

# RCMP NATIONAL MEMORIAL CEMETERY AT BEECHWOOD - RCMP VETERANS' TOUR 2020

"...WITHOUT FEAR  
FAVOUR  
OR AFFECTION..."



"...SANS CRAINTE,  
FAVORITISME  
NI PARTI PRIS..."



May 23, 2020







## RCMP National Memorial Cemetery at Beechwood Tour

The RCMP (once the North West Mounted Police (NWMP) & the Royal North West Mounted Police (RNWMP) and Beechwood Cemetery were created only a few months apart in 1873. Since 2002, the treed and flowered grounds of Beechwood have been home to the RCMP National Memorial Cemetery at Beechwood (RNMC), just blocks from where the RCMP Headquarters was established in 1920 and is today the home of the world-famous RCMP Musical Ride.

For nearly 150 years, RCMP members and their families have called Beechwood their final resting place. All across this cemetery, RCMP members have been laid to rest outside the newly established RCMP NMC. Each member of the RCMP has contributed to the Force and we regularly look to celebrate that history and to share a piece of the legacy.

Since 2019, to build momentum to the RCMP's 150th anniversary in 2023, the RCMP Veterans' Association, Ottawa Division, is exploring different parts of the National Cemetery of Canada, and will be reflecting on some of the noteworthy RCMP members who are buried on these grounds.

## Sir James Howden MacBrien. Regimental Number 3588 O.240

- Location: Sec 63, Lot 1

James Howden MacBrien was born in Port Perry, Ontario on June 30, 1878. In 1896, he joined the 34th Ontario Regiment, then went on to serve with the North West Mounted Police starting in 1900. A little less than a year later, MacBrien left the NWMP to join the South African Constabulary. He returned to Canada in 1906 and joined the Royal Canadian Dragoons. By 1910, he was made Adjutant of a regiment. During the First World War, MacBrien served in France with the 1st Canadian contingent. He was wounded at the battle of Ypres in 1915 and again in 1918, at the assault on the Drocourt-Quéant line.

In 1916, MacBrien was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General and given the command of the 12th Infantry Brigade. He was only 38 years old at the time, and remains one of the youngest to hold that rank. In 1919, he was promoted to Major General and made Chief of the General Staff of the Canadian Overseas Military Forces, where he remained until 1920. MacBrien was a key figure in the creation of the Department of National Defence, and in 1920, he was appointed the Chief of the General Staff of the Department, a role he held until his retirement in 1927.

In 1931, MacBrien was appointed Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. During his term, MacBrien almost doubled the strength of the Force, assumed provincial policing duties in Alberta, British Columbia, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, established a Marine Division, an Aviation section, a Police Service Dog Section, the first Crime Detection Laboratory, a museum in Regina for the RCMP, introduced the Long Service Medal, and created a Reserve Force of members to be trained and ready in case of an emergency.

He had an extensive and outstanding career as an exemplary officer and policeman, decorated with a Distinguished Service Order in 1915, and awarded the Companion of St. Michael and St. George in 1918, and both the Chevalier of the Légion d'honneur and the Companion of Bath in 1919. In addition, he became a Companion of Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in 1934 and was knighted a year later by King George V.

Commissioner MacBrien died on March 5, 1938, while serving as the Commissioner of the RCMP, and was buried with full military honours.







Photo courtesy of Mrs. Harriet Cherry

## **Dr. R. Donald Russel Cherry**

**- Location: Section 50, Lot 56 NE**

Born in Ottawa on May 10, 1921, Cherry was educated at the Ontario Veterinary College in Guelph, Ontario and the University of Toronto, graduating in 1945. Dr. Cherry practiced from his office on York Street in the Byward Market until 1976 and then from his newly built clinic and home in Osgood, Ontario. He was the official veterinarian and chairman of the Ottawa winter fair and the Central Canada Exhibition for many years.

For a period of over 50 years, Dr. Cherry was the official veterinarian to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Musical Ride "N" Division Rockcliffe from 1945 to shortly before his death in 2000. Among his many clients was Olympian show-jumper Ian Miller and his horses.

For many years Queen Elizabeth rode her horse, named Burmese, to the trooping of the colours in June in front of Buckingham Palace. This horse was a gift from the RCMP, and had been trained in Ottawa where it was cared for by Dr. Cherry. The Queen and Dr. Cherry discussed Burmese during a visit to Windsor Castle in 1988.

The complete Musical Ride (32 horses and riders) provided an honour guard for Dr. Cherry's interment at Beechwood Cemetery on April 17th, 2000.

## Constable Charles Elvin Bleakney - Regimental Number 3468

Born in Nepean, Ontario, on April 23, 1883, Charles Bleakney was only 17 years old when he joined the North West Mounted Police in January 1900. Bleakney then left the Force to join the Canadian Mounted Rifles and serve overseas in the South African War.

Upon returning home, he continued his career in the North West Mounted Police in Saskatchewan, he then left the NWMP to become a civil servant.

When the Second World War broke out, Bleakney re-enlisted in the army for the 8th Canadian Mounted Rifles as part of the Canadian Expeditionary Force and served overseas. He was eventually wounded and medically discharged after attaining the rank of Regimental Sergeant Major.

Following the war, Bleakney settled in Ottawa and continued his career in the civil service. Constable Bleakney died on the 16th of November 1956.



Troop at front. Canadian Mounted Rifles with 2nd Contingent, South Africa.



Royal Tour - The Queen Mother Elizabeth (Canada, 1979)

## Assistant Commissioner Douglas William McGibbon - Regimental Number 15547 0.573

Born in Vancouver BC, on July 7, 1930, Douglas was born into a multi generation RCMP (NWMP, RMWMP) family including being the son and grandson of two Assistant Commissioners. He joined the force at 18 years old and served across the country and at HQ in Ottawa.

In 1979, he was appointed the Queen Mother's Canadian Police Officer for the official visit where the Queen Mother presented The Queen's Colours to the Canadian Forces Maritime Command, attending the opening of the International Gathering of the Clans and attending the 120th running of the Queen's Plate.

The following year, in May 1980, Assistant Commissioner McGibbon was also appointed as the Personal Orderly to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for the 1982 Royal Visit. He retired in Ottawa in 1983. Assistant Commissioner McGibbon died in Ottawa on February 14, 1995.

## Commissioner Clifford Walter 'Slim' Harvison - Regimental Number 8758 0.311

Harvison was born on March 26, 1902 in Montréal, Québec. At the age of 17, he enlisted in the Royal North West Mounted Police where he served for four years. He was promoted to Detective Constable in 1922, but resigned his position in 1923 and accepted employment with the Better Business Bureau of Montreal. In 1932, Harvison rejoined the Mounted Police. In 1937, he was awarded the King George VI Coronation Medal, and, the following year, in 1938, became the Honorary Second Lieutenant of the Canadian Militia.

Harvison rose through the ranks of the Force gaining considerable experience in criminal investigation. He studied law enforcement methods in Great Britain, the United States, Pakistan, India, Ghana, Liberia and most European countries, and was especially interested in intelligence gathering systems. From 1945 to 1946, he utilized his knowledge during the investigations surrounding Igor Gouzenko and the revelation of a Russian spy ring in Canada. In 1953, Harvison was named Director of Operations and Criminal Investigations in Ottawa, and in 1955, Director of Security and Intelligence. He was appointed Commissioner of the RCMP on April 1st, 1960.

As Commissioner, Harvison recognized that Canada was becoming an increasingly attractive target for organized crime groups. To attack this problem, he established National Criminal Intelligence Units across Canada in 1961 to gather information on syndicated crime and associated individuals and developed a central repository for that information in Ottawa. He was often outspoken on the subject of Organized Crime and, as a result of a speech at the Canadian Club in Toronto, a Royal Commission on Crime was established in Ontario. He submitted a brief to this commission giving specific details of organized crime activities over the preceding 10 years and naming individuals involved. As a result of a news conference he gave at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto, the Ontario Police Commission began an inquiry into organized crime. At the time, this was viewed as ground breaking, verifying the existence of a highly organized criminal network to a previously doubting public.

Harvison believed, that to fight this new pattern of crime, it was necessary for close cooperation between police forces. He extended the Force's contact with other police forces, nationally and internationally, holding conferences of police organizations and visits with heads of other police and intelligence organizations to keep abreast of international developments in the police and counter-intelligence fields. He was the Canadian representative of the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), a Member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, the Maritime Chief Constables' Association, the Ontario Chief Constables' Association and the Industrial Security Association. He was also President of the United Services Institute and a Member of the Royal Canadian Military Institute.

He received the RCMP Long Service Medal in 1948, was given the Gold Clasp and Star in 1963. He retired on October 31, 1963 and wrote his autobiography, entitled *The Horsemen*. Commissioner Harvison died on February 12, 1968 and was buried in the Beechwood Cemetery in Ottawa.



## Superintendent Richard Young Douglas - O.129 (JWC) Joined with Commission

Born in Toronto on March 3, 1874, Richard Young Douglas served in both the military as a second Lieutenant with the 12th York Rangers Battalion and as part of the 36th Regiment County of Peel prior to joining the RNWMP.

Toward the end of the First World War, Douglas was sent to Siberia as part of the Canadian Siberian Expeditionary Force (C.S.E.F.). This Force was a Canadian military unit sent to Vladivostok, Russia, during the Russian Revolution to bolster the allied presence, to oppose the Bolshevik Revolution and to attempt to keep Russia in the fight against Germany. Composed of 4,192 soldiers and authorized in August 1918, the force returned to Canada between April and June 1919.

During this time, the C.S.E.F. saw little fighting, with fewer than 100 troops proceeding "up country" to Omsk, to serve as administrative staff for 1,500 British troops aiding the anti-Bolshevik White Russian government of Admiral Alexander Kolchak. Most Canadians remained in Vladivostok, undertaking routine drill and policing duties in the volatile port city. Douglas served as a lieutenant in the RNWMP 'B' Squadron.

After the war, he returned to Canada and continued his career as an officer in the RNWMP until May 1932, finishing his service at HQ in Ottawa. Superintendent Douglas died in Ottawa in 1952 and was buried in Beechwood Cemetery.



Canadian Siberian Expeditionary Forces  
in training New Westminster, B.C.



Photo from RCMP Graves Database

## Master Tailor and Supervisor Ursula Göbelbecker

Ursula Göbelbecker arrived in Canada in 1954 as a trained tailor and worked in various places before working find a home with the RCMP as a civilian master tailor and supervisor for 25 years until her retirement in 1955

She volunteered for many years for Saint-Vincent Hospital and, through her association with the Legion of Mary, devoted countless hours to visiting the sick. Ursula Göbelbecker passed away peacefully at the Civic Hospital on October 27, 2017 at the age of 86.



# Recognizing the courage of their service

With more than 260 RCMP/NWMP members buried at Beechwood Cemetery since 1873, these are the members found in Section 2 of the RCMP Veterans' Vigil Tour 2020

Inspector Charles Robert William Stuart, Regimental Number 157, Section 41, Lot 120  
Constable Abraham Albert Pratt, Regimental Number 2251, Section 41, Lot 101 SE  
Constable George Berryhill Acheson, Regimental Number 4590 Section 41, Lot 22 Constable  
John Henry Arbick, Regimental Number 8640, Section 41, Lot 64  
Constable Charles Douglas Gray, Regimental Number 10974, Section 41-26N 28SE  
Staff Sergeant Alexander Donald 'Sandy' Hunt, Regimental Number 19394, Section 41, Lot 4  
Superintendent John Kenneth Strang, Regimental Number 17004, Section 47, Lot 212, Gr 1  
Superintendent Reynold Oakley Turnbull, Regimental Number 21365, Section 47TG, 123 Staff  
Sergeant Gordon Eugene Blinn, Regimental Number 21567, Section 47, Lot 143 Sergeant  
Alfred Campbell Sleeman, Regimental Number 9074, Section 48, Lot 12SE  
Sergeant George Brackenridge, Regimental Number 9120, Section 49, Lot 49  
Constable George Washington Wills, Regimental Number 109, Section 50-87SW  
**Dr. Donald Cherry, RCMP Musical Ride Veterinarian, Section 50, Lot 56 NE**  
Constable Jonathan Wolfrid Luther Wurtele, Regimental Number 389, Section 50, Sec 14  
**Constable Charles Elvin Bleakney, Regimental Number 3468, Section 50-27N**  
**Commissioner Clifford Walter 'Slim' Harvison, Regimental Number 8758, Section 50, Lot 76N**  
Constable Clive Drysdale Holbrook, Regimental Number 8789, Section 50-7S  
**Superintendent Richard Young Douglas, (JWC) Joined with Commission, Section 50-55A**  
Staff Sergeant Richard Dale Robertson, Regimental Number 11901, Section 51, Lot TG 97  
Staff Sergeant Lloyd George Matthews, Regimental Number 13085, Section 51, Lot 63, Gr 1  
Staff Sergeant Phillip Arthur Carter, Regimental Number 13512, Section 51, Lot 1105  
Sergeant Edward Oliver McGregor, Regimental Number 13665, Section 51S, Lot 756  
Staff Sergeant Donald Charles Sweet, Regimental Number 16779, Section 51, TG777, Gr 1 'A'  
Superintendent Jean-Jacques Pierre Schryer, Regimental Number 20346, Section 51S, Lot 1399  
Chief Superintendent William John Whyte, Regimental Number 21219, Section 51S, Lot 1161  
Sergeant Herbert James Smith, Regimental Number 23000, Section 51S, Gr 980  
Sergeant Claude Joseph Côté, Regimental Number 33210, Section 51N, SG#182A Civilian  
Member (CM) Charles Ernest Seale, Section 51S, TG972  
Civilian Member (CM) Dorothy Agnes Gimson, Section 51S, Gr 1632  
Constable Francis Charles Lonsdale, Regimental Number 10019, Section 52-15-6  
Constable Herbert Eustance Fordys Clark, Regimental Number 11282, Section 52, Range 21A, Gr  
8 Staff Sergeant Gordon Wilfred Black, Regimental Number 15163, Section 52, C25  
Staff Sergeant Major Glen Ellison Land, Regimental Number 15220, Section 52-F3  
Staff Sergeant Raymond Merrill Stunden, Regimental Number 15336, Section 52, G, 12  
**Assistant Commissioner Douglas William McGibbon, Regimental Number 15547, Section 52 (Q) 9**  
Staff Sergeant Micheal Prentice Regimental Number 17443 Section 52, Range M, Gr 70  
Constable George Victor Broadley, Regimental Number 24181, Section 52, R S, Lot 14  
Special Constable (S/Cst.) Shirley Beatrice Gordon, Regimental Number S/1832, Section 52, Lot 52  
Special Constable (S/Cst.) Dean Ralph Newcombe, Regimental Number S/9310 Section 54, Lot 80  
Constable Charles Asher Philpott, Regimental Number 4624, Mausoleum  
Constable Harry Brading Mitchell, Regimental Number 4641, Mausoleum, Corr B  
Constable John Laundry, Regimental Number 9059, Mausoleum Corr AB, 2,  
Superintendent James Alexander Churchman, Regimental Number 9447, Mausoleum  
Constable David Tingley, Regimental Number 9614, Mausoleum, Corr AB  
Sergeant William Carl Beatty, Regimental Number 10280, Mausoleum  
Superintendent John Taylor Wood, Regimental Number 16821, Mausoleum



Chief Superintendent Wilson Briggs 'Wil' Drew, Regimental Number 18619, Mausoleum

Tailor Antonio Zinni, Mausoleum

Master Tailor & Supervisor Ursula Göbelbecker, Mausoleum

Constable Ralph Delamere Keefer, Regimental Number 3815, Section 62, Lot 65

Commissioner James Howden MacBrien, Regimental Number 3588, Section 63, Lot 1, Gr2

Constable James Ross MacBrien, Regimental Number 11742, Section 63, Lot 1, Gr 3

Sergeant Duncan Stewart Jr Donald, Regimental Number 14782, Section 64, Range G, Gr 184

Assistant Commissioner Raymond Hugh Lees, Regimental Number 18537, Section 64, Gr 638

Inspector William Alfred Dewsnap, Regimental Number 22678, Section 64- Lot 117

Sergeant Clifford Frederick Pearcy, Regimental Number 25408, Section 64- Gazebo, 156

Civilian Member (CM) Eugenia Barbara Jadwiga Haigh, Section 64- Gazebo, 526

*Set in a prominent location along the road in the south-eastern corner of the RCMP National Memorial Cemetery at Beechwood is the memorial for Constable Marmaduke Graburn.*

*As a memorial should, it brings thoughts of the person, and then leads to speculation about the context of his or her life.*

*On June 9, 1879, Marmaduke Graburn was sworn in as a Constable in the Northwest Mounted Police in Ottawa.*

*On November 17th, 1879, Constable Graburn was the first member of the Force to be killed while on duty. He is buried at Fort Walsh, Saskatchewan, now a national historic site.*

*His troop mates erected a memorial stone at the Beechwood Cemetery.*

