On behalf of President Ted Cronmiller, the Executive and all members of the South Okanagan Division we wish all our readers and their families a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

IN THIS ISSUE:
- Annual Christmas Dinner and Dance Highlights
- $10,000 Donation to Hospital Foundation approved at AGM
- 2016 Executive Installed
- Long Service Awards Presented
- Remembrance Day Wreaths laid at all Division centres
- Robert (Bob) Ogden new Division President introduced
Christmas Dinner Dance Continues to be Successful:

On Dec. 4th, the Penticton Golf and Country Club was again the venue for the South Okanagan Division Christmas Dinner and Dance. Over 60 guests enjoyed a busy social hour, full course traditional turkey and ham dinner, the opportunities to win “unique” gifts by bidding at the Chinese Auction and win the excellent door prizes offered throughout the evening which was capped off by the smooth music provided by Nathan the DJ. Under the organizational skills of Sr. VP Bob Ogden and his “staff” of volunteers, a very busy agenda was successfully completed. Again, the donations to the food bank demonstrated the generous nature of our membership.
CHRISTMAS PARTY AGENDA AND EVENTS:

- Following the Social Hour President Ted Cronmiller welcomed all the members and special guests including several executive members and ladies from the Kelowna Division, he then introduced Sr. VP Bob Ogden as MC.
- MC Bob outlined the evening’s program and called upon our RCMP Chaplain, Reverend John Briscall to say grace, and relate his favorite “police” stories. Dinner followed.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS:

- **Past President**: outgoing Past Pres. Joe Macdonald thanked Pres. Ted for his excellent service as President during 2014 and 2015 and presented him with the President’s Medallion and Certificate of Appreciation and installed him as the new Past President for 2016. Past Pres. Ted thanked the gathering for the opportunity to serve as President.
- **George Witte**: was thanked by PP Ted for his dedicated service as Summerland Director for the past 5 years. George has been most diligent in checking on sick and elderly during his tenure and as such was the recipient of a Certificate of Appreciation in 2014. With the support of his wife Marolyn, George set high standards for all Directors in the Division. Thank you George and enjoy your retirement!!
- **Division President**: Newly elected President Bob Ogden was installed by Past President Ted who passed on the President’s Medallion and gavel. President Bob previously served as Senior Vice President for the past two years.
- **Division Executive Members**: President Bob installed the following members who have taken on the executive positions for 2016 and were elected at the Annual General Meeting:
  - **Senior Vice President**: Rob Boulet
  - **First Vice President**: Glenn Deobald (absent)
  - **Treasurer**: Beth McGifford & Fan Out Coordinator
  - **Summerland Director**: Orv Robson
  - **Penticton Director**: Lori Woods (absent)
  - **Oliver Director**: Lin Springer (absent)
  - **Osoyoos Director**: Kevin Harrison
  - **Secretary and News Bulletin Editor**: Finn Nielsen
  - **Honour Guard Chair**: Rob Boulet
  - **Quartermaster**: Jack McDonald

**Governors**: Pres. Bob welcomed new Governor Joe Macdonald and thanked outgoing Governor and new Summerland Director Orv Robson for his service. He also made reference to the important role the Governors provide in offering their sage advice and experience to the betterment of the Division.
PRESENTATION OF SERVICE AWARDS:

Past Pres. Ted presented the following members with their long service awards:

- **10 Year Award** - Rick Lawton, Darcy McGifford, Orv Robson, Wayne Symes
- **15 Year Award** - Joe Macdonald, Larry Adey
- **20 Year Award** - Barry Erickson, Jack Hest
- **25 Year Award** - Robert McAndrew
- **30 Year Award** - Stu Scott
- **35 Year Award** - Mel Murton, Robert Duffin
- **40 Year Award** - Andy Jones

*(note: underlined names not present and will receive service bars later)*

Pictures of recipients next page receiving service bars from Pres. Bob.
(Clockwise: Pres. Bob and Mel Murton; Stu Scott; Barry Erickson, Joe Macdonald; Darcy McGifford; Rick Lawton, Orv Robson – CONGRATULATIONS !!!)

KELOWNA EXECUTIVE AND LADIES JOIN THE FESTIVITIES AT THE SOUTH OKANAGAN DIVISION CHRISTMAS PARTY:

Thanks for coming and supporting the Veterans’ Association!!
CHRISTMAS PARTY WRAP UP:

❖ Pres. Bob’s Christmas Message: *with a full executive and increasing membership our Division has a sound future going forward.* The donation to the Hospital Foundation demonstrates our involvement in bettering the community as well as our ongoing support of the Cops for Kids Charity. *He is looking forward to working with all members of the Division and welcomes input from anyone with suggestions to improve our organization.* He noted the importance we serve in helping our sick and hospitalized members and families which continues to be a cornerstone of our reason for having an Association.

❖ Door Prize Winners: The $100 Gift Certificates for Dinners at local restaurants donated by Betty Anne and Stuart Waddell were Bert Terry and Kevin Harrison. Several bottles of wine were also won by a number of attendees including $70.00 to two 50/50 winners.

REMEMBRANCE DAY OBSERVED BY DIVISION MEMBERS: Once again to commemorate this important day, wreaths on behalf of the RCMP Veterans’ were laid at the services held in Summerland, Penticton, Okanagan Falls, Oliver and Osoyoos. In addition, a number of our Division members marched in the parades along with the Detachment contingents.

Pictured above at the City of Penticton Service is the RCMP Penticton Detachment members led by Supt. Kevin Hewco. Also marching were our members Bob Ogden, Bob Fozzard, Rob Boulet, and new member Jim McMahon. (*picture courtesy of Randy Kirkoski*)
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD IN PENTICTON:

The Royal Canadian Legion in Penticton was the venue for the South Okanagan Division’s Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on Saturday, Nov. 21st. With over 40 members and spouses in attendance, a number of important decisions were made. President Ted Cronmiller called the meeting to order at 11:50 AM. He welcomed guests followed by O’Canada. A Moment of Silence was held for departed members with special word on behalf of our Life Member Morley Carter who passed away on October 20th. Grace was given by Marjorie Murton. Following a delicious lunch provided by the Legion’s Ladies Auxiliary the AGM business meeting commenced:

1. **INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBER JIM MCMAHON:**
   Senior VP Bob Ogden presented new member candidate Jim McMahon (A/5132) who served as an Auxiliary Constable at the Penticton Detachment from 1989 to 1999. Jim and his wife Mary reside in Penticton. Following his retirement as a Greyhound Bus Driver, Jim now works as a coach operator for Top Cat Tours within the Okanagan Valley. President Ted then formally inducted Jim into our Division. Welcome Jim and Mary!!

2. **BUDGET APPROVAL FOR 2016:** Treasurer Beth McGifford presented the 2015 Division Financials and the proposed 2016 Budget which received full approval from the membership.

3. **DUES FOR 2016 SET AT $55.00:**
   M/S by Jack Becker and Bob Ogden to maintain Division dues at $55.00 for 2016 of which $32.00 is forwarded to National Office as Per Capita dues. CARRIED.

4. **VOTE ON Resolution ONE AND TWO:**
   Twenty-one “Active” and Life Members voted on two Special Resolutions to amend the Division Manual and to authorize payment of a Donation of $10,000.00 from Division Funds to the South Okanagan Similkameen Hospital Foundation for the purchase of new equipment for the new Penticton Regional Hospital Tower. The votes on both Resolutions passed by a majority of 19 to 2. As a result of the affirmative vote, arrangements were made to present Janice Perrino, Executive Director of the noted Hospital Foundation with a cheque in the amount of $10,000.00 on Dec. 7th, 2015.
SOUTH OKANAGAN DIVISION MAKES HISTORY WITH DONATION OF TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS TO THE SOUTH OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN HOSPITAL FOUNDATION:

It was with great pride senior members of the Executive gathered at the Penticton Regional Hospital at 1:00 PM on December 7th to make the formal cheque presentation to Ms. Janice Perrino, Executive Director of the South Okanagan Similkameen Hospital Foundation. A cornerstone of the RCMP Veterans’ Association’s and the South Okanagan Division is to promote the physical, social and economic welfare of its members and their immediate families, and to provide support to the community services or organizations of a charitable and benevolent nature. The donation to the Hospital Foundation for new equipment for the soon to be constructed hospital tower not only meets that criteria but demonstrates the commitment of our South Okanagan Division to assist in the betterment of our community and specifically the Penticton Regional Hospital that serves our citizens so well.

L-R Hospital Auxiliary Volunteer and member of South Okanagan Division May Simpson, Governor and Life Member Jack McDonald, President-elect Bob Ogden, Executive Director Janice Perrino, President Ted Cronmiller, and Past President Joe Macdonald. Suitably, the picture was taken at the Penticton Hospital in front of their Christmas tree.
MEET PRESIDENT ELECT BOB OGDEN: (after two years as Senior Vice President, Bob has been elected as President of the South Okanagan Division, while current President Ted Cronmiller takes on the position of Past President. We asked Bob to provide a brief snapshot of his life and career as he assumes this important leadership role)

“I served 28 years in nine places in B.C. and temporary postings elsewhere. I retired as a Sergeant and moved to heaven on earth (Penticton). I am married to a great lady, Virginia (Ginny) and have three daughters with four grandchildren and soon one great grandchild. I worked as the manager of the local SPCA for two years after I retired, and then engaged in private investigations for eight years before fully retiring. I volunteered as a member of the Board of Directors for South Okanagan Similkameen Crime Stoppers and was President for the past year before stepping away to take on the President’s role with the Veterans’ Association. As we say around my house around the middle of March – we interrupt this message to bring you the golf season. That is my sport and nemesis.

I joined the executive as a Director for Penticton and then moved up to Vice and finally Senior Vice President prior to my new position as President commencing in 2016. I intend to utilize every asset and ability we have within the South Okanagan Division to make the RCMP Veterans’ Association an organization that we can be proud of and make everyone feel they count and are served as well as possible by their executive and fellow members – Bob Ogden”

Contact information for 2016 Executive:

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Please send a cheque in amount of $55 to Treasurer Beth McGifford, 105 Sunglo Drive, Penticton, BC V2A 8X6 for 2016 dues. THANKS!!