



Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Veterans' Association
PEI Division

P.O. Box 1360, Charlottetown,
Prince Edward Island, C1A 0H3
www.rcmpvetspei.ca



Minutes of the Meeting (2023-09-21)

Welcome & Introduction

This was an in-person meeting held at Legion Branch #1 in Charlottetown. President Scott Ferris called RCMPVA (PEI) meeting to order. Members and guests were welcomed.

The Following members were in attendance: Scott Ferris, Ian Gemmell, Lew Robinson, David Corrigan, Bryon Sutcliffe, Mike Robinson, Fred Foster, Chuck Snow, Stan Ferguson, Rick Chadwick, Reg Campbell, Brian Weldon, Ernie MacAulay, Richard MacAulay, Robert McDougall, Walter Charlesworth, Geoff Tucker, Brent Dooks, Martin Roy, Dene Williamson, Don MacGregor, Cordie Coffin and Ken Walker.

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda had been distributed to all by email prior to the meeting. The agenda was amended to add the S?M Bison award.

Moved by Fred Foster, 2nd. By Ernie MacAulay and adopted by all present.

Last Post

The membership offered a moment of silence for those who had passed since our September Meeting, in particular former "L" Division members:

24224 - Peter Michael Clarke, Sgt., Ret'd. on Jul 19/23, at Dartmouth, NS.
23833 - Ernest Wayne Carver, Sgt., Ret'd., on Jun 28/23, at Charlottetown, PE.
42126 - Emil Anton "Tony" Halvorson, Cst., Ret'd., on May 30/23, at Charlottetown
33213 - John Bernard McCormack, S/Sgt., Ret'd., on Sep 11/23, at
Sherbrooke, N.S.

Birthdays

- i. June Royce Greene, Jack Jans, Ernie MacAulay, Dan MacLean,
Les Chipperfield, Mike Murphy, Bill Chisholm, Denis Morin, Scott Ferris.
- ii. July Ann Williams, John Dunne, Ed pretty, David McAdam,
Dene Williamson, Kim Hendricken, John Warr, Richard MacAulay.



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- iii. August Marion Riehl, Bob Moffatt, Chuck Snow, Lorne MacKinnon, Jerry Woolfrey, Aletha MacDonald, Ray McCormack, Scott Stevenson, Wilfred Jephson, Dan D'Amour.
- iv. September Geoff Tucker, Ken Cormier, Wendell Murchison, Hank Poll.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of meeting held 2023-04-04 were circulated by email and posted on our web site. Minutes were approved by all present.

Business Arising from the Minutes

S/M Troy MacLean – Short presentation on the annual Bison Award to be presented annually to a deserving 'L' Division employee, a joint venture with S/M's office and Veterans Association.

Fred Foster moved we support the award up to a value of \$75.00 annually, seconded by Ernie MacAulay and all except on voted in favour. Motion carried.

Robert McDougall – Proposed our association pay additional expenses not previously approved for Scott Ferris for his attending the AGM in Ottawa in May. Expenses are \$1,006.07

Robert's motion seconded by Brent Dooks and all present voted in favour. Motion Carried.

Mike O'Neil – Gave an overview of his verbal and written correspondence to the Province and the PEI Chiefs of Police regarding funds in our bank account for the annual Peace and Corrections Officers Memorial Service. An agreement has been made and this is not an issue. Some discussion was held concerning if the money should be handled as a trust.

Lew Robinson – Gave a short overview of total undesignated funds in our account and cautioned on depleting our account to quickly as we have steadily been reducing our total over the past ten years. Several members commented they agreed and for us to leave well enough alone and do nothing overt at this time to overtly reduce our funds.



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Financial Statement

Ian Gemmell gave an updated financial status of the association and verified that all funds have balanced.

Mike O'Neil seconded Ian's motion for approval, all presented voted in favour.

Ian Gemmell gave an overview of our Budget

Again, Mike O'Neil seconded Ian's motion for approval, all present voted in favour.

Correspondence

All correspondence received was electronic and was circulated to the membership as it was received.

Dinner Break. - 50/50 draw held

New Business:

Scott Ferris – introduced our guest Steve Woodman, advocate from Veterans Affairs Canada.

Steve gave a 15-minute presentation regarding the submission of pension claims to VAC and the importance of considering an appeal if a claim is denied. Only about 8% of denied claims are appealed and of those over 90% are approved on appeal. Steve advised there are 150 lawyer advocates and that they are committed to veterans needs and all work hard for the veteran. Steve's message was that **Veterans need to be aware that there is help for them if there is a fight with VAC, Don't give up. - appeal, appeal, appeal.**

Seven members had questions:

How do you know if assessment is valid?

A. See us we can help.

Do you have access to Doctor?

A. No, but will pay for specialist if required.

Some veterans not educated and don't know what to do or issue not documented?

A. System is listening now, tell them to see us we can help connect the dots.

How about RCMP A/Csts.?

A. If you have a case, we will fight for you.

Status of RCMP Reservists?

A. Covered by Workers Compensation.



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Reports from County Representatives

- Kings County** - **Richard MacAulay for Ray McCormack** indicated nothing new to report.
- Queens County** - **Dan D'Amour** nothing new to report
- Prince County** - **Harold Hodgkin** indicated nothing new to report.

Entertainment Committee:

Phil Pitts gave a brief account of the plans for the upcoming Gala Dinner on the 28th.

Gravesite Inspection Committee:

Robert McDougall advised that all inspections have been completed and all business in this regard for 2022 has been finalized. There was some discussion regarding amount of expense compensation being adequate, it was confirmed that compensation was based on current Government rates,

Membership & Credentials Committee:

Ernie MacAulay one new member reported for the period.

Advocacy Committee:

Rick Chadwick advised he has been busy with advocacy and has assisted several individuals with, after death benefit submissions and VAC information in 2022.

The VAC workshop was held in June at the HMCS Queen Charlotte, was a one-day event, there was a big turnout. A variety of topics were covered with presentations on, Hearing loss, OSI Clinics, Psych and social work available, VAC liaison, pension applications. Much Thanks to Vick and Jan Gorman from Nova Scotia Veterans Assn.

The Moose Mountie project is still functioning and has been very beneficial and effective to date, currently have 10 in reserve.



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Miscellaneous:

Mike O'Neil spoke about our Facebook page, in particular a letter he received from Florida regarding an RNWMP portrait available. Members interested to contact him.

Mike O'Neil also gave a short overview of the up coming Memorial Service, Sunday coming at 2:00 PM. He has 39 volunteers, 8 of which are from our Assn. Mike advised that going forward he has some plans to upgrade our inventory and equipment for this event.

Scott Ferris advised "L" Division now has a Bagpiper who may be available in the future.

Mike O'Neil, advised he is proceeding with his election committee to fill nominations for the 2nd. VP position and the Prince County Director's position for the November elections. Mike also advised that as of December 31st. Scott Ferris will be stepping down from the Presidents position. Members have to the 16th. Of October to advise mike of their interest in these positions.

Lew Robinson advised he will be sending out information regarding nominations for the annual "Ted" Whelan award for 2023

Military Family Resource Center: Scott Ferris

Reminder to sign up for emails regarding upcoming initiatives.

Reminder that the Kingston Legion welcome RCMP veterans at their coffee Klatch, every end of the month Friday from 1100 to 1300

Adjourned to next meeting.

Next Meeting November 16th. at Legion Branch #1, Charlottetown