



FRIENDLY NOTES

Friends Of The Mounted Police Heritage Centre

Les Amis Du Centre Du Patrimoine De La GRC

NOTES AMICALES

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PROUD
SUPPORTERS
OF/FIERS
D'APPUYER

**RCMP
HERITAGE
CENTRE**



**LE CENTRE
DU PATRIMOINE
DE LA GRC**

RCMP
HISTORICAL
COLLECTIONS
UNIT



**GROUPE DES
COLLECTIONS
HISTORIQUES**



RCMP HERITAGE CENTRE LANDMARK DEDICATION TO PARTNERS IN COMMUNITY POLICING

The lead horse & rider is dedicated to the citizens of Canada

The left horse & rider is dedicated to all Protective Services personnel

The horse & rider in the “right-marker” position is dedicated to all members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police who served, are serving and will serve, with honour and without fear, favour or affection

HERITAGE CENTRE *continued from page 1*

(The above dedication was made at a media presentation at the RCMP Heritage Centre on May 25, 2016 by CEO Al Nicholson) The new sign with the three silhouette horses is located on the South side of Dewdney Avenue just West of the entrance to the Heritage Centre and the RCMP Training Academy.

The sign was made possible by the **Mosaic Company, The Toronto Dominion Bank, Display Development Group and All Brite Signs**. The erecting of the horses was made possible by **Pro Metal Industries, Stantec**, and significant donations from longtime supporters **Frank Hart and Diana Milenkovic**. The landscaping was done by “**It’s Done**” group of companies.

The horses are made from steel supplied by **Varsteel** in Regina, powder coated by **Dutch Industries** of Pilot Butte. They are 20 feet tall, from the ground to the tip of the lances and 14 feet long from nose to tail. The bodies of the horses are comprised of 1 inch thick steel and the supporting legs are each 2 inch thick steel. Each

horse weighs 1.5 tons. The horses are engineered to withstand 2 ½ times the worst wind gusts ever experienced in Saskatchewan.

A competition will be announced in the very near future to come up with names for the three horses. Two names that will not be accepted are ‘NERO’ and ‘BERMESE’.

The media gathering was intended to alert the public of a number of coming events, the most important being the beginning of the 10th year of operation for the center. A/Comm. Louise LaFrance, the Commanding Officer of Depot, announced the opening of the Sgt. Brinkworth: Police Photographer Exhibit which follows the use of photography within the Mounted Police, beginning with the antique cameras to the Unmanned Aerial Vehicles currently used by the RCMP.

CEO Nicholson announced the official opening of a new exhibit titled “**Perserving the Tradition**” centered on the famed Musical Ride, which originated and was first performed in Regina in 1887. This exhibit was originally sponsored by **Wascana Energy which has been taken over by Nexen**. It is professionally curated by **the Historical Collections Unit** and is a great introduction to the Ride, how it evolved to what it is today and features our old friend PSH Nero. A local company, **Talking Dog Studios**, has put together 6 different experiences in both official languages. The exhibit is comprised of a virtual ride with replica stables, saddles which match the horses’ gates and synched to visuals and directional sound – totally immersing you in the experience of being right in the middle of the Musical Ride.

Thanks to community outreach dollars supplied by **The Mosaic Company**, the Heritage Centre will also be introducing a travel musical ride experience. The first scheduled visit will be Wascana Park in Regina on Canada Day.

The Heritage Centre will be offering on-site, scheduled performances of **Ken Mitchell’s ‘Spirit of the Trail’**. Guests will watch history

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

RCMP Heritage Centre Landmark Dedication <i>To Partners in Community Policing</i>	1-3
Strange and not so strange duties performed by the NWMP and the RNWMP during their 45 years	4-5
Friends of the RCMP Heritage Centre Executive	5
Life Membership Presentations	6
Heritage Center Activities	7
Donor Wall of Appreciation	7
Membership Committee Report	7
<i>Friendly Notes</i> by E-mail	8
Survey Results	8
Friends Board of Directors and Committee Chairpersons	8
Becoming a Member/Renewals	8

come alive as professional actors on horseback deliver this powerful historic drama that relives the 1877 meeting between Major James Walsh of the NWMP and Sitting Bull, War Chief of the Lakota Sioux, following the battle of the Little Big Horn. 2016 marks the 140th anniversary of the events that lead to this story of friendship amongst significant potential for conflict. The performance runs for about 45 minutes and, weather permitting, will be delivered at 1:00 and 3:00 pm on Saturdays and Sundays starting June 25 through July 31 at the Heritage Centre lawn. The performance will also go on the road for performances in Lebret on July 15, Eastend on July 22 and Buffalo Pound on July 29.

The mandate of the Heritage Centre is to share the story of the RCMP. There is no one story, but rather a continuous living story that has evolved through the service of each and every member. Two years ago the Heritage Centre began to capture stories from RCMP veterans and their spouses, which is of even greater importance since some of those who contributed have since passed away. The first six episodes were broadcast over **Access TV**, beginning just prior to Christmas 2015. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. The DVD containing the six episode set, is now available at the Heritage Centre gift shop.

The Heritage Centre has taken on the task of having a book entitled **‘Sterling Lighthouse McNeil’**, published. McNeil was, at one time, a member of the RCMP and played with the Saskatchewan Roughrider football team while he was an active member of the RCMP, only missing the Grey Cup game that year because he had to work and one other game because of the Estevan ‘coal miner’s riot’. McNeil joined the RCMP in 1931, arrested the legendary Grey Owl, travelled 1200 km of the North via dog sled, was promoted to Wing Commander with the RCAF in W.W. II, returned to the RCMP after the war, led the musical ride on a U.S. tour in 1952 and Commanded “L” Division, Prince Edward Island from 1959 to 1966, before retiring. The book is scheduled to be launched in September.

The people movers, which have been supplied by the **Regina Hotel Association**, have begun tours from the Heritage Centre, around Depot to the Chapel, where tourists can watch the Sgt. Major’s Parade just after lunch and the Sunset Ceremony beginning on July 1st and running every Tuesday evening till the end of August. From the Chapel, the tour travels to the Shooting Range and Driving track and back to the Heritage Centre past the RCMP cemetery. The tour is part of the admission paid to tour the exhibits in the Heritage Centre. Anyone wishing to take the motorized tour, must first check in at the tourist desk in the Heritage Centre and register for the tour, thus receiving a temporary pass to Depot and having the option to lock up any bag or back pack or leaving same in their vehicle, as none can be taken on the tour.

DID YOU KNOW:

The Riel Rebellion began with the Battle of Duck Lake. In 1885, Metis at Duck Lake, a typical frontier village, took over the fort, threw the whites out, and stole their goods. When a force of fifty-six Mounties and forty-three members of the Prince Albert Volunteers marched to Duck Lake, they were ambushed by the Metis under the leadership of Gabriel Dumont. Twelve Mounties and militiamen were killed and as many wounded and the force retreated to Fort Carlton.

Dumont, the rebel general, was a buffalo hunter by trade and a brilliant military tactician in the field. He won three battles but lost the war because he was outnumbered and outgunned. Some historians contend that if Dumont had not been prevented by Louis Riel from destroying the partially-completed Canadian Pacific Railway, which carried Middleton’s army West in only four days, and from taking advantage of his early victories, Riel might have won and carved out a semi-primitive state.

(Quote from The Wellington Mint FORUM 1972)

STRANGE AND NOT SO STRANGE DUTIES PERFORMED BY THE NWMP AND THE RNWMP DURING THEIR 45 YEARS

“When British Columbia entered Confederation in 1871, East and West were separated by one thousand miles of unmapped country inhabited by a handful of whites and thirty thousand hostile Indians of the Cree, Blackfoot, Sarcee, Peigan and Assiniboine nations. The territories comprising “Rupert’s land and the areas beyond” had been acquired from the Hudson’s Bay Company in 1870. It was a vast and lonely land, three times the size of Europe, reaching from the boundary of Ontario west to the Rockies and from the United States to the Arctic.

Captain William Francis Butler was sent on a twenty-seven hundred mile winter trip in 1870-1871 by the lieutenant-governor of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories. He reported that there was no law and order in the region of the Saskatchewan and that robbery and murder went unchecked. Convinced that no settlement could take place without the rule of law, he recommended the appointment of a resident civil magistrate and the organization of a well-equipped force to maintain law and order.” (*quote from ‘The Scarlet Horsemen in The Wellington Mint Forum May-June 1972)*

Many of the original Mounties farmed their own food and kept their own beef cattle. They performed many duties because no one else did them and to survive or just to stave off severe boredom.

Members of the Force:

- built and ran ferries to help people cross large rivers.
- carried the mail between communities over the West. The first robbery of the mail on a stage coach in 1886.
- acted as Indian Agents for the Indian Department.
- collected Customs duties. Members of the Force earned commissions on the Customs duties

which they collected. Salaried Customs Officers took over the collections of Customs Duties in 1886. Apparently this drastically affected the income of some of the members who had been quite active in Customs work.

- transported me who had gone mad to the Brandon Asylum.
- enforced a wide range of ordinances, including those covering stallions at large and leprosy.
- Acted as magistrates presiding over Criminal trials.

Force surgeons, often the only doctors available, treated Indians and settlers.

Protection of game was also a task fulfilled by the members of the Force. Game hunting in National Parks dates back to their creation in 1890. Game in Banff National Park and buffalo in Great Slave Lake area were greatest effected.

The members were the eyes and ears of the Federal Government in their annual reports which included assessments of social, demographic, economic and environmental conditions of the West. Creation of towns and industries, capital investments, number of workers employed, houses constructed and city services initiated.

Members of the Force;

- kept weather records.
- kept track of Crop types planted, acres under cultivation and average yields.
- were actively involved in enforcing quarantines during smallpox outbreaks.
- were actively involved in maintaining law and order during strikes by employees of the CPR.
- were tasked with apprehending runaway children from the Industrial Schools set up to educate the Indian children. 1889 a member of the NWMP was stationed at the Industrial School in High River as a result of the large number of children who ran away from that school.

- Were tasked with inspecting fur trader's wagons, returning stolen livestock to their rightful owners, finding lost travelers and maintaining strict watch over mining, lumber and railroad camps.

In 1905 a party under Supt. Constantine left Fort Saskatchewan to build a road from the Peace River country to the Yukonwith axes. They cleared timber and built bridges carving a route over mountains, down valleys and through swamps completing 375 miles of trail until the government lost interest and abandoned the project after three years. The Alaska highway follows the route the Force pioneered.

In 1905 a constable saw a grass fire heading toward Battleford. He hurried to a farm in between and helped the farmer plough a fire guard

to try and stop the fire. The constable was badly burned and his horse had to be destroyed.

In 1905, the Force handled 4647 criminal Cases. Six years later, constables on patrol had to cover 2000 square miles and in 1912, they secured 11,435 convictions in 13, 394 cases.

In 1917 the British Government asked Canada to send troops to Siberia to fight against the Bolsheviks. Commissioner Perry recruited 190 officers and men who volunteered and on October 1, 1918, their squadron officially became part of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (Siberia). Twenty-one members arrived in Vladivostok with the advance party in the same month, but did not see any action while in Russia.

“As one Mountie put it, “We were as God made us, and ten times even worse!”

FRIENDS OF THE RCMP HERITAGE CENTRE EXECUTIVE



Photo taken at the 2016 AGM of the Friends

Back row L to R: Supt. Paul Hebert, Observer on the Board representing the RCMP, **Bob Cocks**, Director, **Glen Berger**, Director, **Dave Hoefft**, Director, **Ron Ostrum**, Secretary;

Front Row: Al Nicholson, Observer on the Board representing the Heritage Centre, **A/Comm. Brenda Butterworth-Carr**, Commanding Officer of “F” Division, **Bob Smart**, Friends President, **A/Comm. Louise LaFrance**, Commanding Officer of RCMP Depot Division, **Shannon Cunningham**, RCMP Historical Collections Unit.

Missing: Kenn Barker, Director, **Bill Greenslade**, Immediate Past President and Director, **Murray Klatt**, Director, **Rhonda Lamb**, Observer on the Board representing the RCMP Historical Collections Unit.

Photo: Dani Anderson, Heritage Centre Staff

LIFE MEMBERSHIP PRESENTATIONS



Presentation of Life Membership to **Carol and Dave Slinn**. Presentation made at the RCMP Heritage Centre by Friends President, Bob Smart.

Photo: Murray Klatt



Presentation of Life Membership to **Dave and Marie Hoeft**. Presentation of the plaque to Dave Hoeft by Friend's President Bob Smart.

Photo: Murray Klatt

HERITAGE CENTER ACTIVITIES

MOTORIZED DEPOT TOURS:

- Special groups and included with the admission to the Heritage Centre.
- Sgt. Major's Parade – week days from 12:15 to 1:30 pm except on Statutory Holidays.
- Sunset Ceremony – beginning July 1 and every Tuesday evening till the end of August.

DONOR WALL OF APPRECIATION

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

\$5000-\$9999 – BENEFACTOR

John & Anne Tokarcsik, Regina, SK

\$1200 – LIFE*

W.Douglas Keam, Regina
Edward & Danuta Kaj, Port Colborne, ON
Alex & Bev Geddes, Ottawa, ON

\$500 – FRIEND*

H.Ray Wison, Valgary, AB
Doris Jenkins, Maple Ridge, BC
Wayne Marcella, Martensville, SK
Wilfred Weiss, Saint John, NB

*These are cumulative amounts over the years

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

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

Donald T. Lawlor, Ilderton, ON
Jan Jenert, Regina, SK
John Douglas Claude, Regina, SK

SURVEY RESULTS

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all who took the time to respond to our survey from the January 2015 issue of the Friendly Notes. Based on the overall feedback starting in 2017 our plan will be to shift our Friendly Notes editions from four (4) to three (3) times per year. We assure all those who currently receive a hard copy of the Friendly Notes via the mail, you will continue to receive the paper copy in the future.

Thank you again and if you are one of those who had planned to respond to the survey and did not get it done please don't hesitate to send us your comments, feedback at any time.

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	George Germaine
Director	Glen Berger
Force Observer	Supt. Paul Hebert, SSO, RCMP "Depot" Division
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	Murray Klatt, 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 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.