



**Presidents**  
**Message**

If it's raining, then it must be May, but with the early fire season in BC, the rains are welcomed. I want to express gratitude to the

Royal Canadian Legion, Cloverdale Branch #6, for graciously hosting our spring meeting on April 5. Despite a few scheduling challenges, we were delighted to see approximately 100 attendees, marking one of the largest turnouts in this area for quite some time. A special thank you extends to our guest speaker, Retired D/Comm. Dr. Peter German, whose enlightening discussion covered the history of contract policing by the RCMP and shed light on the policing transition in Surrey. Since Peter spoke, the courts have sided with the Province, and policing in Surrey will transition to the Surrey Police Service.

Regarding the situation in Surrey, both Commissioner Mike Duheme and Brian Sauvé, the President of the National Police Federation, have made public statements indicating that the RCMP have not yet received details of a transition plan from the Province. Furthermore, they emphasized that there is currently no established mechanism mandating RCMP

members to operate under the command of a municipal police service.

We had planned for a June meeting in Chilliwack; however, our numbers did not make it feasible. We have now booked the Chilliwack Curling Club for Thursday, September 19, so please mark your calendars. Further details will be forthcoming.

On March 6, we had the honor of presenting the Vancouver Division Veterans' Award to S/Sgt. Mike Spencer, the NCO in charge of Emergency & Operational Planning at Surrey Detachment, in recognition of his outstanding work. Among his many responsibilities is the coordination of the annual Vaisakhi parade and festival, the largest of its kind in North America. Thanks to Mike and his team, these events have consistently been a resounding success in terms of security and crowd control. We extend our thanks to our selection committee members, Veterans Stu Cameron, Neal Davidge, and Ernie Malone, for their invaluable assistance in reviewing nominations and selecting the deserving recipient.

The spring Association Council virtual meetings were held in April. In recent months, Division presidents and the Association board have been diligently reviewing various aspects of the organization and its functions. The recommendations stemming from these discussions will be further deliberated on during the Annual General Meeting in Edmonton in early June. The diverse representation on our Association Board of

Directors, including input from the Divisions, ensures that we effectively address the varied needs of our membership. Further information about the Association can be found on our website at rcmpva.org.

The deadline for filing our beloved income tax returns has passed, and many of us take the opportunity to reassess the charities we support. One lesser-known option is the RCMP Veterans' Association Foundation, a registered charity established to support and assist both past and present employees associated with the RCMP. Information about the Foundation is available on our Division website, and donations are tax-deductible, with funds allocated to aid our colleagues and their families. As an organization, Vancouver Division supports several worthy causes including Pacific Riding for Developing Abilities, BC Guide Dogs, Honor House, "E" Division Pipes & Drums and others.

Donna and I had the opportunity to attend the "Beyond 150" Regimental Dining-In at EHQ on May 23. The Guest of Honor, Commissioner Mike Duheme, spoke about the continuing evolution of the Force. One of the points of interest was the status of recruiting. Between January 2023 and January 2024, there have been over 14,000 applicants. Depot will be training 40 full troops of 32 cadets this year. Commissioner Duheme hopes that number can be pushed to 50.

Have a great summer everyone and we look forward to seeing you in September in Chilliwack.  
Ron

**LAST POST**



**Leslie Frederick Stephen HOLOTUK**  
Reg. No. 20167,  
November 1,1938 - March 12, 2024.  
It is with great sadness that

we announce the passing of Steve Holotuk on March 12, 2024 in Mission, after a long battle with heart failure. Steve was a beloved husband, father and sibling who leaves behind his wife of 63 years, Violet, and his children Tracy, Peter and Gail. Steve was born in Rye, Ontario and grew up there with his parents and ten siblings. Steve became an RCMP officer in 1957 and retired as a Staff Sergeant in 1983, serving several communities in BC. He became an active member of the RCMP Veterans Association. After retiring from the RCMP, Steve became an insurance adjuster investigating insurance fraud. He was a member of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners and the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, Vancouver Pond. Steve loved curling, golf and watching hockey. He served as a hockey referee for many years.

There was a small gravesite service on April 2, 2024 at 2pm in the Memorial Gardens site at Valleyview Cemetery, located at 14644 72 Avenue in Surrey, BC. Donations can be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation. \*\*



**Leland Wilfred BERROW,**  
Sergeant (Retired) Reg #14922 1926 - 2024  
Years of Service: 1947 - 1976  
Postings: "E" Division  
RCMP Veterans' Association Life Member  
Vancouver Division 47 Years of service. \*\*



**Brian George WATT, 78 yrs,**  
RCMP, Deputy  
Commissioner (retd)  
December 24, 1945 – MAY 8, 2024

Deputy Commissioner Watt of Surrey, British Columbia, died May 8th, 2024. Loving husband of Eloise Watt, passed away surrounded by family after a long battle with cancer. Brian joined the RCMP from Burnaby, BC in March 1965. He was posted to several detachments in Alberta early in his career (including the small town of Oyen where both of their children were born). After 3 years as an RCMP self-defence instructor in Regina, the family was posted to Toronto, where Brian completed an MBA and became a key investigator in the Commercial Crime Section (which took him on white-collar crime investigations all around the world) as well as teaching part-time at McMaster University. After receiving a commission as an officer he was posted to Edmonton and Ottawa, and then promoted and transferred to Yellowknife in the Northwest Territories (assuming the Commanding Officer position during his time there). Their four years in the North was very special for Brian and Eloise. Highlights included transiting the Northwest Passage aboard a Canadian Coast Guard icebreaker, hiking Pangnirtung Pass on Baffin Island, and visiting Alexandra Fjord on Ellesmere Island. After a stint as Commanding Officer of "F" Division, (Saskatchewan), Brian was promoted to Deputy Commissioner and returned to the West Coast (after 33 years away) as Commanding Officer of the RCMP's "Pacific Region" (British Columbia and the Yukon). He retired from the Force in 2002, and he and Eloise remained in Surrey where they have focused their time on world travel, spending time with family and friends, cooking and hosting, attending live theatre, and of course, for Brian, golfing (where he was known for his passion for wearing shorts year-round). Brian is survived by his wife Eloise, their two adult children, Rob and Kirsten and their two granddaughters, Mal and India.

A Memorial Service will be held at 12:00 pm on Friday, June 7th, at Victory Memorial Park Funeral Centre, in Surrey, BC. In lieu of flowers mourners are asked to make donations to the ALS Society of Canada, the Canadian Cancer Society, or Diabetes Canada.



**George Garrett**  
**Broadcaster and Crime Reporter.**

Associate member, George GARRETT, passed away peacefully in White Rock on March 18, 2024 at the age of 89. George was from Saskatchewan where he got his start in radio at stations in North Battleford and Moose Jaw. It was in North Battleford where he met the love of his life, Joan. They married in 1956 and moved west where he started his career at CKNW radio station in Vancouver. He worked as an investigative reporter covering dozens of major news events and earned enormous respect from listeners, politicians, police and journalists alike. He received numerous awards for his work in reporting including the Bruce Hutchison Lifetime Achievement Award and countless others. He retired from CKNW in 1999 and began a second career supporting his community. He was one of the founding members of the Volunteer Cancer Drivers Society and worked tirelessly generating donations to get the service up and running. He was also active in the Rotary, Alzheimer's and Probus clubs of White Rock. In 2019 he wrote his own biography entitled "Intrepid Reporter"

which made the B.C. bestsellers list. George was well known to many police officers for high level of cooperation in reporting public safety matters. RIP George.

**MAYERTHORPE REMEMBERED**



From left: Peter Schiemann, Leo Johnston, Brock Myrol and Anthony Gordon.

March 3<sup>rd</sup> was the anniversary of this most tragic of events. North Vancouver Detachment



conducted a modest remembrance in honor of the deceased officers. The author was honored with an

invitation to attend.

Constable Paul Reece,  
Corporal Robert Reece  
RCAC, Vanc Div  
member Dave Reece



**NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED**

**MANN**, James Edward Reg No 30022, ROD Corporal Sep 11, 1972 to 1 To May 10, 1981 E Division

**McARLL**, David Reg No 34551, ROD Sgt Service Date 1 From Jan 31, 1978 to 1 To Apr 04, 2013 E Division,

**IRWIN**, Lyndsay Reg No 49764 ROD Sergeant Service Date 1 From Dec 09, 2002 to Apr 17, 2024 Division E

**PINNOCK**, Fred Reg No 35505 ROD S/Sgt. From Jul 24, 1979 To Sep 10, 2008 Divisions E.

**POWER**, Murray, Reg No 40647, ROD Superintendent, Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> 1989 – Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024, Divisions E.

**NEUFELDT**, Jeffrey. Reg No 54157, ROD Constable, Jan 8<sup>th</sup> 2007 to July 27<sup>th</sup> 2023, Divisions E,

**MAHON**, Anthony Reg No 27996, Rank on Discharge -Inspector, April 6<sup>th</sup> 1970 to November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2011, Divisions E and K.

**MACDONALD**, John Brian Reg No 35390 Rank on Discharge S/Sgt. February 6<sup>th</sup> 1979 to January 17<sup>th</sup> 2010. Divisions E.

**FIELD**, David -Reg No 36826, ROD Staff Sgt. Major. May 1st 1981 to Nov 4<sup>th</sup> 2011, Divisions E

**SCOTT**, Raymond Reg No 49362, ROD Corporal. March 25<sup>th</sup> 2002 to May 24<sup>th</sup> 2024, Divisions E

**FOURNEL**, Gilles Reg No 39556, ROD Constable. July 1<sup>st</sup> 1987 to February 1<sup>st</sup> 2016, Divisions E.

**FRCIC**, Amir Reg No 57950, ROD Corporal. July 27<sup>th</sup> 2009 to May 29th 2024, Divisions E.

**KIRKPATRICK**, Craig Reg No 34090 ROD Sergeant. Jun 21 1977 to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2013.

**CLARK**, Richard Reg No 27128 ROD Corporal, February 17<sup>th</sup> 1969 to August 3<sup>rd</sup> 1995, Divisions E and F.

**SKAEY**, Deborah Reg No C8645 ROD Civilian Member, February 27<sup>th</sup> 2006 to July 24<sup>th</sup> 2024. Divisions E.

**CLARK**, Richard Reg No 27128 ROD Corporal, February 17<sup>th</sup> 1969 to August 3rd 1995. Divisions E and F.

**BOURDAGES**, Mario Reg No 38809 ROD Staff Sgt. May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1986 to Aug 29<sup>th</sup> 2015 Divisions E.

**BUGLE CALL**

**VANCOUVER DIVISION GENERAL MEETING and LUNCH.**

The June 13<sup>th</sup> Chilliwack Lunch has been **CANCELLED**. A new date has been arranged for

**Thursday September 19<sup>th</sup> 2024 same location**

**Chilliwack Curling Club 45550 Spadina Ave. Chilliwack BC V2P 1V4** Details will be announced in near future. (Ed)

**VANCOUVER DIVISION GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup> 2024 RCL #6 Cloverdale Branch, 17567 57<sup>th</sup> Ave. Surrey, BC.**



This meeting was very well attended over 100 people regd with almost a full attendance. Guest Speaker was Peter German who was informative and entertaining and clearly enjoyed himself as much as we did. His remarks concerning the Surrey policing matter were enlightening and later in this issue is an article Peter has kindly written about this presentation. The menu was of the pub food variety and each attendee placed an order the average price being around \$20 and the bar prices were also much better than high street venues.



New Members sworn in Left to right Tony Mahon, Rob Grant, Blake Burgess, Murray Power, Paul McCarl, Dan Guilfoyle and President Ron Morse.



Peter German and President Ron Morse under the watchful eye of our late Queen Elizabeth II!



Left to Right Daryl Singer, Ed Bohl, Richard Lawrence, Kent Turnan, Dave McAree, Harvey Woof and a host of RCL past Presidents!!

John Sherstone gave an excellent presentation on a most Important subject and his speciality, Advocacy. John stressed the importance of having and reading the booklet on the topic which is available to all our members. The booklet was produced by the Saskatchewan Division and is an excellent guide to all members entitlements. Thank you John. If you are unfamiliar with the publication please contact John. His contact details are on the Vanc Div. Website. A brief but informative presentation was given by our Division Chaplain Bill Ashbee. Please see his written submission here:

**Vancouver Division Chaplaincy**

The Chaplaincy Program in E Division has been modernizing over the past couple of years. Currently, there are 36 volunteer Chaplains serving at least 10 hours per month at Detachments. The women and men are diverse, ranging in age from 30 to 76 years of age. There are Chaplains from the Sikh, Muslim, Jewish and Christian faiths in what has been rebranded nationally as the Spiritual Wellness Service. Chaplains support the spiritual, emotional and practical wellness of those who serve the RCMP as Regular Members, Public Servants, those who are Retired, and their families.



In the Lower Mainland fourteen of the thirty-six Chaplains serve. All Chaplains are available

to assist members of the Vancouver RCMP Veterans Association. A contact list of E Division Chaplains, which is posted on the E Division Infoweb, has been shared with the Vets Association Leadership.

I am honored to serve alongside a strong and growing Chaplaincy Team.  
 Bill Ashbee,  
 Divisional Chaplain, RCMP “E” Division  
 Aumônier divisionnaire de la Division “E” de la GRC  
 14200 Green Timbers Way  
 Surrey, British Columbia / Colombie Britannique  
 V3T6P3  
 Office / Bureau: 778-290-3011  
 Cell / Cellulaire: 778-954-8347  
 Email/Courriel: [bill.ashbee@rcmp-grc.gc.ca](mailto:bill.ashbee@rcmp-grc.gc.ca).

**Corporal Derek Flanagan Memorial**

MOOSEJAWTODAY.COM — It took police Const. Chris Flanagan nearly 32 hours to fly to Thailand recently, but the voyage was worth it because he celebrated the 35th anniversary of his father’s death. “It was a long flight ... I didn’t realize how far it is,” he said with a chuckle during the recent Board of Police Commissioners’ meeting.

Cpl. Derek Flanagan was an RCMP officer for 15 years and was with the organization’s drug investigation unit in Vancouver, B.C. He and other members travelled to Chiang Mai, Thailand, in February 1989 during an overseas undercover drug operation and were meeting with sellers on Feb. 20 when the situation fell apart.

Derek was thrown from the back of a truck and died from head trauma. He then became the only active RCMP member to be killed in the line of duty overseas. Chris was four years old when his father died and focused on becoming an officer as well. The opportunity to travel overseas arose in November 2023 after the RCMP’s E Division (British Columbia) approached the Moose Jaw officer about flying to Chiang Mai for a ceremony to honour his father. E Division members had travelled there in February 2023

and discovered there was no memorial to Cpl. Flanagan anywhere in the city.

Flanagan accompanied three senior officers with E Division during the eight-day trip to Thailand, with the RCMP covering all his expenses.

The temperature was 34 degrees Celsius, and while Flanagan was honored to bring his formal police tunic, he jokingly noted that “those things aren’t cool” to wear and that he was hot and sweaty.

“Me being a father of four, I was quite



“Knowing where he (died) in Thailand, it had always been a dream of mine to go see where it happened. I’m just grateful (I had) ... this opportunity,” he said.

The emotionally moving memorial service — “they rolled out the red carpet” — was held on Feb. 20 at the Royal Thai Police Headquarters in Chiang Mai, with the ceremony featuring a tree planting and installation of a commemorative plaque.

Others who attended included RCMP liaison officers from Thailand and Malaysia, the Canadian ambassador, the colonel-general of the Royal Thai Police, Thai border service agents and a Royal Canadian Air Force officer.

Flanagan also enjoyed tea with government officials beforehand.

honoured to be there for my father as well ... ,” he said, noting he connected with his mother and brother immediately afterward using FaceTime. He also thought this event was a full-circle moment since it celebrated how tremendous Derek was as an officer, father, husband and friend.

“It’s something I take great pride in, wearing the badge and knowing that he sacrificed his life doing the job that I’m currently doing,” the MJPS member added. “It leaves me speechless.”

Besides the ceremony, Flanagan joined the RCMP at the International Narcotics Control College (INCC) in Chiang Rai. The college trains law enforcement agents and partner groups to combat drug trafficking in the Mekong

subregion. He later sat through a prisoner extradition meeting in Bangkok. He also joined the Royal Thai Navy on a boat patrol of the busy Mekong River, which is 4,300 kilometers long and located in the “infamous Golden Triangle.” This region connects Thailand, Burma (Myanmar) and Laos and is one of the largest drug trafficking areas in the world of meth and opium.

Flanagan noted that meth, when combined with caffeine, forms a pill called Yaba, or the “madness drug.” To combat this scourge, the country uses TikTok to reach kids with its anti-drug campaigns because school

presentations fail to work.

One of his final activities was visiting the Tham Luang cave, where a Thai soccer team became trapped in 2018 after it flooded. “For myself, it was a very humbling experience to be there. I was very honoured to attend,” said Flanagan, adding he was jetlagged the entire time and barely slept but still thought it was a fantastic trip.

### ARTICLES

#### THE CULT OF DIVERSITY IS BECOMING DANGEROUS

**By Allison Pearson: Daily Telegraph (UK)**

Those best able to do a job should be appointed to it – but from the (*British*) Royal Navy to the (*British*) Post Office this is not happening! Who will protect us? If boys grow up being taught masculinity is toxic, no wonder the Royal Navy (RN) is having problems recruiting - Chris Sellars RN

I am curious. What was your first thought when you read that the Royal Navy has so few sailors that it has to decommission two warships to staff its new class of frigates? Intake for both the Navy and Royal Marines (*soldier sailors*) dropped by a shocking 22.1 per cent compared with the previous year.) Mine was that if you repeatedly tell your young people that their country is hateful, its history

despicable, its beautiful flag a symbol of oppression, its global legacy odious, then don't be surprised when there is a lack of volunteers to defend that country or dedicate their lives to its betterment. Additionally, if boys are brought up thinking masculinity is “toxic” rather than strong, occasionally noble, and really rather useful for opening stubborn jars and protecting women and children, likely lads may not exactly sprint to the nearest careers office which, in any case, is no longer manned by a mutton-chopped Captain Poldark to paint them an exciting picture of life on the ocean waves. If, that is, we are allowed any longer to say anything is “manned”. Today's would-be marines are, presumably, required by HR to tick one of the 56 available gender boxes.

The sense that our once-mighty Royal Navy may be at a dangerous tipping point was reinforced last week when it was revealed that it had been reduced to advertising on LinkedIn for a new Rear Admiral – Director of Submarines. “Experience of commanding a submarine or, you know, living underwater in some capacity, an advantage. Please bring own flippers.” Not long now before search parties are dispatched to the nation's pleasure boating lakes in the hope of recruiting anyone who can steer a midway course between a mother and her ducklings. Sorry, I shouldn't joke. Veterans are warning that a rapid loss of skills and institutional knowledge means the situation may soon become irrecoverable. Politicians starve the Armed Forces of funds, which would boost morale and resources (and hence recruitment), while puffing out their puny chests and boasting about sending “British warships” to the Red Sea to repel Houthi attacks. Such delusions of grandeur are embarrassingly outdated. Make that one warship and a pedalo.

Women are the solution to this Armed Forces recruitment crisis, according to Grant Shapps, who succeeded the admirable Ben



Wallace as Defence Minister. “Something which I’m extremely passionate about is actually having a military which should represent our country as it is today,” said Shapps. “It can’t be right that our military still only has 11 or 12 per cent women, for example, when they make up half the population.” How entirely predictable, yet how deeply depressing, that diversity is trotted out as the answer to a problem which urgently requires a lot of good men.

Diversity hires are not exactly looking that clever at the moment, are they? The unremarkable Paula Vennells, drab spouter of dehumanized management clichés – “accurate and reliable” was her mantra about the wretched Horizon IT system – can surely only have secured the top job at the Post Office because she ticked a box. (A former PO employee who heard Vennells talk about management said she was “incomprehensible but everyone was very respectful to her”.) Like all over-promoted people, this lacklustre graduate of the University of Bradford stuck arrogantly to her script, unable to improvise sufficiently to take onboard minor considerations like the unspeakable anguish of hundreds of innocent sub-postmasters. As the Government makes an initial offer of just £75,000 compensation to those who were hounded by the Post Office – and had to pay back cash – but who were never convicted of any offence, let us remember that, at the height of her reign, Paula Vennells was paid tens of thousands of pounds a month. (\$16,000CAD)

Masculinity is an amazing strength, not a liability. Meanwhile, Dame Sharon White has been such a terrible occupant of the chair of the John Lewis Partnership (her tenure which ends next year will be the shortest in the history of JLP) that the group posted a loss of £234 million in 2022-23. (\$374 million CAD) Women can, of course, be superb leaders, and there is ample evidence that mixed teams yield the best results. Still, the modern fetish for

parachuting unqualified drones into a senior role seemingly on the basis of their skin colour or uterus too often ends in failure. The reduction ad absurdum of diversity came when the (*British*) Royal Air Force unlawfully discriminated against white men. Fast tracking ethnic minority and female recruits into training slots at the expense of boys who had yearned to be fighter pilots since the age of six when they first fired a rubber band plane across the back garden was not going to make our country better defended. On the contrary, it was plain stupid. RAF chiefs admitted women cannot currently fly the advanced F-35 Lightning fighter jet because they are not heavy enough to wear the pilots’ £325,000 high-tech helmets. Given a choice, though, between a more diverse and equal workforce and one that can actually do the job, I’m afraid the HR zealots would go for diversity every time.

Discrimination against young white men is now ubiquitous. Fretful parents tell me that, while their daughters picked up a graduate position with relative ease, their well educated, bright and ambitious boys can’t even get work experience. “Its HR gone mad,” says a friend who is a senior manager, “but nobody dares question their objectives which will ultimately ruin the business because so many of their hires aren’t up to it. It’s shocking”. It is shocking, but it’s also dangerous. Our young men are not going to apply to the Navy in particular, and the Armed Forces in general, if they think masculinity is treated as a liability instead of the amazing strength that it is. Strength that will keep us safe. All the nice girls love a sailor. Soon, there won’t be any sailors unless they’re nice girls. Better start learning Russian or Mandarin. When defence of the realm comes a poor second to diversity, you know our country is in big trouble.

*(Editors note.*

*This article appeared recently in a newsletter for retired Canadian Military and the Royal United Services Institute. The topic is a controversial one but is provided to our*

members to promote thought and discussion. It does NOT represent the views of the RCMP Veterans Association nationally or locally. Some passages may be unfamiliar to Canadian Readers here is a glossary of terms:

Royal Navy ("RN") is Britain's Naval Force which, despite being extensively re equipped, is vastly short of personnel; Daily Telegraph is a reputable British National Newspaper with a large circulation;

John Lewis is a large UK Department Store Company much like The Bay; and

British Post Office is the equivalents of Canada Post. It is embroiled in a huge scandal whereby it introduced a new and seriously flawed computer system nationally, named Horizon, to manage its operations. These flaws resulted in false accusations against employees of theft and fraud resulting in imprisonment and fines. Ultimately, they were found innocent and released. Shoddy investigations, gross injustices, and woefully inadequate compensation and most of all rank incompetence against the CEO, Paula Vennells and the Board of Directors is all now in the public eye. A link is provided at the end to the source.)

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cd11e45n3p5o>

### THE CONTRACTS

D/Comm'r. Peter M. German (ret'd.)

#### IN THE BEGINNING



When six troops of mounted riders crossed Canada's Western Plains in 1874, nobody could have imagined that they were the forerunners of a national police; but they

were. The North-West Mounted Police was an integral part of John A. McDonald's National Dream, helping pave the way for European settlement of the West, while preserving law and order, and removing American West whiskey traders from Canadian territory.

#### THE EARLY CONTRACTS

The Force was always considered a temporary body, to be replaced by municipal and territorial police as the population of the West grew. That changed, however, in 1905 when the Provinces of Alberta and

Saskatchewan were allowed to contract for the services of the Force, as their provincial police forces. The Laurier Government acquiesced for the princely sum of \$75,000 per year, per province.

With the end of World War I, came rioting in Canadian streets as war veterans returned home to unemployment. The federal government saw the need for a national police force that could deal with national security and civil disobedience. A decision was made to merge the Dominion Police into the RNWMP, renaming it in 1920 as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and extending its federal jurisdiction across the country.

Close in time to the acquisition of this enhanced mandate, Alberta and Saskatchewan felt ready to assume provincial policing duties and created their own forces, modelled on the Mounties. For most of the next decade, the RCMP was strictly a federal force. That changed again in 1928, when Saskatchewan asked Ottawa if it could revert to a contract for RCMP services. Saskatchewan was followed in close order by contracts with Alberta, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island. By 1932, the only provinces that possessed their own provincial police forces were British Columbia, Ontario, and Quebec.

#### DECADES OF GROWTH

Another layer was added to the Force's mandate when Flin Flon, Manitoba fired its police chief and asked the province if it could contract for the services of an RCMP detachment. That agreement, in 1935, was the beginning of municipal contract policing. Flin Flon was soon followed by numerous other municipalities.

With the end of World War II and the emergence of the 'Red Scare' on the West Coast of Canada, secret negotiations took place between British Columbia, the RCMP, and the federal government, resulting in B.C. disbanding its provincial police in 1950, and contracting for

the services of the RCMP. The icing on the cake came in the same year, with Newfoundland's admission into Confederation and its adoption of the RCMP as a provincial force, eliminating the Newfoundland Rangers.

#### LOWER MAINLAND

In the Lower Mainland of B.C., the RCMP has over two thousand personnel engaged on municipal duties. Critics constantly point to what they refer to as a fractured policing situation in that region, while others point to the strong integration of specialized services between RCMP and municipal partners.

The most recent test to the contracts can be found in Surrey, Canada's largest R.C.M.P. detachment, possessing approximately 800 member resources. A 2018 decision by the previous city council to create its own municipal police force continues to bedevil the province, the city, and the RCMP. The current city council reversed the decision of the previous, however the Surrey Police Service was already in existence, leading to the anomalous situation of two police forces in the same city, albeit under RCMP jurisdiction until the Surrey force reaches a minimum threshold.

The rationale for the former council's move appears to be unrelated to the RCMP, its work over 70 years, or public safety, but rather the idea that the city has reached some magical number which no longer justifies an RCMP contract force, but rather a standalone municipal department. However, a majority of the current city council argue that there is no reason to change, any change will come with a hefty budget and tax increase, there is no transition plan, and no plan for policing the city under the new police service. Despite provincial legislation and a court decision, the transition remains mired in a plethora of logistic challenges and problems, which are likely to continue for years. *(Editors note the Government of British Columbia announced that the Surrey Police Service (SPS) will become the municipal police of jurisdiction on November 29, 2024)*

#### KOFFEE KLATCH



Hugh Meiklejohn reports: February 29th is the last Thursday of the month and time to get together for coffee, tell stories and solve the world's problems. Our usual meeting place is the Crossroads Restaurant, 1851 Sumas Way, Abbotsford BC at 10.00 AM

Last month the following members attended - Ric Hall - Steve Huntenburg- Ed Wilson-Ron Currie-Hugh Meiklejohn-Dave Hornung-Mel McIntosh -Doug Kivinen-Kelly Hyswick. Come on out and join the crowd. See above image

#### Vancouver Division members active in the community.

Bob Underhill reports: 2024 Vimmy Ridge Memorial in Vancouver. The Vimy Ridge Memorial started approximately 8 years ago. It is held at the Mountain View Cemetery at 41st and Fraser in Vancouver. It is always held on the Saturday before the 9th of April which is when the Allies took the ridge back from the German Forces. This year saw approximately 220 Army Cadets take part.



James Barrett LCol Canadian Army (retd) Hon Colonel Bob Chown Seaforth Highlanders Association and Bob Underhill, Staff Sgt Major RCMP (Retd)



**STOP PRESS !  
LOCATING FORMER FRIENDS and  
COLLEAGUES.**  
Duane Walsh is trying to locate Doug Wright who was a member of Troop 16 74/75. If anyone can help please contact Duane Walsh direct at (709) 325-5242 or e mail [jdwalsh828@gmail.com](mailto:jdwalsh828@gmail.com), (Donna Morse)