



Newsletter, Spring 2021

Quebec Region, April 15th 2021,

Ladies and gentlemen, Veterans of the Quebec Division,

The pandemic is in its third wave which will definitely impact the future. We hope that most of you have received both doses of a vaccine. Even though our patience is being put to the test, we must continue the fight against COVID. Check out Clic Santé on the web.

Several of our holiday mailing were returned to sender because we no longer had current addresses. As you approach your relocation dates, we remind you to advise the association of any changes in address.

With respect to the scholarship program, the Committee still has to meet to approve the terms and conditions and get it up and running.

A few words about the national office of the RCMPVA. We are getting a lot more communication from the National VA on all kinds of topics of interest. We will consult with divisional chairs on topics of common interest to develop a strategy as a Veterans Organization for the 2021 Virtual AGM.

The topic of the day is probably the review and upgrade of the RCMPVA membership process and database which takes into account security requirements with regards to privacy and personal information. The upgrade is on-going. There are adjustments to be made on every level. Members have access to their own listings and accounts in the Member Management System (MMS). Although dues can be paid on-line, we encourage you to subscribe directly at the division level. This makes it much easier for your executive committee, especially in the case of new members.

The pace of vaccinations and the spread of the virus will decide whether we can hold social activities in the fall of 2021. Let's keep being careful. Like you, we are monitoring the situation.

Annual General Meeting (Virtual AGM) - Calgary, Ab, June 5, 2021

At the next Calgary Virtual AGM for 2021, the National Executive Committee will submit a resolution to terminate the status of Life Member retroactive to 2014. The Quebec division feels this motion is being proposed with the singular goal of enabling the collection of more dues. The National RCMPVA position is that dropping the LM category was debated and approved in 2014 so as to not allow one group to overwhelm the other status groups thus systematically screwing the voting process. In addition, the LM criteria was different from one division to another. Nova Scotia Division felt as Quebec did. LM's inducted before 2014 would not lose the right to vote because of a grandfather clause but those named afterwards would be required to pay dues in order to be able to vote.

Our position is that Lifetime Membership is a great show of recognition for our members aged 80 and over who have contributed for at least 15 consecutive years prior to their 80th birthday. For "C" Division, it is a matter of respect and honor to our predecessors who were our mentors and, more importantly, have in many cases helped to promote and perpetuate the traditions of the RCMP and the Association. "C" Division will oppose the proposal but there is no guarantee that we will prevail. If passed, the division will return the National portion (\$37) of all those we have named Life Members since 2014. This will cost approximately \$15,000. In addition, we will have to stop making these appointments as of this year. It saddens us to have to make this announcement. It is now up to grey power to manifest itself!?!

Our Recruiting Director has prepared a counter motion to the National proposal and when it is submitted, we hope to receive your support.

A word from our President

Dear Veterans and families,

I hope that you are doing the best you can and that we will finally be able to hold face-to-face meetings as of the fall. On Thursday, May 6, a virtual discussion on lifetime membership dues was held with Ian Atkins, Sandy Glen, Glen Siegersma and Sandra Conlin. The decision to no longer automatically recognize LM's at the age of 80 after fifteen years of contribution was made following a vote in favour at the 2014 AGM. The "main" reason cited is to reduce the number of member categories now that we are an NPO. The By-laws provide that a division president may appoint lifetime members under certain conditions, such as a member who has made a significant contribution to the advancement and influence of our association.

I explained the Quebec Division position that LM status should be re-activated as before the "2014" amendments because these members have contributed for 15 years and more to the Division and National Association. As per the By-laws, the discussion must be presented to all members for voting at the AGM. So, we are preparing a proposal stating our position which will also be sent to all the divisions for their information... This has created some tension, Mrs. Conlin said members need to understand and weigh the pros and cons before they can vote. I told her it would be the National's Committee's responsibility to explain it all.

On May 21st and June 4th, I will participate in discussions of the 2021 Strategic Plan and the results of the membership survey. One wonders why there is less and less interest in the Association. I will make it my duty to reiterate the importance of recognizing our most senior members and revisiting LM's because this could have an impact.

Continue to be careful and look forward to seeing each other again,
In Friendship,

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



Last Post

« *We will remember them* »

Following members left us for another world:

Mr. Marcel Marcotte	Reg. 19169	2021/02/19	Laval
Mr. Jacques Legault	Reg. 18395	2021/03/03	Gatineau
Mr. Denis Ling	Reg. 18701	2021/03/05	Brockville, Ont.
Mr. Roger Couture	Reg. 19969	2021/03/18	Gatineau
Mr. Jacques Pelletier	Reg. 24903	2021/03/26	Gatineau
Mr. Rock Derouin	Reg. 19732	2021/03/28	Lasalle
Mr. Rino Leclerc	Reg. 41464	2021/04/18	Québec/St-Jean
Mr. Raymond Pageau	Reg. 17571	2021/04/04	Candiac

All our sympathies and prayers are with the families and friends of those who have moved on.

Sick parade

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

Mr. Jacques Lasnier is still in CHSLD. Like many others, COVID is difficult for Jacques. Due to health restrictions, he is bored and feels isolated. His condition has deteriorated slightly.

New members

Mr. Kevin Demeau	Reg. 40923	Montréal
Mr. Jean L'Abbé	Reg. 41990	Sainte Julie
Mr. Mathieu Charles Beaulieu	Reg. 58089	Gatineau
Mr. Bernard St-Onge	Reg. 29674	Mont-Laurier
Mr. Kenneth Mills	Reg. 26267	Hawkesbury, Ont.
Mrs. Sylvie Blouin	Reg. 43550	Granby
Mr. Jacques Rainville	Reg. 35667	Bainsville, Ont
Mr. Paul Surprenant	Reg. C3336	Mansfield (Pontiac)

Honorary members

Following a recommendation from Cst. Manon Desrosiers of the Gaspé/Magdalen Islands Det., the Association wishes to recognize two veterans of the Canadian Armed Forces for service to their country during the Second World War and the Korean War. They were awarded certificates on February 25 to recognize their participation in the Activities of the Royal Canadian Legion and Remembrance Day ceremonies in Gaspé.

Mr. Harris Mullin 96 years old (deceased August 2020) WW II Veteran



Mr. Kenneth Moore 87 years old Korean War Veteran



Treasurer

As of 2021/04/29, 361 members had paid their dues and 19 were still outstanding for 2021. We have collected \$17,098.00. Of this amount, royalties will be paid to the National office and donations will be made to the organizations we support regularly.

The RCMP VA is grateful.

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.

How to send funds to the Treasurer, By means of an Interac™ Transfer

Pay your annual membership fee with Interac Transfer. Send funds quickly and safely.

To make a transfer, open Your Bank's Mobile Banking or Online Banking™ and select **"Interact™ Transfer"**.

Your bank's digital banking services are displayed on a tablet, desktop and smartphone. The sender (you) selects Interac TRANSFER. You'll see a list of accounts and balances.

1. - Choose your account, with which you want to make the payment. Enter the recipient tresoriervetsgrc@gmail.com

2. - You must enter a security question. Everyone please use the same question: **Nom de notre chapeau** ? The answer (you need to register it) is **Stetson** (You can even include a brief message to the treasurer. ex. "2019 Contribution" or "Christmas Dinner Payment")

Within 30 minutes, your tresoriervetsgrc@gmail.com recipient will receive an email notifying them of the transfer.

The recipient (treasurer) receives the e-mail notice from Interac Transfer. The Treasurer can open the transfer using Online Banking or the Mobile Banking App. To complete the transfer, the recipient (the treasurer) must answer the security question you have entered with the answer you have provided.

It only takes a few clicks and the correct answer to the security question to finalize the transfer. The bank will notify you when your recipient has accepted the transfer. [A Bank transfer notice states, "Your transfer of funds has been made."]

If your transfer is not accepted within 30 days, it is returned to your account or can be recovered using the recovery screen. [The Recovery screen shows the sender the amount of the transfer, the account and the recipient. After reviewing the information, the sender selects "Next" to retrieve the transfer.]

It is also easy to cancel the transfer before it is accepted. [The user selects the transfer on the Transfer Details screen to cancel it.]

RCMP Centennial in Québec

The Mess Dinner planned for 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 participation to Mr. Taha Abdalla. Please make your choice and advise us of your decision by **March 31**, 2021. Taha.Abdalla@rcmp-grc.gc.ca.

If you decide to cancel, please also advise Mr. Denis Martel of the Executive Committee.

The association received 100 RCMP commemorative tokens for its members. 65 will go on sale for \$12 shipping included. A newsletter has been published for sales details.

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.

A tribute our senior members



Mr. Fernand Boivin Reg. 16859 C/Supt. (retired)

90 years of age

Mr. Boivin was the Division OIC Criminal Operations Branch (CROPS) from 1980 to 1986. By nature, a discreet person, he was well respected as a Division Leader. Being a lawyer, he is proud to have been the first French Canadian Officer in charge of the RCMP Legal Branch at HQ. Upon his return to “C” Division in 1980 and thanks to his experience in the Security Service, he introduced new parameters for the management of informants and the supervision of undercover officers.

Who hasn't met him in the hallways of the 4th floor of HQ with his little smile as greeting! The Association smiles back and wished to pay him tribute for his unwavering support. Looking forward to seeing him again when circumstances permit.



Mr. Pierre « Pete » Garnier Reg. 17196 S/Sgt (retired)

89 years of age

It is 1950; I'm 18 years old, living in Montreal with my parents and my younger brother and working as a cashier at the Atlantic and Pacific Food Store near our home. I notice a recruiting advertisement for the RCMP. So, I apply at the RCMP headquarters in Montreal. Although I passed the exams and interviews I am told I am too skinny and to go home and work out to increase my chest to 70 inches (inflated and deflated). Although I am disappointed, I go home and train for several months, finally being hired on August 20, 1951.

Eventually the RCMP confirmed my departure by train to its training centre in Regina, Saskatchewan (2 days by train) for a period of approximately 8 months. I was very happy that our squad's training was not extended for equestrian training. After training, I was transferred to Montreal HQ with the three members who came from the province of Quebec since we were French-speaking and this was pretty much necessary to work in Quebec.

After a short stay at the Montreal HQ, I was transferred to Granby Det. During a visit to the prosecutor's office (Robert and Godbout), I fell in love with one of the secretaries; Gertrude later became my wife in 1957.

In Montreal, I worked in the "Special Branch" (counter-espionage), at the Montreal Airport, at the Montreal Municipal Court, then in Quebec City (Port of Quebec) and at the Quebec Det. from October 1962 to April 1966. After Quebec City, I was posted to the Canadian Pavilion at Expo67. Then it was a short stay as a Sgt. at the Montreal Airport Special Squad. In Criminal Intelligence, I was on loan from 1972 to 1975, to the Sureté du Québec, at the Commission of Inquiry on Organized Crime. As an S/Sgt, I returned to the Fraud Section and retired from the RCMP at age 44 in May 1976.

After 3 days off, I was hired by the Fire Underwriters Investigations Bureau (FUIB) (Fire and False Claims Section) where other RCMP retirees were also working, including Cpl R. D'Astous, Sgt Al Martin and Jean-Claude Cloutier, who later became the President of the Toronto-based office. After my 11-year stay at the FUIB, I worked on contract for Canada Post, the Quebec Liquor Board (monitoring of beverage trucks in transit) and finally at the Canadian Tire store on the South Shore (monitoring for possible thefts on the floor).

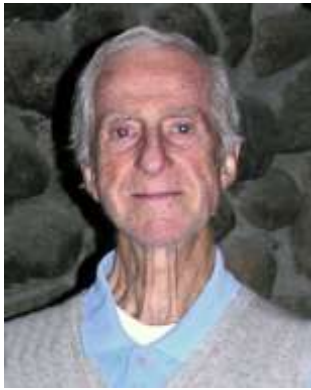
After retiring from the RCMP and once our three children were older, Gertrude and I travelled. Between 1977 and 2012, we visited (108 times by plane) Mexico, Guadeloupe, Venezuela, Colombia, Jamaica, Spain, France, Italy and many other places including and western Canada and the USA. During several of these voyages, Gertrude and I were accompanied by veteran Laurent Lajeunesse and his wife Claudette.

Not everything was rosy, though. In 2003, I underwent 38 radiation treatments for prostate cancer and later, operations to my left and right hips, colon surgery in 2014, cataracts in both eyes, a stroke in 2014, aortic valve repaired in 2018 at the Institute in Montreal, syncope in 2019 and installation of a pace maker in the same year!

Despite all this, we are blessed with three good healthy children (Robert 63, Carole 62 and Jacqueline 59). In addition, we have five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, all of them healthy. Our greatest sadness is not being able to take them in our arms during this pandemic. Gertrude, my best friend for 67 years and I have been living together in the same house since 1967 (54 years). Since we don't have the Internet, we enjoy watching TV, reading and the famous puzzles that we love very much. During "normal" times, we visit restaurants, cinemas and theatres. And I would be very pleased to hear from the people I worked with in the RCMP or elsewhere in my service.

Pierre Garnier

(Editor's note: M. Garnier sent us his text which we changed very little!)



Mr. Jean Godin Reg. 17197 Constable (retired)

88 years of age

It was August 1951. I was 18. The train was taking me away from my family and Quebec for the first time to the Training Centre in Regina. 70 years later, this training remains a marking event in my life. I found interests and friends there I have carried with me all my life, even though I left the RCMP in 1954. Indeed, while posted in Montreal, I fell in love. At the time, however, you had to be single for five years. For me, love was stronger than the police. I got married and had two beautiful children, I worked in finance, at GMAC, and continued my studies. After my master's degree in Public Administration, I worked at CIDA, Hydro-Québec and the engineering firm Tecsumt, where I led the management consulting group. I have carried out projects all over the world and participated in the implementation of many projects, especially with regards to the environment. At the same time, I have always been involved politically and socially, at the municipal and provincial level. Now, at 88, I am living at a very different pace, peacefully, in the country.



Jean Godin and Lucie Audet

Notice that in Mr. Godin's troop photo, both Pierre Garnier and late John Duguay also appear. John Duguay and Jean are photographed together in the picture on the right.

The Association is pleased to pay tribute to Jean and thank him for all his years in our Veterans' group. Stay well!

Social Activities

Unfortunately, all activities have been cancelled.

Mess Dinner for the RCMP Centennial (postponed indefinitely)

August 19th 2021 Golf at Hemingford Country Club.

You will be advised of any changes.

Motorcycle Tour

Chuck Waring from the Ottawa Division is organizing a motorcycle ride across Canada this year.

Chuck has been coordinating the event with former RCMP and Municipal Forces members and would really like to find someone from Quebec to help him identify possible riders from the province.

The goal is to visit RCMP and other police services along the route to show support for our brothers and sisters who are serving. **Please contact Chuck Waring** c.r.waring@xplornet.ca

Emergencies

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) (extract from the Government of Québec site)

If you are worried about COVID-19, you can call 418-644-4545, 514-644-4545, 450-644-4545, 819-644-4545 and 1-877-644-4545 (toll free) elsewhere in Quebec.

If you have symptoms such as a cough, fever, difficulty breathing or sudden loss of sense of smell without nasal congestion with or without loss of taste:

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.

If in doubt, do the symptom self-assessment as soon as possible and follow the instructions provided. **Do the symptom self-assessment.** You can also call the [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) information line](#).

New health instructions and curfew in force throughout Québec. Avoid travel and consult the measures that apply in your region to learn the details. You can also consult all the information on COVID-19.

Veterans Affairs 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

The last word

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

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

