



Veterans' Association
Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Prince Edward Island Division



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MINUTES – March 15, 2016

Call to Order

Brian Weldon, the first vice-president, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and welcomed guests S/S/M Larry Kavanagh and Reg Campbell.

Adoption of Agenda

Lorne MacKinnon moved, seconded by Ken Cormier, that the agenda be adopted as circulated. CARRIED

Last Post

Attendees paid respect to the former members of the Force who died since our last meeting with special recognition retired Cpl. Wayne Bruce Conrad who served in “L” and “H” Divisions and who died in Charlottetown on March 5, 2016. Following the Last Post tribute, at the request of the president, the secretary informed the assembly that the photo of Wayne Conrad and his teammates on the “L” Division hockey team, which the president posted on Facebook, has been viewed by almost 12,000 people.

Attendance

The following members were in attendance: Ron Allen, Gordon Coffin, Ken Cormier, Dave Corrigan, Karen Dunning, Spud Gallant, Royce Greene, Kim Hendricken, Harold Hodgkin, Fred Lynch, Ernie MacAulay, Don MacGregor, Lorne MacKinnon, Gary McLeod, Mike Murphy, Bob Nahrgang, Phil Pitts, Randy Robar, Wayne Schleyer, Chuck Snow, Paul Stetson, Brian Weldon, and Jerry Wolfrey. Regrets were received from: Ruby Burns, Jim Cairns, Wayne Carver, Les Chipperfield, Brad Chugg, Frank Dolan, Bush Dumville, John Dunne, Damien Dunsford, Fred Foster, Ian Gemmell, Fraser Inman, Jack Jans, Harry Kennedy, Richards MacAulay, Paul MacDougald, Dan MacLean, Bob McCann, Bob Moffatt, Bill Monteith, Mike O’Neil, Al Roach, Llew Robinson, Peter Sorensen, Bryon Sutcliffe, and Bob Vokey.

Birthdays for February and March

Birthdays for February: Mel Anderson, Ian Beer, Thane Bell, Brad Chugg, Sonny Coffin, Gordon Coffin, Don MacAulay, Richard MacAulay [yes, this is a leap year], Paul MacDougald, Mike O’Neil, Randy Robar [already recognized by Ocean 100], Peter Sorensen, and Paul Stetson. Birthdays for March: Dave Aitken, Harold Avery, Wayne Burke, Ruby Burns, Jim Delaney, Harold Hodgkin, Dan MacDonald, Phil Pitts, Al Roach [also recognized by Ocean 100], Paul Saulnier, and Brian Weldon.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The secretary moved, seconded by Royce Greene, that the minutes of the January 19, 2016 meeting be adopted as circulated. CARRIED

Financial Statements

The Treasurer reported that the PEI Division 2015 financial statements have been provided to the National Office in the required format in a timely manner. The treasurer also noted that the PEI Division has been operating at a surplus in recent years and is currently in a healthy financial position. The treasurer noted that the Division receives tremendous value from the recent practice of funding the cost of attending social events by spouses of deceased members of the Division and he hopes that it can continue. He also noted that the Association is regarded as a single entity under the *Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act* and there are risks associated with carrying surpluses. For example, if a division with liabilities that exceed its assets is wound down, other divisions might be required to make up the deficit or, if there is embezzlement of Association funds, divisions with surpluses could be asked to fund the loss. The treasurer noted that the overall entity has a healthy surplus which could attract the attention of tax authorities. The treasurer also pointed out that there is a danger of divisions losing their financial autonomy to the National Office and he invited the membership to provide him with their comments on these issues.

Business Arising From Previous Minutes

On behalf of the president who was unable to attend, the secretary read the following motion that the president prepared: "I move that the RCMPVA (PEI) accept the offer from the PEI Chiefs of Police to organize and plan the annual Police and Peace Officers' Memorial Service on an ongoing basis beginning in 2016. The said offer is to include seed funding in the amount of \$500.00 from the Chiefs of Police. Other revenue is to be solicited from the PEI Police Association, and the Office of the Attorney General." Wayne Schleyer seconded the motion. The chair informed the assembly that the PEI Police Association had requested that the event be geographically dispersed throughout the province. The treasurer expressed concern about the lack of a firm commitment of funding from the PEI Police Association. The secretary expressed concern about the nature of the commitment required which should come from a broader segment of the division and not have the same few people doing all the work and suggested that the PEI Division undertake the commitment on a triennial basis with the RCMP and the municipal forces organizing the event in the other years. The consensus of the assembly was that this had not worked in the past and is not a recommended procedure. Kim Hendricken noted that the organization of the 2015 event has given us a template which will make the organization of future events easier. The treasurer suggested that, before the PEI Division undertakes the task, a tripartite memorandum of understanding be executed outlining the commitments, including financial commitments, of each party. The treasurer moved, seconded by Lorne MacKinnon, that the matter be tabled until there is an agreement in place. CARRIED

Our past president and National Director, Peter Sorensen, was unable to attend the meeting so the treasurer summarized the current initiatives in Phase 2 of the 2015 Strategic

Direction which is now focusing on the financial affairs of the Association. He noted that he and the president will be contributing their comments to the National Office by March 31.

Richard MacAulay was unable to attend the meeting but he provided the secretary with drawings of vertical and horizontal grave markers for the gravesite of Reg. No. 3501, James Henry Blackett, of the NWMP. Richard was able to obtain an accurate drawing of the NWMP crest from Jack O'Reilly of the Toronto Division which has been incorporated into the drawings. The installed price, including taxes, for a vertical headstone (20" x 20" x 4") on a cement base is \$1,035.50. The installed price for a 24" x 14" x 3" horizontal plaque is \$503.50. The treasurer moved, seconded by Bob Nahrgang, that the PEI Division fund a vertical headstone to mark former Cst. Blackett's gravesite at a cost of \$1,035.50. Harold Hodgins, who inspects graves in West Prince, expressed concern about the precedent of such funding given that there are other graves that lack recognition of the deceased's service in the Force. The consensus was that this is a singular event that merits this expenditure and that future requests can be considered on their own merits. CARRIED The secretary informed the assembly that the Souris branch of the Royal Canadian Legion is currently in the process of erecting a monument to all who have served in the Canadian Armed Forces and the RCMP and its antecedents within the Branch's catchment area on donated land in Souris. They are hoping to have the monument in place for a dedication ceremony on July 1, 2016 and the organizing committee thought that there could be some synergy result from having the blessing of Cst. Blackett's grave and the dedication of the monument on the same day. S/S/M Kavanagh pointed out that serving members of "L" Division have numerous commitments on Canada Day and it would not be a good day to schedule Cst. Blackett's event. As well, S/S/M Kavanagh expressed the view that it is worthy of being a stand-alone event. Phil Pitts pointed out that May 23 is the anniversary of the passing of the legislation that created the NWMP and having the ceremony around that time (which is a statutory holiday in 2016) would be appropriate. S/S/M Kavanagh agreed that would be a suitable time as it is before the most popular time for annual leave.

Correspondence

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

- Promotional message from Johnson Insurance forwarded January 21

New Business

County Reports: There was no report from Kings County. Wayne Schleyer reported that those who attended enjoyed a good hockey game between the Islanders and Baie Comeau. Ron Allen reported that they have located Claire Dyke who is Clayton Dyke's widow. Royce Greene reported that Bill Sutton has had a stroke and is now residing in Clintonview Lodge.

Entertainment Committee: The secretary reported that the venue that was selected for the lunch on April 19 is closing on April 16 and the committee is seeking another venue for

the same date. Phil Pitts reported that the lobster dinner will be held on June 21, 2016 at Afton Hall in New Dominion.

Membership Committee: Phil Pitts reported that Cpl. Ken Walker of East Prince Detachment has applied for associate membership, all the comments received were positive, his application has been accepted, and he will be notified of the acceptance.

Advocacy Committee: Ruby Burns was unable to attend but she informed the secretary that Connie Eldershaw of the PEI Alzheimer's Society has asked for the assistance of retired members in the Charlottetown area to volunteer to interact socially with Ian Oland who contracted Alzheimer's disease approximately eight years ago. Connie also approached Kim Hendricken with this request and stated that it was a big step for Heather Oland to make this request and any assistance will be greatly appreciated. The PEI Alzheimer's Society provides a short course for volunteer companions and there are courses scheduled in March and April. All those interested in volunteering, please contact Ruby Burns and she will provide Ms. Eldershaw's contact information.

50/50 Draw

Kim Hendricken won \$22.50.

Adjournment

At 8:10 PM Harold Hodgkin moved, seconded by Fred Lynch, that the meeting be adjourned to May 17, 2016. CARRIED

Ernie MacAulay - Secretary