

# FRIENDLY NOTES

Friends Of The Mounted Police Heritage Centre

Les Amis Du Centre Du Patrimoine De La GRC

# NOTES AMICALES

VOLUME 23

ISSUE 3 SUMMER 2013

## HISTORY OF THE DESIGNATION OF HONORARY COMMISSIONER

PROUD SUPPORTERS OF/FIERS D'APPUYER

RCMP HERITAGE CENTRE



LE CENTRE DU PATRIMOINE DE LA GRC

RCMP HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS UNIT



GROUPE DES COLLECTIONS HISTORIQUES

*The following letter from Russell Knott was received along with a photo and historical booklet on some history of the RCMP. The letter also deals with the history of the designation of Honorary Commissioner of the Force. (Editor)*

November 28th, 2012

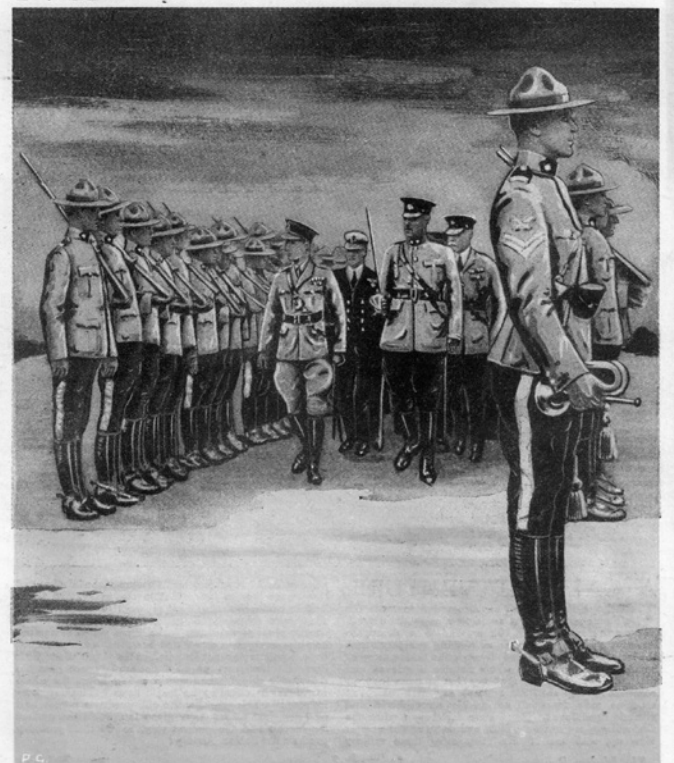
Having learned from the Quarterly that the current Prince of Wales is now the Honorary Commissioner of the RCMP, I thought that the Friends of the Mounted Police Heritage Centre might be interested in an earlier Prince of Wales who filled the role. This article (photo attached #1) is from exactly 82 years ago.

I've also included a copy from an old glass photograph that I found of a North West Mounted Policeman that might make an interesting item in a future

The YUKON PATROL now STARTING!

# The MODERN BOY

EVERY MONDAY. No. 147. Vol. 6.  
Week Ending November 29th, 1930.



The PRINCE and the MOUNTIES.—See page 6.

continued on page 2

## HONORARY COMMISSIONER *continued from page 1*

“Friendly Notes”. Handwritten on the edge of the glass plate is: Mounted Police (dismounted) Morse Fair, Alberta Property of Parker B. Field. (photo attached #2)

Sgd: Russell Knott

\* \* \* \* \*

April 21, 2013

Russell Knott  
Park View House  
Barkisland, Halifax  
Yorkshire, UK 4X4 OAO

Dear Russell,

Receipt is acknowledged of your correspondence dated Nov. 28, 2012, with regrets for the delay in replying. The documents were referred to me from Ron Ostrum, our Secretary/Treasurer, and I have done some research on your very interesting commentary.

The history of the cover picture and story in the 1930 “Modern Boy” of His Royal Highness, Prince Edward of Wales is magnified when we learn that the heraldry of his Title of “Honorary

Commissioner” of the RCMP continues due to the bestowing of the honour on Prince Charles, Prince of Wales at Regina, Saskatchewan, on May 23rd, 2012, announced by Prime Minister Stephen Harper, and attended by RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson.

Thank you for your continuing support of the “Friends” and the RCMP Heritage Centre.

Regards, Barrie Nowell, Editor

\* \* \* \* \*

*The reference to “Morse Fair, Alberta, property of Parker B. Field” may be of some assistance to some old timer or family member who might identify or recognize the subjects. (Editor)*

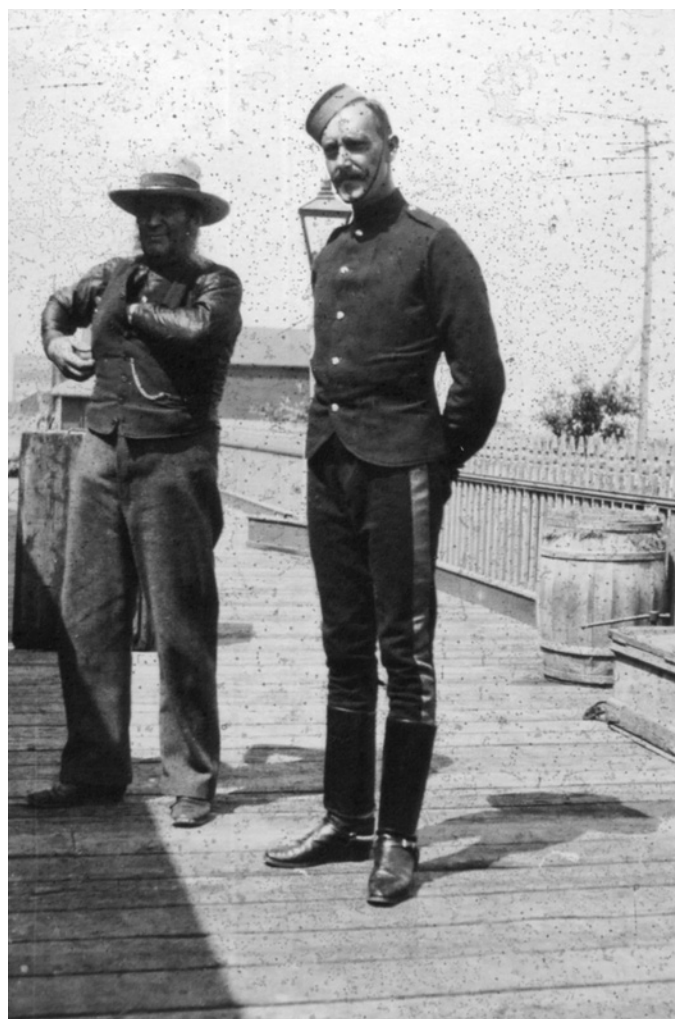


Photo of NWMP in uniform and a senior gentleman.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

History of the Designation of Honorary Commissioner . . . . .	1
Life Membership Presentation . . . . .	3
Did You Know? . . . . .	4
RCMP marks 140th Anniversary of the NWMP, RNWMP & RCMP . . . . .	4
Friendly Notes by E-mail . . . . .	5
Donor Wall of Appreciation . . . . .	5
Fred Bagley Diary, 1874-1884 . . . . .	6
The Coup-de-Grâce of Skelly . . . . .	7
Membership Committee Report . . . . .	8
Friends Board of Directors and Committee Chairpersons . . . . .	8
New Membership Application . . . . .	8



Prime Minister Stephen Harper extends a hand to His Royal Highness Charles, Prince of Wales as he welcomes the Royal couple to “Depot” Division during the Royal Diamond Jubilee tour in Regina on May 23, 2012. His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston (middle), Commissioner Bob Paulson, A/Commissioner Roger Brown and Cpl. Trevor Baldwin were also part of the welcoming party. Photo by Kevin Dowler, RCMP-GRC

## LIFE MEMBERSHIP PRESENTATION

On April 11th, 2013, on the occasion of an Inter Divisional Social & Meeting by the Okanagan, South Okanagan and Shuswap Divisions of the RCMP Veteran’s Association, a Life Membership Plaque and Lapel Pin, on behalf of the “Friends” of the Mounted Police Heritage Centre was presented to Ed and Helen Ard, by President Neil Collette of Okanagan Division. President Neil congratulated Ed & Helen, for their generous contributions and long term support of the “Friends” and the Heritage Centre.

*Photo by Bob Fairhurst, Secretary Okanagan Division.*



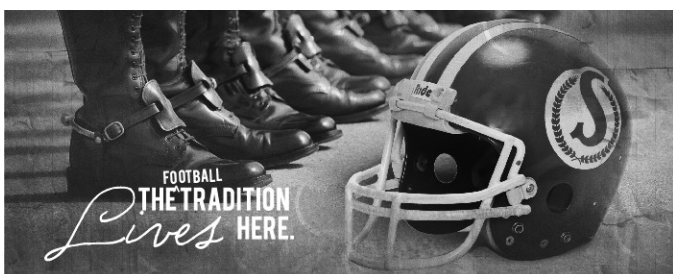
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## DID YOU KNOW?

*Editor Comment: On May 14th, 2013 at 6:00 pm, a memorable formal Regimental Dinner was held at the RCMP Heritage Centre, to commemorate the History and Renewal of the historic relationship between the RCMP Rough Riders and the iconic Saskatchewan Roughriders. The event was hosted by the RCMP A/Commissioner Roger Brown, C.O. "Depot Division"; President & CEO Jim Hopson, Saskatchewan Roughriders; A/Commissioner Russ Mirasty, C.O. "F" Division; and Al Nicholson, CEO RCMP Heritage Centre. and attended by one hundred guests.*

Did you know that throughout the history of the RCMP, the Force has always had Rough Riders? They even have a Rough Rider badge in the form of a spur that to this day is awarded to the men and women of the RCMP who train both horses and riders for ceremonial parade duty and the Musical Ride. The original Rugby Club that precedes the Saskatchewan Roughriders had a membership that was primarily made up of members of the North West Mounted Police; the predecessors of the RCMP. Is it coincidence that the original RCMP Rough Riders were headquartered here in Regina, the home of the Saskatchewan Roughriders? We're not entirely sure of the answer either. What we can tell you is that Regina is home to two very prestigious organizations; RCMP Academy "Depot" Division and the Saskatchewan Roughriders. Both organizations value Teamwork, Discipline, Leadership and Service and have had a significant impact on the city and province.

All proceeds go to support programming, and the RCMP Heritage Centre, a not for profit charitable organization mandated to tell the RCMP story.



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## RCMP MARKS 140TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NWMP, RNWMP & RCMP

May 23rd, 2013 was the occasion of an RCMP Regimental Dinner to celebrate the 140th Anniversary of the establishment of the Force in Canada held at the RCMP Drill Hall at Depot in Regina. In attendance to mark the occasion celebrating the past were RCMP Veterans, current employees and the Senior Troop in training representing "Depot" Division. The program was hosted by Asst./Commr. Roger Brown, C.O. Depot Division and Asst./Commr. Russ Mirasty, C.O. "F" Division, and Al Nicholson CEO of the Heritage Centre. The Guest of Honour and keynote Speaker was Commissioner Beverly Busson (Rtd.). Commr. Bev gave an informative, enlightening and humorous talk on her experiences and memories as one of the Original Troop of women engaged in the Force in 1974-75.

*Photo credit: RCMP Training Academy.*



## 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 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:

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- 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:

### LIFE MEMBERS

Doug & Geri Madill, Saskatoon, SK  
Wayne K. Mauthe, Unity, SK

### \$500.00

Jack. F. Dunn, Calgary, AB  
A. Marjorie Dundas, Regina, SK  
Donald Dressel, Fort Saskatchewan, AB  
Brian Humphryes, Kent, ENG  
Gordon J. Greig, Spruce Grove, AB  
Wilfred Weiss, Saint John, NB  
Cliff K. Wide, 100 Mile House, BC  
Hal & Fay Kathol, Regina, SK



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# FRED BAGLEY DIARY

## 1874-1884

*Readers may refer to article in Volume 23, Issue 2, Spring 2013, of the Friendly Notes, for an introduction to the Historic Bagley adventures during the great march west of the NWMP. That episode covered the march from June 6th, 1874, to June 20th, 1874. As the Troops proceeded west, many hardships occurred, as they traversed the prairies, encountering drought, prairie fires, and food and water shortages, through July to September 1874.*

*The following excerpt is from the diary dated September 19th to 21st, 1874. Editor.*

\* \* \* \* \*

September 19th. (Sat.) In camp Trois Buttes. Fine morning. Men and horses regaining health and strength. Splendid Camp. But we are a tough looking mob of Soldiers of the Queen. The sentry on the Commissioner's tent in rags, and with gunny sacks wrapped around his feet. Muster parade, and inspection of horses and saddles. The system our Veterinary Officer has of prescribing carbolic acid for all the ills of our animals causes some of the halfbreeds to raise a laugh now and then by shouting in unison "Fetch along de carbolique, der's going to be a stampe".

September 20th. (Sun.), Sergt. Smythe came into camp this morning, from "B" Troop, (Major Walsh), and reported at S/Constable Thornton left "B" Troop last Thursday on a hunting trip, and has not been seen or heard of since. Major Walsh, with "B" Troop arrived in camp at 11 A.M. He lost six, horses (dead) since he left us at the Belly River. Scout Morrow, sent out to look for Thornton, returned without him, and reported that he (Morrow) while scouting saw a loose pony on the prairie, and, his own pony being played out, he "adopted" the stray. Supposedly in retaliation for

Morrow's undoubted theft S/Inspr. Allen's troop horse was stolen – presumably by Indians. Sergt. Frank Spicer causes much commotion by tearing through camp on the back of a bawling buffalo calf, scattering cook fires and pots and kettles right and left the while he (Spicer) was sawing at the calf's throat with his sheath knife, until, weakened by the loss of blood the brave little beast was brought to earth. The cheers of the spectators failed to drown the vitriolic remarks of the cooks. This evening an overgrown lout named McHamish threatened to kill me after I had smacked him on the mouth with my small fist for stealing my drinking "cup". But that red headed Irishman "The Leaping Goat" McKibben seized him by the throat, and promised to knock his head off if he did "lave the boy alone". The drinking "cup" (?), the cause of all this warlike enthusiasm was an empty baking powder tin picked up at the Dufferin camp, and since carefully treasured by me.

September 21st. (Mon), S/Const. THORNTON made his appearance in camp this morning. His story is that after leaving "B" Troop to go hunting he lost his sense of direction, and has since then walked at least 50 miles, with nothing but a little water in a buffalo wallow to sustain him. He is certainly in a very weak state. His horse played out completely, and he was forced to leave both horse and saddle on the prairie. Fortunately the Trois Buttes, which he knew we were making for, were an outstanding land mark plainly seen for many miles on the prairie, so, by steadily walking in their direction he finally reached our camp.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Editor Note: Further adventures of Frederick Bagley will be continued in future issues, space permitting.*

*Editor Note: The following poetry is a description of a true bank-robbery story that took place at Eastend, Saskatchewan in June of 1970. Ravenscrag is in a treed valley in the foothills of the Cypress Hills and is traversed by the Frenchman River which meanders through the historic dinosaur grounds.*

## THE COUP-DE-GRÂCE OF SKELLY

The day was clear and the day was long  
And the clock said ten to three  
The routine work for the day was done  
There was just one short patrol to run  
Time for coffee and the usual fun  
When I heard East-end calling me.

The voice was calm, and the words were clear  
And I noted the time on the form  
“Stand by” said George Lawson, the Corporal i-c  
“I’m going down-town, you’ll soon hear from me  
I think that I’ve got a Bank Robbery!”  
Then silence – as the drama was born.

I summoned my men and they loaded their guns  
And a message to Head-quarters I flashed  
In a matter of minutes the stage was set  
All Detachments were ready to form the net  
They were keen for action, on that you can bet  
When the awaited message crashed!

The voice on the air, was sweet and clear  
’Twas the voice of Carol, his wife  
“Yes, we do have a Bank Robbery” she said  
“He’s armed with a shot-gun and mask on his  
head  
He stole a Ford and East he fled  
And he threatened them with their life!”

Constable Cooper and Constable Codd,  
immediately headed west  
Armed to the teeth, excitement high, on the route  
that they knew best  
How could this bandit elude the chase  
Just twenty-three miles to win the race  
Would he shoot it out – once face to face?  
We were ready for the test.

Again – the tensed-up voice of George  
With news that changed our plans  
“The bandit is smart, back-tracked through Town  
If I sight the bastard I’ll shoot him down!  
He crossed the bridge, north-west he’s gone  
In these hills we’ll need the plane.”

In the race against darkness the car was found  
In the brush in a deep ravine  
Two miles west hidden in brush  
Fourty miles to the highway he’d have to rush  
Had he made good his escape, in all the fuss?  
At night-fall it started to rain.

Around the country the road-blocks were up  
We hoped he was in the net  
The terrain north-west was the Cypress Hills  
Vacant farms, ranches, all the thrills  
That add to the drama and give you chills  
When you’re scared and tired and wet!

When day-light came the following morn  
The police dog had done his jag  
He found a camp along the rail-road track  
The bandit on foot had doubled back  
In the dense valley bush he was hard to track  
He was headed for Ravenscrag.

To we, the hunters on that Saturday morn  
A few things were quite clear  
We were up against a desperate foe  
One with cunning and plenty of know  
Carrying two guns and a bag of dough  
And obviously lacking fear!

As we pieced together the Robbery events  
His cunning plan was revealed  
He had an accomplice to aid in this feat  
He walked into Town and up the street  
To the bank, stole the car and later to meet  
His doll in a Ravenscrag field.

We closed in on the valley in desperate haste  
To foil this well-laid plot  
Had he already been scooped by his female con?  
Sometime through the night and now long gone?  
Could we get to him first in the chilly dawn?  
We were answered with a shot! . . .

*The conclusion of Coup-de-Grace will appear in Friendly Notes Vol.23, Issue 4, Fall Edition, Oct. 2013.*

# MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

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

Edwin W. Kneller, Westaskiwin, AB

Sandra M. Sherman, Edmonton, AB

Gerry Gourlay, Regina, SK

Keith Moen, Regina, SK

Donna Young, Brampton, ON  
(gift from Pat Bromley)

Jack W. Briscoe, Casselman, ON

Dave Hallworth, Olds, AB

## 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	John Hodgson, RCMP (Rtd.)
Director	John Worthington, RCMP (Rtd.)
Director	Steve Smedley, RCMP (Rtd.)
Director	Bob Cocks
Director	Barrie Nowell, 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.)

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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 or Mail:

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