

L'ASSOCIATION
CANADIENNE DES VÉTÉRANS
DES FORCES DE PAIX DES
NATIONS-UNIES



CANADIAN
ASSOCIATION OF
VETERANS IN UNITED
NATIONS
PEACEKEEPING

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THE THIN BLUE LINE/SUR LA CORDE RAIDE EN BLEU

EDITOR: Ron Griffis Spring 2021
ASSISTANT EDITOR: Rick Wright – John Stuart

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE APRIL 11, 2021

Fellow Peacekeepers, this message is to welcome you to the latest *Thin Blue Line* newsletter, masterfully assembled by our Board Chair, Ron Griffis. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to force us to stay home with the closure on many stores, Legions, bowling alleys and other gathering places. The UK variant is spreading in some provinces like wildfire, and there is still not enough vaccine to get all those eligible vaccinated. Please wear a mask, watch your distancing, and stay within your family unit if possible until it is time to resume some sort of normalcy. Please get your vaccinations whenever you are eligible. I received my second vaccine last Friday, April 9th. I still wear my mask and we keep our distancing notwithstanding.

We may be able to hold monthly meetings in the Fall if you believe our PM. Do not hold your breath, though. Most of us look good in our blue blazers, but not blue faces!

We still have received few responses from Chapters from my last request as how to spend our Veterans Organizations Emergency Support Program. Have no fear, your Executive will determine the proper way to support our organization.

Our webmaster, Frank Misztal, is undergoing treatment for his brain cancer, and Sylvain Bouliane, from the Ottawa Chapter, has been working on the web site to

bring it up-to-date and to keep it so. Please let him know if you find that there is something wrong and/or missing. Or you can tell myself or Paul Greensides, please.

I hope that you enjoy this edition of the TBL; please let us know whether it is what you expect, or it is not, but also let us know what your expectations are and how and what we can do to improve the TBL. Do not be afraid to contribute stories, trips, or whatever you think our organization needs to be informed about.

MESSAGE DU PRÉSIDENT

11 AVRIL 2021

Chers Gardiens de la paix canadiens, je vous souhaite la bienvenue à notre dernier bulletin « **La Fine Ligne Bleu** » (FLB), qui est magnifiquement assemblé par notre président du conseil d'administration, Ron Griffis. La pandémie de COVID-19 continue de nous forcer à rester à la maison avec la fermeture de nombreux commerces, Légions, salles de quilles et autres lieux de rassemblement. La variante britannique se propage dans certaines provinces comme les feux de forêt et, il n'y a toujours pas assez de vaccins pour inoculer toutes les personnes admissibles. S'il vous plaît porter un masque, garder votre distanciation, et rester dans votre bulle familiale si possible jusqu'à ce qu'il soit temps de reprendre une sorte de normalité. Veuillez-vous faire vacciner dès que vous êtes admissible. J'ai reçu mon deuxième vaccin vendredi dernier, le 9 avril. Je porte toujours mon masque et nous gardons notre distanciation tel que prescrit.

Nous pourrions peut-être en mesure de tenir des réunions mensuelles à l'automne, si l'on croit notre PM. Cependant, ne retenez pas votre souffle...car la plupart d'entre nous paraissent bien dans nos blazers/vestons bleus, mais pas avec un visage bleu!

Jusqu'à date, nous avons reçu peu de réponses de la part des succursales pour donner suite à ma dernière demande sur la façon de dépenser les sommes prévues au « Programme de soutien d'urgence des organisations d'anciens combattants ». N'ayez crainte, votre exécutif déterminera la bonne façon à faire dans le but de bien soutenir notre organisation.

Notre webmestre, Frank Misztal, suit présentement un traitement pour un cancer au cerveau et, Sylvain Bouliane, de la succursale d'Ottawa, travaille sur le site de la Toile mondiale (WEB) pour le mettre à jour et le maintenir. S'il vous plaît l'aviser si vous trouvez qu'il y a quelque chose d'erroné et / ou manquant. Notez que vous pouvez toujours m'en faire partie ou à Paul Greensides, merci.

J'espère que vous apprécierez cette édition de la FLB; s'il vous plaît laissez-nous savoir si c'est ce quoi vous vous attendez ou non, mais aussi laissez-nous savoir quelles sont vos attentes et comment nous pourrions faire pour l'améliorer. N'ayez pas peur de contribuer à des histoires, des voyages ou tout ce que vous pensez qui bénéficieraient comme information à notre organisation.

Introduction to the new TBL Editor: - I have accepted the challenge of putting together the 'Thin Blue Line' on behalf of the Canadian Association of Veterans in United Nations Peacekeeping (CAVUNP).

I am by no means whatsoever a computer expert. For example, this 'Copy and Paste' is new to me – quite an experience in putting the President's message on the pages.

As a starter I wonder if I might ask that when you send me a message or item to be inserted into the TBL, would you please send it in with a font of 'Times New Roman' with a font size of '14'. Also, I would be very pleased to accept your input with respect to the TBL – all stories and information messages would be welcomed.

Taking into consideration the breaking news that His Royal Highness Prince Philip passed away on Friday, April 9th, 2021 at the age of 99 years I have received a story submitted by our colleague John Stuart when he had been assigned a task involving Prince Philip when he visited Calgary, Alberta in October 1969. I have received permission to print the story in the TBL.

During the 1968-1972 period when I was in 1 Svc Bn, I was double hatted as AMF(L) Movement Control Officer and attached to 1 QOR of C located in Victoria, BC and MSEO of CFB Calgary when the Queen's Own was not on exercise. Maj Bill Freeman was also double hatted as BTnO, but he tasked me with the admin transport role while he looked after the field transport role as OC S&T Coy, 1 Svc Bn.

In October 1969, I was tasked to make transport arrangements for the visit of HRH Prince Philip who was visiting Calgary in his role as founder of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards program. There were sufficient Gold Award recipients in Alberta to warrant a visit by Prince Philip. The visit organization was staffed by Government House and Prince Philips' own staff that included an inspector from Scotland Yard.

I had to organize transport for the entourage that also included organizers for the Awards ceremony and Lt Gov Grant MacEwan. In all, I had eight military staff cars for the VIPs plus a spare that I used, driven by Pte Ken Barwise, MM. The Calgary Police provided motorcycle escorts as the procession went from venue to venue during the visit. In those days, the local big three car dealers eagerly provided a new car for VIP visits in exchange for a plaque that went on the back of the driver's seat that informed the back seat rider that the car had been provided by the dealer for whatever visit it had been used for. For this visit the major Ford dealer had provided a Lincoln for Prince Philip that was driven by Sgt Doug MacNeil.

Commander 1 CIBG, Brigadier Bill Leonard, met the RCAF Conair 540 (CC_109) aircraft at Calgary Airport along with Lt-Gov Grant MacEwan and the Mayor of Calgary Rod Sykes. I had arranged for the entourage cars and police escorts to be driven onto the area where the aircraft would be parked. During the greeting ceremony, Mayor Sykes presented Prince Philip with a white cowboy Stetson hat of the type that was presented to all VIP visitors to the city. Once all the VIPs were in the cars, we drove to the Palliser Hotel in downtown Calgary. On arrival at the hotel, Sgt MacNeil parked the car at the entrance while the other drivers dropped passengers off and returned to the base. Barwise stopped our car behind the Lincoln, and I met the Inspector at the car. Sgt MacNeil told me that Prince Philip had left the hat in the back seat. I picked it up and the Inspector smiled saying, "You had better take it up to the suite. It will become a story of interest if we leave it in the car." So, I dutifully took the hat through the hotel lobby with the Inspector to the elevator where he stopped me saying that he needed to go up to the reserved floor to have a look. I stayed where I was and noticed some people smirking at me as I held the hat. The Inspector came back down and confirmed the transport arrangements for the next day and said he would take the hat up to the suite. It wasn't until I returned to the entrance to tell Sgt MacNeil that the schedule was confirmed for the next day that he was able to tell me that when the mayor had presented the hat to Prince Philip that the Prince said, "What am I to do with this? Use it as a flowerpot?" This exchange was captured on the local CTV channel had been seen at the hotel, hence the smirks that I saw.

The next day went well until we arrived at the new Calgary library. After the visit, the VIPs departed the Library and got in their cars except for Lt Gov MacEwan who saw an old friend and stopped to talk. The entourage departed without the Lt Gov and he turned to me asking what happened. I told him that we had to keep to the schedule, but I had a car for him (my spare) and we would catch up to the convoy with assistance from the police. Their Sgt had already called his back-up group. We took off in my spare car with other police motorcycles blocking intersections and caught up to the entourage at Heritage Park village where lunch was scheduled, arriving when the last of the VIPs was going through the entrance. Nice lunch and we (me, the drivers, and police) were provided the same meal in the restaurant kitchen. The rest of the afternoon was devoted to the awards ceremony which was held in the Heritage Park auditorium. The entourage returned to the hotel at about 1700 hours to await the Awards Dinner scheduled for 1945 hrs. The Inspector told me that he had saved a seat at the dinner for me at the table reserved for him and asked if I could attend so that we could discuss the next day's events which was their departure date. Barwise drove me home and waited while I called the Commander's aide to discuss this surprise. We arranged that I would pick him up and then the Commander and take them to the dinner and return them to their residences afterward. Barwise took my mess dress to a dry cleaner and waited for it. He knew the owner. It was a nice dinner and the students who were the award recipients were in awe of the event. Prince Philip was quite an engaging speaker, emphasizing their activities and achievements to the audience.

Next day we picked up Prince Philip and the entourage at the hotel, proceeding directly to the airport. On arrival the cars were lined up and after the passengers debarked, the Inspector asked me to line up the drivers up for the Prince to thank them. I did this with Barwise at the end. The Prince gave each driver a lighter with his Royal crest. When he got to Barwise, he noted the MM and asked about the circumstances. There is quite a story about Barwise who was in 2PPCLI during the battle for Kapyong, Korea. After listening to Barwise, the Prince said, "Well done" and turned to me saying, "I must have miscounted. I do not have a lighter for you. But I want to thank you for your excellent transportation arrangements." As he walked away, I called the drivers to attention and saluted. The Prince sort of waved at me. As we waited for the aircraft to depart, Lt-Gov MacEwan walked over to me and gave me one of his books and thanked me for saving him from embarrassment.

John

The following information was received from Fernand O. Taillefer, President of Gerry Tremblay CD, Central Ontario Chapter. This information involves The Peacekeepers Park located in Angus, Ontario.

Last August 9th we held our ceremony inside the park. There was not official parade or marching involved. Everyone brought their own chairs, and we had a small ceremony inside the park itself.

Part of the ceremony was the smudging of the park by Metis Elder Little Brown Bear. There is a small section of the park which has been put aside to commemorate our aboriginal friends who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving on UN missions around the world.

Part of this process was the construction of a medicine wheel!! We invited members of the local Metis organization as well as the MNO President Margaret Froh for this ceremony. We even presented one of the Metis veterans with a quilt. There were probably scattered throughout the park, with masks on 100 people or so.

The medicine wheel was under construction at the time and has evolved into a beautiful wheel with Spirit Animals painted on each part of the wheel. There only remains now the building of the spirit catcher which will be placed in the middle of the wheel. I have attached a few photographs of the Medicine Wheel.

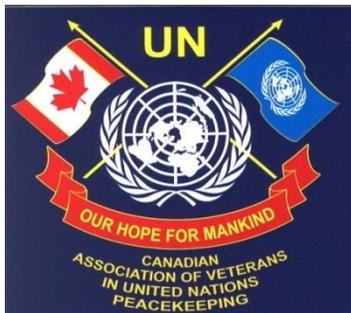
The plans are to have the unveiling of the Spirit Catcher this Aug 9th depending on the COVID situation as the initial plans were for dancers and colorful costumes and many invited guests including members of our own National Executive to attend but not sure yet because of the pandemic. We are planning as if it will take place for now.

As well we have three more vehicles that we have obtained to go into the park. Everything was moving along fine until COVID hit and so now we are waiting. We have entered a partnership with the Base Borden Museum, and they are coordinating with us the delivery of the vehicles. Lots more to say about that later.

Just recently our chapter challenged other Veteran Groups as well as business owners to meet or surpass our donation of \$250 to go towards the purchasing of Tim Cards for our front-line employees at local Long Term Care Homes. We made \$3500 with a local Tim Horton franchise donating \$250 in Tim

Cards. Along with a letter from our Chapter, we donated \$300 in Tim Cards to several long-term care residences as well as \$250 in Tim Cards and special cupcakes to the local Paramedics.

What a wonderful feeling it was to help out our Front-Line employees.



IN MEMORY



**John Dougald McLean, CD
13 January 1928 – 10 March 2021**

John Dougald McLean was a Member of the Canadian Association of Veterans in United Nations Peacekeeping and was a member of the MGen Lewis W. MacKenzie Chapter, Sydney, Nova Scotia.

Dougald joined the Canadian Armed Forces in July 1955 and was affiliated with the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals and served until his release in January 1972.

He served a United Nations tour with the United Nations Emergency Force Middle East (UNEFME) in Egypt during the period October 1957 to October 1958 and a second tour with the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) during the period December 1963 to May 1964 with the 56th Canadian Signals Squadron. Dougald also served with the United Nations Organization in the Congo (ONUC) with the 57th Canadian Signals Squadron.

Dougald also served three NATO Tours in Alert, Inuit.

Dougald was a Life Member of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 123, Whycocomagh, Nova Scotia and was also a member of the Sircom Lodge No. 66.

May He Rest in Peace

**AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE MORNING, WE WILL
REMEMBER THEM**

The following obituary of Sam Stewart, Canadian Forces Peacekeeper, is inserted at the request of Charles H. Cameron, Secretary RIMM, President CAVUNP of our Winnipeg Chapter.

It is with sadness that the family of Roland Edward Stewart announces his passing at the Dr. Everett Chalmers Hospital on December 9, 2020 at the age of 82. He was the husband of the late Sharon Lea (Radulski) Stewart.

Roland leaves behind his children, Debbie (Ray), Brian and John (Shelley); grandchildren, Renee, Eric (Amber) Mia, Mackenzie, Jonathan and Jordyn; great granddaughter, Harper; sisters, Gloria, Carol, Rosemary, Marilyn and Donna and many nieces and nephews. In addition to his wife Sharon, Roland was predeceased by his parents Jack and Rose (Payne) Stewart.

Sam, as everyone knew him by, had a career in the Canadian Armed Forces that found him in many positions of service. He joined the military in 1957 and served until 1981. He was a proud soldier in the Queens Own Rifles of Calgary AB until they disbanded in 1968. He served in two tours, one in Germany and one Peacekeeping tour in Cyprus during his time in QOR. Sam then transferred to Logistics and worked in transport, where he drove Commanding Officers to driving passenger buses. Sam was posted in a few places in Canada. Dana SK, Borden ON and Suffield AB which he moved his family to.

In Suffield AB, after he retired from service, Sam kept working for DND on heavy equipment and trucks, this part of his career carried him through retirement, and he finished off working for the Municipality of Burstall SK where he and Sharon had retired.

His personality served him well during his time, making lifelong friendships that lasted until his passing. Sam had many admirers and authentic respect as a heavy vehicle operator.

Sam loved his motorbikes, well, he loved pretty much anything that had wheels and motors. He owned many over the years! He loved his RV's and camping and always enjoyed sitting around a campfire.

He enjoyed get togethers with family and friends, dancing, joking, cats, and dogs (except when they barked) trains, movies and hats and crazy hats! He was the keeper of things ... many things! Never turned down a dessert and LOVED butter tarts!! 99.9% of the time he did not have a shirt on and was a sun worshiper. He always had a nick name for everyone. He was a proud Canadian, always with a flag on his RV or his truck. He was a proud soldier!

Sam was a man of dignity that always held his head high and will be remembered as a man that served selflessly.

Rest easy "Ol Buzzard" as he affectionately called himself.

This is the price you pay for having a great father and Grandpa aka Papa! You get the wonder, the joy, the tender moments – and you get the tears at the end, too.

Dear Colleagues: -

As I conclude this issue of the "Thin Blue Line – Spring 2021" I make mention that I appreciate this is the first issue of the TBL put together by a novice in the preparation of a newsletter. As I send this on to Paul for distribution, I'm asking you to participate in the future editions of the TBL by sending me your suggestions, your comments, your stories and pictures.

For example, one of our members, Sam Newman, along with his daughter, Tammy, has written two books. They are "The Scribbler" and "The Scribbler Too". Sam states, they are a collection of short stories, some from the wars, some not. Little known for most. Some amazing facts and some to move you to tears.

We have received permission from Sam to place some of his stories in our TBL. I think you will enjoy them.

Until the next TBL, take care and stay safe.