

The RCMP Veterans' Historical Wall

Le Mur historique des Vétérans de la GRC



Questions & Answers

Q 1: What is the *RCMP Veterans' Historical Wall*?

The *RCMP Veterans' Historical Wall* will be built at the RCMP National Memorial Cemetery within the picturesque gardens of the National Cemetery of Canada at Beechwood.

The intent of the *RCMP Veterans' Historical Wall* is:

- to profile the contributions of the RCMP to the development of Canada,
- to capture the highlights of the history of the RCMP from its inception in 1873, and
- to recognize all those who served throughout the years.

Beechwood cemetery welcomes over 100,000 visitors annually at no cost making the proposed *RCMP Veterans' Historical Wall* a popular stop for those who visit the National Capital Region wanting to learn more about this unique aspect of Canada's history.

Q 2: What will the *RCMP Veterans' Historical Wall* look like and what will it include?

The *RCMP Veterans' Historical Wall* will have a foundation of 120-140 feet (40 metres) on which there will be ten interpretive panels (past, present and future) – five in English and five in French - highlighting the history of the RCMP in the development of Canada.

Interactive communications on the site will expand the historical information through immediate web connections (both written and verbal) making a visit to the *RCMP Veterans' Historical Wall* particularly attractive to seniors and students.

Q 3: Who is responsible for the project?

The *RCMP Veterans' Historical Wall* Project Team is a committee comprised of members of the RCMP Veterans' Association - Ottawa Division as well as personnel from the Beechwood Cemetery Foundation.

Q 4: Who are the members of the RCMP Veterans' Association - Ottawa Division?

The Ottawa Division RCMP Veterans' Association is the local chapter of the national RCMP Veterans' Association. Members of the Ottawa Division include past and retired RCMP: regular members, civilian members, federal public service employees, municipal employees, auxiliary members and reservists as well as associate members (current employees, family members and widows/widowers) and distinguished Canadians as Honourary Members.



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Q 5: Why are the RCMP Veterans leading this project?

In 2001 the Ottawa Division RCMP Veterans' Association began working with Beechwood to secure land within Beechwood, Canada's National Cemetery to establish an RCMP specific cemetery as a final resting place dedicated to past, current and future RCMP employees and their families. Over the last 18 years, the Ottawa Division RCMP Veterans' Association has led efforts to ensure that the RCMP National Memorial Cemetery at Beechwood and the many memorials within its grounds continue to recognize all RCMP employees who have served their country. The construction of the *RCMP Veterans' Historical Wall* is a natural progression in telling the story of the RCMP and its role in supporting the development and history of Canada.

Q 6: What is the role of the RCMP Veterans' Association?

The Association lists the following in its Constitution to:

- promote and assist in the promotion and advancement of the best interests of Canada;
- be of service to the Government of Canada when required and requested;
- co-operate with and to render assistance to the Police, especially the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, in all matters of common interest or concern;
- promote the physical, social and economic welfare of the Association's members or the members of their immediate families;
- provide support to worthy community services or organizations of a charitable or benevolent nature.

Q 7: Why is the *RCMP Veterans' Historical Wall* being built in Ottawa?

Ottawa has been the national headquarters of the RCMP since 1920 when the Parliament of Canada legislated that the former Dominion and the Royal NorthWest Mounted Police be combined into one national police force; the renamed Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Over the past 100 years, former and current RCMP employees have been engaged at or transferred into Headquarters to live, work and train in the area. Through this time many have remained to continue their careers, raise their families and eventually retire in the Ottawa region. The *RCMP Veterans' Historical Wall* will be built within a section of the National Cemetery of Canada that is the RCMP National Memorial Cemetery at Beechwood. The RCMP National Memorial Cemetery at Beechwood is one of the five RCMP designated cemeteries; the other four being located in western Canada.



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Q 8: Why doesn't the RCMP just build the *RCMP Veterans' Historical Wall* itself?

This is an RCMP Veterans' initiative. The RCMP cannot commit any of its operating funds to this project. However, the Commissioner of the RCMP is fully supportive of the Veterans' volunteer efforts and the construction plan. Another factor as well is that the *RCMP Veterans' Historical Wall* is being constructed on the grounds of the National Cemetery of Canada at Beechwood which is not Crown-owned land.

Q 9: Why is the Wall being built at Beechwood Cemetery?

In 2009 Beechwood Cemetery was officially recognized by an Act of Parliament as the National Cemetery of Canada and has been a final resting place for many RCMP (NWMP & RNWMP) employees since its opening in 1873. In fact, some of the 300 North West Mounted Police officers who were part of the initial "March West" are buried there. Since the formal establishment of an RCMP specific section within Beechwood in 2004; the RCMP National Memorial Cemetery, Beechwood has continued to welcome RCMP employees and their families from across Canada. The addition of the *RCMP Veterans' Historical Wall* to this beautiful garden-like setting will complement other RCMP commemorative features and monuments already in place on the site.

Q 10: What was the inspiration for this Historical Wall?

The concept for the *RCMP Veterans Historical Wall* was inspired by many of the international and national police memorials who seek to share history and symbolism in commemorating local forces and their fallen. Particular attention was paid to those that adopted more contemporary aspects allowing visitors to reflect on the unique experiences of their visits. Following the example of others, care has been taken to plan for the inclusion of an informative walking tour with placid stops along the way featuring benches and plaques; all to create a "history timeline" marking important dates. The *RCMP Veterans' Historical Wall* will expand on those concepts and share particularly the history of the RCMP and its role in Canadian identity and culture.

Q 11: How much will the Wall project cost?

Fundraising has been set at \$1.6 million to cover the full cost of construction.



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Q 12: Why should I contribute to this project?

You are being invited to be part of this one-time lasting legacy project that promotes our Canadian identity and the proud and unique history of the RCMP. You will be joining Canadians in marking the 150th anniversary of the RCMP's tradition and legacy and in recognizing the dedication of all those who have served and those who continue to serve Canada today.

Q 13: How will the donated funds be spent?

All funds donated will be dedicated to invoiced costs to complete the *RCMP Veterans Historical Wall*. Surplus funds, if any, at the end of the Wall Project are to be deposited to the benefit of the general donations account of the RCMP National Memorial Cemetery at Beechwood and will support related commemorative projects and events.

Q 14: Who is managing the project?

The Wall Project is being managed jointly by RCMP Veterans & the Beechwood Cemetery Foundation. Accounting services for the Wall Project and ongoing financial oversight are provided by the Beechwood Foundation through the Beechwood Cemetery, Funeral & Cremation Services, Ottawa and are in keeping with standard accounting and auditing principles.

Q 15: How will this project ensure that they stay within budget?

The *RCMP Veterans Historical Wall* Project Plan directs that any purchases or orders for labour and construction will be undertaken only when the necessary funds have been secured and are held in a Wall Project designated account. With the period of fundraising set over years, the construction period should allow adequate time to fundraise and finish the project in time. By following this formula, the Project Plan is set to manage the risk of over-expenditure or financial liability.

Q 16: Who is being asked to donate to the project?

Donations to the *RCMP Veterans' Historical Wall* are being accepted from:

- The three levels of government; federal, provincial and municipal
- Prospective donors in the private sector
- All Canadians



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Q 17: Can donations be offered over a multi-year period?

Yes, this is possible. You can make your pledge for 2021, 2022 or 2023 or you can spread your donation over any or all of those three years.

Q 18: Are there other contributions I can make in lieu of actual funding?

Consideration can be given to certain services and products depending on the needs of the project.

Q 19: Are donations tax deductible?

Yes, when you make your donation to the Beechwood Cemetery Foundation, the funds are specifically attributed to the *RCMP Veterans' Historical Wall* project. The Beechwood Cemetery Foundation is a registered charity with a Canada Revenue Agency taxation number: 88811 2018 RR0001. Accounting Services are provided by Beechwood Funeral, Cemetery & Cremation Services.

Q 20: How will my contribution be recognized?

There are a number of ways in which you will be recognized depending on the level of donation. The different levels of recognition will be discussed upon receipt of your donation.



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