



Veterans' Association
Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Prince Edward Island Division

P.O. Box 1360, Charlottetown, PEI, C1A 7N1
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MINUTES – January 19, 2016

Call to Order

The president called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as circulated.

Last Post

Attendees paid respect to the former members of the Force who died since our last meeting with special recognition of Ena MacAdam, a former "L" Division public servant, who died recently.

Attendance

The following members were in attendance: Ron Allen, Wayne Carver, Brad Chugg, Ken Cormier, Jim Delaney, Frank Dolan, Damien Dunsford, Fred Foster, Spud Gallant, Royce Greene, Ernie MacAulay, Richard MacAulay, Don MacGregor, Gary McLeod, Kevin McNeil, Bob Nahrgang, Mike O'Neil, Phil Pitts, Ed Pretty, Randy Robar, Llew Robinson, Wayne Schleyer, Derek Smith, Peter Sorensen, Paul Stetson, Bryon Sutcliffe, Bob Vokey, Brian Weldon, and Jerry Wolfrey. Regrets were received from: Ruby Burns, Jim Cairns, Jeannette Doucette, Bush Dumville, Scott Ferris, Ian Gemmell, Kim Hendricken, Jack Jans, Bob Moffatt, and Al Roach.

Birthdays for December and January

Birthdays for December: Walter Charlesworth and Bob McCann.

Birthdays for January: Bush Dumville, Frank Graham, and Bob Vokey.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The secretary moved, seconded by Randy Robar, that the minutes of the November 17, 2015 meeting be adopted as circulated. CARRIED

Financial Statements

The Treasurer provided the membership with a copy of the 2016 income statement and explained each line item of revenue and expenses. He also noted that most members have paid their 2015 dues and many have paid their 2016 dues and he expressed his appreciation for this cooperation. The treasurer also noted that the Division paid the cost of

widows' attendance at the lobster dinner and Christmas party and they are very grateful for this. With a donation from Johnson Insurance, the Christmas party generated a small profit. The treasurer also pointed out that the PEI Division operates on a cash (rather than accrual) basis; therefore, the expenses from the Christmas party are reflected in the 2015 fiscal period while the revenue will be reflected in the 2016 fiscal period. The treasurer noted that the National Office has requested both an income statement and a balance sheet from the PEI Division and he moved, seconded by Damien Dunsford, that these statements be forwarded to National Office. CARRIED

Business Arising From Previous Minutes

The president informed the membership that the meeting with the PEI Association of Chiefs of Police about the 2016 Police and Peace Officers' Memorial Service has been rescheduled to mid-February and he will attend the meeting and report the results to the membership.

Correspondence

The secretary reported having forwarded the following non-routine correspondence to the membership:

- a) Message from the president regarding annual dues sent on November 22
- b) Message from Board with link to The Right Marker – Strategic Directions 2015 forwarded November 25
- c) Message from National President re: termination of contract with AIL Insurance Group forwarded November 26
- d) Clarification on insurance termination sent November 29
- e) Clarification message from National President on termination of insurance contract forwarded on December 1
- f) Veterans Affairs Canada services and benefits fact sheet forwarded December 1
- g) Message from Executive Officer and Secretary naming the 2016 AGM nominating committee forwarded December 2
- h) President's Bulletin on Minister's Veterans; Summit Meeting forwarded December 10
- i) Season's greetings from Johnson Insurance forwarded on December 18
- j) President's Christmas message sent on December 19
- k) Audio and narrative of CBC story on grave inspections forwarded December 21
- l) Thank you letter for Ted Whelan Memorial Award from Peter Sorensen forwarded December 24
- m) Message from president on chaplaincy appointments sent January 1
- n) 2015 Strategic Direction – PEI Division Response sent January 13

New Business

Eligibility for Veteran Licence Plates: The president noted that the National President reported having attended a summit with the newly appointed Minister of Veterans' Affairs and he stated that: "In their opening remarks, the Minister and the Deputy Minister were clear and explicit that whatever the circumstances and definitions, former members of the RCMP are "veterans" and are to be recognized and honoured as such. The Deputy Minister

noted in his remarks that the intention was “to put the veteran at the centre of everything we do” and that both “well-ness” and “compensation” were to be the two ends of the balanced approach.” This could assist in establishing former members of the RCMP's eligibility for PEI "veteran" licence plates. The secretary noted that the Dominion Command of the Royal Canadian Legion expanded their definition of "veteran" to include any uniformed member of the RCMP. The secretary summarized his review of federal legislation and judicial decisions to determine whether there is any statutory or common law support of former RCMP members being defined as veterans. He noted that "veteran" has been defined in a number of federal statutes beginning after World War I where former members of the military were entitled to land grants. The Schedule of the *Public Service Employment Act*, S.C. 2003, c. 22 provides a very comprehensive definition of "veteran". The secretary noted that the Supreme Court of Canada does not appear to have defined the word "veteran" but has applied the applicable statutory definitions or accepted the common meaning of the term. There appears to be no statutory or common law basis for considering former RCMP members to be "veterans". The secretary noted that, subsequent to the Legion's expansion of the term to include RCMP members, some provinces (most recently Québec), have declared serving and former members of the RCMP as being eligible for "veteran" licence plates. The secretary summarized recent PEI events including his having the Registrar of Motor Vehicles expand the eligibility criteria from "UN peace-keeping missions" to all foreign military operations including those that are not UN-sponsored and have objectives other than peace-keeping. When PEI retired five valid base plate designs in September 2013 and replaced them with a design to recognize the 150th anniversary of the Charlottetown Conference, the local Legion wanted the veteran plates to be distinctive so they were not updated. The Legion officials appear to have changed their position on the issue and the Registrar contacted the secretary in August 2014 and indicated that he might convene a committee to re-design the PEI veteran plate and the secretary agreed to serve on the committee but did not have any subsequent contact about the issue. The Province of PEI announced a new veteran plate design in November 2015 and the secretary noted that the applicable eligibility criteria has been changed to "... performed NATO service or a United Nations mission as a member of the Canadian Armed Forces or a Canadian Police Force" without our knowledge or consultation. The president stated that those members who currently have PEI "veteran" licence plates can continue to display them and order the new design if they wish and this item is for information only at this time.

2015 Strategic Direction: The president summarized the PEI Division's response to the questions on growth and membership that Peter Sorensen, in his capacity as Liaison Director for the Atlantic Divisions, had asked about the needs and expectations of recent and future retirees, the need for both active and associate membership categories, and the possibility of having a member at large category for members living outside the geography of current Divisions. The PEI Division supports the initiative of the warrant ranks contacting prospective retirees and determining their expectations of the Association, we see a need for National Office to clarify the terminology surrounding categories of membership in the National By-Laws, and we support the member at large initiative with National Office being responsible for administering the program. Peter Sorensen provided an overview of the initiative noting that National Office deliberately separated the growth/membership issue from the financial questions that will follow. He thanked the PEI Division for responding and noted there has been a problem getting responses from some divisions. He stated the

Association is attempting to acquire a means to access members before they retire to learn what their needs and expectations of the Association are. A member suggested that the president of the PEI Division could attend detachment meetings and explain the Association's activities. Peter stated that the Association has a Benefit Trust Fund which has status as a registered charity. He also noted that some divisions have significant assets which might attract Canada Revenue Agency's attention. Peter stated the Association welcomes new ideas and Phil Pitts, as Membership Coordinator, agreed to accept submissions from our membership. Peter also stated that the Association will soon have an exciting new Web site.

County Reports: Richard MacAulay reported that Ray McCormack had stomach reconstructive surgery on January 14, is doing well, and is expected to be in hospital in Halifax for another month. Richard visited him at his son's residence in Bridgewater, NS in December and delivered a fruit cake. Richard also stated that he and Frank Dolan are working on a lunch with guest speaker event to be held in Montague on April 19, 2016. Wayne Schleyer is working on an event for Queens County in February and asked for an indication of the membership's preference for attending a Charlottetown Islanders hockey game or an Island Storm basketball game and the majority preferred a hockey game so Wayne will organize an event and have the secretary distribute the details. Ron Allen had nothing to report from Prince County but Royce Greene stated that he had recently visited Mac MacDonald and his condition has deteriorated quickly and significantly. Mrs. Greene's condition has not changed but she has been unusually happy recently but is still largely unresponsive. Royce also stated that Claire Dyke has recently moved to Summerside and Ron Allen offered to obtain her contact information.

Entertainment Committee: Phil Pitts reported that the Christmas party was well attended with over 70 in attendance. He expressed his appreciation for members making advance commitments to attend and honouring the commitments.

Grave Site Inspection Committee: Damien Dunsford reported that he thought all the PEI grave sites of former members had been located but he had just received another report of one that has not been located. Damien also reported on the various options for a marker for former NWMP Cst. Blackett which Richard MacAulay recently located. Cst. Blackett is not eligible for an RCMP-funded headstone and Damien moved, seconded by Frank Dolan, that the PEI Division provide and install a "drop off" marker at a cost of \$288.00. S/S/M Kavanagh has expressed an interest in RCMP participation in a ceremony associated with this grave marking.

Membership Committee: Phil Pitts reported that Lee Barnes has applied for active membership, all the comments received were positive, his application has been accepted, and he has been notified of the acceptance.

Advocacy Committee: Ruby Burns was unable to attend but she provided a written report indicating that she had recently assisted three former members with VAC claims. Ruby recommended that her contact information be available to all former members who could contact her for any assistance rather than having her contact the former members who might require some assistance. Ruby also reported the delivery of nine Christmas fruit

cakes which were all appreciated. She extended her thanks to those who assisted in the deliveries.

Ted Whelan Memorial Award: The president presented the 2015 Ted Whelan Memorial Award to our past president Peter Sorensen.

50/50 Draw

Ken Cormier won \$28.00.

Adjournment

At 8:35 PM Phil Pitts moved, seconded by Randy Robar, that the meeting be adjourned to March 15, 2016. CARRIED

Ernie MacAulay - Secretary