

FRIENDLY NOTES

Friends Of The Mounted Police Heritage Centre

Les Amis Du Centre Du Patrimoine De La GRC

NOTES AMICALES

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OUR MISSION

The Friends of the RCMP Heritage Centre are dedicated to supporting education, programming and historical collections; providing assistance as and when needed on a voluntary basis; and encouraging & supporting research into the History of the RCMP. Resulting in the Heritage Centre, in partnership with the Historical Collections Unit, being able to commemorate and share the story of the RCMP with the world.

We thank you for your ongoing support that allows us to achieve our mission.



Friends' Board of Directors

Back Row L – R: Murray Klatt, Doug Keam, Al Nicholson, Gary Davidson, Bob Smart, Dave Hoeft, Doug Mortin, Ron Ostrum

Front Row L – R: Bill Greenslade, Tammy Patterson, Julia Piskiewicz Manager Historical Collections, Natasha Szpakowski A/CO Depot, Lynda Neuman, Sam Karikas CEO Heritage Centre

Missing: Harper Boucher

ANOTHER FIRST ON THE PRINCESS ROYAL WALK

Our Patron, His Honour, The Honourable Russ Mirasty, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, and Mrs. Donna Mirasty joined Chief Edwin Ananas & his wife Yvonne along with some three dozen individuals from the Beardy's & Okemasis' Cree Nation and other guests for a special occasion, another first, on the Princess Royal Walk at the RCMP Heritage Centre in Regina. The guests from Beardy's & Okemasis' Cree Nation drove three hours to be present for this celebration.

The day officially got underway with remarks from His Honour the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan and Chief Edwin Ananas. Both addressed, in his own way, the value of family and community bonds between those who serve their communities and those who support those who serve.

Among the additional remarks our Lieutenant Governor brought were, *"I am especially grateful to the Friends of the Mounted Police Heritage Centre, as well as the Centre's Staff and Board of Directors for all you do to honour members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police."*

As Canadians, it is important to remember the contributions and sacrifices of Mounties all year round. The Princess Royal Walk helps to do just that. It is a tangible tribute of those who are serving, or who have served, with the RCMP.

At this first-of-its-kind ceremony, we specifically salute the service of members of the Beardy's and Okemasis' Cree Nation. It is a remarkable contribution from one relatively small community to the people of our country. I am grateful to all Beardy's and Okemasis' community members who have come to participate in this dedication."

Following their remarks, the guests joined with them as they were led to the Princess Royal Walk by an RCMP indigenous veteran carrying the "F" Division RCMP Eagle Staff.



L – R: aide de camp, LG Russ Mirasty, Donna Mirasty, Chief Ananas, Yvonne Ananas, A/Comm Blackmore, C/Supt Bates

An eagle staff is a unique, sacred symbol that represents traditional indigenous culture and clans. It is used at ceremonies and celebratory functions, much as a nation's flag would be.

This eagle staff was initially a gift from Mr Howard Cameron of Beardy's & Okemasis Cree Nation and the father of Cst Robin Cameron who, in 2006, was killed in the line of duty outside Spiritwood, Sk. The eagle staff was to recognize the work of the RCMP with the family as well as with indigenous people throughout "F" Division.

Unfortunately, Mr Cameron passed away prior to the completion of the eagle staff. Mr Milton Gamble, also from Beardy's and Okemasis Cree Nation, took over the project. He completed the eagle staff with RCMP assistance.

The guests assembled adjacent to Pillar XI to where they placed a brick mural on the Princess Royal Walk, to recognize and pay tribute to 17 individuals who call the Beardy's & Okemasis' home, and who, over some thirty years, beginning in 1972 stepped forward to serve Canadians as members of the RCMP.

In so doing, the Beardy's & Okemasis' Cree Nation became the first *geographic community in Canada* to pay tribute to those community members who chose to step forward to serve their fellow Canadians. Whilst other brick murals already recognize individual Troops, specialized Units, Teams, Sections and Families, this community-based mural is *the first of a kind*.



The mural is placed adjacent to Pillar XI, that hosts the nameplates of two Members who *Fell in the Line of Duty* in July, 2006: Constable Robin Cameron from the Beardy's & Okemasis' Cree Nation and Constable Marc Bourdages who hailed from Quebec. Marc's widow, Insp. Natasha Szpakowski, Acting C.O. of Depot Division, also placed family memorial bricks at the base of the Pillar XI and spoke of the shared, family loss of Robin and Marc and support from their combined families.

Together Again

Having placed the brick mural, family and friends from Beardy's Okemasis' Cree Nation and special guests, were escorted to the Princess Royal Walk, patio entrance, to unveil a new memorial plaque for Constable Robin Cameron erected next to the memorial plaque of Constable Marc Bourdages. Robin's Aunt

& Brother were joined by Marc's Widow, Natasha Szpakowski to plant maple trees, from the Beardy's & Okemasis' Cree Nation, one behind each memorial plaque. In addressing the placement of Robin's plaque next to Marc's, Commanding Officer, "F" Division, Assistant Commissioner Rhonda Blackmore, spoke of the heavy sadness of losing family members. A/Comm Blackmore also emphasized the positive contributions made in a short, promising career, tragically cut short whilst responding to the call of duty.

Tradition & Culture

This unique placement experience included a mix of RCMP and indigenous traditional ceremony and culture. An honour guard comprised of RCMP veterans, an RCMP Piper, parading of the "F" Division Eagle Staff, a smudge, procession to the Place of Reflection procession led by the eagle staff, drums, an honour song and prayer, and the placement of stones in memory of our fallen members and family loved ones. There was also an exchange of gifts, a ribbon shirt presented to His Honour and a ribbon skirt to Mrs. Donna Mirasty by the ladies from the Beardy's & Okemasis' Cree Nation.

For more information on the *Place of Reflection*, please check out the undernoted link.

<https://rcmphc.com/en/place-of-reflection>

HERITAGE CENTRE UPDATES

Freezin' Frenzy Family Day Event

On February 19, the Heritage Centre hosted the Freezin' Frenzy Family Day event. This family-oriented event was a resounding success, with an impressive turnout of over 700 visitors. The day was filled with joy and laughter, making it a memorable occasion for all attendees.

Children were seen hopping from one activity to another, their faces lit up with delight when they had the opportunity to meet and take photos with the Snow Princesses (Elsa and Anna from Frozen). As well, kids could embark on a search and rescue mission to find Olaf, and even receive a warm hug from the Centre mascot Montee. The event was not short on tasty treats, prizes, and other exciting activities.

Such a successful event could not have been possible without the dedication of our amazing volunteers. Special thanks go to Roger Burns,

Tammy Patterson, Maureen Wilkie and Geri Kerr whose tireless efforts in interacting with visitors, counting attendance, assisting with crafts and helping wherever needed were invaluable. The Heritage Centre extends its heartfelt gratitude to all who contributed to making this event a memorable one.

The Freezin' Frenzy Family Day was a day filled with fun, laughter, and bringing families and the community together. We look forward to hosting many more such events in the future.

RCMP Heritage Centre's 'On Patrol' Series

The RCMP Heritage Centre, dedicated to exploring, presenting, and offering a space for learning about the story of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, has made significant strides in education this year with its "On Patrol" series. Launched in 2023, this free live-stream virtual education event reaches schools and students across Canada, making learning accessible from coast to coast.

This year, over 10,000 students and classrooms signed up for "On Patrol," engaging with various RCMP Members on multiple topics. So far, we have held four sessions covering Airways & Outposts, Police Dog Service, Women in Policing, and Forensics. These sessions provided students nationwide with valuable insights into the world of policing and the RCMP's diverse roles.

Students had the opportunity to ask questions directly to the presenters, gaining insightful answers to their inquiries. They learned about the vital work of police dog services, the significant contributions of women in policing, the intricate details of forensic science, and the unique challenges of patrolling remote areas.

One of the highlights of the series was empowering young women to make positive choices and engage in healthy relationships.

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Students also learned about the crucial role of forensic artists, including their duties and the specialized training required for this profession. Additionally, the series covered building relationships with Indigenous communities and the unique aspects of policing in remote areas of Canada. By exploring these topics, the Centre has not only educated but also built bridges, fostering a sense of connection, and understanding.

One of the most impactful aspects of the series has been the interactive Q&A sessions, where students had the unique opportunity to engage directly with RCMP Members. These exchanges have been eye-opening, allowing students to ask challenging questions and receive insightful answers.

The "On Patrol" series continues to be a successful and impactful initiative by the Heritage Centre, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of the RCMP's work among young Canadians. We look forward to continuing this educational journey and reaching even more students in the future. The On Patrol series will restart with the school year again in September with new topics.

Red Dress Week and Missing and Murdered Indigenous People

Red Dress Week an annual event, held May 1st to 5th, aims to raise awareness for Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit People (MMIWG2S+). Red Dress Day, also known as the National Day of Awareness for Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit People is observed annually on May 5th. It is a day to honour and bring awareness to the thousands of Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit people who have been subject to violence in Canada. The iconic red dress, inspired by Métis artist Jamie Black's REDress Project installation, symbolizes the crisis.

The success of Red Dress Week was made possible through the collaborative efforts of Lori Whiteman, Barry Ledoux, and Lloyd Goodwill of the Place of Reflection Committee. Their

dedication and partnership were instrumental in bringing this event to life and ensuring its meaningful impact. The RCMP Heritage Centre hosted over 250 students who engaged in various activities: listening to stories, participating in art activities, and visiting the Place of Reflection. This year's Red Dress Week featured a special art activity led by our Artist in Residence, Cheryl Ring. Participants engaged in a hands-on art project, creating keepsakes in honour and memory of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People in Canada. This public "Hearts Spirits" art activity was a meaningful way for the community to come together and express their support and solidarity.

These public events were free of charge, thanks to the Government of Saskatchewan's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls+ Community Response Fund generously funds this program.

The Centre's Programming team played a crucial role in communicating and sharing with the Veterans during their weekly coffee meeting the importance of the week, educating the group on the broader issue of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit People and the significance of Red Dress Day. Their presentation shed light on the significance of the red dress symbol and the challenges faced by Indigenous Communities.

As we navigate the difficult stories surrounding this issue, we also celebrate the inspiring contributions of the RCMP. Our goal is to be a place for dialogue, understanding, and compassion.

Jack Dunn Book - The North-West Mounted Police: 1873-1885

Jack F Dunn is a Life Member of the *Friends* of the RCMP Heritage Centre and he kindly donated 1000 copies of his book *The North-West Mounted Police: 1873-1885* to the *Friends*.

Jack hoped we would consider gifting the book to cadets – the next generation of Mounties.

We undertook to gift Jack's book to selected cadets, wanting to ensure his book was valued & appreciated.

To that end we started by presenting Jack's book to the Right Marker of the graduating troops. In the Winter Edition 2024 of the Friendly Notes, we highlighted our first presentation of Jack Dunn's Book "the North-West Mounted Police: 1873-1885" to Cadet Allan Gekhman of Troop 6.

We now have extended presentations of the book to members of the Cadet Band with the first recipients being from Troop 20, 2023/24. This is recognition of their dedication, commitment and work ethic throughout training thus continuing one of the great traditions of the Force.

Each troop has at least four (4) volunteers or "voluntold candidates" who join the band at the beginning of their training. For any of those who were members of the Recruit or Cadet Band you can appreciate the additional work load cadets assume.

Directors Davidson (trumpet) & Patterson (glockenspiel) were members of the Recruit Band when in training. And Director Keam (snare drum) was a member of the Regina Lions', Wa Wa Shrine, & Regina Police Band.



L – R: Gary Davidson, Tammy Patterson, Cadet Smith, Cadet Rebel, Cadet Vargas, Cadet Bhullar, Doug Keam, Bob Smart

Rededication Ceremony for Cst Galbraith Reg # 8623

There was a rededication ceremony for Constable Hubert Arthur GALBRAITH, Reg# 8623, on May 27, 2024 at 08:00 hours at the Regina Cemetery. Constable GALBRAITH joined the Force on August 1919 and was posted to Fort MacLeod, AB. On February 20, 1920, Constable GALBRAITH fell ill with the Spanish Flu - shortly after the Force transitioned to the RCMP from the RNWMP.

Constable GALBRAITH passed away on February 28, 1920 at Fort MacLeod.

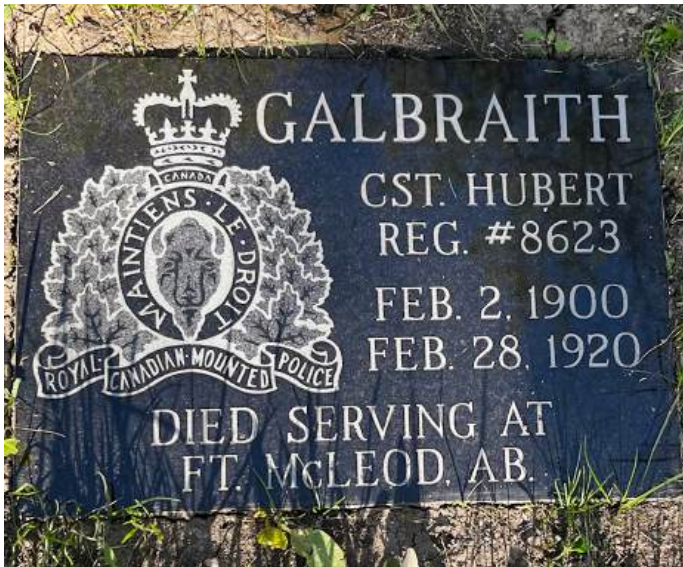
Constable GALBRAITH is believed to be the first "RCMP" member to have died while serving. He was buried at the Regina Cemetery on March 2, 1920.



L – R: Sean Darling, President Ron Plomp, Shelly Proulx, Tammy Patterson, Lynn Spring, Chaplain Les Kingdon, Piper John Llambias.

In September 2021, a volunteer group known as Bear Hugs, identified that Cst. Galbraith's grave was then unmarked. This information was passed on to Lethbridge RCMP Veteran Mike Duffy. A process, involving RCMP Veterans in Alberta, Ontario and Regina, began that ultimately led to the RCMP "F" Division approving and funding the purchase and installation of the Regimental headstone.

Members of Constable GALBRAITH's family from as far away as New Brunswick attended the rededication ceremony.



A special thank you to John Leitch and Chaplain Tom McCullagh for their tireless work on the rededication.

Regina Vets provided an Honour Guard for the ceremony.

US Memorial Day, Plentywood, Montana

2024 marks the 25th year that members of Regina Division of the Vets, majority of whom are also members of the *Friends*, attended the U.S. Memorial Day ceremony in Plentywood, Montana. This year they were accompanied by the Regina Pipes & Drums Band. Their attendance and participation in the celebrations were truly appreciated.



Planting / Placement Season

Just as farmers look forward to *planting* season in the month of May, we too look forward to beginning to place our newly engraved bricks on the Princess Royal Walk/Pillars of the Force. The month of May, 2024, got us off to a great start: 108 new nameplates mounted on the pillars and 50 new engraved bricks placed on the walkway.

We have four placement months remaining in 2024, with 8 scheduled placement-dates: The first and third Thursday of June, July, August & September at 10:00 am. Coffee is on us! You are most welcome to place your own bricks, or we are only too happy to place your brick(s) on your behalf. Nameplates are mounted professionally, as and when they return from casting.

If you are interested or know someone who is or may be interested in staking a claim on the Princess Royal Walk, check us out at: <https://rcmphcfriends.com/pillars-of-the-force/>



Correction

In the Spring 2024 issue of the *Friendly Notes*, Sylvie Bourassa-Muise was spelled incorrectly. We apologise for the error.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership One Year (\$50) Three Years (\$135)

Life Membership \$2,000 single payment or cumulative over several years to \$2,000 level. Existing members will have past membership payments credited towards the \$2,000 level.

Donation _____ (Any amount is eligible for a Canada Customs and Revenue Agency tax receipt. Canada Only)

American residents please add \$5.00 extra per year and international residents please add \$10.00 extra per year, to cover postage costs.

Total Enclosed Amount \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Prov./State _____

Postal Code _____ Country _____

E-mail Address _____

My membership/donation will be paid by:

Cheque/check (payable to the Friends of the Mounted Police Museum)

Credit Card # _____ (Visa or Master Card) Expiry _____

Name on Card _____ Signature _____

Return by Mail:

Friends of the Mounted Police Heritage Centre, 5907 Dewdney Avenue, Regina, Saskatchewan Canada S4T 0P4

Join or Renew Your Membership Online:

E-transfer. (Direct deposit) friends@rcmphc.com