

# FRIENDLY NOTES

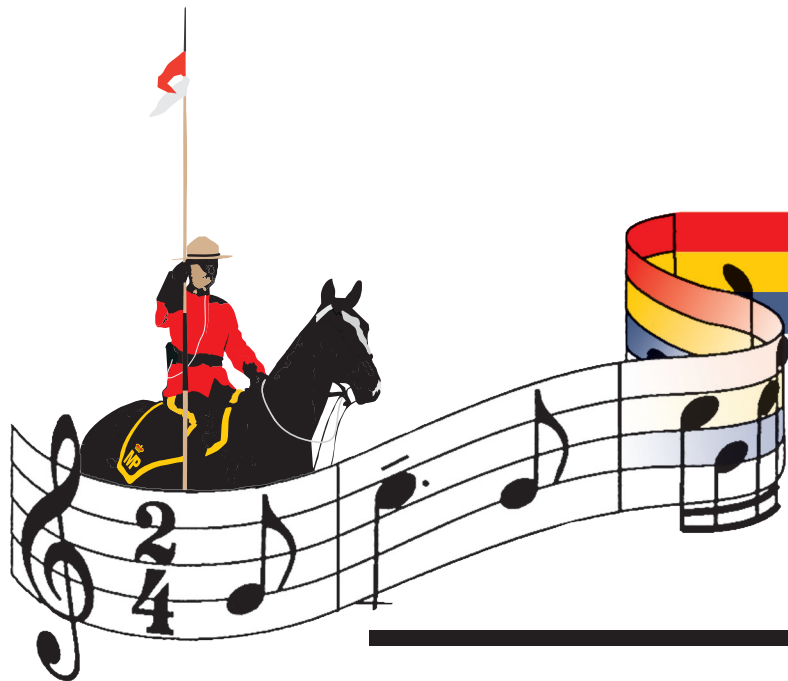
Friends Of The Mounted Police Heritage Centre

Les Amis Du Centre Du Patrimoine De La GRC

# NOTES AMICALES

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## RCMP HERITAGE CENTRE

**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 RCMP Heritage Centre is an independent non-profit charitable organization that showcases the history of the RCMP and the settlement of Western Canada. We are very proud at the RCMP Heritage Centre to work with many generous and dedicated friends and donors who share our commitment to telling the RCMP story.

Since its inception, the Centre has used modern technology and state-of-the-art exhibits to showcase the history of the RCMP and the Western Frontier both in Canada and internationally. Thanks to the support of our friends and donors, we have been able to combine multimedia presentations, art exhibits, and engaging programming, to explore the role of the RCMP in policing more than 200

communities across Canada. We are proud of the educational programs developed since the RCMP Heritage Centre began and we are working continuously to develop additional programs to attract new audiences and broaden our reach and appeal.

The RCMP Heritage Centre opened on May 23, 2007 to share the RCMP story with the world. Located on the grounds of RCMP Academy, 'Depot' Division - the story of the RCMP is appropriately told where Cadets are trained and the story begins. Housed in a breath-taking stone, glass and concrete building designed by world-renowned architect, Arthur Erickson, the RCMP Heritage Centre tells the story of the RCMP using state of the art exhibits, multimedia

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## HERITAGE CENTRE *continued from page 1*

technologies and engaging programming and tours. It's a great Canadian story. It's our story. It's a story that is still being written. We invite you to join us, and become part of it.

The Friends of the Mounted Police Heritage Centre, is a federally incorporated organization, with charitable status, dedicated to promoting and assisting the RCMP Historical Collections Unit, and the RCMP Heritage Centre. The group was founded in 1988 by the Regina Division of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Veterans' Association, and members of that Division comprise the majority on the Board of Directors. The group was originally formed to support the RCMP Centennial Museum, but since 2007, the museum is now known as the RCMP Historical Collections Unit, and is situated in the new RCMP Heritage Centre, located at "Depot" Division. All our work is voluntary. Uncounted hours are spent by the veterans and their spouses, working in the gift shop, and acting as docents in the gallery. We raise money by various methods, but much of our money is raised through membership dues and donations from members. Over the years we have given about \$950,000.00 to the old RCMP Centennial Museum, and since the RCMP Heritage Centre started construction several years ago to the present, we have donated over \$1,000,000.00 to that organization.

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For the reasons mentioned above, we are asking you to join the "Friends" to help us preserve the history of the Force. Membership costs \$35.00 which is renewable yearly. For that you will receive a yearly lapel pin; four issues of our quarterly newsletter containing information about the Force's history and the treasured artifacts held in the Collections Unit; an identification card; and you will have the satisfaction that you are helping us to record and preserve the history of the Force. Income Tax Receipts will be issued for membership dues, and donations. At the present time we have 1,000 members, representing all Canadian Provinces and Territories, most US states, and several foreign countries. We need your help to continue to achieve our goal, so we would really like to have you as a member. Please think about it.

Consider becoming a member of the Friends.

*(The above information has been extracted directly from the Heritage Centre web site [www.rcmpheritagecentre.com](http://www.rcmpheritagecentre.com) – please take the time to visit)*

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## RE-ENACTMENT OF THE MARCH WEST MAY 8 To JULY 24, 1999



The original March West took place out of Fort Dufferin (Emerson Manitoba) in 1874. On July 24, 1874 Commissioner French had hoped to get fresh horses from Fort Ellis. None were available so he sent Inspector Jarvis, with weaker horses and oxen directly to Edmonton from Roche Perce via the North Saskatchewan Trail. The trek was eight hundred miles but food and shelter would be available at the Hudson Bay Posts along the way.

The re-enactment of the March West took place in 1999, one hundred and twenty five years after the original March West. The re-enactment started at the Beardy's and Okemasis First Nations on June 29, 1999 while the first contingent of the re-enactment continued West from Roche Perce to Fort MacLeod.

Daily Journal reports were prepared by Cpls. Jerry Wilde and Gary MacDonald. Direct quotes have been taken from their original report and are tagged with the number 1. Direct Quotes were also taken from a Chronicle of events from June 29 to July 5, 1999 by Goerge G. Vogen from Montreal who was assigned Regimental Number 721 for the re-enactment. Goerge has graciously granted the writer permission to use quotes from his account of the first seven days of the March. Direct quotes from Mr. Vogen are tagged with the number 2. The content of the re-enactment is edited for the Friendly Notes by Murray Klatt.

June 29 – 1999 Beardy's First Nation to Duck Lake and back.

The re-enactment began on June 29, 1999 with a 'mini' ride to Duck Lake from the Beardy's and Okimasis First Nations. *"After a pipe ceremony with the elders of the Beardy's First Nation, along with Inspector Jarvis (Cst. Robin Kenke) and Assistance Ridemaster (Cst. Dave Young), the march departed for Duck Lake. In excess of sixty-five riders, along with one covered wagon made the journey into town."*<sup>1</sup>

*"The march arrived in the town of Duck Lake and were warmly greeted by several hundred citizens who had lined the streets for at least two hours prior to the arrival."*<sup>1</sup>

*"One noteworthy person is Doug Moore, of the Richmond, Virginia Police Department. His police duties required him to work his entire shift on horseback and is very excited about participating in this historic event."*<sup>1</sup> Police Officer Moore had just over twenty-two years experience and he was retiring from his department on July 1, 1999 and felt participating in the re-enactment would be a grand finale to end his illustrious career.

Another participant was George W. Vogen, Regimental Number 721. George spent from June 29 to July 5 travelling from Beardy's and Oakimasis First Nations to Hafford, Saskatchewan.

Another participant was Ms. Lynn Hugo from Yellowknife, N.W.T., who in real life is an executive secretary for the Territorial Government.

After parading around town, the troops returned to the Beardy's First Nation in anticipation of the first leg of the re-enactment of the Northern Route of the March West.

Wednesday June 30 – Camp Prince Albert at Beardy's First Nation to Camp St. Louis.

*"Following the traditional pipe ceremony, which was attended by Insp. Jarvis, S.M. White and retired Assistant Commissioner Bob Mills, the troops mounted and formed up for inspection."*<sup>1</sup>

*"The March West left Camp Prince Albert (Beardy's First Nations) for the final time and embarked across country for Camp St. Louis located outside Fort Carlton and officially began the northern route toward Onion Lake."*<sup>1</sup>

*"Several vehicles were observed parked along the route with people waiting for a glimpse of history as the March West passed by. One elderly gentleman who waited patiently during the heat of the day began to sing 'O'Canada' as the troops passed by. I can assure you that this brought tears to the eyes of numerous riders. This senior citizen was definitely proud to be a Canadian and also proud of the Mounted Police."*<sup>1</sup>

*"The march arrived at their camp around 3:30 pm and immediately after tending to their horses helped establish camp."*<sup>1</sup>

*"That morning on the Carlton Trail, as I watched Brian Seesequais and Clarence Cameron riding ahead so easily on their horses, I could not help but think how they must be feeling. To me these two excellent young men, leading this historic march, were representing all the First Nations people of Canada – and how well they fulfilled that roll."*<sup>2</sup>

Mr. Vogen talked of taking a handful of bannick, moulding it with his hands and twirling it around the end of a six foot stick and baking it over an open fire – a type of food he enjoyed so much that he included the recipe for bannick in his account.

Retire A/Comm. Bob Mills, age 72 was profiled on the 29th of June. He was the oldest participant

## MARCH WEST *continued from page 3*

and had travelled 12 days on the South Route of the march west and eight days on the North route. He was raised on a farm North of Fort Pitt joined the Force as a Special Constable with a regimental number of 9638 until he reached the age of 21 years at which time his regimental number changed to 15075 as a Cst. (The writer joined the Force in 1973 with a regimental number of 30907 to give you an idea of the time period when A/Comm. Mills started his career and now the recruits have regimental numbers in excess of 60000). When he was commissioned, his new regimental number was changed to .574. Having grown up so close to the Onion Lake First Nations, Bob was humbled by the festivities at Duck Lake.

July 1 – Camp St. Louis to Fort Carlton.

*“The morale was high and everyone was excited about being part of the celebrations at Fort Carlton.”<sup>1</sup>*

The parade was best described by George Vogen in his chronicle of events. *“...brought up the rear of the procession, and as there was at least three right turns to be made, we had a marvelous unobstructed view of the entire colourful parade from our very privileged and unobstructed view. The pageantry was etched in my mind, and a lump of emotion is still raised in my chest when I recall that indelible image of colourful uniformed riders, flags aflutter in the breeze, lances upright, and the magnificent regimentation of the horses, particularly the matching, prancing blacks of the Musical Ride. I regret here my total inadequacy to properly describe the magic of the day. My dearest wish would be to pass along in words the feelings prevalent in all of us as we watched those wondrous moments unfold.*

*We were allowed to dismount and secure the horses at the field's edge, and were given an hour to watch the Musical Ride and the Native dancers that followed.”<sup>2</sup>*

The ride participants took part in the opening of the new Beardy's and Okimasis First Native Policing Unit Detachment. The Musical Ride joined in the March past.

As well as participating in the Fort Carlton Canada Day celebrations, a group of riders travelled to the Seager Wheeler farm near Rosthern to participate in their Canada Day celebrations.

The sunset ceremony took place at 3:00 pm.

July 2 – Fort Carleton to Wingard Hall.

The day proved to be a very exciting one as the entire contingent had to cross the North Saskatchewan River by ferry.

*“We came down the long hill to the ferry landing below without mishap. There was a large crowd of perhaps a 100 souls sitting on the river banks, apparently having come early that morning to watch the ferry activities. On the opposite bank about 150 to 200 yards across, there was an equal number waiting and watching. All were very intent on observing our every move. Old timers among the spectators, approached, as they always did, with a reserved politeness, but an irrepressible urge to be near the Percherons, and to question Vern about things that were important to them, most recalling early days when they themselves had lived, worked, and depended on such a team for their livelihood and perhaps the very survival of an isolated prairie farm family...*

*The North Saskatchewan at this point is about 200 yards wide, deep and fast flowing for such a sizable river. I estimated the current to be 6 miles an hour, which represented a huge drag on a heavily loaded ferry.”*

*“The ferry had been covered with four or more inches of moist sand to provide familiar footing for the horses, and to deaden the drumming of hooves on the metal deck. The ferry itself was like a giant airtight welded metal drum. The Ferry Master, a gentleman who knew horses, as well as ferry operation had been awaiting our arrival and had not allowed any crossings once the deck was sanded. He was caught up in the moment of the day and could not do enough to accommodate the unusual transport of that day.*

*The operation was simplicity in itself, a result of careful forethought and planning. The dismounted riders led their horses on slowly, talking, patting, and calming them at all times. The front row with*

*Brian and Clarence (the scouts) among them faced the rear of the ferry and into the faces of the second and third rows. In this way they saw only familiar sights of the other horses and riders, and there was no possibility of the river or the approaching far bank giving them reason to spook. Because the ferry was already half loaded, Hector and Bill (the horses) simply followed their trail buddies and once aboard remained obedient and relatively docile. The Ferry Master, using his consummate operating skills eased the ferry gently into the current with a steady pace to the far side where he docked us with not the slightest sign of jar or sudden movement. His masterful handling of the vessel was not lost on us, for we were aware that even a minor crunch or jolt suddenly moving the deck beneath their hooves could have had serious repercussions on the horse and the riders standing among them in such close quarters.”<sup>2</sup>*

July 3 – Wingard Hall to Blain Lake.

Camp broke at about 8:30 AM with a light rain. Apparently SM Al White had a short discussion with Brian and Clarence, the aboriginal scouts, about a rain dance and shortly thereafter the rain stopped. About 2:30 PM the March... *“stopped at a small cemetery, just East of Blain Lake and were met by some of the descendants of William Diehl who was born in Buffalo, New York on September 5, 1850 and died on February 5, 1936. A few words were said by Sergeant Major White with a moment of silence for Mr. Diehl. Mr. Diehl was a scout with the NWMP and according to the family history book, played a very important part in the capture of Louis Riel.”<sup>1</sup>*

The march continued to Blaine Lake where they had a relaxing afternoon and evening. Various forms of evening entertainment by the community took place, which included Russian, Ukrainian and Aboriginal Dancers at the sport grounds for both the community and the troops.

*“Immediately upon dismissal, I headed for the fenced off area and I felt it race in my bloodstream as I neared the tepees and a gigantic multi-peaked tent that reminded me of those used in my childhood by the travelling circuses of the time. My first stop was to watch the native dancers as they gyrated beautifully in*

*their incredible costumes. The drumbeats and songs of their accompanists were unsurpassable, and I was unable to resist rushing out of the crowd to snap photos. I had not even taken the courtesy to ask if it was permissible, as for some dances such as the opening ceremonial entrance it is considered a discourtesy to the spiritualism of the ceremony, and is strictly forbidden; however, luck was with me, and I had not run afoul of any customs. In fact, my timing was perfection itself. After taking a few shots with my camera, one of my fellow troopers came out of the crowd, it was either Bob Elliott or Dale Loy accompanied by Rick Gamble, the Chief of the Beardy’s-Okemasis, who posed with me for a picture. He then informed me that the final dance of the ceremony was to begin and the onlookers were invited to join in. No one had as yet; and I confessed to being a bit shy. Rick graciously led the way and we danced side by side until the drums cease, signaling the conclusion of the dance for that evening. I was elated. I had all my life had a secret desire to dance to the native drums, and finally I had the opportunity... and all in all I sure enjoyed myself.”<sup>2</sup>*

Singing and old-time dancing completed the evening.

July 4 – (Sunday) Blaine Lake to Hafford.

Fresh horses were available for those in need, just as they would have been 125 years earlier. SM Al White conducted a church service... *“He gave a touching and humorous sermon from the Mount and later informed all riders that he would be taking confession in the two side by side portable toilets. He was also able to recite from memory the Book of Ecclesiastics verses 1-12. At closing of the service the Sergeant Major ordered everyone to make contribution to the collection plates as they were passed around. Once the money was collected, he unilaterally decided he would keep the funds for himself to invest in the Government Dairy Store down the road for the good and welfare of his troops.”<sup>1</sup>*

About 500 spectators from the population base of about 350 residents, turned out to watch the Sgt. Major’s parade. During the parade several seniors broke out singing O’ Canada.

*...to be continued in the next issue.*

# LIFE MEMBERSHIP PRESENTATIONS



A life membership plaque and lapel pins were presented to **Don and Julianna Harlock** at the Kamloops Vets meeting, on the 18th of Nov, 2015. Left to Right – Reid Tait (Kamloops Vets Secretary), Julianna Harlock, Don Harlock and John Maheux (Kamloops Vets President).

Life Membership plaque being presented to **Mrs. Helen Taylor**, at her home in Torbay, NL, by Bill Greenslade, Past President of the “Friends”.

*Photo: Bill Greenslade*



On October 2, 2015, Ron Ostrum, Secretary-Treasurer of the Friends of the Mounted Police Heritage Centre, presented **George and Joan Murphy**, at their home in Regina, a Life Membership plaque and lapel pins, in recognition of their generous support to the Friends over the years.

*Photo: Bob Cocks*



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# HERITAGE CENTER ACTIVITIES

JANUARY TO MARCH 2016

- January 25-30 – Literacy Week
- February 15 – Arctic Adventure
- March 29-April 1 – Teacher Appreciation Week

## 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 [m.klatt@sasktel.net](mailto:m.klatt@sasktel.net) 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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# MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

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

Kevin McDonald, Sherwood Park, AB

John D. Tait, Portland, On.

Carl & Joan Gillis, Avonlea, SK

## DONOR WALL OF APPRECIATION

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

### **\$1200 – LIFE\***

Jim & Sophie Cooley, Arnprior, ON

### **\$500 – FRIEND\***

Paul F. Hendricks, Parksville, BC

Bob & Carol Latremouille, Red Deer, AB

Nadine & Murray Peterson, Devon, AB

\*These are cumulative amounts over the years

### **IN MEMORIAM:**

\$200 (Yearly) – E. Jean Thue – in loving memory of Ivan Thue

\$500 – Margaret Cathcart (Estate of David Cathcart) – in loving memory of David Ronald Cathcart

\$1000 – Jock Forbes, Winnipeg, MB – in loving memory of his wife, Vi

**REQUEST FOR  
SUBMISSIONS  
TO THE  
FRIENDLY NOTES**

Anyone who has an interesting article, note, or photo relating to the history of the RCMP and wishing the same to be published in the *Friendly Notes*, may submit it to Murray Klatt at: m.klatt@sasktel.net, or mail to:

The Editor, Friendly Notes  
c/o Friends of the Mounted Police  
Heritage Centre  
5907 Dewdney Avenue  
Regina, Saskatchewan Canada S4T 0P4

**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
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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.

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My membership/donation will be paid by:  
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 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.