



Veterans' Association
Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Prince Edward Island Division

P.O. Box 1360, Charlottetown, PEI, C1A 7N1
www.rcmpvetspei.ca



MINUTES – May 17, 2016

Call to Order

Brian Weldon, the first vice-president, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and introduced Cynthia Chugg one of the recently appointed chaplains for the PEI Division.

Adoption of Agenda

Royce Greene moved, seconded by Lorne MacKinnon, 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 of Reg. No. 17090 former S/Sgt. Howard Lawrence Dornan who is PEI Division Life Member Ed Dornan's brother.

Attendance

The following members were in attendance: Ron Allen, Lee Barnes, Ian Beer, Ruby Burns, Walter Charlesworth, Les Chipperfield, Brad Chugg, Frank Dolan, Damien Dunsford, Scott Ferris, Fred Foster, Spud Gallant, Ian Gemmell, Royce Greene, Harry Kennedy, Fred Lynch, Ernie MacAulay, Richard MacAulay, Aletha MacDonald, Lorne MacKinnon, Kevin McNeil, Mike Murphy, Bob Nahrgang, Phil Pitts, Ed Pretty, Wayne Schleyer, Peter Sorensen, Bryon Sutcliffe, and Jerry Wolfrey. Regrets were received from: Ken Cormier, Dave Corrigan, Jim Delaney, Bush Dumville, John Dunne, Harold Hodgins, Jack Jans, Don MacGregor, Bob McCann, Bob Moffatt, Bill Monteith, Mike O'Neil, Randy Robar, Chuck Snow, and Geoff Tucker.

Birthdays for April and May

Birthdays for April: John Chlow, Dave Corrigan, Ed Dornan, Fred Foster, Ian Gemmill, Derek Smith, and Ken Walker. Birthdays for May: Dawna Constable, George Cumming, Al Dowling, Frank Dolan, Fraser Inman, Fred Lynch, Bob Nahrgang, Dave Power, Errol Thompson, and Bob Thorne.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The secretary moved, seconded by Fred Foster, that the minutes of the March 15, 2016 meeting be adopted as circulated. CARRIED

Financial Statements

The Treasurer was unable to attend because of a possibly contagious cold but he provided the secretary with a summary of the Division's current financial position and the projected expenditures for the remainder of the year. The Current bank balance is \$10,985.75 with forecast expenditures of approximately \$2,500 and a year-end balance of approximately \$8,500 anticipated. Additionally, the Division has approximately \$4,500 invested in an interest-bearing guaranteed investment certificate.

Business Arising From Previous Minutes

The chair reminded the assembly of the president's motion, which was tabled at the March meeting, 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." The chair reminded the attendees of the ongoing responsibility that is involved if the motion succeeds and informed them that, in response to the treasurer's motion at the March meeting, the president had drafted a memorandum of understanding among the PEI Division, the PEI Association of Chiefs of Police, and the PEI Police Officers' Association. As well, the chair reminded the assembly of the Police Association's request that the services be held throughout the province. The chair called the question on the motion and it CARRIED. The chair asked for volunteers to begin organizing the 2016 service and Wayne Schleyer, Brad Chugg, Scott Ferris, Phil Pitts, and Richard MacAulay volunteered to serve on the organizing committee for 2016. Noting that the 2015 event was held in Charlottetown and the 2013 event was held in Summerside, the attendees suggested that the 2016 event be held in Kings County.

National Director Peter Sorensen reported that the consultation on growth of the association, financial management, and member services has been completed and it is now time to take action. Peter commended the PEI Division for its prompt and thoughtful responses to each segment of the consultative process. He noted that, with the advent of e-voting, AGMs will no longer be conventions but one-day business meetings with the first AGM in the new format being held in Charlottetown in June 2017. Peter dispelled the misconception that the association is an Ottawa-based entity and noted that it is managed by a group of dedicated volunteers from all across Canada. The association is intended to be collegial, not bureaucratic. During the recent self-examination, the association discovered that it is actually a registered charity. Peter reported that the association appeared before a recent House of Commons Committee on Bill C-7 (with respect to labour relations within the RCMP) and some of the proposed changes (such as members being covered by provincial workers' compensation boards) were removed from the draft bill. The association is engaged in ongoing work on behalf of the membership but there needs to be two-way communication. Work is underway to target retiring members as new members of the association and the government has committed to include former members of the RCMP in the definition of 'veteran' to ensure that former members of the RCMP receive equal treatment to what other veterans receive. Peter reported that the association attempted to notify each member of the revitalized National Web site using Mail Chimp™

but a technical problem with Bell Aliant prevented the receipt of approximately 450 messages in the Atlantic Region. He invited members to check <http://rcmpva.org/RVA/> to view the revised Web site.

Richard MacAulay reviewed the draft program for the rededication ceremony for the gravesite of former Cst. J.H. Blackett of the NWMP which is scheduled to be held at St. Mary's Cemetery, Souris on Saturday, May 28, 2016 at 2:00 PM with a rehearsal at 1:00 PM. He noted that the marker is in place. The event has been publicized in a local circular *Mousetales*, it will be in church bulletins this weekend, it is on the front page of the National Web site, Jack Jans, Richard, and Ernie did an on-site interview for publication in the *Eastern Graphic*, and "L" Division personnel are expected to promote it through their media initiatives. Richard asked for a show of hands of possible attendees with a good response. He stated that attendees can wear Review Order and march with the serving members, or wear red or blue blazers or suitable business attire with full-size medals and decorations.

Correspondence

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

- Johnson Insurance 2016 Scholarship Program information forwarded April 6
- Details of Gravesite Ceremony for Cst. J.H. Blackett forwarded April 15
- Final Financial Affairs Consultation Report forwarded April 20
- Message from S/S/M Kavanagh on Blackett Gravesite Dedication Ceremony forwarded April 26
- CO's Message on Policing Review forwarded April 28
- CO's Message on Mental Health Week events forwarded May 2
- Messages on Trust Account for RCMP personnel in Fort McMurray sent May 5 and 6
- List of Legion Service Officers sent on behalf of Sgt, Hendricken on May 6

New Business

County Reports: Richard MacAulay reported that Ray McCormack has recovered from his surgery and is back driving a school bus and returning is to small-scale beef cattle breeding. He is applying for membership in the PEI Division. Royce Greene reported that Mac MacDonald is bed-ridden with speech difficulties but recently became a great-grandfather. Bob Nahrgang reported that Bill Monteith's red blood cell deficiency has returned and he requires a lot of rest.

Entertainment Committee: Phil Pitts reported that the lobster dinner will be held on June 21, 2016 at Afton Hall in New Dominion. The price has not yet been established but it is expected to be similar to 2015. He will prepare a poster by the end of May. Phil asked that anyone who is willing to organize a golf event in July 2016 contact him.

Donation to Edmonton Division Trust Account: The Edmonton Division established a trust account to collect funds to assist those RCMP members who have been affected by the fire in Ft. McMurray and invited members of the association to donate to the initiative.

National Director Peter Sorensen reported that the issue will be considered by the Board this week. He noted that there is concern whether RCMP members can benefit from such an initiative due to ethical reasons. The attendees also discussed other issues such as the likelihood of replacement cost insurance being in place; the need to benefit the larger community; the absence of information on the application process, eligibility criteria, and decision-making process; the unavailability of charitable donation receipts; and the ability to leverage tax-deductible donations by making them through the Canadian Red Cross with matching donations by the Government of Canada. Phil Pitts moved, seconded by Royce Greene, that the PEI Division make a \$500.00 donation to the Canadian Red Cross for the benefit of the victims of the fires in the Wood Buffalo Region. CARRIED

Participation in the “L” Division Peer to Peer Program: On May 9, 2016 the CO of “L” Division outlined the Peer to Peer Program in a letter to our president which the secretary distributed to the membership. Brad Chugg expanded on the details provided in the CO’s letter and noted that any former members who volunteer to participate in the program will receive appropriate training. The secretary noted that concerns over privacy legislation have been overcome to permit former members to participate in this program. Any former member who is interested in participating in this program can contact the secretary who will provide their contact information to Cpl. Ken Walker at the East Prince Detachment.

Installation of New Member: The chair installed Levi Barnes as a member of the RCMP Veterans’ Association and he responded with a review of his background.

Adjournment

At 8:10 PM the chair adjourned the meeting until September 20, 2016.

Ernie MacAulay - Secretary