



ASSOCIATION DES VÉTÉRANS DE LA GRC - DIVISION DU QUÉBEC
RCMP VETERANS ASSOCIATION - QUEBEC DIVISION

4225 DORCHESTER
WESTMOUNT, QUEBEC, CANADA, H3Z 1V5
courriel - info@grc-rcmp-vets.qc.ca - E-mail

WEB- <http://www.grc-rcmp-vets.qc.ca>

Newsletter, December 2020



Québec Region, December 15th 2020,

Veterans of the Québec Division,

We are experiencing the second wave pandemic which will have a definite impact on the future with the arrival of the Holidays. We must remain on our guard and follow the instructions of Public Health experts. Most of us are in the groups most at risk.

Again this year, on November 1st, 2020, the Association held a Memorial Mass for our deceased members and relatives. The ceremony also marked Remembrance Day. It was carefully prepared by Father Leroux and Mrs. Staltari of the Catholic community of St. Angele Parish, Mr. Robert Boivin of the Association and S/M Vinicio Sébastiano of "C" Division, taking in to account public health restrictions. The celebration is on Facebook; photos were published on our network.

<https://www.facebook.com/100010891321127/videos/1263239847382381>

With respect to scholarships, the Committee still has to meet to approve the terms and conditions and get the ball rolling. This will be done as soon as possible.

Advances in science mean that we can hope to hold social activities in 2021. Nothing would make us happier. Let's keep our spirits up!



A word from our President

Dear Veterans and families

Few people could have foreseen what would happen or foretold the myriad of situations we would have to deal with in 2020. Since last March, the COVID 19 pandemic has changed our lives regardless of our origins, geographical location, social situations or beliefs. Unfortunate events have also called into question our ways of doing things as a society and our relationships between human beings.

All this has brought out the best of the human being and also, unfortunately, the worst. There are deaths, illness, grief and isolation. The holiday season is a sad time for many.

As Christmas and New Year approach, there is also hope. Thanks to medicine and research, it seems that we may finally be able to face the New Year with moderate enthusiasm. We could see all our parents, friends and toddlers again in a few months. Until then, together, we will continue to be disciplined and get to the end safely.

I dream of the famous Tuesday when we can get together, have fun and exchange memories without extraordinary constraints. Keep writing, seeing family and friends via videoconference and calling them. Take care of yourself, your parents and loved ones.

On behalf of the members of the committee, the volunteers of the Association and on my own behalf, I wish you all a happy Christmas and the most serene year possible.

In Friendship,

Line Carbonneau, President
and all your friends from the Board.



A moment of reflection

✉ by [✉ Father Yohann Leroux](#), Division Chaplain



A Christmas like no other. . .

It's now mid December and the meteorologists have forecasted a mild winter. However, winter can cause us to feel disappointment, fear, irritation, grief, sadness, fatigue and despondency, especially with the COVID 19 virus that has become part of our lives and does not seem to be going anywhere.

Christmas is traditionally a celebration that brings joy and hope, and is a time of family rejoicing. This year, some are confident about the measures imposed by Public Health, while others are less so. We may be inclined to question our confidence in the science experts, who are trying their best to advise us. We must fight to avoid being infected by this very real, virulent, contagious and deadly disease.

For months now, tired of the whole situation, we've been doing the impossible to avoid contracting the virus so that we do not become contagious. If we have to get tested, we hope to receive a "negative" result.

I propose that we become "positive" and extremely contagious, to the point of contaminating all those around us. Of course, I am talking about infection through celebration and positivity! Let's breathe in joy by spreading cheer and the holiday spirit, despite physical distancing. Let's get back to smiling and share it with all those around us. Let's become "lights" where there is darkness and despair, where sadness has taken hold.



I wish you a wonderful holiday season and a better year in 2021, full of happiness and cheer!

Last Post



« *We will remember them* »

Killed in the line of duty:

Prov. Cst. Marc Hovingh	OPP	19 Nov. 2020	Manitoulin Island, Ont.
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The following members left us for a better world.

Mr. Guy Paradis	Reg.# S1030	21 Sept. 2020	Ville de Québec
Mr. Denis Lebel	Reg.# 30436	2 October 2020	Saint André de Kamouraska
Mrs. Marcelle Lanctôt (Late wife of Mr. Yvan Robert)		10 October 2020	Laval
Mr. André Parent	Reg.# 31765	19 October 2020	Saint Joseph du Lac
Mr. Michel Auger (Journalist)	Honorary member	1 Nov. 2020	Blainville
Mrs. Rachel Thibault Vermette (Late wife of Mr. Claude Vermette)		5 Nov. 2020	Lachine.
Mr. Alain Ouellette	Reg.# 40400	25 Nov. 2020	Grand-Falls, N.-B.
Mrs. Diane Gagnon Lapointe (Late wife of Mr. Louis Lapointe)		26 Nov. 2020	Saint Augustin de Desmaures
Father Serge Giroux (C Div. Chaplain from 1998 to 2018)		2 Dec. 2020	Montréal

Sick parade

We salute the courage of our Veteran friends who are experiencing additional health issues. And our thoughts also go out to their caregivers.

M. Lionel Grégoire, Retired Records Manager, underwent emergency coronary artery bypass surgery. He is recovering at home and is doing well. Prompt recovery.

Mr. André Desjardins has been suffering from Alzheimer's disease for 5 years. His wife had taken steps to put him in a health care center, but the pandemic made the process almost impossible. He feels safer in her company. She reads our publications assiduously. Mr. Desjardins was a member of the RCMP for about 7 years. He had a career in the automobile industry after he left.

New members

Mr. Luc Duhamel	Reg. # 40897
Mr. Jacques Bédard	Reg. # 42633
Mr. Christian Denniel	Reg. # 42838
Mr. Carl Caire	Reg. # 45332
Mrs. Éloïse Lavergne	Reg. # 44888
Mr. Jean Mady	Reg. # 41145
Mrs. Luana Giroux	Reg. # 45400
Mr. Daniel Roy	Reg. # 37597
Mr. Serge Fontaine	Reg. # 53181
Mrs. Rhonda Pedersen	Reg. # 38687
Mr. Jean Laroche	Reg. # 38759
Mrs. Anik Leclerc	Reg. # 41488
Mr. Rino Leclerc	Reg. # 41464
Mrs. Roxanne Maillé	Reg. # 38995

Honorary Members

On a recommendation from Cst. Manon Desrosiers of the Gaspé/Les Iles de la Madeleine Det., the Association acknowledged the military service of two Veterans of the Canadian Armed Forces who served in the Second World War and the Korean War. A certificate was presented to them to highlight their involvement in the Royal Canadian Legion's activities and their participation in the Memorial Day ceremonies in Gaspé.

Mr. Harris Mullin	96 years old (deceased in Sept. 2020)	WW II Veteran
Mr. Kenneth Moore	87 years old	Korean War Veteran

Lifetime Members

« *Giving visibility to our senior members* »

Mr. Marcel Desaulniers	Reg. # 22149
Mr. Pierre Olivier	Reg. # 22900
Mr. Yves Campagna	Reg. # 21741
Mr. Denis Fournier	Reg. # 42267
Mr. Gaston Tardif	Reg. # 21921

Thank you to those who are turning 80, for their participation and support of the Association since their departure from the RCMP.

Treasurer

As of 2020-12-15, 11 members had not yet paid their 2020 dues. 340 dues were paid. Contributions for 2021 are coming at a good pace. To date, 230 contributions have been received. The RCMP VA is grateful. The Association has \$23,528 in cash. Of this amount, \$2,000 will be donated to the organization "Dans la rue" which perpetuates the works of Father Pops with homeless youth.

Membership contributions for 2021 in the amount of \$55 are now due. Your support of the association is critical so we can continue to defend your rights to the Government, organize social activities for our members and support community organizations. We thank you for your cooperation.

RCMP Centennial in Québec

The Mess Dinner of November 19, 2020 has been postponed indefinitely. Individuals who wish to cancel their participation can apply for a refund from Mr. Taha Abdalla. Those wishing to participate in the Gastronomic Evening at a later date are asked to confirm their presence to Mr. Taha Abdalla. Please make your choice and advise us of your decision by March 31, 2021. Taha.Abdalla@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

The Association has ordered 100 RCMP Commemorative tokens for its members. They should sell for about \$11 each. We received the Centennial lapel pins for distribution to members. C/O Deschênes wanted to salute Veterans in a special way.

The "C" Division Communications office will publish a souvenir album in printed and electronic format. Veterans of the Division contributed with the writings of their memoirs.

V/President Denis Martel is representing us on the Insp. Brongel's RCMP Committee.

Ombudsman

4th November 2020
Outstanding Grievances

Several years ago, the RCMP initiated new rules and procedures for processing grievances. These included specific timelines and were put in place to help ensure the timely resolution of grievances. However, we understand there remains a substantial backlog in the processing of grievances, with members waiting years for a Level I decision.

As Division Advocates, we are concerned that retired members may be experiencing such delays in the processing of grievances they may have initiated prior to their retirement. In order to determine the magnitude of this problem, we have decided to canvas our division members to see if any veteran in "C" Division has an outstanding grievance. To this end, I would ask that anyone in this category please advise me of the file number of their grievance and the date the grievance was presented. Please send an email with this information to: grc-rcmp-vets-divc@videotron.ca

Sylvain L'Heureux
Ombudsman, Québec Division

A tribute to our senior members



Mr. Yvan Robert, Reg. 16739

(89 years old) (Retired Constable)

Mr. Robert is a native of Montreal from the St. Vincent-Ferrier Parish in the Villeray neighborhood on De Gaspé Street. He attended the local school until grade 8. His father decided to send him to Loyola College on West Sherbrooke St. to learn the English language, a trip he made by bus every day.

After grade 11, he left the College to enter the labor market with Canadian National (CN) for 2-3 years. He then joined the RCMP on November 17, 1950. He recalls that the recruiting officer was a Mr. Thivierge. The Force's offices were at 4095 Sainte-Catherine West near the Montreal Forum. Previously, this building housed the Ice Manufacturing Co.

Following his engagement, Yvan was sent to Regina by train for training; he came back by train to Rockliffe (Ottawa) for 3 months and then returned to Regina to complete basic training. He remembers an incident when a British-born instructor condemned an English-speaking recruit who mocked the spoken English of a French-speaking recruit from Quebec City by inviting him to put himself in his place! This scene took place in front of the whole class.

He was later transferred to the "C" Division Headquarters Security and Intelligence Branch in the northeast corner of the building! He worked at 4095 St. Catherine West and also resided there on the 3rd floor in the barracks! He was assigned to conduct surveillance of the consular staff of the Soviet Union. He also had to replace civilian staff on leave and often worked a 16-hour day. And once a month he would replace the member on duty at the Bank of Canada, working in uniform at Victoria Square. A taxicab driver took him back and forth to that work site. Finally, after 5 years, he left the Force. He had to purchase his release for \$300 because he had not completed his 2nd 5-year contract.

Mr. Robert then had a career as an auto insurance adjuster for the Intact Group until he retired at the age of 65. In his early days in Saguenay/Lac Saint Jean (Bagotville), he met his first wife Brigitte, who worked for the law firm representing the Insurance Co. They had three sons and a daughter who still live very close to him. His wife died around 1984 and he remarried in 1985. His second wife, Marcelle, sadly passed away on October 10, 2020.

In insurance, he received 2-3 months of training. He specialized in car accident investigations. He travelled to several regions of Quebec, including the Laurentians and the Saguenay/Lac St. Jean and as far as Chibougamau.

Do not go to a medical clinic unless you have first obtained an appointment.

If your condition allows you to do so, call 1-877-644-4545. If you are a traveler who has returned within 14 days, mention it.

Visit the emergency room only if you have difficulty breathing when resting or are unable to breathe when lying down.

Veterans Affairs Canada



AVAILABLE RESOURCES ARE:

- Veterans Emergency Fund
- Health Care
- Financial Support
- Employment
- Vocational Training and Support
- Peer Support
- Veteran & Family Well-Being Fund
- Case Management
- Local Service Providers

**DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO SERVED IN THE
CANADIAN ARMED FORCES OR THE ROYAL
CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE WHO IS HOMELESS
OR AT RISK OF BECOMING HOMELESS?**

CALL US.
1-866-522-2122
veterans.gc.ca/services

1-800-268-7708

VAC Assistance Service, to speak to a mental health professional



Veterans Affairs
Canada

Anciens Combattants
Canada

Canada

<https://www.canada.ca/en/veterans-affairs-canada.html>

Information 1-866-522-2022

Emergency Mental Health 1-800-268-7708

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<https://www.facebook.com/VeteransAffairsCanada/> Facebook

[@VeteransENG_CA](#) Twitter

[@VeteransFR_CA](#) Twitter

Royal Canadian Legion

<https://www.legion.ca/home>

[Homeless Veterans](#)
veteransservices@legion.ca

Toll-free: 1-877-534-4666

Appeal to all members.

Your committee is looking for a Veteran whom we cannot get in touch with anymore.

Mr. William Thompson, Reg.# 14303
177, Thorncliff Place, Pincourt, J7V 5C8

Tel. 514 453-8114

We reiterate our request for assistance if anyone who knows him could help us.



The last word

We encourage you to follow our communications and those of the National RCMPVA by email.

Especially this Holiday Season, it's time to catch up with your friends. Many thanks to all the members of the Executive for their precious help.

At the risk of repeating what you've already heard, take care of yourself, wear a mask, keep your distance and wash your hands!

On behalf of your Committee,

Yves Sirois
Executive Secretary

Jean Martin
Director Communications

Karen Pearce
Translation
RCMPVA Québec Region

