

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

A DIAMOND JUBILEE CONCERT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE REGINA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



RCMP
HISTORICAL
COLLECTIONS
UNIT



A “once in a lifetime presentation” sponsored by the RCMP HERITAGE CENTRE, and featuring Conductor Alan Denike, and Master of Ceremonies and feature soloist Mr. Garth Hampson, RCMP S/Sgt., Retired, was held in the “Depot” Division Drill Hall, Regina, Saskatchewan, on November 3rd, 2012.

The RCMP Heritage Centre partnered with the Regina Symphony Orchestra for a Diamond Jubilee Concert featuring the music of the Royal Mounted with tribute to our Queen, our Province and Remembrance Day.

The well-attended performance revived the iconic talents of our renowned career Soloist of 34 years, Garth Hampson, combined with the accompaniment of our World Class Symphony Orchestra, to encaptivate and thrill the knowledgeable audience, to a standing Ovation of appreciation.

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READERS WRITE

The following text outlines the successful conclusion to the enquiry article in *Friendly Notes* Volume 22, Issue 4, Fall 2012, on page 6; wherein Mr. Roger Phillips was seeking identification of an RCMP officer in a photograph in the 1950s. Thanks again to the observations and interests of our “Friends”.

* * *

Editor’s reply by e-mail:

Hi Roger, You will be pleased to learn that we have one possible identification of the Uniform member in your photograph. Jack Foster, a Vet from Nanaimo B.C. who was stationed in Saskatchewan, believes the member is Ken Ross. We checked our records and find that a Kenneth Gordon Ross, S/ Sgt. was stationed in the North Battlefor area and died on June 13th., 2001, and was buried at North Battleford in Woodlawn Memorial Gardens Cemetary. He was Reg. #14927 and joined the Force on June 10th. 1947.

I trust this is the information you required for your personal records.

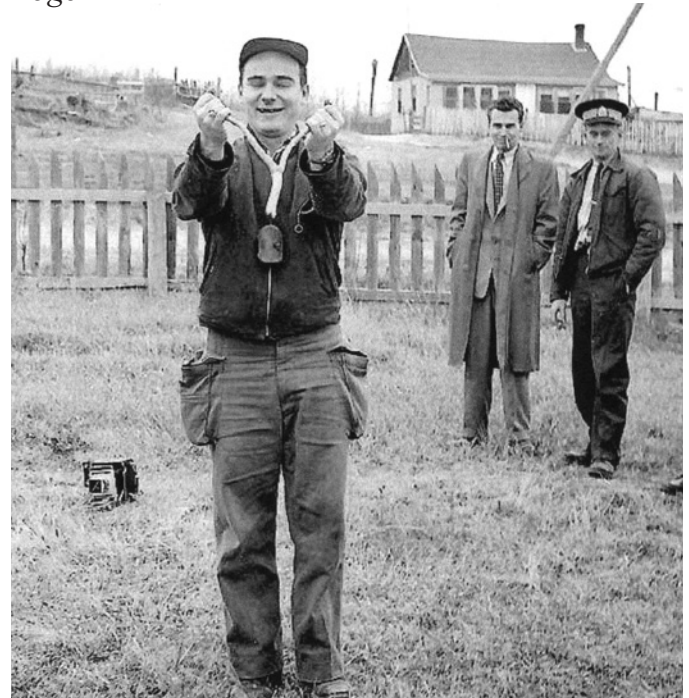
Barrie Nowell, Editor, Friends of the Mounted Police Heritage Centre, Newsletter.

Rogers reply by e-mail:

Thanks, Barrie, sounds like Ken Ross is the right one. He checks out in terms of service area and age. In 1955 he was likely a constable (no rank is indicated in the picture) and Green Lake would have been one of his earlier postings.

I’ll keep in touch on this.

Roger



NOTICE OF FRIENDS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 22nd Annual General Meeting of the “Friends” of the Mounted Police Heritage Centre will take place on March 27, 2013, at the RCMP Heritage Centre in Regina, Sask. Enclosed herewith is a notification of Meeting with Proxy and postage paid return envelope, if you are unable to attend. Please indicate your choice of Proxy and return your reply in the envelope forthwith.

Friends members who receive their “Notes” by e-mail, will receive notification electronically.

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FOR ACTS OF GREAT BRAVERY AND GALLANT CONDUCT

To those of us in the RCMP in the years following a sensational bank robbery and shoot-out, he was known as "Bullets" Johnstone. I had the pleasure of meeting him when he eventually became the Saskatchewan "F" Division Personnel Officer, and heard him tell his version of the shoot-out first hand. The following story was published in a 1973 Star Weekly Magazine, to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the RCMP and its predecessors. A description and brief history of the George Medal produced by Wikipedia is attached.

Editor:

* * *

There are heroes and there are *heroes*. Inspector Bud Johnstone is a *hero*. His act of courage took place back in April of 1956 when the inspector was a constable, but it must be included in any review of heroics.

Johnstone was in the first RCMP car to answer a call that the Royal Bank in Coquitlam, B.C. was being held up. At the bank, Johnstone leaped from the still moving car; his partner drove on to the parking lot.

Inside, everything appeared calm. Manager J.D. Howat was standing behind the counter, looking nervous. Johnstone asked if everything was all right. As the manager was shaking his head, no, the first bullet hit Johnstone. It was fired by a masked bandit named Herbert Howerton who had been hiding behind the counter. The bullet was .38 calibre, fired at close range, and it knocked Johnstone sprawling to the floor. Suddenly, a second masked bandit appeared from the vault. That bandit, Howard Folster, panicked. The wounded Mountie was between him and the front door. Then a *third* bandit, William Banks, appeared from the manager's office. Picture the scene. Johnstone sprawled on the floor, surrounded by three desperate bandits, one armed with a .38,

the second with a .32 and Banks with a shotgun. What to do?

Well! By this time Johnstone had his .38 Special out. He whipped off a fast shot, wisely choosing the bandit with the shotgun first. The shot hit Banks in the left shoulder, spinning him around and making him drop the shotgun. One down.

The second bandit, Folster, was by this time hysterical. Screaming in fright, he charged Johnstone, emptying five shots from his .32. *All* the shots hit Johnstone. His empty gun clicking, Folster made it through the door and tried to jump aboard the getaway truck. The truck was moving too fast and Folster fell off, collapsing in blind, weeping terror on the ground. Two down.

Howerton, the bandit whose first shot had felled Johnstone, then leaped the counter, clutching his .38 and \$10,000 in cash. He, too, had to get past Johnstone to the only exit. Firing wildly, he charged and again Johnstone, with uncanny accuracy, fired a shot that ripped through the bandit's left arm, spinning him through the doors into the line of fire of Johnstone's partner, who had been outside covering Banks and the frightened Folster. Johnstone was hit two more times but, incredibly, he staggered to his feet and with his partner chased Howerton down the street. Within 15 feet, Howerton fell, shot cleanly through the heart.

When help arrived, Johnstone was sitting on the sidewalk, eight bullet wounds in his body, covering the dead bandit and the wounded Banks and Folster with his empty gun. Johnstone's partner was aiding in the hunt for the fourth bandit in the getaway truck.

Johnstone had been shot in the left little finger, left palm, left shoulder, right chest, right side,

continued on page 4

GREAT BRAVERY *continued from page 3*

right forearm and left hip. The bullet in his chest had been deflected off course from his heart by a button on his tunic.

The whole tragic shootout was over in a matter of minutes. The fourth bandit was caught shortly afterwards. Johnstone recovered in hospital in a week and was awarded the George Medal for great bravery.

* * *

The George Medal (GM) is the second level civil decoration of the United Kingdom and Commonwealth. The GM was instituted on 24 September 1940 by King George VI. The medal is presented to those performing acts of bravery in, or meriting recognition by, the United Kingdom.

Announcing the new award, the King said:

In order that they should be worthily and promptly recognised, I have decided to create, at once, a new mark of honour for men and women in all walks of civilian life. I propose to give my name to this new distinction, which will consist of the George Cross, which will rank next to the Victoria Cross, and the George Medal for wider distribution.

The GM is a circular silver medal. The obverse depicts the crowned effigy of the reigning monarch. The reverse shows St. George on horseback slaying the dragon on the coast of England, with the legend THE GEORGE MEDAL around the top edge of the medal. The ribbon is 32mm, crimson with five narrow blue stripes. The blue colour is taken from the George Cross ribbon.

The George Medal

Awarded by the UK and Commonwealth

Type	Civil decoration.
Eligibility	Those performing acts of bravery in, or meriting recognition by, the United Kingdom.
Awarded for	"... acts of great bravery."
Status	Currently awarded.
Description	Silver disc, 36mm diameter.
Post-nominals	GM

Statistics:

Established	24 September 1940
Total awarded	approx 2,122

Precedence:

Next (higher)	George Cross
Next (lower)	Queen's Gallantry Medal, Sea Gallantry Medal



Obverse (left) and reverse (right) of the medal.



Ribbon bar of the George Medal



Ribbon of the GM and Bar

LIFE MEMBERSHIP PRESENTATIONS



AL LUND

On November 21, 2012 on occasion of the Vancouver Division RCMP Veterans Association General Meeting the presentation of a Life Membership and Lapel Pin, to Veteran Al Lund, on behalf of the “Friends” of the RCMP Heritage Centre, was made by President Dick Hawkshaw. The award was in appreciation of Al’s service, generous contributions, and support of the “Friends” and the RCMP Heritage Centre.

Photo: Bob McKee



BOB & LYNDA BELTER

On October 20, 2012, on occasion of the Vancouver Island Division RCMP Veterans Association Meeting, a Life Membership Plaque and Lapel Pin was presented to RCMP Veteran Bob Belter and his wife Lynda, on behalf of the “Friends” of the Mounted Police Heritage Centre, by Larry Stright, Past President of Central Vancouver Island Veterans Association. The presentation is in recognition of Bob and Lynda’s generous support and service over the years.

Photo: Larry Johannes.

DIAMOND JUBILEE *continued from page 3*

But do not despair as you bid adieu to this grand epic! The Tradition continues with the Cadet Band and Pipe Bands. The “Depot” Division Recruit (now Cadet) Band was formed in 1963 to provide marching music for the Sergeant Major’s Parade and Sunset Ceremonies. As each troop starts training, a request for three volunteer cadets is made to join the band. The new band members are trained by senior troop band members and are quickly placed on parade. Over the years, RCMP bands have come and gone, but the RCMP Cadet Band endures, playing at every Sergeant Major’s parade and Sunset Ceremony held at “Depot”. At present, there are also seven RCMP volunteer pipe bands across Canada, comprised of both RCMP and community members. The pipe bands are located in Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Regina, Edmonton, and Vancouver. In addition to playing for police functions, these bands participate in parades, concerts and other events in their regions, proudly wearing the RCMP tartan kilt and world famous red serge tunic as their dress uniform. Search them out in your city or neighbourhood, the effort will be well rewarded.

– Editor.

Cover Photo by Kenn Barker

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:

- 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.

IN APPRECIATION PLAQUE PRESENTED TO CHRISTINE ROSS

On December 20, 2012 at the Friends’ Board Meeting, President Bill Greenslade presented Christine Ross of Learning Technology & Creative Services, RCMP Depot Division, a plaque of appreciation for her dedicated work and assistance, in particular in the redesign of the Friends’ logo, and also for all the many projects that Christine assisted the Friends over the years.

Photo by Christine Van Der Merwe



FRIENDS BOARD NOTES

At the September 27, 2012, Meeting of the Board of Directors, President Bill Greenslade announced his resignation from the President's position as of December 31, 2012. He will be staying on the Board as Immediate Past President and Director. Kenn Barker will move from Director to Official Photographer. Bob Smart, RCMP Rtd., will be Acting/President until his installation at the November 29, 2012 Friends Board Meeting.

Bob Smart submitted the following brief resume of his Service in the RCMP. He joined in February 1974 at Halifax, Nova Scotia and

took basic training at Depot Division in Regina, Saskatchewan. Upon graduation he transferred to "C" Division Quebec and then transferred to Winnipeg, Manitoba a year later where he served on several Detachments. He then transferred to the Operational Training Unit at Depot Division in 1989. In 1993 Bob transferred back to Manitoba, then returned to Depot in 1998 as a Sgt. in Applied Police Sciences where he was promoted to S/Sgt. in 2002, and was commissioned into the Canadian Law Enforcement Unit in 2003.

Bob resumed work as the Officer in Charge of the Cadet Training Program and then became the Depot Training Officer, following which he was promoted to Chief Superintendent in 2006 until retirement in 2010.

Bob and his wife Debbie have three children all of whom reside in Regina.



Bob Smart with retiring President Bill Greenslade.

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	Steve Smedley, RCMP (Rtd.)
Director	Gary Davidson, 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.)

DONOR WALL OF APPRECIATION

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

LIFE MEMBER – Kenneth A. McEwen,
Ottawa, ON

\$500.00 – Earl & Maureen Moulton,
Agassiz, BC

Tony Antoniuk, Parksville, BC

J.K.Cornforth, Thornhill, ON

Ted Markus, Saskatoon, SK

Leonard J. Rozmus, Niagara Falls, ON

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

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

R.T. (Bob) Smart, Regina

Mrs. Elizabeth Wiegerincke,
Courtenay, BC

Leo Boisvert, Regina

Sheldon Boles, Surrey, BC

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.

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 or Mail:

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