

Minutes

Lunch/Meeting

Saturday, September 9th, 2023 at 11 am for meet & greet and at noon for lunch/meeting. Royal Canadian Legion Branch 191, 9775 Chemainus Rd., Chemainus, B.C. Attendance of 70 members and guests.

1. Call to Order - 12:01 Ken AZZOPARDI, A/President

2. Motion to Approve/Modify/Add to the Agenda

Motion by: Sheryl ARMSTRONG

Seconded by: Larry JOHANNES

Carried

3. Singing of O Canada – Led by Barney BERNARD

4. Welcoming of Visiting Members/Guests

Mike and Sherry BIELING, Duncan

Sandy SKOGSTAD, St. Albert. AB

Larry and Debra HEIN, Victoria

Doug and Louise LINFIELD, Victoria

Sgt. Lita WATSON, Lake Cowichan Detachment

S/Sgt. Ken BEARD, North Cowichan/Duncan Detachment

Cpl. Dave MOTLEY, Ladysmith Detachment

Sgt. Ian JOHNSON, North Cowichan/Duncan Detachment

5. Remembrance & Grace – Barney BERNARD

Remembering:

Mike CLEGG

Nev SAUNDERS

Butch DAVIS

Dale Edward DITCHROW

6. Adjournment for Lunch – 12:12

7. Recalling Meeting to Order – 13:25

8. Approval of the Minutes of the Last Meeting – May 13, 2023

Motion by: Irwin AXNESS

Seconded by: Keith TRAIL

Carried

9. Old Business

Report on the Division's Position Paper at the AGM 2023 –
Keith TRAIL

This was Keith's 42nd consecutive AGM.

There were over 500 people attending the Saturday night dance.

Five previous Commissioners were in attendance.

There were many MMS complaints.

Payment of dues was a major irritant.

Keith was asked to do a presentation at Beechwood Cemetery to honor civilian members with the unveiling of a plaque.

The four nights hotel bill came to \$1000.

10. New Business

A. Presentation of Prints to Detachment Commander(s) – A/President & Duncan Director

Presentations of donated prints were made to Duncan/North Cowichan, Cowichan Lake, and Ladysmith Detachments. Please refer to attached photos.

B. Presentation of the New RCMPVA Ensign and its Design Symbolism - A/President

A solid yellow shield in the shape of an RCMP badge represents our “Police” role and our commitment to upholding the law without fear favor or affection.

Centered in the Shield / Badge is a spur design with the shank pointing upwards in red. The spur is one of the most iconic symbols of the Mounted Police dating from 1873 and reflects our respect for our origins. It also symbolizes that Veterans “have earned our spurs”

The rowel of the spur is replaced with a stylized Maple Leaf. It reflects that Veterans served in every region of the country serving and protecting Canadians.

C. Purchase of 12 Small Ensign Flags for our Lunch Tables – Treasurer

Presentation of the small table flags. No discussion.

D. Four Virtual Meetings were held in August with the Association Executive Committee (AEC) & the Divisional Presidents:
Report to Follow - A/President

CVI's position paper questions the relevance of National Headquarters and the way that it manages our finances. Next years membership fees are \$70. The allocation of these fees are \$55 to National and \$15 to the Division.

Four virtual meetings have taken place between Division Presidents and the Association Executive Committee (AEC). Sub-committees have been formed and will meet over the next three months to address issues and seek a path forward.

E. Report on the Grave Inspection in Duncan – Tom EARL & Mike BIELING

NWMP, RNWMP & RCMP Grave Markers Cowichan Valley
2023 Inspection Report
Tom EARL

At the time of this report (September 2023) there are 41 known graves in 13 cemeteries located in the Cowichan Valley (extending from Ladysmith to Mill Bay/Shawnigan Lake). I am able to report that all grave markers have been inspected and as a result of some work by our guest speaker are in excellent condition.

There is one grave that is unmarked. It's the grave of Sergeant-Major James Thomas FLINTOFF of the NWMP - Reg. #1239. His grave is in Saint Mary's Somenos Anglican Church Cemetery. I have made contact with the graves coordinator at "E" Div. who is

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assisting me, through "F" Div. to obtain a free Force grave marker for this deceased member.

Except for one, I believe that all grave markers have been photographed for the national data base. One that has not been photographed is that of Reg Blackmore who's marker is not yet in place.

I have been in touch with two members of our Victoria Vets Association Executive to sadly learn that they are not involved in this project. I have therefore made contact with Mike BYRNE on Saltspring who is interested in doing inspections on the island and that will become part of this report in the future. Once again our guest speaker has identified 12 graves on Saltspring that will be inspected.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the following for their assistance in achieving this year's inspection:

Mary Margaret Amodeo - Victoria Vets Association
Norm Usher - Central Island Vets Association
Susan Good
Bob Fenske
Ed Raaflaub
Chris Bomford
Jaak Koosel
Frank Allison
My wife Dodie
Mike Bieling - Lest We Forget Where They Lie Program -
Cowichan Valley

Mike is a civilian whose help in locating graves has been exceedingly helpful. He has also provided me with a quantity of

D/2 cleaning product for those graves requiring some cleaning. On behalf of our Association I thank him for all his assistance.

Presentation by Mike BIELING

Mike spoke on his work researching, locating, and maintaining military and RCMP (NWMP) gravesites.

The reason for his fascination with this endeavor is multi-faceted. The overall societal elements of graveyards and burial practices are anthropologic evidence of past generations. The research into the records of military and police graves yield a great deal of historical information.

Mike briefed us on the technical aspects of cleaning stubborn organic growth from gravestones using D-2. Mike has supplied this expensive but effective chemical to Tom EARL, and Tom is willing to help other members with their maintenance projects.

2023 Graves Inspection Report

Area 1:

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Cemetery - Mill Bay, BC

Mudge, Gerald W. - #12918 / 0.2424

United Church Cemetery, Mill Bay, BC

Wilson, Richard George - #6015

St. John the Baptist Cemetery - Cobble Hill, BC

Crothers, Frank Albert - #5163

St. Andrew's Anglican Church Cemetery - Cobble Hill, BC

Kingscote, Anthony Augustus - #9844

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Shawnigan Lake Cemetery - Shawnigan Lake, BC

Curtis, Geoffrey C.R. - #64504

Blackmore, Reginald Robert - #15790 (No Marker at this time)

Area 2:

Mountain View Cemetery - North Cowichan, BC

Irvine, Gordon C. - #14661

Williams, R. James - #20863

Lesiuk, Emil E. - #29051

Thibeault, Joseph W. - #17916 / 0.783

Hornett, Robert C. - #14660

Byce, Harold Kenneth - #11016

Davidson, John Arthur - #14710

Glen, John - #7118

Joughin, Orry - #5941

Mantik, Adolph (Ed) - #18730

Pluckwell, Albert Edward - #18625

Whittaker, Gordon Lyle - #16006

Clarke, Robert Shannon - #33156

Hildbrandt, R. Randy - #27497

Cyr, Dennis Conrad - #22419

Currie, William James - #16343

Klassen, William Albert - #31036

Collier, John (Jock), #18217

Area 3:

St. Mary's Anglican Cemetery - Duncan, BC

Green, Claude Rodney Austin, #16691

Greaves, Allan Harry - #17068

York, James #1738

McCondach, William Ronald, #9461

Flintoff, James Thomas, #1239 (Unmarked site)

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St. Ann's Catholic Cemetery - Duncan, BC

Etienne, Edward, #7784

St. Peters Anglican Cemetery - Duncan, BC

Sandys Wunsch, Theodore Vincent, #5185

Horsfield, Richard Edward - #10112

Taylor, John Dalrymple - #10983

Area 4:

All Saints Anglican Westholme Cemetery - Chemainus, BC

MacDowell, John H.D. - #17911

Chemainus / St. Michael's and All Angels Cemetery, BC

Green, Richard William - 14740

Gilmore, Charles Raymond - #6984

Ladysmith Cemetery, BC

O'Halloran, Allen C. - 34917

Sutherland, Kenneth Simon - #15575

Bogden, Ken G. - #22521

Taylor, Harold Percy - #4071

Central Cemetery - Saltspring Island, BC

Good, James Earl - #25885 / 0.1576

F. Seeking Nominations for the Following Positions – A/President

Treasurer

Director for Parksville/Qualicum

Director for Nanaimo

Director for Duncan

Our Association, like many other non-profit associations, exists solely by dedicated volunteers. Most retirees do not want to take

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extra work; however, it is unfair to let other volunteers to do the work for many years. So PLEASE nominate a member and/or yourself for these identified positions. No volunteer means no association!

Secretary's Report – Jaak KOOSEL

The ensign bases on each table are made from ethically sourced Douglas Fir from the CVI area. This wood is rough cut and will leave small slivers when handled without proper protection. Irwin and Jaak chose to leave the stands this way for the symbolism. CVI veterans are rough and tough, cause old age is not for sissies.

Treasurer's Report – Rick STEELE

CVI Financial re-cap for Man, June July, August 2023:

INCOME

MAY \$2,331.00
JUNE \$45.00
JULY \$00.00
AUG \$130.00
TOTAL INCOME: \$2,507.00

EXPENSES

MAY \$2,647.94
JUNE \$1,542.25
JULY \$00.00
AUG \$240.00
TOTAL EXPENSES: \$4,429.19

CHEQUING ACCOUNT END OF AUG: \$8,005.39

SAVINGS GIS #1: \$17,034.68

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SAVINGS GIS #2: \$10,419.62

TOTAL ALL ACCOUNTS: \$35.459.69

Carried

Approval of the Financial Reports

Motion by: Bryan WALKER

Seconded by: Tom EARL

Carried

Membership Officer's Report – Ken HANDY

We have 230 members.

One member was added to Nanaimo over the summer.

17 members will be retiring in our area, 3 have indicated interest in joining CVI Veterans

Quartermaster's Report & Calling of the Names of the Bar

Recipients - Bryan WALKER

Nil report

11. Directors' Reports

Duncan – Brent BLANCHARD

Brent thanked everyone for attending, and Tom and Mike for their reports on the graves projects.

Brent has served as area director for 10 years and wishes to retire for health reasons. Applications for his position are invited.

Arne KRENZ thanks the Association for the flowers that were sent for his wife.

Nanaimo – Dave ANDERSON

David thanked the serving members for their attendance.

David is also looking for a replacement for Nanaimo. He reports a diagnosis of Falling Apart Itis.

Parksville/Qualicum – Ken AZZOPARDI

Ken is also looking for a replacement in Parksville /Qualicum since he is currently the 1st Vice-President.

On July 24th Clay THOMPSON and Ken AZZOPARDI presented Oceanside Detachment with a 150th commemorative picture donated by Clay at a celebration sponsored by City of Parksville and attended by the CO and CROPS “E” Div. officers, local politicians and Oceanside Detachment members.

There is a large floral display in front of the Oceanside Detachment for the 150th celebrations. Photo attached in this report.

Port Alberni – Steve VATAMANIUK

Steve wishes to remind everyone that the next meeting in June shall be in Port Alberni. This year’s meeting was cancelled due to road closures that lasted three weeks.

The sad part is that the closures occurred during the biggest run of fish. People had caught their limits and returned to the dock within an hour. The fish in the river at the weigh in were so thick that you could walk across the river on their backs.

Steve has been engaged in Aqua Thermal Activities.

This involves washing dishes in hot water under his wife’s supervision.

Courtenay/Comox – Mary KOSTASHUK

Nil report.

Campbell River – Barney BERNARD

Barney attended Nev SAUNDERS service last week. It was a beautiful sunny day to say good bye to Nev.
Glen BARRIE and Dick HALL are not doing well.
Barney attended Mike CLEGG's internment at Depot.
Last Thursday Larry and Barney made 150th presentations in Campbell River.
A park in Prince Albert was named after veteran Ed LIARD.
Barney's son in-law shared some golfing wisdom: Why do golfers wear two pairs of pants? In case they get a hole in one.

12. Correspondence and Anything for the Good of the Association

Trip Merchant's Website is: rcmpva.tripmerchant.ca and their Password is: RCMPVATM18

13.A. Delayed Birthday Wishes for the Month of June

Don SMITH
Robert STITT
Len JERRITT
Wayne MOSSMAN
Neil GILLIS
John BECKETT
Jack HENZIE
Peter ATTRELL
Glenn DeMAERE

Bert WHARTON
Del COLLIN
Richard BOYCE
Pat EDWARDS
Sean LYNCH
Daniel TETTAMANTI
Thomas TARABAWKA
Robert HART
Nigel PATERSON

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13.B. Delayed Birthday Wishes for the Month of July

Philomena PENNER
Wayne RUSHTON
Ronald MERCHANT
Blair McCOLL

Glen KRELLER
Chuck LOK
Robert WHEADON

13.C. Delayed Birthday Wishes for the Month of August

Joyce MEACOCK
Don BUCHANAN
Lloyd DAY
IAN SOMERVILLE
Jeffrey LOTT
David SUTHERLAND
Mary KOSTASHUK

Tony ANTONIUK
Jim BOLLEFER
Douglas JOHNSTON
James DALLIN
David KIRKBY
Marc LAVERGNE
Gordon HAY

13.D. Birthday Wishes for this Month

Josh PURNEY
Richard HALL
Betty GILCHRIST
Arnie KRENZ
Bob MUIR
Herbert SCHMIDT
Jim WILSON
Mike FALLON
Roger CASSON
Stan BASS
Irwin AXNESS
Larry JOHANNES

Arlee WEIGUM
Don SMITH
Bud BECHDHOLT
Brian HARTWIG
John GOULD
Bruce MORRISON
Reg BOYCHUK
Glen CALDER
Robert ROBINSON
Don HELGESON
Dave CAMPBELL
Howard GOODRIDGE

14. Thanks to the Organizer, Kitchen Staff & Door Prize Givers

15. Next Meeting

Our next lunch/meeting will be held in Courtenay on November 4th, 2023, at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 160, 1825 Comox Ave., Courtenay, BC.

***This will be our Annual General Meeting**

16. Adjournment – 14:40

Motion by: Sheryl ARMSTRONG
Seconded by: Ken HANDY
Carried

17. Door Prizes

Ken AZZOPARDI, 1st Vice-President & A/President

Humour

You Know you are from Canada When ...

You know you are from Canada when ... You drink pop, not soda.

You know you are from Canada when ... You can drink legally while still a teen.

You know you are from Canada when ... You talk about the weather with friends and strangers alike.

You know you are from Canada when ... You don't know or care about the fuss with Cuba, it's just a cheap place to travel with good cigars and no Americans

You know you are from Canada when ... Pike is a type of fish, not some part of a highway.

You know you are from Canada when ... You drive on a highway, not a freeway

You know you are from Canada when ... Like any international assassin/terrorist/spy in the world, you possess a Canadian passport.

You know you are from Canada when ... You are excited whenever an American television show mentions Canada.

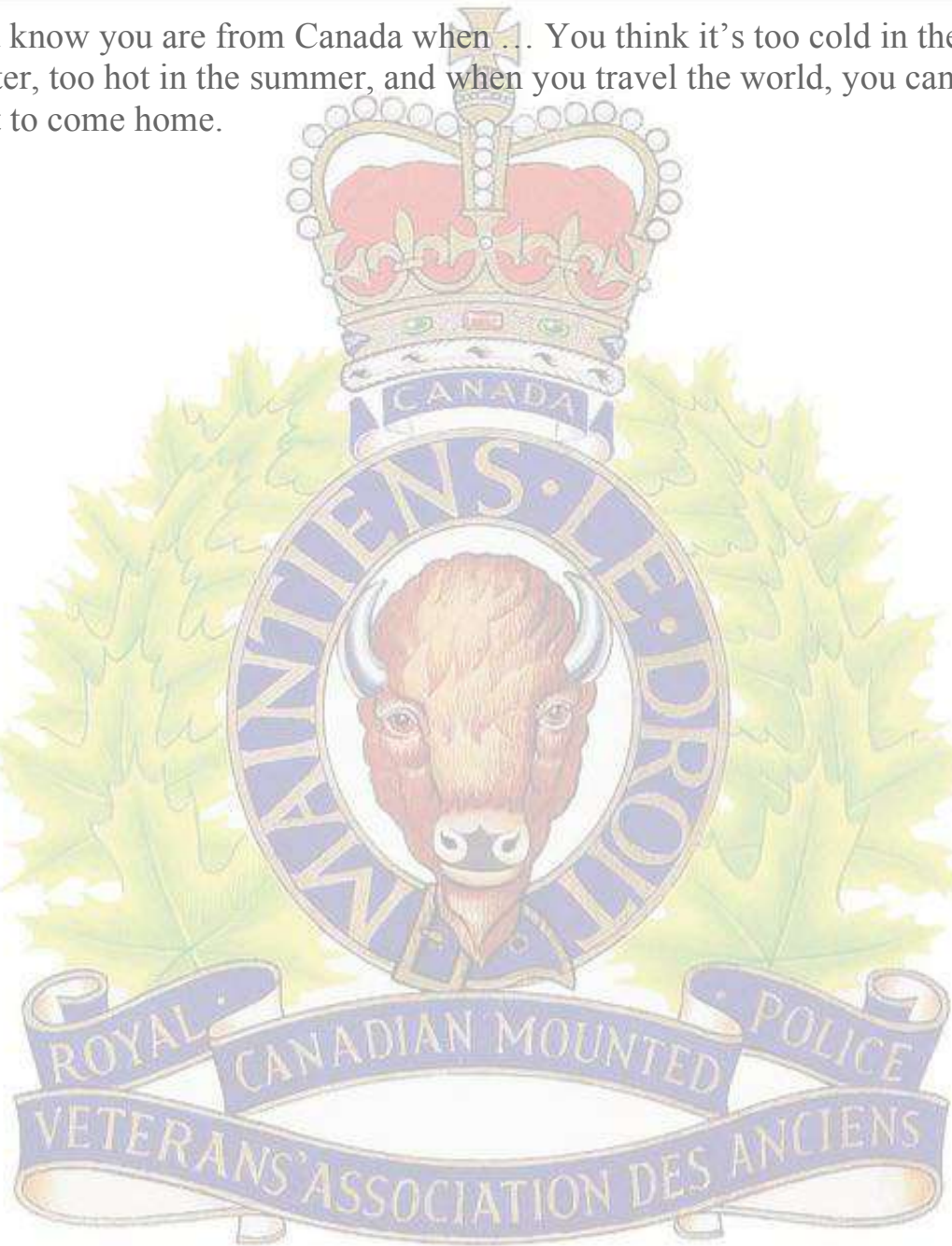
You know you are from Canada when ... You know Toronto is not a province.

You know you are from Canada when ... you know what a toque is.

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You know you are from Canada when ... you know exactly where you were when Sidney Crosby scored the Golden Goal at the Vancouver Olympics in 2010!

You know you are from Canada when ... You think it's too cold in the winter, too hot in the summer, and when you travel the world, you can't wait to come home.



150 Presentations Photographs

Photo contributions by Irwin Axness & others

Alert Bay Detachment



On the 17th August, CVI representatives presented Alert Bay Detachment with a print donated by Rod Booth. From left to right are Past President Irwin Axness, Alert Bay Detachment Commander Sgt. Erin Stevenson, President Gilles Chiasson and CVI member Chuck Lok

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Campbell River Detachment



Larry Stright, Insp. Jeff Preston & Barney Bernard

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Gold River Detachment



Barney Bernard, Sgt. Kim Rutherford, Larry Stright

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Ladysmith Detachment



*Ken Azzopardi, Jann Bain, Tim Bain, Cpl. Dave Motley
& Brent Blanchard.*

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Lake Cowichan Detachment



Ken Azzopardi, Sgt. Lita Watson & Brent Blanchard



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North Cowichan/Duncan Detachment



Ken Azzopardi, Tom Earl, Sgt. Ian Johnson, S/Sgt. Ken Beard & Brent Blanchard

Oceanside Detachment



Ken Azzopardi with Clay Thompson who donated picture.

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Ken Azzopardi with Detachment members

Port Alice Detachment



On the 17th August CVI representatives presented Port Alice satellite Detachment a framed print donated by Kenneth Handy. Accepting the print is the acting Port Hardy Detachment Commander who is responsible for Port Alice. From left to right are Past President Irwin Axness, Cpl. Ryan Rooke and President Gilles Chiasson

Port Hardy Detachment



On the 17th August CVI representatives presented Port Hardy Detachment with a framed print donated by Tim and Jann Bain. From left to right are Past President Irwin Axness, Acting Detachment Commander Cpl. Ryan Rooke and President Gilles Chiasson.

Port McNeil Detachment



On Thursday the 17th August CVI representatives presented Port McNeill Detachment with a print donated by Tim and Jann Bain. Pictured from left to right are Past President Irwin Axness, Port McNeill Detachment Commander Sgt. Curtis Davis, President Gilles Chiasson, CVI member Chuck Lok and Detachment clerk Bonnie Barrett

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Quadra Detachment



Barney Bernard, Cpl. Nick Morden & Larry Stright

Sayward Detachment



On September 13, 2023 Barney Bernard attended Sayward Detachment and presented a framed print to i/c Cpl. Sebastien Brunet.



Luncheon Photos

Courtesy of Larry Stright



VETERANS' ASSOCIATION DES ANCIENS
Chemainus Legion

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Greeters - Tom Tarabawka & Brent Blanchard

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Chair - Vice President Ken Azzopardi



Secretary Jaak Koosel

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Treasurer, Rick Steele



Membership, Ken Handy

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Quartermaster, Bryan Walker



Dave Alderson - Nanaimo Director

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Steve Vatamaniuk - Port Alberni Director



Barney Bernard, Director Campbell River

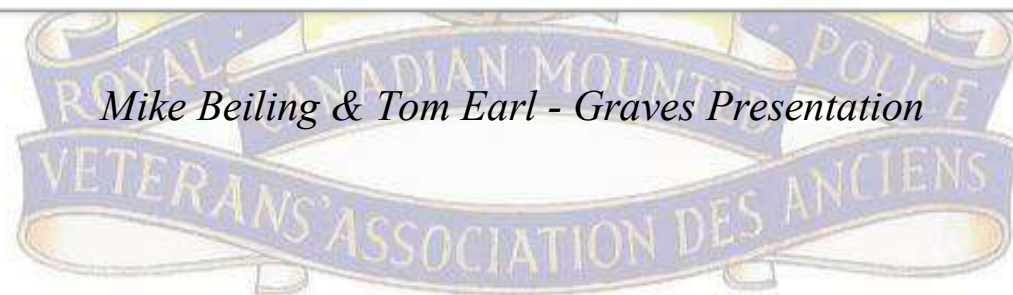
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Keith Trail, Database Administer



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Mike Beiling & Tom Earl - Graves Presentation

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RCMP Veterans' Ensign

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Victoria Guests, Doug & Louise Hein

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Victoria Guests - Doug & Louise Linfield



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Janita Blanchard and family relative, Sandy Skogstad



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Special Guests

S/Sgt. Ken Beard, North Cowichan/Duncan Det., Cpl. Dave Motley, Ladysmith Det., Sgt. Lita Watson, Lake Cowichan Det., Sgt. Ian Johnson, North Cowichan/Duncan Det.

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*Neville Saunders Reg. #19210 Service
CVI Honour Guard*



Barney Bernard, Larry Stright & Terry Hluska



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Celebrating the Life of
Neville (Nev) Arthur Saunders

August 7, 1937 ~ October 8, 2021

Service Officer
MC

Geordon Rendle
Glen Loxam

*I think about you always,
I talk about you still,
You have never been forgotten,
and you never will.
I hold you close within my heart,
and there you will remain,
To walk and guide me through my life,
Until we meet again.*

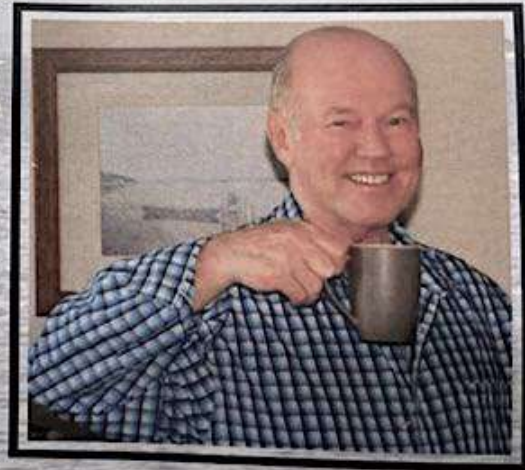


Table Views

Table 1



VETERANS' ASSOCIATION DES ANCIENS

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VETERANS' ASSOCIATION DES ANCIENS

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Table 9



VETERANS' ASSOCIATION DES ANCIENS

Coffee Clubs on Vancouver Island and Powell River

Campbell River: Tim Hortons at 10.00 hours on Wednesdays. (Bring your own chair & coffee)

Courtenay/Comox: Best Western Westerly Hotel, 1590 Cliffe Avenue every Wednesday @ 09.30 hours.

Duncan: York Street Diner, 5859 York Road - Mondays @10.00 hours.

Nanaimo: Woodgrove Mall Food Court Wednesdays @ 10.00 hours.

Parksville/Qualicum: Thursdays at 09.00 hours upstairs at Quality Foods, 371 Alberni Hwy., Parksville.

Port Alberni: No organized gathering.

Powell River : No organized gathering.

Victoria: Hillside Shopping Mall at the west side of the Food Court 1st and 3rd Monday @ 10.00 hours.

Westshore: Quality Foods Restaurant on the Langford Parkway Wednesdays @ 08.30 hours.

rev. Dec. 19, 2022

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CVI DIVISION EXECUTIVE 2023

President	Gilles Chiasson	gilles.psych@gmail.com /778-441-3797
Past President	Irwin Axness	iaxness@shaw.ca /250-585-1862
1 st Vice President	Ken Azzopardi	kenazz@shaw.ca /306-596-5779
2 nd Vice President	Dave Free	home-free@live.ca /250-923-1965
3 rd Vice President	Vacant	
Secretary	Jaak Koosel	koosel@gmail.com /250-245-2487
Treasurer	Rick Steele	rick26911@shaw.ca /250-585-0846

DIRECTORS

Campbell River	Barney Bernard	berneyb@shaw.ca /250-923-7502
Comox/Courtenay	Mary Kostashuk	Marykpi007@gmail.com /250-871-2592
Duncan	Brent Blanchard	ybblanchard@shaw.ca /250-710-2984
Nanaimo	Dave Alderson	dpalderson46@gmail.com /250-729-3615
Parksville/Qualicum	Ken Azzopardi	kenazz@shaw.ca /306-596-5779
Port Alberni	Steve Vatamaniuk	sjvat@shaw.ca /250-723-0232

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COMMITTEES/APPOINTMENTS

Benefits	Gilles Chiasson / Sheryl Armstrong
Chaplain	Charlie Massey
Database Administrator	Keith Trail
Membership	Ken Handy
Newsletter/Webmaster	Steve McKenna
Quartermaster	Bryan Walker
Grave Location & Maintenance	Len Jerit
Fan Out	Terry Hluska
Honour Guard Coordinators	Gilles Chiasson / Sheryl Armstrong
North Team Honour Guard Commander	Larry Stright
South Team Honour Guard Commander	Gary Forbes
CVI National Advocacy Co-Ordinator	Gilles Chiasson

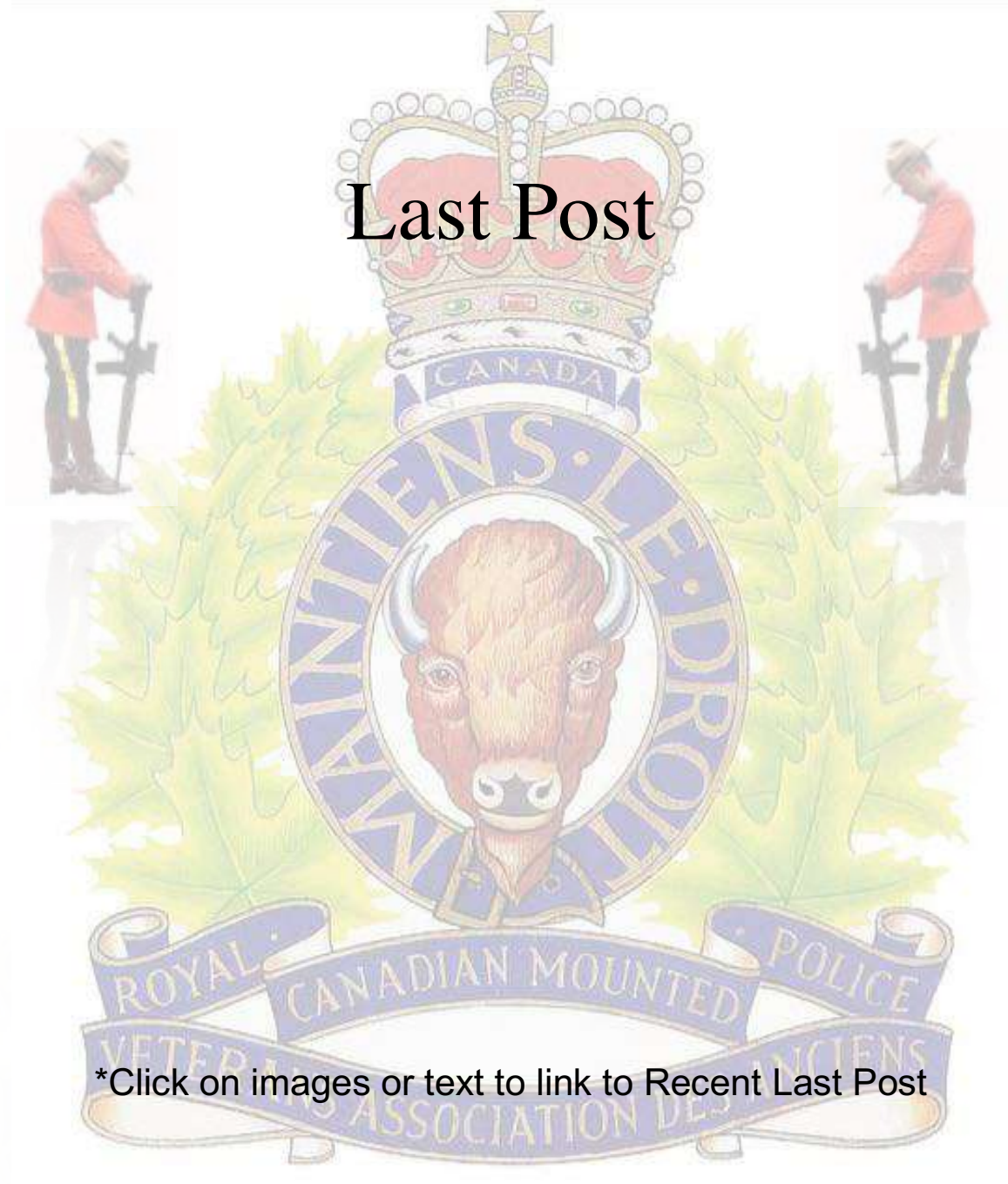
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GOVERNORS

Tony Antoniuk	Don Buchanan	Tracy Hardy	Gary Forbes
Martin Thompson	Larry Johannes	George Sveinbjornson	Josh Purney
Stan Wilcox	Larry Stright	Steve Vatamaniuck	Keith Trail
George Kilvington	Robert Wheadon		



Last Post



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