

Wally Knox



Hard to believe that it has been 50 years since we graduated from Oak Bay High School. It has been quite a ride, full of accomplishments as well as challenges. As they say, *"it is all about the journey"*.

After graduating, I was employed by BC Forest Products while awaiting my acceptance into the RCMP. After all, that is what I had indicated in the class yearbook.

On December 12, 1966, I got off the train in Regina in what I thought was a warm winter jacket for Victoria. You can only imagine my shock when I was met with a winter blizzard with temperatures minus 30 Celsius and a wind chill on top of that.

This was my introduction to Saskatchewan and my new career in the RCMP. I have had a very rewarding career in the RCMP and been involved in many interesting experiences/investigations. In NOV 1998, I was part of a 6 month UN Mission to Bosnia as part of the IPTF (International Police Task Force). It was very sad to see all of the destruction in Sarajevo and countryside. The one expression that seems to stick in my mind is, *"Stay on the hard ground"* which was part of our orientation due to land mines being ever present.

I retired after 35 yrs in April 2002 as Staff Sergeant and for approx. 2 yrs. was enjoying a rather lazy lifestyle, until my wife Diane remarked that I was not being sufficiently stimulated?

As a result, I took advantage of an opportunity to do some contract work with the RCMP. It was originally a 9 month contract, but ended up being for 8 ½ years and involved teaching a new computerized electronic records management system to the members and support staff. It was a considerable learning curve/challenge not only for me but also for the members and support staff. I gained a tremendous insight into resistance to change and experience in Adult Education. This computer program (PROS) is now utilized within the RCMP, with the exception of BC (naturally), for operational records.

I finally had enough of travelling around so retired for the second time in April 2013. During my career, I had 12 transfers in 25 years which naturally took its toll personally. Finally, on the last move to North Battleford, SK, we were able to stay for the remainder of my 35 year career with the Force.

I have been married 3 times and finally got it right with Diane. She is the love of my life and we have been married 24 years! Diane is Registered Nurse and was doing outpost nursing in a northern First Nations community when we first met. She was the Nurse in Charge and I was the Detachment Cmdr.

As you can appreciate, we definitely had differences of opinions based on our respective roles in the Community.

Life has been good as we continue the journey. We love to travel, golf and ski as well as spend time with our family and good friends.

We are a blended family and have 3 children: 2 sons and one daughter and 5 amazing grand children. When we are with them, it puts life in perspective and makes it all worth it.

Looking forward to meeting you all at the reunion

