

# THE RIGHT MARKER



A National Newsletter

issue #2 - June 2013

## *Annual General Meeting of Members*

*~ AGM 2013 ~*

*Saskatoon, Saskatchewan*

### Did you know?

As a registered non-for-profit corporation, the RCMP Veterans' Association is required, by law, to hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM) of members in Canada, every year. The fundamental purpose of the AGM is to present and report the Association's achievements to the members. This includes, but not limited to, reporting on the corporation's finances as well as milestones and progress on new and ongoing projects.

The AGM can be an invigorating and social experience and while attending to business is the first priority, there is also a tremendous opportunity for members to renew acquaintances.



Planning and executing a successful AGM calls for strong leadership and a dedicated team of volunteers. The coordination of meetings, activities, social events, tours for delegates and spouses, and working closely with the National Executive throughout all stages of the planning is critical to a successful event.

This year the Annual General Meeting of Members, themed "Bridging Past and Present", was held at the beautiful Delta Bessborough. Chairman Doug Madill of Saskatoon Division and his Committee of volunteers did an outstanding job of coordinating this year's event representing delegates and guests from twenty six Divisions.

On behalf of National President Cal Small and the Board of Directors, we salute Ed Miller, President and the entire AGM Committee of Saskatoon Division for their leadership in making AGM 2013 a tremendous success.

Jack W. Briscoe  
Executive Director



## The Delta Bessborough Hotel

Saskatoon Division could not have possibly chosen a more appropriate setting for the AGM. The elegant Delta Bessborough, or more colloquially, the Bess (phonetically the Bez) as it has become known over the years, is an absolutely beautiful hotel, strategically located on the banks of the South Saskatchewan River. The hotel was built in the 1930s during the Great Depression and was designed to resemble a Bavarian castle. Its original purpose was to be a railway hotel, built by the Canadian National Railroad, a federal crown corporation, as a make-work project. The hotel has survived several changes in ownership, as well as the suggestion that it be demolished in order to restore the riverbank. Positioned on five acres of private waterfront gardens, it is nestled between two riverfront parks on the South Saskatchewan River. Over the years, the Bessborough, also called the Paris of the Prairies, has become Saskatoon's most iconic symbol and most recognizable skyline feature; one of the most frequently-circulated photographs depicting Saskatoon is of the hotel framed in one of the arches of the Broadway Bridge.

This ten story hotel is also no stranger to hauntings. Legend has it that there is a ghost who is known by the employees to roam about the premises. The ghost has been described as an older man, who usually appears in a gray suit with a fedora upon his head. Many people claim to see this figure walking about the hotel in the banquet level in the later part of the evening. If you happen to cross paths with this resident ghost, he is not considered a threat and he usually smiles at those he encounters and goes about his business, not bothering anyone or causing any harm.

Fortunately, the ghost of the Bez was not seen wearing a red blazer and a wedge cap and playing the baby grand piano in the lobby in the wee hours of the morning! Great choice Saskatoon Division and as the picture shows, this was the place to be for AGM 2013.

FRIDAY, MAY 31, 2013

## *The New Canada Not-for-Profit Corporation's Act*

Following the National Council Meeting hosted by Dominion President Cal Small, AGM 2013 kicked off with a presentation by the Committee responsible for overseeing the legislative changes arising from the Canada Not-For-Profit Corporations Act.

Over the past several months, the Committee, chaired by Director Murray Milne, Saskatoon Division, has been heavily engaged in drafting the Articles of Continuance and the new Association by-laws. This has been an intensive process of deliberation to ensure that the Association's is fully compliant with the legislation and that both the Articles and our revised by-laws are reflective of the spirit and intent of the law and in the best interests of all members of the Association.

Delegates were provided with a detailed briefing from President Ian Atkins, Nova Scotia Division and President Bob Kells, Calgary Division where the key changes arising from the legislation were fully explained. The deadline for submission of the RCMP Veterans' Association Articles of Continuance to Corporations Canada is October 17, 2014 and all Division Presidents have been asked to identify a representative to work with the Committee as we move toward a resolution to adopt the Articles and the revised by-laws on June 5, 2104 at AGM 2014 in Ottawa.

The consultation process is critically important to ensure that the Association is well positioned for the future and the Committee is confident that together we will successfully rise to the challenge.

## CO "F" DIVISION



Assistant Commissioner Russ Mirasty, Commanding Officer, "F" Division, was the guest speaker at a luncheon on Friday, May 31st.

The CO began by extending his appreciation to the RCMP Veterans' Association for inviting him to address the delegates. He highlighted all of the work by the RCMP veterans in the Province of Saskatchewan in support of the RCMP and the communities for which he is personally most appreciative.

He gave an overview of the Senior Executive Committee (SEC) meeting in Ottawa and briefed the audience about some of the key initiatives being actively pursued in the Force.

The CO also passed along regrets from Commissioner Paulson who had previous commitments and could not attend the AGM. A letter from the Commissioner was read by the Commanding Officer.

In conclusion, Saskatoon Division President Ed Miller thanked the CO for sponsoring the luncheon and for taking time from his busy schedule to be present at this year's AGM.

RCMP Veterans' Association Vice President Dave Leblanc presented the CO with an AGM 2013 red vest designed by the Saskatoon Division and expressed appreciation on behalf of the Board of Directors for the CO's support and words of encouragement.

## SURVEY SAYS....

*After the luncheon with the Commanding Officer, President of Nova Scotia Division, Ian Atkins concluded his briefing on the substantive changes arising from the Canada Not-For-Profit Corporations Act followed by an overview of the National Membership Survey presented to the delegates by the Executive Director. The purpose of the survey, conducted over a thirty day period, was to solicit the views of the membership on five key areas of significance, namely the roles and responsibilities of the National Office, the quality of communications, the effectiveness of the Board of Directors, reasons for joining the RCMP Veterans' Association and finances. There were potentially 4,691 Active and Life Members who had the opportunity to provide information in the survey, however, only 773 or 18% of the membership responded.*

*Notwithstanding the response rate, the narrative comments that were received were highly instructive and provided the National Executive with a perspective about how members felt about their national executive and national office. The feedback is appreciated and changes have already begun to be implemented.*

*The most significant outcome of the survey, and in keeping with the requirements of the Act, is that a new Association governance model will be developed and presented to the membership at AGM 2014 in Ottawa.*

*"Your present circumstances don't determine where you can go, they merely determine where you start."*

**Nido Qubein**

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2013



## THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Maz Mufti, National Treasurer ~ Alex Geddes, National Secretary ~ Ron Lewis, National Advocate  
 Cal Small, National President ~ Tim Hoban, Immediate Past President ~ Jack Briscoe, Executive Director  
 Al Rivard, Director and Chair National Operations Committee, Director, Murray Milne, Vice President Dave  
 Leblanc ~ Director Jim Forsyth - Absent Director Bob McKee

In keeping with tradition, the Board of Directors were piped into the meeting led by Saskatoon Division Sgt-At-Arms, Ernie Fast. The Tipstaff was presented to the National President Cal Small and the meeting was called to order.

## THREE RESOLUTIONS

### Resolution on Life Membership

Director Bob McKee, Chair of the Membership Committee, presented a resolution on Life Membership. The motion to accept the resolution was seconded by Vice President Dave Leblanc, Manitoba Division.

Essentially this resolution was focused on assessing per capita dues for Life Members, effective January 2014.

Director McKee provided the rationale for the resolution to the members and this was followed by several comments from the floor. After an engaging discussion, including the parliamentary procedure pursuant to Robert's Rules of Order, President Dennis Roughley, Georgian Bay Division moved that the resolution be tabled to the AGM 2014 in Ottawa. Motion was carried.

### Resolution on Per Capita Assessment

Director Al Rivard, Chair of the National Operations Committee, presented a resolution to increase the national per capita assessment by \$10.00.

Director Rivard presented a brief overview of the intent of the resolution to the meeting of members which followed an earlier and more formal presentation to the delegates at the National Council Meeting on Friday morning.

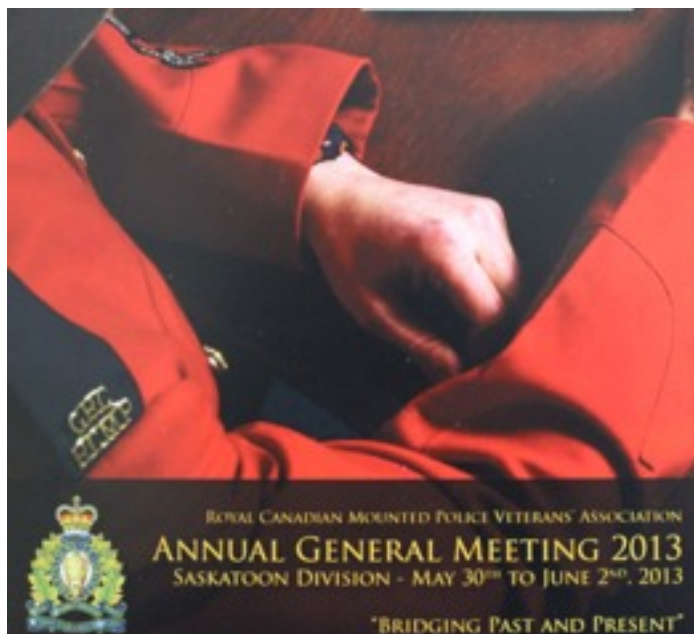
The resolution was carried by more than a 2/3 majority vote.

### Resolution on Associate Membership

In 2009, President Hank Moorlag, Yukon Division, presented a resolution for Divisions to extend voting privileges to Associate Members.

Due to a procedural error, the resolution did not proceed at the Whitehorse AGM in 2009 and it was therefore re-introduced in Saskatoon.

The resolution was carried and Associate Members have been given the right to vote on Divisional issues.





Membership Director, Bob McKee presents the Howard Kearley Award to President Ian Atkins, Nova Scotia Division. Congratulations to all of the members of Nova Scotia Division for leading the way on the national membership recruiting campaign.

President Cal Small presents Governor Larry Power, Newfoundland/Labrador Division with a certificate of appreciation for over thirty years of dedicated service to the RCMP Veterans' Association. Congratulations Larry!



We came, we listened, we learned.  
We are the RCMP Veterans' Association.





THE MEN WHO LED THE  
WAY, THEN AND NOW.  
OUR ESTEEMED  
OCTOGENARIANS.



NATIONAL ADVOCATE RON LEWIS AND  
ANDREA SIEW, ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION,  
DOMINION COMMAND, OTTAWA  
*"PARTNERS IN VETERANS' BENEFITS"*



The Legion Veterans, Service and Seniors (VSS) Committee is mandated with ensuring that still serving Canadian Forces (CF) members, Veterans, members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), spouses and dependants receive the full benefit of programs and services delivered through Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC). Thank you Andrea!!



**President Small congratulates Directors Murray Milne, Saskatoon Division and Al Rivard, Ottawa Division who were re-elected to the Board of Directors.**





Sgt-At-Arms Ernie Fast presents the Tipstaff to President Graham Muir, Ottawa Division. Pictured below are Ottawa Division Sgt-At-Arms Dan Carroll and President Graham Muir, hosts of AGM 2014.





# Commissioner Phil Murray

## Gala Guest Speaker

### **Joseph Philip Robert MURRAY**

**June 25, 1994 to August 31, 2000**

After recruit training, Phil Murray remained in Saskatchewan, attended the University of Regina where he was awarded the General Proficiency Scholarship in both 1975 and 1976 and completed a Bachelor of Administration degree in 1977. During his service as Commissioner, he established town hall meetings to improve communication within the Force and initiated corporate sponsorship. In 1997 he ended the RCMP's responsibility for airport security, leaving it to local police establishments and private security agencies. He adopted Alternative Dispute Resolution and developed the Mission, Vision, and Values/Shared Leadership Statement which guides the Royal Canadian Mounted Police today.

*Display donated by a member of Saskatoon Division*

Rick Morgenstern  
The Pride of Meadow Lake  
Gala Entertainment



SINGER

SONGWRITER

IMPRESSIONIST

RECORDING ARTIST



# SUNDAY CHURCH PARADE ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN



# Saskatoon Sightseeing Tours



## WESTERN DEVELOPMENT MUSEUM





# Saskatoon Sightseeing Tours



**WANUSKEWIN HERITAGE PARK  
A FASCINATING INTERACTIVE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE  
HOSTED BY DR. ERNIE WALKER  
HEAD OF ANTHROPOLOGY ~ UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN**



# In Appreciation

*The RCMP Veterans' Association extends its sincere gratitude to all of our sponsors for their support in making the 2013 AGM an outstanding success. Special thanks to Chair, Doug Madill, Committee Members, Ted Markus, Gene Humenny, Jan Boyenko and all the volunteers from Saskatoon Division. Well done!*

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Terry & Jean Elliott, Saskatoon

Doug & Kay Zorn, Saskatoon

# Rendez-vous Ottawa AGM 2014

June 5 to June 8, 2014

[www.rcmpvetsottawa.ca](http://www.rcmpvetsottawa.ca)

*Friendship ~ Support ~ Staying Connected*

**See you there!**

***RIGHT MARKER IS PRODUCED BY YOUR NATIONAL OFFICE***

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**Jennifer Elliott ~ Administrative Assistant**

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