and interpreted for the benefit of all Canadians.

Today, volunteer veterans are actively involved in fundraising development, exhibit hosting, and special events at Fort Calgary, providing living evidence that the events that occurred here have ongoing relevance not only to Calgarians, but to all Canadians. Fort Calgary would like to congratulate Calgary's first and oldest volunteer association on their 125th anniversary and thank them for their ongoing service.

UNKNOWN SOLDIER IDENTIFIED

The search and quest to identify the "Unknown Soldier" pictured as a feature article in the winter edition of the "Friendly Notes", Volume 21, Issue 2 April 2011, has been tentatively successful thanks to the alert observations and suggestions of several of the "Friends" readers. Within an hour of publication a message was received from a former member of the Regina Garrison Provost Detachment, Don A. Lawrence of Regina. He subsequently produced a Canadian Provost Corps "Silver Jubilee" 1940-1965 book that was published to commemorate the Corps Silver Jubilee. On page 31 was a photo of German General Seyss Inquart being escorted prior to his trial for war crimes, by three Provost

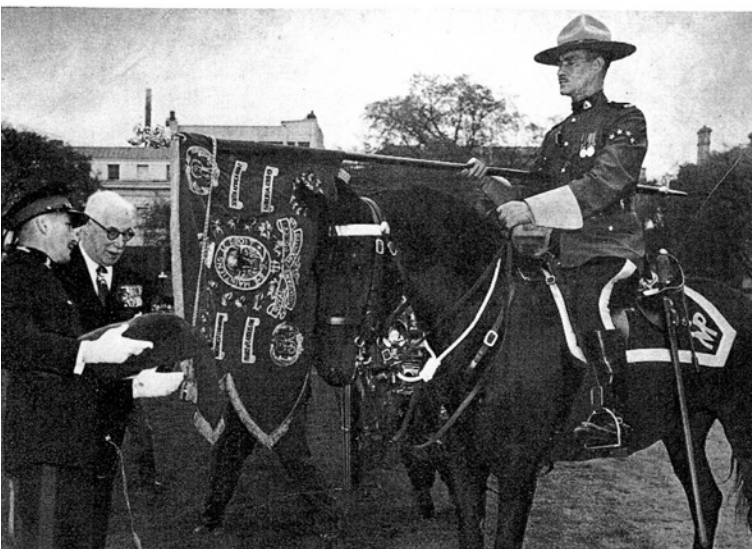
INSIDE THIS ISSUE ...

125th Anniversary RCMP Veterans' Association	1
Unknown Soldier Identified.....	2
Correspondence.....	4
In My Lonely Log Cabin	4
Presentations	5
The Queen's Cowboys Ride Again.....	6
Friendly Notes by Email	7
Donor Wall of Appreciation	7
Membership Committee Report.....	8
Friends Board of Directors and Committee Chairpersons.....	8
Becoming a Member/Renewing a Membership	8

guards and Lieutenant Colonel G.W. Ball, Deputy Provost Marshal, 1 Canadian Army. Close scrutiny of the photo with the circumstantial evidence leads one to believe that Lieutenant Colonel G.W. Ball, Provost Marshal, is the person hereto known as the “unknown soldier”.



Lieutenant Colonel G.W. Ball, Deputy Provost Marshal, 1 Canadian Army, and Provost guards, escort German General Seyss Inquart, prior to his trial for war crimes.
Photo from Canadian Provost Corps, Silver Jubilee 1940-1965.



Presentation - Commemorating the close association between the Canadian Provost Corps and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Corps badge was affixed to the RCMP guidon at a ceremony in Ottawa in September 1957.
Participating were, from left, Captain A.E. Wilson, the Honourable George Pearkes, VC, and an RCMP Guidon bearer.
Photo from Canadian Provost Corps, Silver Jubilee 1940-1965.

A second identification was made by a Victoria B.C. Resident, former L./Col George Wilkinson of the Provost Corps, as Lieutenant Colonel G.W. Ball, Provost Marshall, and former RCMP Member. To document L/C Ball’s RCMP history the following records were provided by our RCMP Collections Unit:

Full Name: George William Ball, Reg. #11507;

Joined: 01 June 1932;

Rank at retirement: Sergeant: Retired 30 June 1946;

Died 19 Aug 1965, Age 70.

WW2 Provost #c.41951, rising to Colonel. Deputy Provost Marshal 1st Canadian Army.

Mentioned in Despatches.

A further review of our “Friends” files revealed a comprehensive report on the No. 1 Provost Company (RCMP) was published in Friendly Notes, Volume 14, Issue 4 Fall 2004. This detailed report would be helpful reading for any members seeking further enlightenment in this regard.

Also several of our senior RCMP Veterans with Provost experience or knowledge, have been very helpful in correcting several of the historical and factual records, where we have had limited information. One of these historical errors occurred when we referred to: (the 6th. Canadian Provost Corps or Company) which in all cases herein should be: (1 Canadian Provost Corps, or Company, RCMP), and was assigned to the First Canadian Infantry Division, December 1939.

We appreciate and thank the “Friends” for their interest and assistance and invite further comments by replying by letter or e mail as follows:

Friends@rcmphc.com

Editor.

CORRESPONDENCE

Reference our article in the April edition Volume 21, Issue 2

Dated April 2011, entitled; “Stanley Is Now 99”, we regret to advise that a letter was received on April 27th 2011, from Frances Petley Jones, advising that her husband died on April 23rd. 2011. She also sent the “Friends” a cheque for \$100.00, in memory of her husband Stanley.

A letter of condolence was sent to Frances and an Income Tax receipt issued. Her generous donation on behalf of her husband will entitle a posting on the Donor Wall of appreciation at the RCMP Heritage Centre in Regina.

Editor.

Note: Regarding our query for contacts by Centenarian “Friends” no replies were received.

“IN MY LONELY LOG CABIN...”

So began the many reports of the fictitious RCMP Sergeant Renfrew and usually what followed was an outlandish pursuit of the criminal in question. Renfrew always got his man usually due as much to the criminal’s own incompetence as due to Renfrew’s police skills.

The RCMP Historical Collections Unit is proud to announce that Sergeant Renfrew, or at least his uniform, has returned home to join his faithful sidekick, his dog Corporal Cuddles. Our thanks must go out to the man who brought Sergeant Renfrew to life, Canadian comedian Dave Broadfoot and his wife Diane Simard Broadfoot who have donated Renfrew’s uniform to the collections.

Dave Broadfoot was born in North Vancouver, British Columbia on 5 December 1925. He left school in 1943 and enlisted in the Merchant Navy. He achieved the status of marine engineer before leaving the Merchant Navy in 1943 to go into the clothing business in Vancouver. But it was not long before he was bit by the acting bug. At twenty-one, Broadfoot joined the North Vancouver Community Players and as they say “a star was born”. Enthralled with comedy, he soon realized that he could make it into something more than simply a hobby. In 1952, Broadfoot performed for the first time as a professional comedian and by 1955 he appeared on the *Ed Sullivan Show*. By 1973, he began his career with the *Royal Canadian Air Farce* on radio and television.

Renfrew’s career has been somewhat less stellar. Sergeant Renfrew made his first appearance in 1956. It wasn’t long before Renfrew found himself in front of his commanding officer being mysteriously addressed as “Corporal”. In 1977, the Commissioner Simmons himself took the situation in hand after Corporal Renfrew appeared at RCMP Headquarters in Ottawa. “Men,” Simmons is reported saying, “we don’t have to take this crap from a Corporal. From now on it’s Sergeant Renfrew.” (Smile of the Day: Dave Broadfoot’s Canada <http://onceuponasmile.blogspot.com/2006/07/dave-broadfoots-canada.html>)

Sergeant Renfrew’s career has continued to go strong as he pursued innumerable cases to a successful conclusion. Almost without fail Renfrew is knocked unconscious during the chase only to regain consciousness as the faithful Corporal Cuddles arrives to the rescue. He has made many appearances at RCMP conventions and events always with hilarious effect. His popularity always remained high with the Force and helped to insure his continued promotion up the honorary ranks from Sergeant to Sergeant Major.

Dave Broadfoot has been equally recognized for his contributions to the worlds of radio, television and theatre. Having performed in countless tours across Canada, he has also taken his comedy to Canada’s armed forces in Korea, Gaza, Suez, the Golan

Heights, Cyprus, Germany, Croatia, Bosnia and Afghanistan.

Over the course of his career he has received numerous ACTRA and Juno Awards, the Governor General's Performing Arts Award, was presented the Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Medal, holds three honorary doctorates, and was inducted as an Officer in the Order of Canada in June 1983.

The RCMP Historical Collections Unit is honored to accept Renfrew's uniform and will be displaying it, along with Corporal Cuddles, at the RCMP Heritage Centre through the summer months. We hope you'll have the chance to come out and say hello to these two illustrious Mounties.

Jodi Ann Eskritt, Curator
RCMP Historical Collections Unit



RCMP present Dave Broadfoot with "Corporal Cuddles" during performance by the Royal Canadian Air Farce in 1979.

Ever wonder how, when and where the bison (buffalo) became the central figure on all badges of the NWMP to the RCMP and over the years has become as iconic as the "Force" itself? Well the following excerpt from Volume 1 of the *NORTH-WEST MOUNTED POLICE*, by John Peter Turner, has the answer as follows:

"September 9, 1874, pages 145/146. The weather grew colder. The horses were turned out at dawn in the hope that they might pick up a little sustenance, but they did little more than run back and forth. Eventually they were all herded in a ravine, out of the wind. Upon a start being made five were too weak to reach the high ground, and

PRESENTATIONS



At the April 7th, 2011 meeting of the Vancouver Veterans' Ladies Auxiliary, it was indeed a pleasure to present a Life Membership Plaque and Lapel Pin to Mrs. Margaret Maidens on behalf of the Friends of the RCMP Heritage Centre in Regina.

The plaque, which extended sincere thanks and appreciation to Margaret for her generous support of the Historical Collections Unit at the RCMP heritage Centre, was presented by the President of the Ladies' Auxiliary, Mrs. Kathy Turnbull, and took place within the historic Fairmont Barracks in Vancouver. The photo of the occasion shows Mrs. Maidens on the left and Mrs. Turnbull on the right.

Photo by Dianne Gwaltney, Vice-President
Vancouver RCMP Veterans' Ladies Auxiliary.

had to be abandoned. Three others were assisted up by the men. Orders were given directing each officer and man to provide blankets for the horses against the cutting wind. For the first time, the Commissioner felt some anxiety for the safety of the Force. The constant drain on the animals through collapse and loss had become serious, and to add to the anxiety, the buffalo, seen by the thousands each day, had reduced the pasturage to nothing. Assistant Commissioner Macleod was so impressed by the huge, shaggy animals that he conceived the appropriateness of including a buffalo head in the monogram or crest of the Force, and later recommended it in a report to Ottawa, which was adopted."

THE MARCH WEST RE ENACTMENT RIDE reached the picturesque staging area of Avonlea Saskatchewan, on June 5th. 1999. It is fitting that such a memorable day should evoke fond memories on this sweet June 2011 day twelve years later. So compelling are the memories that I have chosen to share them with you. My adventure was originally published in a three part section of the 1999 Saskatchewan Horse Federation Issues of "Showtrail".

The following is the first of a three part series.

The Queen's cowboys ride again

By Barrie Nowell
A Queen's Cowboy

I'm a Queen's cowboy - a retired one, that is. Don't ask me who first coined the phrase, but it is derived from the fact that Mounties rode horses, wore Stetsons and spurs, and acted "in the name of the Queen."

You don't hear that term anymore, as that uniform is reserved for ceremonial occasions and the Musical Ride.

I joined the Force in 1954, a time when we still trained on horses for six months. My troop trained for an additional three months, learning the musical ride so we could escort the Prime Minister for the opening of the Legislature.

Being raised on a farm in Manitoba earned me an enduring love and respect for our equine friends - one that carried into my own family's life: four children equals four horses!

It naturally follows that when the reenactment of the March West was announced, my registration was promptly filed. I chose a five-day trek at a location close to home.

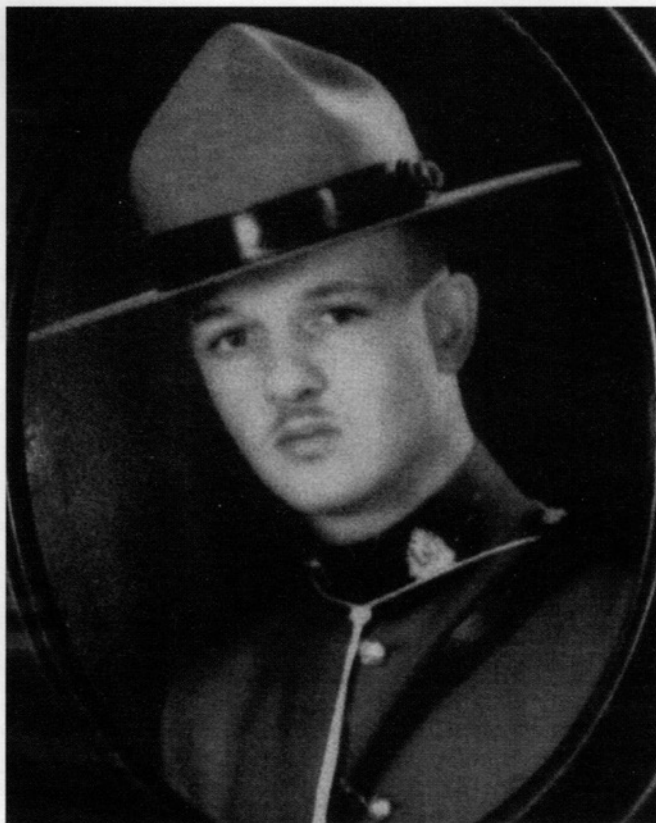
I will join the cavalcade on June 5 at Avonlea, SK, a colourful Prairie town nestled at the foot of the dirt hills by Avonlea Creek, which flows into the Moose Jaw River. There, the world-famous RCMP Musical Ride will highlight the town's celebrations and Prairie hospitality.

From there the cavalcade will travel the rugged Cactus Hills, where much of the range land still supports the nutritious grass known as prairie wool. The "Saskatchewan Mountains" will prove an onerous challenge to riders and teamsters alike.

No doubt when we muster on June 8 in Gravelbourg, I will be a prime candidate to wear a T-shirt proclaiming, "Handle With Care." Much of my welfare will depend on the compatibility of my chosen bronc, and of course that's another story.

The immediate future will require long hours of dedicated conditioning for my steed and I, to ensure our longevity. I've been searching for a padded saddle with built-in springs, without any luck so far.

Since my real hobby is writin' not ridin', I thought I would keep you posted on how things turn out, from a



Barrie F. Nowell, Ret., in 1955 at Weyburn, SK.

Photo courtesy Barrie Nowell

Mounted Police veteran's point of view. Besides the riding, I'm really looking forward to the beans and bacon grub and the evening fireside tall tales and songs.

In fact, I'll be taking along a few of my own productions, including a new release titled *Ballad of an Honest Man*. It personifies the intrinsic values of the men and women of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and our Canadian ideals.

The dinner bell is calling me, so watch for my next installment to update you on my conditioning saga and introduce you to my faithful bronc. Before I adjourn, I invite you to get out your saddle soap and currie comb and prepare for this once-in-a-lifetime historic adventure. I sure hope to spend some time with you along the way, neighbour! 🐾

FRIENDLY NOTES BY EMAIL

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 email address to **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.

DONOR WALL OF APPRECIATION

The following changes/additions to the "Donor Wall" have been made since our last issue.

MEMBER

\$500 Bas Adam, Ottawa, ON

\$500 Keith Ziegler, Saskatoon, SK

IN MEMORIAMS

\$100 Allen F. Wrenshall, Rideau Ferry, ON
in memory of Guy Marcoux

\$100 Frances Petley-Jones
in memory of Stanley Petley-Jones

The following article was recently published in the *Pony Express, Issue 1, 2011 page 5, category: Across The Force*. As stated therein Arnold Friberg was a world-renowned artist who specialized in depicting the history of the RCMP in life-like colourful paintings and calendars which are treasured mementos of his close association with the Force and its' members.

E DIVISION

THE RCMP REMEMBERS ARTIST ARNOLD FRIBERG

BY CRISTIANNE LEYKAUF

Arnold Friberg, famously known for his hundreds of Mountie paintings, was the only American ever to have been named as an honorary member of the RCMP.

At his funeral this past July in Salt Lake City, Utah, a contingent of Mounties in red serge marched in a place of honour, directly behind his horse-drawn hearse. Inside the church, RCMP officers were the ones who flanked his coffin. The RCMP's role at the funeral spoke to the friendship that the force had with the 96-year-old artist, and his contribution to RCMP history and legend.

"Arnold Friberg was a gem — a wonderful, kind, caring, and tremendously talented man," says A/Commr Peter German, who attended the funeral on behalf of the Commissioner. He was joined by 11 serving members and veterans.



Members of E Division attend artist Arnold Friberg's funeral in Salt Lake City, Utah.

COURTESY OF E DIVISION

One of the best known of the approximately 300 pictures Friberg painted of his beloved Mounties was called "Maintaining the Right." It was commissioned by E Division's NCO Mess to honour the 125th anniversary of the RCMP. Like many of the paintings Friberg did of the RCMP, it features a fictional red serge-clad member on horseback in a historical setting.

"The RCMP is a much better organization for knowing Arnold Friberg, and for making

him part of our family," says German. "His incredible works of art are known around the world, and contribute strongly to all those principles of service that we hold dear and constantly strive to achieve — honesty, service over self, courage, loyalty, and rock solid integrity.

"It was a tremendous honour to represent the force and the Commissioner at Arnold's funeral. The very presence of an RCMP contingent on Temple Square, at the viewing in the Mormon Tabernacle, at the service in the Assembly Hall, in the procession led by the Utah Highway Patrol, and at Arnold's final resting place, was a great honour, which we will all remember with tremendous pride."

Many of Friberg's works will be on display in the future at the planned Arnold Friberg Museum of Art, to be located in Utah.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

FRIENDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

A warm welcome to the following persons who have become members of the Friends during the period from April 1, 2011 to June 30, 2011.

Mrs. Bernadette Langshaw, Burlington, ON
 Bill Betker, Regina, SK
 Donna Godwin, Sidney, BC
 Jodi Ann Eskritt, Regina, SK

President	Bill Greenslade, RCMP (Rtd.)
Immediate Past President (ODS)	Tom Light, RCMP (Rtd.)
Past President	Kenn Barker, RCMP (Rtd.)
Secretary	Ron Ostrum, RCMP (Rtd.)
Director	John Hodgson, RCMP (Rtd.)
Director	Mac MacGillivray, RCMP (Rtd.)
Director	John Worthington, RCMP (Rtd.)
Director	Bob Cocks
Director	Barrie Nowell, RCMP (Rtd.)
Force Observer	Superintendent Dale Erickson
Historical Collections Unit Observer	Rhonda Lamb
Heritage Centre Observer	Robin Etherington
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

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 5907 Dewdney Avenue, Regina, Saskatchewan
 Canada S4T 0P4