



**LORD STRATHCONA'S HORSE (ROYAL CANADIANS)
CEREMONIAL MOUNTED TROOP FOUNDATION
2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Minutes

12 August 2024

LS

Attendance-In person & online

Society Position

Former CO	LCol	E.D.	Angell
Board/Former RSM	CWO	A.S.	Batty
Former CO	Col	J.B.	Boileau
Board/CoTR	Col	J.	Cade
Board/Society Secy	Maj	K.I.	Callens
Serving & Former Gen, Col & CWO	CWO	M.A.R.	Chenier
Incumbent-SSM HQ	MWO	L.B.	Christopoulos
Incumbent-PMC Sarcee	WO	K.G.	Chuback
Incumbent-OC HQ	Maj	S.G.	Couture
Former RSM	CWO	W.J.	Crabb
Board/Civilian Mbr	Mr.	G.	Cree
Board/Civilian Mbr	Mr.	A.	Fanni
Board/Civilian Mbr	Ms.	M.	Gallagher
Incumbent-TQ	MWO	M.A.L.	Gratto
Board/CO	LCol	D.M.	Gray
Incumbent-PMC Green Point	MCpl	S.M.	Graystone
Former CoTR	BGen	D.C.	Hilton
Serving & Former Gen, Col & CWO	CWO	T.C.	Holland
Incumbent-OC B	Capt	Y.	Hu
Serving & Former Gen, Col & CWO	Col	V.G.	Kirstein
Board/Regtl Col	Col	M.	Lubiniecki
Incumbent-Ops O	Capt	C.J.	MacLean
Incumbent-OC C	Maj	A.S.	Mansour
Incumbent-OC A	Maj	T.R.	McHugh
Incumbent-SSM A	MWO	S.P.	McLoughlin
Board/RSM	CWO	N.V.	Mills
Board/Former CO	LCol	M.G.	Onieu
Incumbent-Adjt	Capt	D.F.	Patt
Board/Civilian Mbr	Mr.	R.T.	Prokopy
Serving & Former Gen, Col & CWO	Col	C.J.	Quinlan
Former CoTR	MGen	H.C.	Ross
Board/Former RSM	Capt	R.	Stacey
Former Society Secy	LCol	J.A.	Stuckart
Incumbent-PMC Track Pad	Cpl	N.A.	Sylvester
Serving & Former Gen, Col & CWO	Capt	M.B.	Talty
Serving & Former Gen, Col & CWO	Capt	L.M.	Taylor
Incumbent-SSM B	WO	M.	Williams

Proxies-Maj (Ret'd) Callens

Board Former CO Col S.G. Long

Proxies-Col (Ret'd) Cade

Board/Civilian Mbr	Mr.	R.T.	Booth
Former CoTR	Col	I.D.M.	Egener
Serving & Former Gen, Col & CWO	Col	J.R.	Forestell
Serving & Former Gen, Col & CWO	Col	C.M.	Hazleton
Former RSM	Capt	C.H.	Hills
Former CoTR	Col	J.E.N.	Roderick



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Serving & Former Gen, Col & CWO	Col	D.A.	Rundle
Serving & Former Gen, Col & CWO	Col	J.M.	Snell

Proxies-CWO (Ret'd) Batty

Serving & Former Gen, Col & CWO	Capt	W.A.	Laughlin
Former RSM	Capt	D.A.	Ross

Proxies-CWO Mills

Former RSM	CWO	J.	Dorrance
Former RSM	Mr.	C.R.	Ells
Former RSM	CWO	R.A.	Englehart
Former RSM	Capt	K.E.	King

Proxies-LCol Gray

Former Strat CO-Other Reg Unit	LCol	C.S.	Gardner
Former CO	LCol	M.J.D.	Mallette

Proxies-Maj Couture

Serving & Former Gen, Col & CWO	Col	E.G.	MacEachern
Former CO	BGen	J.J.	Major

Observers

Committee	LCol	B.J.	Walsh
Museum Curator	Capt	P.J.	Webster
Committee	LCol	S.	Gifford
Board Advisor	HCol	Sol	Rolingher
Drum Major	WO	Colin	Davidson
Recording Secretary	Mrs	K.M.	Batty

83 Voting Members

Total Yes & Proxy: 56

Regular Member represented 67.47%

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| <p>1. Opening Remarks – The Chair confirmed a quorum was met and opened the 2023 Foundation Annual General Meeting at 1006 hrs. He thanked everyone for attending and made note of how busy the Board has been since the 2022 AGM. The Board of Directors have been wrestling with significant inflationary pressures, increasing charitable income and replacing worn out uniforms and equipment.</p> |
| <p>2. Review of 2022 Foundation AGM Minutes – The 2022 AGM minutes were distributed in the pre-reading materials. No errors or omissions were noted.</p> |
| <p>3. A motion was made by LCol Onieu, seconded by Capt Talty, to accept the 2022 LdSH (RC) Ceremonial Mounted Troop Foundation minutes dated June 2023 as presented. CARRIED</p> |
| <p>4. Foundation Operations Overview – The Chair noted that since the last AGM, the Board's focus has been on getting the SMT's budget balanced, while replacing aged equipment, horses and uniforms. The SMT scarlet uniforms need replacing as soon as possible as they are no longer to our standards. This includes brass helmets as well as lances. A good tailor has been sourced, as well as suppliers for lance components and helmets.</p> |
| <p>5. Inflation has hit anything to do with horses hard. As well, the forest fires of 2023 significantly increased the cost of feed. The Board tried to offset this with a pre-buy of feed bales, but those bales ended up being of poor quality.</p> |
| <p>6. Five horses in the herd were identified as either too old or having risky ailments and should be replaced. Consequently, a herd rotation plan was developed. Two horses have been replaced, with good homes being found, and a plan is in</p> |



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place to replace the other three. This has a disruptive effect on SMT performance so their rotation plan will minimize the impact of bringing in new horses in the future.

7. The King's Guard unilaterally asked for the SMT to assume their Palace Guard responsibilities during the King's Birthday events. Unfortunately, this arrived just as defence cutbacks were announced so the CDS, with regret, had to turn down the request. We are now working on the same initiative as part of Celebration 2025 next summer.
8. The Foundation is a non-profit company and to govern it responsibly it must be run like a business. The first step of any business is to economize without lowering standards – one of the ways we achieved this was with a reduced ride schedule. For 2025, however, we want to expand the SMT ride season by at least six shows with possible shows in BC.
9. **Committees** – As distributed in the pre-reading slides, the Chair made note of the volunteer Foundation Committees who work hard behind the scenes to keep up with the best operating practices and long-term planning.
 - **Audit and Revenue Generation Committee**
Chair: Ross Prokopy
Miles Smith
 - **Communications Committee**
Chair: Jennifer Gray
Tony Seward
Grant Cree
Nathan Bogya
Tristy Mallette
Catherine Whitman
 - **Plans Committee**
Chair: Shane Gifford
Faith Rhodes
Chris Bradley

10. **2023 Financial Reports** – Maj Couture provided an overview of the 2023 audited financial statement highlighting the statement of revenues & expenses, the statement of financial position, statement of changes in new assets and statement of cash flows as presented in the PowerPoint presentation. It was noted that the audited statements were presented in depth to the Chair of the Board by Gallo LLP, and the Board is recommending adoption.

11. **A motion** was made by CWO Chenier, **seconded by** Ms. Gallagher, to adopt the audited 2023 Ceremonial Mounted Troop Foundation financial statement as presented. **CARRIED**

12. **Appointment of Auditor**– **A motion** was made by Col (Ret'd) Boileau, **seconded by** LCol Onieu, that GALLO LLP Chartered Professional Accountants be appointed as the 2024 auditor with remuneration being in line with the contract prepared and signed between the Board and Gallo LLP. **CARRIED**

Annual Reports

13. The Chair proceeded with a highlight of the key points from the reports distributed in the pre-reading material.

14. **Board of Directors** – Inflation has hit us hard, and even with a reduced show season in 2023, the Foundation spent almost \$74K more than was brought in as revenue. Investment income for 2023 was almost \$68K so we lost \$6K from our investment capital.

15. For 2024, we have economized as much as we can and our sponsors, the Tripartite of Spruce Meadows, Sentgraf (Southern Family) and ATCO Group have generously increased their annual donations. Bison Transport, however, decided to discontinue their sponsorship so we now have an unexpected \$20K pressure. We have also applied for a \$75K grant from the AB Government to support the SMT for the 125th Anniversary events and hope to hear back by



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November 2024. The Foundation also received a significant donation from Mr. McMaster upon his retirement from the Board of Directors.

16. To better manage our long-term planning and budgeting, the Board is re-introducing a three-year Business Plan to allow better forecasting of capital renewal demands.
17. Regardless of inflation and other hurdles, the Board will ensure the SMT replaces what needs to be replaced for our 125th Anniversary. 2025 is also the 50th Anniversary of Spruce Meadows and we are exploring with them how we can best support each other.

18. **Strathcona Mounted Troop Report** – The size of the troop was reduced to economize on feed and accommodations for 2023/2024. For our 125th in 2025, however, we will expand the show season by at least six additional performances in Alberta, with potential shows in BC and mounting the King's Guard.

19. Part of the Troop's economizing measures was an advanced buy of feed bales from a supplier who had previously been reliable. Unfortunately, the bales had a lot of weed in them and had to be replaced by another supplier.

20. **Business Development & Revenue Generation Committee** – We made 6.67% on our Foundation investments in 2023. The Board has been happy with our investment firm, RBC Dominion Securities, who has provided sage market advice.

21. **Governance Committee** – Your Board has been putting a lot of focus on increasing our governance “best practices.” The GC is updating and streamlining the Policies and Procedures Manual, conducting a bylaw review to improve our processes and conduct an annual review of the collective skillsets of the Board.

22. **Plans Committee** – The Plans Committee is introducing a three-year Business Plan for the Foundation. As well, we are introducing two strategic planning sessions per year in addition to the four quarterly Board Meetings. The intent of this is to keep Board meetings focused on business, with the SPS looking at issues and opportunities further out or conducting “deep dives” on complex problems and initiatives.

23. **Communications Committee** – This committee is focused on better communications within the Regimental Family and supporting fundraising. Long overdue, we are now working on streamlining the efficiency and ease of use of the Society website. Although the website is a Society entity, it will include support to Foundation and SMT activities.

24. The committee is working closely with our platform provider, MediaShaker to update our coding and increase efficiency. This is a significant undertaking and must be supported with the creation of standard operating procedures for those authorized to manage the website.

New Business

25. **Election of Board of Directors** – Each year at the AGM the Board of Directors is retired, and the new Board elected by the regular voting members. The proposed 2024/2025 Foundation Board of Directors:

1. Chair: Col (Ret'd) Jamie Cade
2. LGen Stephen Kelsey (SSS, Director)
3. LCol Darryn Gray (Senior Regimental Advisor, Director)
4. Maj (Ret'd) Kelly Callens (Society Secretary, Director)
5. Maj Nathan Hevenor (Society Operations Advisor, Director)/ Maj Steve Couture, CD (acting until Nov 2024)
6. CWO Nathan Mills (Senior NCM Advisor, Director)
7. Mr. Richard Stacey (Director)
8. Mrs. Michelle Gallagher (Director)
9. Mr. Alexander Fanni (Director)
10. CWO Marcel Chenier (new Director)
11. LCol (Ret'd) Shane Gifford (new Director)
12. Mr Scott MacDonald (new Director)



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13. LCol (Ret'd Mike Onieu (Director)
14. Capt (Ret'd) Ross Prokopy (Director)
15. Mr Bob Booth (Director)
16. Mr Grant Cree (Director)
17. Col Mark Lubiniecki (Regimental Colonel/Director)
18. Ms. Faith Rhodes (Director)

26. Although not voting members of the Board, the non-elected contributors include

- Emeritus - MGen (Ret'd) Ross
- Advisor – Mr Rolinger
- Association President – Mr. Norman

27. A **motion** was made by Col Kirstein, **seconded** by LCol (Ret'd) Stuckart, to approve the 2024/2025 Board of Directors as presented. **CARRIED**

Open Discussion/Adjournment

28. **Open Discussion** - A call for new business brought forward the following:

29. Col (Ret'd) Boileau acknowledged that Foundation operations presently need to draw funds from investments, but asked if the Board has a target dollar amount, they wish to attain with investments returns that will allow them to cover SMT operating costs. The Chair stated that no target has been determined yet as the focus has been on minimizing costs while increasing revenue so we can start building the investment fund again. The immediate goal is to obtain a balanced budget and grow revenue to consistently increase our investment fund.

30. Mr Cree advised of a recent documentary he created on Lt Flowerdew with assistance from the Museum staff, noting that he has not received any feedback on it. He commented that the short, informative video can be posted on social media and YouTube. The Chair apologized for the lack of feedback and pledged to respond to him within a week.
Action: Chair

31. LCol Gray thanked everyone for taking the time to support the Foundation. The Mounted Troop is near and dear to the Regimental Family and 2025 will see a more robust SMT. The Troop has done and continues to do an exceptional job showcasing our history & traditions. With all the upcoming deployments, the Regiment is showcasing the Troop as a place to serve after a deployment tour, before re-joining a squadron.

32. **Adjournment** – The Chair closed the meeting by recognizing Mr. Batty, Mr. Bilyk and Mr. McMaster for their selfless support of the Foundation. Each of them put a lot of work into making the Foundation better. He also welcomed the new Directors, Mr. MacDonald, LCol (Ret'd) Gifford and CWO Marcel Chenier - all three are bringing a breadth of experience, energy and “can do” to our Board.

33. Col (Ret'd) Cade also thanked everyone involved with the behind-the-scenes work to prepare for these meetings.

34. A **motion** was made by Ms. Gallagher, **seconded** by CWO Mills, to adjourn the meeting at 1047 hrs. **CARRIED**

Approved for Distribution – 19 August 2024

Col (Ret'd) J Cade
Chairman

Maj (Ret'd) K Callens
Foundation Secretary



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Documents circulated prior to AGM.

- CMT Foundation 2023 AGM Read-in Package
 - 2022 Foundation AGM Minutes
 - 2023 Audited Financial Statements
 - Incoming Director Biographies
- 2023 Foundation AGM Brief