

**HISTORY OF CALGARY DIVISION  
RCMP VETERANS' ASSOCIATION  
PART THREE – THE YEARS 2001 TO 2018**

Like all volunteer organizations, the organization would not function without a number of dedicated volunteers. Key positions in most organizations are the President, Secretary and the Treasurer. In 1980 Wally Wallace assumed the position of Secretary/Treasurer and he held that position for eleven years. In addition, he assumed three additional portfolios: membership, historian and newsletter editor. He was a stalwart within the organization.

At this time all the records were hand written. In 1989 Ray Wilson proposed that, with the current technology, the records should be computerized. It wasn't until 1991 when Wally stepped down and the position was then taken over by Ray Wilson that the computerization of the records by Ray Wilson began. It took a lot of hard work and time by Ray to complete this task.

Ray held these positions for seven years and with the heavy workload he needed a break and stepped down in 1998. Clarence Lacey indicated that he would fill the role of Secretary but not the Treasurer. He also took on the role of membership co-ordinator when he became secretary. About half way through his tenure as secretary he turned the membership co-ordinator responsibilities over to the Treasurer, Jim Armstrong, as he was responsible for dues. Clarence held the secretary position for a total of 8 years with a brief interruption of one year when Grant Eppy took over that role.

Ray Wilson also did an amazing job within the executive. In addition to being the secretary for seven years, Ray was responsible for the newsletter. When Clarence took over the secretary duties, Dennis Norton took on the newsletter role and did an excellent job. Upon Dennis passing away Clarence took over the Newsletter role changing the format from a straight narrative letter to a more structured format. Clarence did the newsletter for about three years. After a few attempts by other people, the job was taken over by Al Grier who did it for several years. Tim Mitchell took over the job from Al and only resigned from doing it in 2018.

Clarence Lacey did a wonderful job in the role as secretary just like the guys before him. Cliff Leach had penned the notes on the history of Calgary Division up to about 1975 and Clarence was responsible for adding the comments from 1975 to 2000. Under Clarence's leadership all the files were current and up to date. He did an outstanding job. He kept the files in meticulous order and if one was looking for information it was very easy to find.

In 2009 when Jack Lee Knight assumed the role as President, Clarence turned the secretary duties over to Ivy Anne Mitchell, wife of Tim Mitchell, and she became the Assistant to the President. Ivy Anne held this position from 2009 to 2013 when it was taken over by Julie McLean who still holds this position as of 2018.

The other half of the Secretary/Treasurer's position, which was divided up at the end of 1997, was carving off the sole role of Treasurer. Jim Armstrong assumed this role and was the treasurer for over 12 years from 1998 to 2010. Along with being the Treasurer, the job of Membership also fell in his domain as it was easy to collect the dues and record who was on the membership roll at the same time. This required a lot of work by one person and eventually the role of Treasurer and Membership Chairman were split up into two positions.

The Historian position has generally been a low-key position, shared by several volunteers. Cliff Leach, then secretaries Wally Wallace, Ray Wilson, Clarence Lacey and lastly Bob Kells, all having done research of a specific item or issue before doing a report of what the division has accomplished. Mel MPhee for several years shared the work of cataloguing artefacts, records and exhibits at Fort Calgary with Wally Wallace, then for some time by himself.

### **National Annual General Meeting**

In 2001 Calgary Division hosted a very successful National Convention and Annual General Meeting. The convention and A.G.M. was held from June 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> with the theme for the gathering "White Hat Hospitality".

The convention was co-chaired by Ian Brownlee and Brian Davison. The President of Calgary division was Jack Hudon, Secretary Clarence Lacey. Registrar and Treasurer for the convention was Ray Wilson. Many of the guests stayed at the Marriot Hotel, the base of operations, with a number who camped at a local camp ground.

The National Board meeting (52) was held at Fort Calgary; the President's Hoedown at the Telus Convention Centre (515); the Annual General meeting (274) at the Palliser hotel; the ladies program at Spruce Meadows (258); the closing Banquet and Dance at the Telus Convention Centre (634) and the Church service and BBQ at Heritage Park (535). The number in brackets indicates the number of people in attendance. In all there were over 700 people who registered however approximately 10% cancelled their registration for a variety of reasons.

The A.G.M. and convention was a financial success. A surplus of \$12,900 was realized after all the bills had been paid. This would not have happened had it not been for a good number of corporate sponsors.

In total 27 out of 32 divisions were represented at the convention.

The National Board meeting was held on June 15<sup>th</sup> at Fort Calgary with the Officer's Mess (circa 1988) officially being opened by Assistant Commissioner Don McDermid, C.O. "K" Division accompanied by Ray Sales, Calgary division, both in period uniform; Supt. Bob Boyd, OC Calgary South; 43 of the 44 Governors, members of the National executive and division delegates attending the AGM for a total of 52 people.

The National Board meeting was held on Friday with the President's Hoe-down on Friday night. The annual general meeting on Saturday. The Ladies' Program was organized by the women in Calgary Division's Ladies Auxiliary. They attended a special event at Spruce Meadows on Saturday with an equestrian show and lunch. Saturday night the A.G.M. banquet and dance was held at the Telus Convention Centre with over 630 people in attendance. On Sunday a church service and BBQ was held at Heritage Park with over 530 people in attendance.

From reports during, at the conclusion, and following the convention, the consensus from across the country from those in attendance rated this White Hat AGM as one of the best, if not the best ever. This just didn't happen by chance. It was the culmination of much effort and planning by many members of the division whose dedication to the project deserves much credit.

Calgary Division is slated to host another AGM. in 2021, however this AGM will be a scaled down version as the National office has scaled back the types of AGM's being held.

### **125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the RCMP Veterans Association**

The RCMP Veterans' Association was established in 1886 in Calgary. The first President was Colonel James Walker. Walker was President in 1886/1887 and from 1901 to 1904. In 1975 Colonel Walker was named the man of the century in Calgary for all the work he did after he resigned from the North West Mounted Police. Upon his death he was buried in Burnsland cemetery, located near the Stampede grounds, however his grave marker never mentioned that he was a member of the NWMP nor his involvement in the Veterans Association. The 2011 executive decided to change that and felt it more than appropriate to place a foot stone on his grave to mark the occasion of the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the RCMP Veterans Association.

The Superintendent of Cemeteries was contacted and gave his consent provided that the family did likewise. The closest living relative was his granddaughter, Mary Lynas, who when contacted was more than pleased with this honour and recognition. A granite foot stone was ordered and it was decided to have the ceremony on April 14, 2011. On the afternoon of April 13<sup>th</sup>, the ground was bare and the cemetery staff worked to install the foot stone for the ceremony the next day.

On the morning of the 14<sup>th</sup> Calgary woke up to six inches of snow on the ground. Everyone scrambled to clear the snow for the ceremony and it went ahead as planned. Members of the Veterans Association, RCMP members in red serge, MP Lee Richardson, CEO of the Fort Calgary, Sara Jane Gruetzner with special guests, Mary Lynas and her son Gary Lynas, along other with a number of spouses turned up for the ceremony. It was a picturesque ceremony with the veteran members in their red jackets and the RCMP members in their red serge's and the white snow in the background. Piper Bill Sturgeon (ex-member of the Calgary Police Service and husband of a Calgary veteran) played the bagpipes to open and close the ceremony. It was a wonderful tribute to a man who gave

so much. After the unveiling of the foot stone refreshments were served at Fort Calgary. Sadly, Mary Lynas passed away six weeks after the ceremony.

To follow up on the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration the Calgary Division hosted a dinner at Fort Calgary. This was an excellent dinner with 125 tickets sold for the event. The head table included the C.O. of "K" Division; the National President, the Calgary President and one of our oldest veterans at the time, along with their spouses.

The head table was piped in with the usual regimental dinner courtesies. At the end of the dinner there was a special activity to recognize this important milestone. Dallas (Dal) Langenberger, a Past President of Calgary Division and a long-standing member, had carved a horse which he donated to Fort Calgary. The carved horse was about half the size of a regular horse. He did an outstanding job in this recreation. One of the features of the horse was that there was a cavity inside the horse at the bottom of its belly. The cavity became the home to a time capsule which was loaded with a number of items, one being a tape recording of several members. A recorder was also inserted for the fear that technology would change so much when the time capsule was opened that the contents of the tape would not be available. The time capsule is slated to be open in the year 2086 – 200 years after the Association was formed.

### **Other activities**

In 2011 the RCMP Veterans' Association was named the Calgary Stampede Volunteer Organization of the year. On behalf of Fort Calgary, Sara Jane Gruetzner put forth the RCMP Veterans' Association to the Stampede Board in the yearly contest for Organization of the Year. Three finalists were invited to a lunch at the BMO Centre and the RCMP Veterans' Association were declared the winners. On behalf of the Association President Bob Kells was presented with a silver cowboy belt buckle by the Stampede Board.

In 2012 Calgary Division was the recipient of the Calgary Heritage Authority Lion Award in the Advocacy & Awareness Category. This award is sponsored by the Calgary Heritage Authority and the name of the RCMP Veterans' Association was put forward by the CEO of Fort Calgary. The award presented was a replica of a lion lying down that sits in front of city hall. The significance of this award recognized the RCMP Veterans Association, Calgary Division as the longest continuous service organization in Calgary.

### **The Second Man Award**

This is the story of the Second Man Award. It really started a good number of years ago when Ruth Lee Knight authored a book "*When the Second Man was a Woman*". This book contained stories from many different women who were wives of RCMP members on small one and two man detachments. On hundreds of occasions the members were out on patrol or doing investigations and there was nobody back at the detachment to answer the door, take complaints from citizens, answer the phone and radio and even guard prisoners. This duty was left to the wives of these members. They were not paid

for their services nor were they recognized by the senior officers within the Force for all of their hard work. The period of time was in the early days of the Force right up to the 1970's and in some cases even into the 1980's. By that time most of the detachments had more men and the small one man detachments were closed down.

Ivy Anne Mitchell, the wife of Tim Mitchell, was the assistant to the President of the RCMP Veterans' Association from 2001 – 2014. One day she received a copy of Ruth Lee Knight's book and read it. What came to her attention was that for all those years and even up to the present day none of these women were recognized in any way, shape or form by the Force. That did not sit well with her and she took it upon herself to write a letter to the Commissioner in September of 2010 expressing her deep disappointment that the Force in all those years did not recognize the valuable assistance these unpaid women gave to the Force. The letter ended up on Deputy Commissioner Rod Knecht's desk to reply to the letter. In October he advised Ivy-Anne that the letter had been forwarded to the Honours and Awards section for their review. Back came a reply from this section advising that there was no money in the budget to have an award made up, at this time, for these women. After all, they did not know how many women would qualify for this award.

Now that did not sit well with Bob Kells as President of the Calgary Division. Shortly after receiving this news a meeting was arranged with the five Alberta divisions of the Veterans' Association with the C.O. "K" Division. While the C.O. was not able to attend the meeting his Chief of Staff, an Inspector, ran the meeting on his behalf. Many topics were discussed at the meeting and of course, the issue of having the Force have some kind of award that could be presented to these women. It was mentioned that the Honours and Awards Section did not do a very good job in turning down this request and this was a total insult to all these women, who over the years, did so much to assist their husbands and the Force in carrying out the duties of a "second man".

Fortunately, Marie Goulet, who had been a second man at one of the detachments, had come to the meeting with her husband Roger. Marie in a very passionate voice, crying at times, explained that not to have some sort of recognition was an embarrassment and an insult. She explained very vividly what she herself had done over the years. The Inspector was in awe of what was said and he truly received the message that this request was something the Force could not ignore.

It was not that long after when word was received that the Honours and Awards Section had found some money and that an award would be struck. They would need to know how many women would be entitled to this award. The National office of the RCMP Veterans' Association was tasked with establishing how many women would be involved so they would know how many awards they would require.

This research took a few months to complete and in the end it was estimated that over 400 women would be involved. The Honours and Awards Section designed a broach with

the crest of the Force and with an inscription "Second Man" at the bottom. They then advised when the broach would be ready for presentation.

At this point in time Bob Kells, President of Calgary Division, wrote a letter to the Commissioner requesting that the first of the "Second Man" group of women be presented their broaches, by himself, at the historic Fort Calgary. The Commissioner agreed and accepted this invitation.

On April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013 the "Second Man" ceremony took place in Calgary at Fort Calgary. In attendance were 24 recipients of the 27 ladies who contributed to the "Second Man" stories in Calgary and who qualified to receive the lovely broach and certificate that the RCMP had designed to present to them. Also in attendance was the C.O. "K", the OIC of the Management Team from Southern Alberta, the Sergeant Major and several other members, along with many members of the Veterans' Association. The ladies who were present were: Lynn Armstrong; Doris "Carol" Berry; Leona Bigger; Bill Buchanan for his mother, Barbara Ellen Buchanan; Jean Buchanan for her mother, Christine Buchanan; Joan Carter; Dallas Diamond for her mother Margaret Diamond; Thelma Fookes; Len Grant for his wife, Anne Grant; Magdalena Grayson; Catherine Grier for her mother Bessie Jean (Bea) Grier; Beverly Head; Debra Howard; Grace Jensen; Edna Kenny; Mary Kusalik; Theresa Lacey; Robert MacLeod for his mother Barbara MacLeod; Katherine "Katy Lou" McLauchlan; Inez Nolan; Renie Saunders; Kathleen Smith; ; Bettes Stratton. Unable to attend the event were Madeline Bodie; Lorraine Mansbridge for her mother Kirsten (Kay) Mansbridge and Doris Metcalfe.

The presentation of the broaches by the Commissioner began with a presentation to Ruth Lee Knight for her contribution both as an author and a "second man" and to Ivy Anne Mitchell who initiated this award by writing to the Commissioner asking that these women be acknowledged for their time, dedication and loyalty to the Force for all those years.

After the ceremony concluded the chairman of the Board of Directors for the Fort Calgary Preservation Society invited all the ladies and their guests for a lunch. After lunch each woman was presented with a long stem rose and a copy of a book which Fort Calgary had put together depicting the stories of the women who represented the women from Calgary Division. Calgary Division can remain truly proud of getting this long sought-after recognition off the ground and having the presentation of the first broaches made in Calgary.

### **Flood of 2013 – Reported by Lance Saunders**

President, Bob Kells, started this drive for donations when he was approached by RCMP Officers, John Haney, Edmonton and Kevin Harrison, Calgary on or about June 26, 2013. Their goal was to have the RCMP Veterans Association, Calgary Div. set up a Disaster Relief Flood Fund on behalf of serving RCMP members and RCMP Veteran members who were affected by the Floods in High River, Okotoks, Calgary and Canmore. Our Executive met on June 26 and put together our Flood Relief Committee including Bob Kells, Lance Saunders, Ron McLane, Don McKinnon, Dave Sinclair, Peter Tremblay and

Floyd Rogers. Because most of the damage was in High River where over 80% of the population was affected and also in Calgary, many of our Association members assisted with the cleanup and recovery process well into July and August. The population in High River was not allowed back to their homes for 5 weeks making most of the housing uninhabitable. Many RCMP Regular Members and RCMP Veterans were hard hit. To date a lot of them have been denied Insurance coverage because of overland flooding but some have been luckier and received benefits when some of the Insurance Companies stated that the damage was due to sewer backup. Coverage and benefits were sporadic depending on the Insurance Companies. The Provincial Government still has not provided assistance to most of the citizens in High River other than the temporary housing located north of High River. Some agencies, such as the Red Cross, has supplied some minimal funding. Everyone is wondering where the money has gone as there were many Concerts, Golf Tournaments and other events to raise money, but persons that could have benefited with some financial help have seen very little in the way of financial assistance.

The RCMP Regular Members affected were 24 families and 12 families were RCMP Veterans. Only one RCMP Member was rejected by the Insurance Companies and did not receive coverage for his residence and contents. Several Veterans were denied contents insurance coverage and the amount of coverage on their homes was later determined. To date we have received \$30,056.21 from across the country. The donations have been sporadic lately with most of the moneys received in the first 30 days of the campaign.

Due to the difficulties of the Regular RCMP Members and the RCMP Veterans with their respective Insurance Companies and the Insurance Adjusters, help was solicited from Frank Dyck, retired RCMP Member and a member of our Association and Pres. of Dyck Insurance Agency, Wetaskiwin. Frank Dyck and his personnel met with representatives of the Insurance Companies in an effort to mitigate some of the decisions of the Insurance Companies to deny claims made by Regular and Veteran RCMP Members. Frank was successful in some cases and continues to advocate on behalf of his RCMP and Veteran clients.

As of December 1, 2013, RCMP Veteran and Regular RCMP Members had donated \$38,634.70. The proceeds were disbursed to 12 Regular RCMP Members and 7 RCMP Veteran Members and their families by December 7, 2013. We received many letters of thanks from the recipients acknowledging that the funds assisted them in re-establishing their lives in this time of crisis.

Many thanks to the persons on the organizing committee including RCMP S/Sgt. Wade Sparks, District Advisory NCO, Southern Dist. and RCMP Cpl. Leanne Beattie, Okotoks Det. I would also like to thank others on the Committee including members of the RCMP Veterans Association, Calgary Division Treasurer, Ron McLane and Directors. Special thanks to Bob Floyd Rogers, Dave Sinclair, Don McKinnon and Peter Tremblay. Special thanks to Pres. Bob Kells for getting the Committee organized who later stepped back

due to ill health. As Chairman of the Committee I found the experience both satisfying and gratifying as we, as an organization, were able to make a difference in the lives of those RCMP Members and RCMP Veterans that were affected by the Flood.

### **Fort Calgary Casino**

Fort Calgary Preservation Society is a charitable organization which is allowed to run charity casinos in Alberta. The key positions for the casino require outside volunteers as employees of Fort Calgary are prohibited, by government rules, from manning these key positions. As such the RCMP Veterans' Association have been the main fund-raising arm for Fort Calgary when it comes to casinos. For 20 consecutive years Ray Wilson organized these casinos and arranged for volunteers from the Association, Fort Calgary and other places. Ray served as General Manager for each casino and over the 20 years a million dollars was raised for Fort Calgary.

The RCMP Veterans continued to be involved in the Fort Calgary casinos, which as of 2018 are nearing 30 consecutive years. At one time, there would be a casino held approximately once a year. However, with the number of charitable organizations applying to run a casino, the wait time between casinos has now stretched to approximately 20 months.

### **Other Activities**

During the course of the year the Association has put on a number of social activities. The raison d'être of the organization is for two basic reasons: To assist fellow members and their spouses in time of need and to provide social activities for the membership. There have been a number of activities and I hope to capture all or most of them.

### **Widows and Life Members luncheon**

This luncheon is held in the spring of the year to honour the widows, whose husbands were members of the association, and those members who were bestowed the honour of Life Member. In order to become a life member, members must have served in key positions on the executive for a number of years or managed a number of different activities for the association. With the passage of the Not for Profit Act by the Federal Government, the designation of Life Member was removed from the by-laws of the National Association. Those who had been given that designation were grandfathered.

### **Paul Cederberg Art Work**

President, Lance Saunders of the RCMP Veterans Association was approached by RCMP Veteran Member, Jack Hiscock, in November of 2016. Jack pointed out that the Paul Cederberg paintings were of historical significance as his art work was devoted to the early history of the RCMP and Canada. Jack Hiscock and Paul Cederberg were friends in the RCMP going back over 50 years. It was Jack and Edie Hiscock's wish that Cederberg's art works in their possession should be donated to the RCMP, Southern Alberta. With the assistance of C/Supt. Tony Hamori, Officer Commanding, RCMP



Southern District, the framed art work was placed in the headquarters building in late November, 2017. The art work consisted of six artists proofs, entitled: *The March West 1874, North-West Rebellion 1885, The St. Roche 1947, Yukon Gold Rush (Chilcoot Pass) 1898, 1874 NWMP Uniform, 1973 RCMP Uniform.*

In preparing the art work, contact was maintained with Jack and Edie Hiscock in Calgary and Michelle Cederberg in Ottawa. Michelle Cederberg, Paul Cederberg's widow and life partner provided permission to gift the art work to the RCMP. Mrs. Cederberg advised that she is in the process of organizing, preserving, indexing and photographing her husband's art that is currently in their home in Ottawa. She is in possession of 20 original pieces of his art. Included are numerous drawings, research and documents that he used in preparation for his oil paintings. Some of the drawings are of *The RCMP Band, Henry Larsen, Skipper of the St. Roche* and preliminary drawings of his oil paintings. She also had the art work that was prepared for the RCMP Wilkinson Centennial Sword and has the first sword that was produced. Remington Arms also worked with Paul on a folder of artist's proofs and the art work to commemorate the centennial rifle. She also has artifacts that show the creation of the "Mountie" quarter and silver dollar produced in 1973.

Jack Hiscock passed away on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The dedication of the Paul Cederberg art work to the RCMP took place at the RCMP Southern District Headquarters on October 22, 2018. C/Supt. Bernadine Chapman and members of her staff, along with 12 members of the Hiscock family and members of the RCMP Veterans were present at that ceremony.

The RCMP National Headquarters, RCMP Veterans Association, Ottawa are working with Michelle Cederberg to preserve all of the oil paintings and art work with the potential of having them displayed in Canadian museums.

### **Terry McLean Art Work**

On November 22, 2012, Rose Nowakowski, widow of RCMP Veteran, Peter Nowakowski, advised the executive of the RCMP Veterans Association that she would donate an original oil painting "Last Dog Patrol" and three artists proofs. The painting was presented to the Nowakowski's by the artist, Terry McLean, born and raised in Virden, Manitoba. He now has an art studio there. Rose and Peter Nowakowski were close friends of Terry Turner for many years while stationed in Manitoba. Terry McLean has painted the history of the Northwest Mounted Police and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for over 35 years. In October 2015, with the assistance of C/Supt Frank Smart, Commanding Officer, RCMP Southern District, Calgary, the painting "The Last Dog Patrol" and three other framed artist's proofs entitled "Sheep Creek Rum Runners", "Walsh meets Sitting Bull" and "Spot Check" were all presented and now reside in the Calgary Headquarters Building.

### **Calgary Stampede**

One of the highlights for the members is to ride in the Stampede Parade in the Brewster Bus. For many years Brewster's donated a bus and driver for the members to ride. The crowd of people who come to watch the parade enthusiastically give the members a warm reception when the bus passes by.

### **Morley Hut**

The Morley Hut is located on the Stampede grounds and at one time was the detachment at Morley west of Calgary. During the Stampede members of the RCMP Veterans' Association as well as members of the RCMP man the hut as an attraction. During the 10 days of the Stampede a good number of artefacts are moved into the building to give guests an opportunity to see firsthand what the RCMP had to deal with.

### **Lethbridge and Calgary Golf Tournament**

For a great number of years, the Lethbridge Division and Calgary Division gather in Claresholm for an annual golf tournament. It is a chance to get together with fellow members and enjoy a round of golf at the same time. No prizes are awarded and generally a good number stay around for lunch and rehash the good old times.

### **Calgary RCMP Veterans' Annual Golf Tournament**

Starting in 1996 and running annually to 2018, Veteran Bill Moskaliuk was the organizer of the tournament, which for many years, was held at the Turner Valley Golf & Country Club. For the last few years he moved the tournament to D'Arcy Ranch Golf & Country Club. After 22 years of running this tournament Bill decided to step down as the organizer and starting in 2019 there will be a new tournament co-ordinator and the tournament will be moved to the Airdrie area.

### **Summer BBQ**

Each summer the Association hosts a summer BBQ. For a great number of years, the BBQ was held at the Shriners campground. While the location was more central to all members within the Association the hall was very restrictive if the weather was inclement. It was decided to move the location in 2017 to the DeWinton hall at the south end of Calgary. The hall could accommodate many more veterans and their guests as well as provide a more spacious location for any outside activities. As a result of this move it has gained popularity with double the turnout in other years. Along with a chance to visit and socialize games and a silent auction have also been a hit amongst attendees.

### **Fort Calgary- various activities**

The members of the Division over the years have volunteered at Fort Calgary during the summer months to great visitors and guests. The members act as ambassadors. Generally, they find themselves in the try-on area where there are a number of red serges for both children and adults to try on and have their pictures taken. During special events (Canada Day, Mountie Day (around May 23<sup>rd</sup>) and other special occasions, members will volunteer their time at Fort Calgary. After all, it is an historic site for the RCMP Veterans.

Sara Jane Gruetzner was the CEO for over 10 years. She was a real supporter of the RCMP Veterans and worked very closely with the veterans over the years. A few years ago, it was decided to make Sara Jane an Honourary member of the Association. In granting her this honour the Association gave her a red blazer which she truly appreciated and wears the blazer any time she gets a chance.

Since inception, the Fort Calgary Preservation Society has provided two positions on their Board of Directors to the RCMP Veterans Association. The members are recommended by the Executive of the RCMP Veterans Association to the Fort Calgary Board. The members are permitted to serve on the Fort Board for a period up to 6 years before they are required to step down.

### **Remembrance Day Ceremonies**

The RCMP Veterans attend a number of Remembrance Day Ceremonies. For many years, the RCMP Veterans have also gathered on November 10<sup>th</sup> at the Field of Crosses located on Memorial Drive. This was an initiative started by Murray McCann. There are well over 3,000 crosses erected on Memorial Drive depicting one for each citizen of Alberta killed in the line of duty.

On November 11<sup>th</sup>, members gather at a number of locations to celebrate. The main in door event is held at the Jubilee Auditorium. Our members have some 35 seats reserved for them to sit on. One of the members gets the opportunity to lay the wreath at the Jubilee.

Another location is the main cenotaph where again one of the members gets to lay a wreath along with other dignitaries, RCMP members and Armed Forces personnel.

We also know that Veteran members will also attend other events in other nearby towns.

### **Christmas Cakes for Widows**

For a great number of years, the RCMP Veterans have purchased Christmas cakes for widows of members of the Association. Each year between 50 – 60 cakes are ordered and delivered by the various members. This is a great opportunity for members to get a chance for them to visit the widows and find out how they are doing. The widows themselves are very grateful and always look forward to the visit.

### **Annual Christmas Dinner**

For many years the RCMP Veterans have had a Christmas dinner at Fort Calgary. It has become a very traditional thing to do. The dinner is held at the beginning of December and is generally well attended. This is also a time to renew acquaintances and discuss the many and varied topics which will arise.

### **Meeting of Divisions**

For the last seven years the 5 Divisions in Alberta (Edmonton, Red Deer, Calgary, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat) have met together to discuss items and issues of mutual

concern. This has been very beneficial as the Executive of the Divisions get to know each other a bit better and of course the divisions have developed a sense of mutual interest in relation to the National office.

### **Hospital Parking Cards**

For a number of years, the Poppy Fund of the Royal Canadian Legion provided hospital parking cards to members of the RCMP Veterans in addition to their own members. These cards were good for the major hospitals in Calgary. The cards were purchased by the Poppy Fund from Alberta Health Services. Every year the Calgary division donated money to the Poppy Fund to support their cause. In 2018 the Poppy Fund downsized on the number of cards they purchased for veterans. As they only gave each Legion 3 cards, the executive of Calgary division decided to purchase their own cards. The cards are provided to members of the division to offset the cost of parking at the hospitals.

#25749 (O.1359) Robert E. Kells  
Past President – November 2018

#21372 (Retired Sgt.) Lance F Saunders  
Past President – November 2018