

REPRESENTING SUPERANNUATES AND SPOUSES FROM THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF CANADA,
THE CANADIAN FORCES, AND THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

ON GUARD



Victoria - Fred Whitehouse Branch Report

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Summer 2007

As a result of the fall 2006 membership recruiting drive, we are pleased to welcome some 250 new members to the Victoria-Fred Whitehouse Branch (Note: Fred Whitehouse was the founder of FSNA. He was from Victoria, hence our Branch name). Our Branch now stands at 4480 members with some 155,000 members nationwide.

FSNA National Office will mail you the quarterly **ON GUARD** publication with our Branch Report insert to keep you apprised of FSNA activities and events. Please keep FSNA informed of any change of address. Address changes are most important for us to keep our mailing list current. Memberships get lost when members move without notifying FSNA. Because of privacy legislation, FSNA has no access to addresses held by your pension office.

FSNA-negotiated affinity benefits with private businesses are listed in the centerfold of your membership card for your convenience.

Victoria-Fred Whitehouse Branch meetings are normally held at the Silver Threads location, 1728 Douglas St, (across from the old "Hudson Bay" Store), the second Tuesday of each month at 1:30 PM. Our Spring Luncheon (May) and Xmas party are held at other locations because of the lack of facilities at Silver Threads for these events. You are welcome to attend all events and meetings. There are no meetings July and August. Guest speaker and topics for meetings are listed in our Branch Report.

Also listed are the names and phone numbers of Branch Executives and their subject areas of responsibility. Please contact any one of these officers should you have any question relating to FSNA or superannuation/pension matters. The person called will either answer your query, or point you in the right direction. For general enquiries, our phone number listed in the phone book, 385-3393, is a "voice mail" system (we are an organization of volunteers and do not maintain an "Office"). The voice mailbox is cleared regularly; someone will reply to you usually within 24 hours. Don't forget to leave your name and telephone number.

Our Branch needs computer literate new members to join our volunteer executive to help with Branch administration. You are most welcome to come out, look us over at Branch and Board meetings to see if we fit your expectations. Please give us a call.

Theresa Melanson, Life Member

Many of our long-term members know, or have spoken to, Theresa at one time or other. In our last issue we mentioned she had been awarded a lifetime FSNA membership in recognition of her many years of hard work as a volunteer with FSNA. Theresa requested we print a heartfelt "**Thank you**" to all her friends who called (including our National Office!) to congratulate her on a job well done.

INEZ WALKER – DIRECTOR, VICTORIA-FRED WHITEHOUSE BRANCH

I was born in the small village of Windthorst Saskatchewan on December 25th, 1928. My father was one of the first people to inhabit this area consequently he had many different occupations before becoming the Postmaster, a position that he and my mother shared for 58 years. I also became a qualified postmaster as I graduated from High School at age 17, much too young to go out on my own. My education was a well-rounded experience as we had a good school, indoor rink, church choirs and the Eaton's catalogue.



In 1947, I ventured to Niagara Falls, Ontario, to live with my war-widowed sister-in-law. During this time I took a business course to become a stenographer-secretary. My work led me to law offices in Winnipeg and Regina. In 1945, I started a second career with Revenue Canada, Customs and Excise in Regina, later transferring to Calgary, and joining Revenue Canada, Taxation. This experience was like a University education to me as I had many things to learn, not the least was “how government works”. I retired in Calgary in 1990 but also worked in Victoria as a Casual in the Appeals Branch after my formal retirement.

In 1950, I married my high school sweetheart; we raised seven children who have produced eleven grandchildren and one great-grandchild. My hobbies have always been music and sports, which I still enjoy, skating twice a week, dancing and playing the organ. I became an interested member of FSNA after attending meetings where there were always excellent speakers on timely topics. I became a Director in 2005 and enjoy taking the pictures at our events for the archives.



These pictures were taken by Inez at the Victoria Cenotaph, Remembrance Day, 2006. Richard Acton and Howie Logan were there to lay a wreath on behalf of the Branch.

The following (excerpted) article appeared in a recent issue of the Victoria Times Colonist newspaper and is reprinted with permission. Joan Logan, who collected and presented the medals, is the wife of one of our branch directors, Howie Logan.

Soldier's family presents war medals to armoury

Sandra McCulloch, Times Colonist

Published: Tuesday, March 27, 2007

The war medals belonging to the first Winnipeg man to be killed in the First World War will be handed over today to the Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) Regimental Museum in Victoria. Lance Cpl. Duncan Currie Patterson was 41 and the father of six children when he was killed March 14, 1915, and was laid to rest in France. Patterson was also a veteran of the Boer War, said his granddaughter Joan Logan of Victoria.

"It took me a long time to get the medals from all over the place," Logan said yesterday. "We never knew there were medals or anything, until I started the research. I found his regimental number at Edinburgh Castle when I was in Scotland. I was afraid [the medals] would be lost forever."

For Logan, the donation of the Boer War medal, 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal is an important step of paying tribute to her grandfather's valour.

Patterson was born on Dec. 31, 1872, in Scotland, where he apprenticed as a stonemason and became a member of the Scottish regiment, Argyle and Sutherlands. He served in South Africa during the Boer War and returned home in 1900 to marry Mary Conchie. She had five children and became pregnant with the sixth when the family decided to move to Canada.

Duncan Patterson left Scotland for Canada to find a job and make a home in Winnipeg. Mary had the couple's sixth child during that separation. It took two years for Patterson to earn enough money to bring the family to Canada, said Logan. But with Mary and the six children on a ship heading for Canada, Duncan got word he was going to Europe, where war had broken out. He'd serve with the 79th Cameron Highlanders, who were attached to the Canadian Scottish

Regiment. The two ships literally passed in the night. Patterson never saw his family again. He was awarded the Victory Medal posthumously.

MEETING WITH AREA MP'S

On 4 April, 2007, four members of the branch executive (Tom Stark, Richard Acton, Bill Rowbotham and Neil Bright, met with MP Denise Savoie for approximately one hour. Discussion centered on the previous government's appropriation of pension fund surpluses under Bill C-78. Ms. Savoie was knowledgeable of the situation and expressed her concern about the impropriety of the action. Also, Bill C-133 (the 6&5% Compensation Restraint Act of 1982) was raised to ensure Ms. Savoie understood the negative implications for pensioners retired before that date. Establishment of the National Seniors Council, with Jean-Guy Soulière from FSNA as its first chair, was discussed. Ms. Savoie additionally indicated that the NDP Caucus has a representative on seniors' issues – Chris Charlton from Hamilton, Ont.

Overall, the meeting was successful in establishing contact with an MP and presenting our Association's position on a number of issues. Efforts to meet with other Victoria area MP's Gary Lunn and Keith Martin are ongoing.

MAJOR CHANGES PROPOSED FOR MEETING VENUE AND SCHEDULE

Your executive has been discussing the possibility of securing a larger venue for meetings. Members who have attended at the Silver Threads location will probably agree it can be a bit crowded at times. Audience numbers in excess of approximately 50 people cannot really be comfortably accommodated. As well, it is unlikely we are getting the optimum size of audience for our guest speakers.

The frequency of meetings has also been discussed, concern being expressed about the preparation time required and the extra cost if larger, rented space becomes necessary.

Proposed changes for your consideration are:

- Meetings to be held four times per year vice the present ten meetings.
- Meetings would be held in March (Annual General Meeting, Elections and a guest speaker), in May (Spring Luncheon), in October (with a

guest speaker) and in December (Christmas Party).

- Meetings would start at 1:00 PM vice 1:30 PM to allow adjournment earlier in the afternoon.
- Possibility of providing a venue which could offer a lunch menu for members wishing to arrive early (lunch at the member's own expense).
- Better parking facilities
- Convenient bus service at a central location
- Continued use of Silver Threads as our mailing address.

Your comments are welcome and encouraged. Leave a message on our voice mailbox at 385-3393 or contact any of the executives. The tentative date for implementation would be March 2008. In the meantime, meetings will continue on the existing schedule with speakers for 2007 shown next.

ESTATE PLANNING DOCUMENT

All FSNA members should have previously received the Association's booklet entitled "You and Your Survivors – A workbook (2001 Edition)". Forms from the publication are also at <http://www.fsna.com/survivor/> on the Internet.

The Sidney Branch of FSNA publishes a very useful addition to the workbook. The "Estate Document" consists of a 4-page pre-formatted record for consolidating information about estates and a 6-page insert summarizing the main duties of an estate Executor.

The publication may be purchased, in person, for \$2.00 at any branch meeting or for \$3.25 by writing to:
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Victoria-Fred Whitehouse Branch
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- Inez Walker** (Director at Large)
- Ray Webber** (Membership/Information Coordination) 385-3393; mcmewsvic@shaw.ca

Meeting Speakers 2007

- Sept 11** Jim Clements from the Naval Benevolent Fund will speak on the Naval, RCAF and CF personal assistance funds – how to access them, benefits available, etc.
- Oct 09** ICBC has a program called "Living Well, Driving Well". The idea is to keep seniors driving longer, thus helping to maintain their independence. Peter Gray conducts workshops for this program and will be the speaker. A follow-up two-hour session for those interested will be scheduled at a later date. It would include a short test that allows participants to assess their strengths and weaknesses.