

FRIENDLY NOTES

Friends Of The Mounted Police Heritage Centre

Les Amis Du Centre Du Patrimoine De La GRC

NOTES AMICALES

VOLUME 24
ISSUE 3 SUMMER 2014

MOURNING MOUNTIES STAND TOGETHER

by Pamela Cowan, *Leader-Post*, June 6, 2014

PROUD
SUPPORTERS
OF/FIERS
D'APPUYER

RCMP
HERITAGE
CENTRE



LE CENTRE
DU PATRIMOINE
DE LA GRC

RCMP
HISTORICAL
COLLECTIONS
UNIT



GRUPE DES
COLLECTIONS
HISTORIQUES

In a show of solidarity, the commanding officer of the RCMP Depot Division marched alongside cadets on parade square Thursday as Mounties across the country mourned the loss of three members and the injury of two others in Moncton.

Against a backdrop of grey skies, the half-mast Canadian flag snapped in the wind as cadets maintained their weekday routine and promptly began marching in the Sergeant Major's Parade at 12:45 p.m. at Depot.

"In today's parade, the commanding officer marched with the troops, which is not a normal practice," said Al Nicholson, a retired RCMP member. "She might lead the troops, she might inspect the troops and take the salute, but on this day, following the occurrence in Moncton, she showed compassionate leadership in marching in a troop with those on parade ... It's an excellent example of all standing together in times of crisis."

On the parade square, Assistant Commissioner Louise Lafrance joined the cadets in a moment of silence to mark the loss of the three officers –



Louise Lafrance, Commanding Officer, Depot Div.

all graduates of the Regina training academy.

Roses left by the troop that graduated on Sunday lay at the RCMP cenotaph where three more names will be added to the 231 members listed on the RCMP honour roll – members who have died in the line of duty since the force began.

NORTH-WEST MOUNTED POLICE HISTORY

The following brief article from the North-west Mounted Police book, Vol. 11, by John Peter Turner, official Historian appointed by Commissioner S.T. Wood. It is a factual and humourous account of perceived conditions in 1886, following several years of dis-content among the Indians, and the Riel Rebellion of 1885. – Editor

INDIANS RENDERED HARMLESS

Extreme tact without undue favour or latitude on the part of the Mounted Police was necessary in smoothing out the humiliation of the vanquished and alleviating the burdens of those whose relatives had paid the penalty of rashness. But there was little to be feared on the reserves; the Indians were helpless. Their ponies were taken from them. Their guns were gone. The Indian Department had imposed severe discipline; none

could leave the reserves without a permit. Treaty money was temporarily cut off in some instances; rations were reduced to the barest limitations. It was well that rabbits were unusually numerous.

The rebellion had marked a turning point in Western affairs, and most of the unruly Indians were gone, relegated with the buffalo to the past.

A “New West” had arisen. On the occasion of his last visit to Fort Macleod Commissioner Irvine had been sought out by Jerry Potts the famous and faithful guide and interpreter of the Force. The apparently disturbed Peigan halfbreed wished to know if any other country existed where buffalo roamed in their thousands and Indians lived a life of uncurbed freedom.

Irvine enquired: “Why do you ask, Jerry?”

“This country’s getting too damned soft for me,” was the laconic answer.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Mourning Mounties Stand Together	1
North-west Mounted Police History	2
Canada Day Draw	2
Mosaic Gifts One Million Dollars	3-4
The Moonshiner’s Crucifix	5-6
Life Membership Presentations	6-7
Donor Wall of Appreciation	7
Friendly Notes by E-Mail	7
Membership Committee Report	8
Board of Directors & Committee Chairpersons	8
Becoming a Member & Renewing Membership	8

CANADA DAY DRAW

Congratulations to Al Pidt, retired RCMP from Eastend, Saskatchewan, who was the lucky winner of the *Friends* July 1st Canada Day Draw. Al Pidt’s name was drawn from the names of all members of the *Friends*, and the prize he will receive is a copy of the book *Behind the Badge*. Every year around July 1st a random draw is made from all paid up members of the *Friends*, and the winner is presented with a gift.

MOSAIC GIFTS ONE MILLION DOLLARS TO THE RCMP HERITAGE CENTRE

REGINA, April 24, 2014 – The Mosaic Company announced today that it has committed a one million dollar gift to the RCMP Heritage Centre. Over the next five years the Centre will apply this funding to “growing the experience” that its visitors receive.

Funding will be allocated to a number of projects that will:

- enrich the interpretation of existing artefact-based exhibits;
- add new, more interactive components to the galleries;
- extend educational outreach initiatives; and,
- increase communications with the local community.

“The RCMP carries a tradition of excellence that has served to help build our communities,” said Mosaic President and Chief Executive Officer Jim Prokopanko.

“Mosaic is proud to partner with the RCMP Heritage Centre in preserving the legacy of the Mounties and their journey through Canadian history.”

In addition, through a portion of this gift, The Mosaic Company has become the inaugural member of a new corporate matching program whereby businesses and/or individuals are challenged to make a 5-year pledge to match, up to a certain dollar amount, the contributions of the Friends of the RCMP Heritage Centre.

“We have wonderful plans for this gift. Such endeavours would not be possible without first the support of all three levels of government which opens the doors for strong community-focussed corporate partners like Mosaic to come on board, help us expand our offerings, and take the interpretation of the story and history of the RCMP to the next level” said Centre CEO Al Nicholson.

“The RCMP is very proud of the quality of work performed by our men and women in Canada. We are grateful for the partnership between Mosaic and the Heritage Centre which will enhance the centre’s ability to share the RCMP’s stories from the past, present and future” said A/Commissioner Louise Lafrance.

The announcement was made at 11:00 a.m. at a press conference at the RCMP Heritage Centre. This gift is the largest single corporate donation received by the Centre since opening its doors in 2007.

About The Mosaic Company

The Mosaic Company’s mission is to help the world grow the food it needs. Mosaic is one of the world’s leading producers and marketers of concentrated potash and phosphate crop nutrients. The company is committed to investing in the sustainability of the communities where it operates. More information on the company is available at www.mosaicco.com.

Recent community gifts include:

- Saskatoon Food Council – \$155,000 (February 2014)
- Habitat for Humanity – \$1 million (December 2013)
- Parkland College – \$1.225 million (November 2013)
- Salvation Army – \$200,000 (November 2013)

RCMP Heritage Centre

Situated on the grounds where the RCMP were headquartered and have been training for over 130 years, the RCMP Heritage Centre (Centre) is appropriately located where the tradition of Canada’s national police force (Force) took root and continues to live; Regina, Saskatchewan.

continued on page 4

MOSAIC DONATION

continued from page 3

A completely separate legal entity from the Force, and registered as the Mounted Police Heritage Centre, a not-for-profit, charitable organization, the Centre is mandated to tell the RCMP story. The Centre is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors.

Opened on May 23, 2007, the Force's 134th birthday, this state-of-the-art building houses over 18,000 square feet of long-term and temporary exhibits, and is the base for numerous programs and services including:

- Guided tours of RCMP Academy "Depot" Division
- State-of-the-art audio visual displays
- Curriculum-based school and youth programming
- Community events

Friends of the RCMP Heritage Centre

In 1989, The Regina RCMP Veterans Association founded a national, not-for-profit, membership

driven, charitable organization, mandated to provide volunteer and financial support to the then Centennial Museum, and later the RCMP Heritage Centre. Over the past quarter of a century the Friends of the RCMP Heritage Centre ("Friends") have raised and donated in excess of \$2 million dollars for operations, artefact procurement, artefact restoration and management, as well as capital to help build the Centre.

RCMP Heritage Centre Corporate Matching Program

To recognize and help celebrate the vision, passion and accomplishments of the "Friends", the Centre recently introduced a corporate matching program whereby businesses and/or individuals can join in the efforts to protect, preserve and share the RCMP story by making a 5-year pledge to match, up to a certain dollar amount, what the "Friends" contribute to the Centre.

More information on the RCMP Heritage Centre, The Friends of the RCMP Heritage Centre and the Corporate Matching Program is available at www.rcmpheritagecentre.com.



THE MOONSHINER'S CRUCIFIX

EDITOR'S NOTE: *From the early 1800s the NWMP in western Canada had to battle the illegal whiskey trade and it carried well into the 1900s under the RCMP jurisdiction. The prairie farmers often didn't have access to legal spirits and therefore devised means of manufacturing their own variety of alcohol, generally for their own use. This custom was gradually brought under control, but still existed in remote areas well into the mid and late 1900s.*

The following true story of a routine "brew search" under the Excise Act, took place in the 1960s in the Blaine Lake area of Northern Saskatchewan. Because whiskey is brewed from a liquid "mash", it is called "home brew" and because it was illegal it was often brewed in a "still" in a remote location and attended to at night, therefore referred to as "moonshine".

* * * * *

The word came on an autumn day
And after the first snow fell
It came from a hunter, back from the hills
Who had a tale to tell

He wasn't a friend of the Mounted Police
No favour did he request
An informer's motives are seldom known
So his reasons are anyone's guess.

He had wounded a buck and tracked him
And the trail led through the bush
Then down in ravine where it couldn't be seen
He found two barrels of mash.

The spot was remote and far off the trail
The area – hills and bogs
Then up on a mound on the highest ground
Stood a homestead – gone to the dogs.

In the olden days when the buffalo grazed
And the settlers cleared the land
The place was home to a man unknown
Where he built and dreamed and planned.

But time and the weather did their task
And Nature claimed her own
Now the homesteader's shack, and the house
 out-back
Were fair game for the plunderer's own.

The cabin door was agape with awe
As strange company drew near
Its windows blinked in the setting sun
And the clothes-line shook with fear.

For a crew of stalwart and stealthy men
It never before had seen
Nor could it know through the falling snow
They were 'Cowboys' of the Queen!

No answer came to our call to "come out!"
Save the echo from the hills
We could not say how long he'd gone
For the cabin stood dead still.

So in we stepped, with warrant in hand
To search according to plan
But the tables dust and spiders webs
Told us we'd missed our man.

There was a window north, and a window south
And a window on the west
Then up a ladder to an attic loft
I found his place of rest.

A mattress and spring, on a sawed-off frame
And a brass spittoon was all
When my eyes got used to the room's dim light
THEY RIVETED ON THE WALL.

For there on a chain that hung from a knot
That brought my eyes to a fix
Was a glowing work of mysterious art
The Moonshiner's CRUCIFIX.

My hand reached up to grasp the cross
(And my eyes met the eyes of our Lord)
'Twas a shame to leave it for antique thieves
To add to their coveted horde.

continued on page 6

THE MOONSHINER'S CRUCIFIX

continued from page 5

The golden chain snagged as I tugged at the work
Of a master craftman's hand
The message in the eyes of the man on the cross
I was able to understand.

The Moonshiner may have broken the law
And now might a fugitive be
But to judge him and condemn him
Far be it a task, for me.

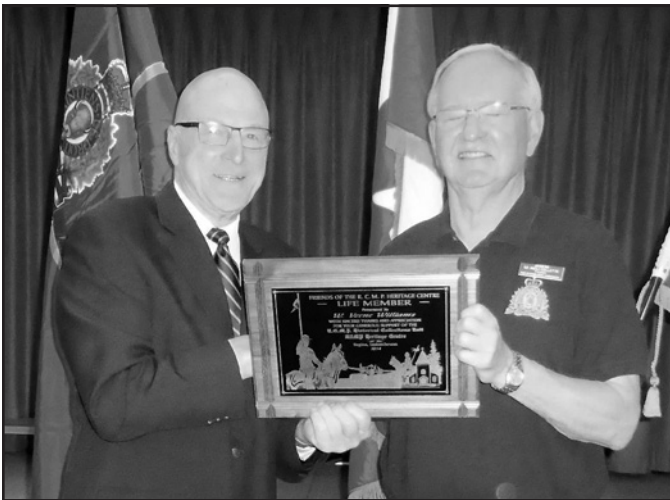
For as he lay on his cot on a cold winter night
And sipped the juice of his still
He counted his beads and prayed to his Lord
To have mercy on his soul.

For had I taken the Crucifix
(And none would ever have knew)
My life would be haunted by six little words
"To thine own self be true."

Some day I'll return to that hallowed place
And maybe the truth I'll find
Whatever the Spirit that stilled my hand
It sure gave me peace of mind.

*Barrie F. Nowell
R.C.M. Police*

LIFE MEMBERSHIP PRESENTATIONS



On April 5, 2014 on occasion of the Okanagan Division Luncheon in Vernon, B.C., President Neil Collette presented a Life Membership Plaque and Lapel Pin to Veteran Verne Williams, on behalf of the Friends of the Mounted Police Heritage Centre. The presentation is made in appreciation of Neil's support and generous contributions over the years.

Photo by Bob Fairhurst.



On May 8, 2014 the Middleton Nova Scotia Veterans Association was the scene of a presentation of a Life Membership Award presented by President Gerry LaPierre, assisted by Co. Director Vic Gorman, to RCMP Veteran Patrick Smale of Middleton, Nova Scotia. The Life Membership Plaque and Lapel Pin were presented on behalf of the Friends of the Mounted Police Heritage Centre for his generous support over the years.

Photo by Sandy Glenn.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP PRESENTATION



On May 23, 2014 the RCMP Heritage Centre was the location of a program hosting “Donor Appreciation Night” sponsored by the Heritage Centre and the Friends of the Heritage Centre. The occasion recognized and honoured several Regina businesses by President Al Nicholson, for their generous contributions and the “Friends” President Bob Smart presented RCMP Veteran Barrie Nowell and wife Patricia with a Life Membership and lapel pins on behalf of the “Friends” in recognition of their generous contributions and long service.

Photo by Kenn Barker.

DONOR WALL OF APPRECIATION

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

\$1200 – LIFE

R.D.S. Ward, Wetaskiwin, AB
Barrie & Pat Nowell, Regina, SK
Larry & Sally Pearson, Red Deer, AB
Jack Boan, Regina, SK
Walter Prokop, Regina, SK
Jim Prokopanko, Minnesota, USA

\$500 – Friend

Rev. Larry J. Nicolay, Calgary, AB
R. Murray Grant, Regina, SK
S.W. (Shell) Kelly, Edmonton, AB
John H. Wade, Melfort, SK
John & Marie Pott, Carlyle, SK
Charles R. Pearce, Calgary, AB
Bob Avery, Regina, SK
Keith S. Hall, Wolfville, NS
Keith Deline, London, ON
Alec McConnell, North River, NS

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 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*:

Antonio Pereira, Guelph, ON

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.