

# FRIENDLY NOTES

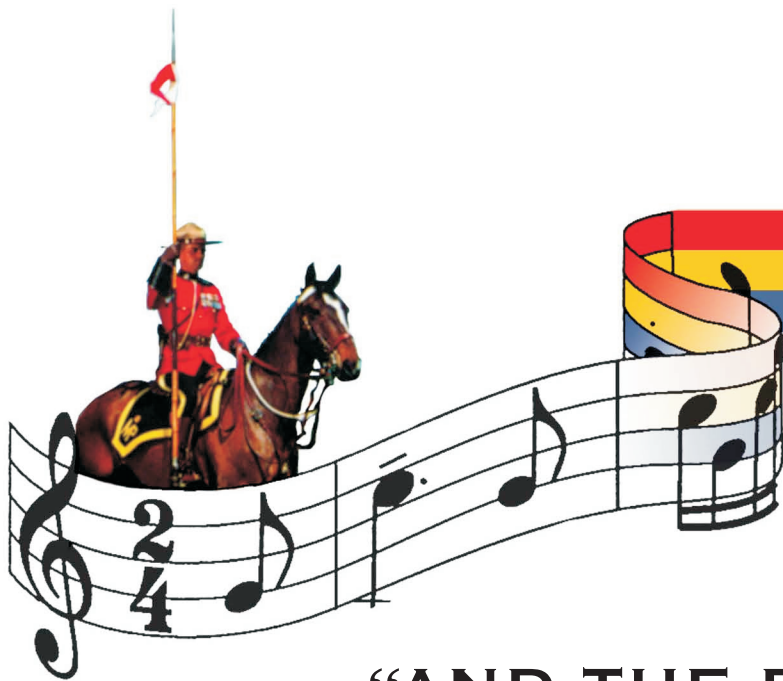
Friends Of The Mounted Police Heritage Centre

Les Amis Du Centre Du Patrimoine De La GRC

# NOTES AMICALES

VOLUME 21

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**PROUD  
SUPPORTERS  
OF/FIERS  
D'APPUYER**

**R C M P  
HERITAGE  
CENTRE**



**LE CENTRE  
DU PATRIMOINE  
DE LA GRC**

**RCMP  
HISTORICAL  
COLLECTIONS  
UNIT**



**GROUPE DES  
COLLECTIONS  
HISTORIQUES**

## “AND THE BAND PLAYED ON”

Men have followed to the skirl of the bagpipes into battle, they have marched to the beat of the drum and they have obeyed the order of the bugle call. But military music went beyond a simple matter of motivation and communication. A good martial melody could also stir the soul.

Shortly after its formation, the Mounted Police was called by a similar siren song.

The NWMP's first band made its debut on 24 May 1876, the birthday of Queen Victoria. Formed up at by the flagstaff at Swan River Barracks, after weeks of practice, twenty men began to play “God Save the Queen” - for 5:30 am reveille and a tradition was born.

From that day to this a strong musical tradition has wafted its way through the history of the Force. A tradition that has also left its mark on the RCMP Historical Collections Unit. Perhaps nowhere more so than among the archive collections which, for the last 12 months, have been the focus of a special project to scan and digitize them. With the



Police Band leading parade through the streets of Dawson, 24 May 1902  
(RCMP HCU 1936.17.1)



NWMP Police Band, Dawson 1902  
(RCMP HCU 1936.17.4)

assistance of three members of the Tailor Shop’s staff on loan to the RCMP HCU over 7,962 images and documents have been digitized.

Captured amidst these new electronic files are the stories of the men who, like those first NWMP Band members, bought their own instruments and gave up their leisure time to practice, and in the process helped to make the Force’s presence known . For example, the image of the Mounted Police Band leading a parade through the streets of Dawson, once again in celebration of the Queen’s Birthday but this time on 24 May 1902. In its early days, the population of the Yukon remained predominantly American, the boundary was still in dispute and many thought of the Yukon as simply an extension of Alaska. For Supt. Wood, commanding the local NWMP Detachment it was an illusion of which the population needed to be disabused.

His answer: a request to Ottawa for band instruments. Under the leadership of the newly appointed Bandmaster, Hospital Staff Sergeant Edward Telford (Reg. #2691), practices began morning, noon and night until a few key melodies had been mastered including “Rule Britannia” and “British Grenadiers”. Supt Wood called in every available man from the outlying detachments and requested the support of Captain Hulme’s Dawson Rifles. Together they formed up at the Detachment Barracks square then, following the Police Band, paraded down First Avenue.

The patriotic music had the intended effect . British citizens of Dawson gathered to the sound and a crowd quickly formed . The parade marched three times around the town before returning to Barracks; leaving no doubt who reigned in the Yukon Territory. You can’t say music doesn’t have a role to play even in politics!

Edward Telford went on to have a long career with the Force and built strong ties both to the Band and the Yukon . He had joined the Force in 1891 where he served with “Depot” Division and joined the NWMP Band there. Four years later, he was a part of Supt Constantine’s first contingent to survey the developing situation in the Yukon Territory. He left the Force briefly but reengaged in 1900 and again

found himself in northern climes. By 1910, Telford was promoted to the commissioned ranks, then seven years later given command of the Mayo Detachment. By the time of his retirement in 1927, Supt Telford had risen to the position of Commanding Officer of “E” Division.

A year after marching on the Queen’s Birthday, Telford was again a member of an important Dawson Band this time to mark the passing of a popular member of the Dawson Town Station, Cst. J.H. Burns (Reg. #3485). This mixed group of civilian and police musicians not only paraded in honour of Burns then began to play Sunday concerts for the citizens of Dawson throughout the summers of 1903 and 1904. Slowly the volunteer band grew into a permanent part of town life. The archives project is still ongoing. But through the hard work of the tailors, photographs and documents are being preserved in a digital medium, making the Force’s heritage, both musical and otherwise, more widely available.

The foregoing story of the Band’s early history was researched and prepared by our Curator, Jodi Ann Eskritt of the RCMP Historical Collections Unit. To this day the Band still functions in Ottawa and a volunteer Cadets Band performs for parades in “Depot”, the Regina training centre.

*Editor*

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# PRESENTATIONS



On Dec. 07th, 2010 on the occasion of the R.C.M.P. Veterans Association of Manitoba "D" Division's General Meeting and Christmas Social held in the H.Q.'s Cafeteria Mess, Vice President David A. Mauro presented a "Life Membership Plaque" and lapel Pin, to Mrs. Ruth E. Gongos, on behalf of the Friends of the RCMP Heritage Centre. We thank Ruth in appreciation for her generous contribution to the "Friends" in support of the Heritage Centre, in memory of her husband Ass't. Commissioner John Gongos.

Photo by Indulis Baltkalns



On December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010, on the occasion of the Regina Veteran's annual Candlelight Dinner, and on behalf of the Friends of the Mounted Police Heritage Centre, President Bill Greenslade presented Doris Wilson a Life Membership Plaque and and lapel pin. We thank Doris in appreciation for her generous contribution to the "Friends" in support of the Heritage Centre, in memory of her husband Cpl. Wayne Wilson. Photo by Kenn Barker



On December 10, 2010, a special gathering of staff and the public, was convened by Robin Etherington, President and CEO of the RCMP Heritage Centre, held in the atrium of the Centre, for a dual Presentation of a Life Membership in the "Friends" and the unveiling of a historical painting. The painting was an original artwork created by Canadian Artist Glen Scrimshaw, depicting the pulpit area and unique stained glass windows of the RCMP Chapel, entitled "Silent Sentries". Mr. Scrimshaw has been a generous supporter and contributor to the Force and the "Friends" and donates approximately sixteen percent of his artwork earnings, to the "Friends". He is also a Life Member of the "Friends" and on this occasion he attended to the unveiling and presentation of the work to the purchasers, Brad and Sue Kearns of Carlyle Sask. Following the unveiling the President of the "Friends", Bill Greenslade, presented the Kearns a Life Membership Plaque and Lapel Pin, for their generous contribution and support of the Force and the Friends of the Heritage Centre. Following the presentations the guests were invited to view the art work and were treated to refreshments and dainties. Photo by Kenn Barker

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# CORRESPONDENCE

*CORRECTION: In Volume 20 Issue 4, dated October 2010, on page three in the Presentation of a Life Membership to Joan Ray by Veteran Tony Brezinski, we inadvertently stated that the legendary Sam Steele was a former RCMP Commissioner. We stand corrected as Sam Steele retired from service in the NWMP as a Superintendent.*

*Editor.*

Our Membership enjoys nothing more than having input into our Newsletter and seeing and reading articles of familiar occasions and stories that we all can relate to. The following article is one of those that we will classify as: “**READERS WRITE**“, that we will try and publish from time to time as you refer them to us

*Editor.*

A member of “The Friends”, Mr. George Germaine of Regina, Sask., recently produced a large brown envelope containing file documents relating to the Service in the North-West Mounted Police of one Wellington German, George’s Paternal grandfather. George has a colourful history of employment with Saskatchewan Government Insurance, which required him to travel the Province extensively and liaise and associate with many RCMP Detachment members.

In 1999, George contacted the RCMP Historian, Ottawa Canada, requesting information from the service record of his grandfather, NWMP Regimental number 2841. He received a letter and several Service Record documents on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2000, from Glenn Wright, RCMP Historian. A self-explanatory letter is as follows:

“Dear Mr. Germaine,

“As promised, I am pleased to enclose a selection of documents from the service file of Wellington J. German, (regimental number 2841), North-west

Mounted Police. Constable German served with the Mounted Police from November 10<sup>th</sup>, 1892 until the expiration of his five-year term on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 1897. It is clear from the documentation that he was employed as a black-smith.”

The first four documents related to his Application and subsequent engagement in Winnipeg, Manitoba, on November 10<sup>th</sup>. 1892. He was transferred to Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, where the next document is dated May 15<sup>th</sup>. 1895 and he is requesting a transfer to Regina, Sask., the Headquarters of the Force, at his own expense. This request obviously aroused concern with the Commissioner and prompted the flurry of memorandums as follows:

From Officer Commanding, “F” Div., Regina; “The Commissioner directs me to say that he cannot allow this transfer unless Cst. German is willing to pay his own expense and those of a man to go and replace him; he also wishes to know if Constable German is willing to go in the shop here as blacksmith, By Order Insp. (signature illegible), 17-5-95.”

To The Commr; “Cst German is willing to pay both fares & would like to go into the B’smith shop.” Supt. (signature illegible, 19-5-95)

To Officer Commanding, Prince Albert; “The Commissioner directs that can send Const. German on the above condition. A man will be sent to replace him on his arrival” By Order, Insp. (signature illegible, 27-5-95)

To The Commr; “Const. German will leave by tomorrow mornings train for Regina.” Sgd.Supt. (Signature illegible, 26-5-95)

Two years of dedicated Service seems to have passed in Regina, when Cst. German decided to change careers, and prompted a new paper-flow, with the following memorandum. (One can assume that a Black-smith job must have paid better outside of the Force, than shoeing the NWMP horses!)

On August 6<sup>th</sup>. 1897, Cst. German wrote the following letter, requesting a Pass for leave, prior to his five-year discharge date of Nov.9<sup>th</sup>. 1897

**Aug. 6<sup>th</sup>.  
1897.**

**The Officer Comdg.  
NWestPolice  
Regina.**

**Sir, I have the honour to state that my reasons for requesting the attached pass, are as follows.**

**Being a married man & having a wife & family to provide for, I have naturally been looking out for employment at the expiration of my service. My old employer with whom I served my time as an apprentice at blacksmithing has now offered me three & a half dollars per day, providing I can start in by 10<sup>th</sup>. September. I have therefore requested the attached leave prior to discharge, as I look on this as an opportunity, which once allowed to slip will not be offered to me again - and there are lots of men of my trade who would only be too willing to take the work & so I trust that I may be allowed the pass, so as to set in to work on the 10<sup>th</sup>. September next, & thus get a start before winter sets in.**

**I have the honour to be Sir  
Your obedient servant, W.G. German**

**Editor Note:**

The above letter prompted the assembly of a Board of Officers for the purpose of verifying and recording the service of Constable German on November 10<sup>th</sup>. 1897. Then on November 11<sup>th</sup>. 1897 the Commissioner concurred with the findings of the Board, that his accounts were settled, and his conduct and service were good. Discharge granted.

**Editor's Note:**

Because of the married status of Cst. German in the early years of the Force I solicited the assistance of Wendy Kraushaar of the RCMP Historical Collections Unit to research the regulations concerning marriage. Quote: "By 1877, the Force regretted the extra expenses and inconvenience of transferring married men. In that year, therefore, a new regulation was introduced which forbade the engagement of married men." Eventually further regulations were introduced prohibiting marriage

until five years service was completed, and only then with written permission.

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The following story was gleaned from an article that was forwarded to us from a lady and "Friend" Joyce Miller, who lives in Regina and spent many years employed by the RCMP managing the Division Mess at "Depot" Regina, Sask.

**ROYAL NORTH WEST MOUNTED POLICE  
- ESTABLISH SOVEREIGNTY.  
DUNDAS HARBOUR, NUNAVUT.  
August, 2006.**

Canadian soldiers, sailors, air crews and RCMP Officers gathered on one of the remotest points in the country on the week-end to project their nation's sovereignty over the Arctic into the future and pay tribute to those who guarded it in the past.

"It's an honour to be up here doing this," said RCMP Const. David Lawson, brushing a coat of

fresh white paint on the picket fence surrounding the graves of two fellow officers who died 80 years ago while posted to this rocky shoreline high above the Arctic Circle.

After the final fence post around the graves of Const. Victor Maisonneuve and Const. William Stephens had been reinforced and re-painted, the manoeuvres grew silent Saturday as members of all five participating services doffed their headgear in remembrance. "We remember the goals and we remember the dedication that brought them to this place," navy chaplain John Finlayson said in prayer. "As we remember their lives, we pledge ourselves also to work for justice, with integrity and goodwill for all people."

"The grave restoration was a moving echo of the work the Forces are conducting in defence of Canada's disputed sovereignty over the Arctic waters" said Col. Chris Whitecross, commander of the military in the north.

"We're here for sovereignty," she said. "These guys, the RCMP who were here back in the 1920's, they were here for sovereignty as well. Their mission was to be a foot on the ground to show the world that we are here."

### ***Editor's Footnote:***

The Force was officially the Royal North West Mounted Police from 1904 to 1920, when it became the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Our research shows that Const Maisonneuve joined the RNWMP on May 28<sup>th</sup>, 1919. He died on June 06<sup>th</sup>, 1926, at Dundas Harbour, by self inflicted gunshot.

Const. Stephens joined October 26<sup>th</sup>, 1920, and died on Aug. 26<sup>th</sup>, 1927, by accidental gunshot, while walrus hunting.

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## **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.

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The following article formerly published in Volume 20, Issue One, is to assist the volume of new members of the "*Friends*" to become familiar with the structure of the Outreach of the RCMP and our programs.

Editor

## **THE OUTREACH OF THE MOUNTIES**

The **Royal Canadian Mounted Police**, are Canada's Federal Police Force, also known as the RCMP.

The **RCMP Heritage Centre** (RCMP HC) exists to tell the RCMP story, including the critical role the Force plays in addressing contemporary issues. The Heritage Centre is a unique mix of educational institution, museum and tourist attraction. The Centre is owned and operated by a nationally registered non-profit corporation, the Mounted Police Heritage Centre Inc. The Centre is located on the grounds of the RCMP Academy, "Deport" Division in Regina, Saskatchewan. The RCMP HC leases this land from the RCMP.

The **RCMP Historical Collections Unit** (RCMP HCU) collects, preserves and interprets the RCMP artifacts relating to the history of the Force. All articles are the property of the RCMP. All staff are RCMP employees and are supervised by a Unit Manager who reports to the Support Services Officer, "Depot" Division. The Unit occupies space leased from the RCMP Heritage Centre.

The **FRIENDS** is a non-profit national organization, operated under a Board of Directors and Committee Chairpersons, dedicated to the enhancement of the RCMP Historical Collections Unit and the RCMP Heritage Centre. As volunteer members of this organization, we promote the interests of and assist the HCU and HC, and encourage and support research and study into the history of the Force and the preservation of its artifacts.

Membership in the **FRIENDS** is open to the public and your participation is encouraged and invited.

*Editor*

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## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The twenty-first Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Mounted Police Heritage Centre will be held in the Community Programming Room of the RCMP Heritage Centre, 5907 Dewdney Avenue Regina, Saskatchewan.

Date: Tuesday, March 29th, 2011  
5:30 PM Socializing  
6:30 PM Annual General Meeting  
7:30 PM Lunch and Refreshments

Details of the Meeting are contained in separate correspondence with this Newsletter.

Those Members of the Friends who receive the *Friendly Notes* electronically will be mailed a form for them to be able to designate their proxy if they are unable to attend the meeting in person.

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## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

A warm welcome to the following persons who have become members of the Friends during the period from Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010 to Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

Mel Murton, Penticton, B.C.

J.M Ghyslain Beauliel, Saint-Sauveur, QC

Mavis Brown, Cobourg, Ont.

Margaret Dyck, Ottawa, Ont.

Antoine & Patricia Courture, Brossard, QC

Brad & Sue Kearns, Kipling, Sask.

Mrs. Olga Inkster, Edmonton, Alta.

Brian Davison, Kanata, Ont.

Jean Pierre Potvin, Gatineau, QC

Allan R. Payne, Edmonton, Alta.

Garry Fotherington, Calgary Alta.

Francis Plante, Ste. Marthe-sur-le-Lac, QC

J.D. Henry, Kelowna, B.C. .

Robert H. Simmonds, Ottawa, Ont.

Alfred E.O. Farrell, Burlington, Ont.

Brendan Clarke, Ottawa, Ont.

Eric R. Mainman, Sherwood Park, Alta.

Patricia & Joseph MacDonald, Summerland, B.C.

J. Rovden Graziano, Oliver, B.C.

Lucien L. Bisson, Pembroke, Ont.

Dennis Holmes, Orleans, Ont.

## DONOR WALL OF APPRECIATION

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

\$2700.00 Life Members Brad & Sue Kearns, Kipling, Sask.

\$1200.00 Life Member, Antoine & Patricia Couture, Brossard, QC

\$500.00 Robert and Sally Short, Ottawa, Ont.

\$500.00 Patricia Klees, Sloatsburg, NY. USA

\$500.00 Harold and Freda Heacock, Edmonton, Alberta.

\$1000.00 Lloyd & Gwen Libke, Cobourrg, Ontario.

\$1200.00 Shirley A. Dodds, Regina, Saskatchewan.

## FRIENDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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
<hr/>	
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.

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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 # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry \_\_\_\_\_  
(Visa, Master Card or American Express)

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Return or Mail:**

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