



MARCH NEWSLETTER

Edmonton RCMP Vets'

Hello Everyone,

Well, "Mother Nature" has been a little unpredictable in the last while, but we will be into Spring very shortly and hopefully some warmer weather.

We were very fortunate to have Colonel (Rtd) Nishika Jardine, the Veterans Ombudsperson as our Guest speaker accompanied by Jamie Morse, Lieutenant-Colonel (Rtd).

Colonel Jardine served almost 37 years as an officer in the Corps of Royal Canadian Electrical & Mechanical Engineers (RCEME). The Veterans Ombudsman works toward ensuring the sacrifices of Canada's Veterans and their families are recognized through the provision of services, benefits, and support in a fair, accessible, and timely manner. The Ombudsman plays an important role in raising awareness of the needs and concerns of Veterans and their families.

The Ombudsman is an impartial and independent officer, reporting directly to the Minister of Veterans Affairs Canada. This independence is essential to ensure their commitment to stakeholders is honored. As an independent voice, the Ombudsman works to ensure the fair treatment of Veterans, their representatives, and their families, in accordance with the [Veterans Bill of Rights](#) which includes Members and former members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

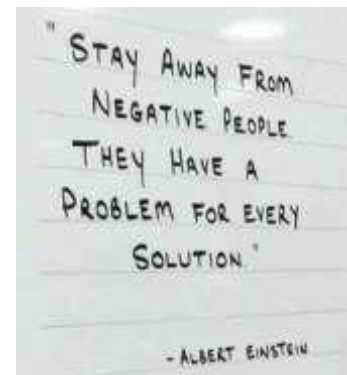


Colonel (Ret'd) Nishika Jardine
Veterans Ombudsperson



Jerry Plastow, Colonel (Rtd) Nishika Jardine, Jamie Morse, Lieutenant-Colonel (Rtd) & Kees Kikkert presented a small token of our appreciation to Nishika & Jamie.

Please note the Ombud's office is there to assist once you have completed your application for disability benefits and you are of the belief you have not been treated properly or you disagree with the decision from VAC. One thing Colonel Jardine stressed that **should someone wish to apply for a benefit(s), they should not go it alone**, find someone such as a Royal Canadian [Legion Service Officers](#) or, for Edmonton Division, contact our Support Advocate, Dianne Lehman at: [dklehman7\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:dklehman7(at)gmail.com), for help and advice.



At last months Dinner Meeting, we presented Tom Dunlop with a plaque from the Friends of the Mounted Police Heritage Centre for his generous donation. The picture that was taken that evening was inadvertently lost, so we took another a few days later as per the photo to the right.

Below are a few photographs from the evening.



L to R seated: Back to us Norma Martin, Melba & Randy Montgomery, Manny Langman, Rob Bacchus and Don Martin with Kees standing and listening in.



L to R: Aggie Collinson, Bruce Allen, Joe Collinson, Jerry Frost, Tom & Norma Dunlop & Ruth Frost with her back to us.



Cop: what's in the bottle?
Lady: just some water
Cop: ma'am that's wine.
Lady: OMG.jesus did it again.



To the left we have John Griffiths, Keith & Elaine Taylor and Donna & Bob Bilodeau

To the right with her back to the camera is Nadia Lafoy, Jane & Ken Fuhrmann, Roger Goulet, Laurie Samis, Darlene & Dayle McKibbon and Eric Lafoy.



To the left and seated, with their backs to us, Judith Rector, Garry Olshewski, Bill & Pat Donahue, Ross Hogg, & Chaplain Cyril & Marjorie Gowler with Jerry holding the attention of Bill.

We had our first meeting to plan the RCMP Veterans' Association Annual General Meeting (AGM) being held in Edmonton in early June, 2024 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel West Edmonton. Although these functions are no where near as extravagant as they once were, there is still a great deal of organizing required. 2024 is the 150th anniversary of the NWMP arriving in what is now Alberta. We have people looking after areas such as finance, accomodation, registration, transportation, volunteers, fundraising, keynote speakers, spousal program, kiosk coordinator and gala ball and entertainment. Down the road we will be looking for anyone wishing to assist, but should anyone have suggestions or ideas, please don't hesitate to contact me, Kees Kikkert, or any of our Executive members. *I hope to find someone that might be able to make up a Logo, something like the RCMP 150 Logo or the Logo as noted in the Executive Minutes below for the 2024 AGM about the NWMP arriving in what is now known as Alberta. So, if you are able to do something like this, please contact me; it will be greatly appreciated!*

The following message was recently received from the Association President, Sandy Glenn, updating the matter dealing with Epost Replacement:

Good morning, all.

On Feb 17th I shared with you a message I had received from the Joanne Rigon the DG of National Compensation services.

This message was shared in an attempt to bring some information to our members about receiving messages from Gilmore Doculink to register with them as they would be replacing epost in the near future. There had been concerns expressed from some of our membership that these messages might be a scam. As such I sent out what I had to you the Div Presidents to share with your members and I asked our Association office to prepare a general email to go to all of the membership to provide the latest information we had about this.

As the team was preparing the general mail out, we learned more information about Doculink. We learned that they are only able to provide this service to serving members at this time, and as such will not impact our Veteran membership (except possibility those who are working with the RCMP in another capacity)

I will be bringing this topic up during my regular meeting with the DG next week and seeking more information about the online access to our pension information (stubs and statements). Once I have a more defined path forward for our membership, I will advise you again and prepare a general email to the membership as needed.

I am sharing this message today with just the Division Presidents as a follow up to my Feb 17th message for you to share with your membership as you see fit.

Thank you for your ongoing understanding as we deal with this issue.

Sandy

To the right is Tom Dunlop, Don Hovey, Reg. #14696 - Jack Hovey and Joe Collinson. Jack turned 100 years young last November and we had invited him and his son to our February Dinner Meeting where we had hoped to wish him a belated Happy Birthday along with birthday cake. As Jack was unable to attend, Tom & Joe attend his residence on the 8th March and presented Jack with his Vet Pin and his 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 & 55-year bars.



The President of Saskatoon Division has asked we distribute the following information on their behalf:

RCMP Veterans Association Saskatoon Division – 150th Anniversary Challenge Coin.

On May 23rd, 2023, it is the 150th Anniversary of the NWMP, RNWMP and the RCMP. It is also the 65th year since the Saskatoon Division received its Charter, officially becoming part of the RCMP Veterans Association. To acknowledge and commemorate these events a challenge coin is being struck. The coin is being sold for \$20.00 each. To place an order, send a message to saskatoonrcmpvets@gmail.com Include the number of coins you wish to order, and what if any, regimental number you want printed on the coin(s). Once you have placed your order, e-Transfer \$20/coin to: <https://www.saskatoonrcmpvets.com/> and indicate in the e-Transfer notes "Challenge Coin Payment". We will be taking orders until Monday, March 20, 2023. If more information is required contact Warren Gherasim at warren_gherasim@yahoo.ca 306-291-1373 or Stewart Kingdon at stewart_kingdon@hotmail.com 306-260-0907.

I am sure if you don't do e-Transfer, call and make arrangements to send a cheque or money order.



JS-NOO-00100 3D 17 LY 23/02/11 V01(3D 16)

Please carefully check the spelling/font of the text, graphics and corresponding Pantone color on artwork.

Molds will be made on final approval of the artwork. Any corrections after the molds are made will make it necessary for us to charge a new die fee.

New Members February 2023

- 1) Tim Dunlap, Reg. # 44049, Parkland County
- 2) William (Bill) Sweeney, Reg. # 32042/0.1531, Stony Plain
- 3) Denis Pratt, Reg. # 24046, Sherwood Park

I would like to welcome the new members and hope you find the time to join us at our General / Dinner Meetings.

Well, this is all I have for March. Remember, if you are attending the General / Dinner Meeting on the 28th March, the theme is St. Patrick's Day so wear something **GREEN**.

Just so you are aware, I put the Newsletter's together each month. I certainly don't have the skill or knowledge of our previous editor, but I try my best and learn something new each month putting these together. Last month, one of our observant Veterans noticed a mistake in the obituary of Veteran 'Bill' Patton. It indicated he joined the RCMP in 1952, when in fact it was 1957. I had copied and pasted the information from another document, but missed the error for which I apologize. I encourage anyone if you notice an error or mistake, please bring it to my attention. Also, if you would like to see something else included in the Newsletter, please let me know at: president@edmrmpvets.ca.

Stay well and stay safe everyone and a **Happy St. Patrick's Day!**

Kees Kikkert, President

**RCMP Veterans' Association, Edmonton Division Annual General
Dinner Meeting - Tuesday, March 28th, 2023
Woodvale Community Facility - 4540-50 St. Edmonton, AB.**

Meet and Greet: 5:00 PM - Dinner: 6:00 P.M.

MENU

Honey Garlic Pork Strips
Chicken Stew/Cornbread Dumplings
Jasmine Rice
Chef's Choice Pasta
Mixed Vegetables
**Caesar Salad, Penne/dill salad, Pineapple Coleslaw Salad,
Pickled Vegetable Salad, Garden Fresh Vegetable Tray,**
Dinner Buns, Assorted Squares, Fresh Fruit, Coffee, Tea.

**PLEASE REGISTER BY THURSDAY, MARCH 23 BY CONTACTING LINDA PLOMP AT
Email: lfplomp@hotmail.com Phone or text: 780-238-7606**

PLEASE ADVISE OF ANY DIETARY RESTRICTIONS/ALLERGIES

**Cost: \$30.00 (includes meal, gratuity, and GST) Payment at the door by
cash/cheque/credit card.**

**PLEASE LET US KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IF YOU NEED TO CANCEL AS WE
ARE OBLIGATED TO PAY FOR MEALS WE HAVE ORDERED.**

**GUEST SPEAKER: CPL. SEAN MILNE, RCMP K DIV
Topic: SENIOR FRAUD AND SCAMS**

Book/Puzzle Exchange: Bring your books and jigsaw puzzles for free exchange.



Alberta RCMP Highlights – March 2023

Commissioner presents Commendation Awards in Edmonton prior to retirement

At the end of January, Commissioner Lucki visited “K” Division Headquarters for a town hall with employees. This was an opportunity for employees to attend both virtually and in person and ask questions. Being able to host the Commissioner was especially timely in view of her recent announcement of retirement in March 2023. While here, Cmmr. Lucki also presented the Commissioner’s Commendation Awards to 10 recipients in a private ceremony. The Commissioner’s Commendation is the highest internal honour that can be presented to an employee of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Every award recipient was deserving both in their years of service and for their dedication and effort above the call of duty.

The recipients of the Commissioner’s Commendation Awards for Outstanding Service were: Cst. Jason Wells, S/Sgt. Gary Creed and

Tracesandra McDonald. To recognize Years of Service, the following recipients were recognized: Cpl. Blaine Oster, Linda Sauve, A/Commr. John Ferguson (retired), S/Sgt. Daniel Martin, C/ Supt. Mike Good, S/Sgt. Leonard McCoshen (retired), and Insp. Jason Willmets. Pictured here is Commissioner Lucki with Deputy Commissioner Zablocki, Commanding Officer of the RCMP with the award recipients and other notable employees and members.



Across “K” Division, employees are consistent in their incredible courage, strength, and resilience in actions of service for law enforcement every day. These are reflections of the values of the Alberta RCMP and all the awards presented were well-earned.

The Alberta RCMP thanks Commissioner Lucki for her visit and time as well as all her years of leadership with the RCMP, and wishes her all the best in her retirement.

City of Grande Prairie and a potential municipal police service

In early March, the Mayor and Council of the City of Grande Prairie voted to proceed with transitioning to a municipal police service from their current contract with the RCMP. This is a disappointing decision as RCMP employees in Grande Prairie and across Alberta are heavily invested in their communities. The transition from the RCMP to a municipal police service will be a multi-year transition process.

The Alberta RCMP recognizes that communities or municipalities may be interested in discussing or considering the provision of their own services. This is supported and the RCMP will work with them to ensure that they receive the support of the policing services they need, regardless of the service provider. RCMP members and employees at the Grande Prairie detachment will continue to be focused on their dedicated service to the community and Grande Prairie region and will maintain the strong partnerships in the Grande Prairie area with the community, elected officials, and partners.

Community engagement

In January, Leduc RCMP “team Copsicles” braved the cold waters in their 4th Polar Plunge as part of the Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) for Special Olympics Alberta.

This year’s event was the first in person event since 2019. Team “Copsicles” participated at the location at Lake Summerside in Edmonton, Alta. The team consisted of 4 participants and a total of \$930 was raised.

“We were extremely happy to have the opportunity to support Special Olympic athletes in our community along with our law enforcement colleagues and other partner agencies for the 4th year,” said Constable Cheri-Lee Smith. “We are thankful for all the encouragement we received, and the donations will certainly help the athletes continue to participate in the sports they love.”



For the Canmore detachment Polar Plunge event, 40 participants, including 4 detachment members, ran through the water sprayed by the Bow Valley Fire truck. Detachment employees were joined by other participants including the Wayfinders Wellness Society, a wellness-based organization for military and first responders who have PTSD.

In Airdrie, the RCMP detachment was invited by the senior home center to participate in a game tournament of Crib. The detachment has been building its relationship to the home after the community engagement team from the detachment participated in singing carols during the holidays at this location. This is the first of many future tournaments to happen at the home with guests as the Airdrie detachment has members who are interested in working with the community and this is a great opportunity to participate.



Engagement helps strengthen our communities and it great to see detachments and employees continue to make effort and participate in local opportunities and events. The Alberta RCMP will continue to build relationships with citizens and look forward to all the ways our employees and veterans can engage throughout this special year.

Strategist, Strategy Group, Strategic Communications – “K” Division

Edmonton RCMP Veterans’ Executive Meeting Minutes February 23/2023, Woodvale Community Centre, Edmonton

Meeting called to order: 10:00 am

Members Present: Kees Kikkert, Jerry Plastow, Elaine Schnepf, Barry Callbeck, Jim Medley, Eric Lafoy, Tom Burkett, Denise Burkett, Bob Bacchus, Tom Dunlop, Vern Colley, Bruce Allen, Dianne Lehman, Nick Taylor.

Unable to Attend: Randy Montgomery, Linda Plomp, Roger Goulet, Bob Stewart, Joe Collinson.

Barry Callbeck, Secretary:

- Moved the minutes from January 26/2023 Executive Meeting be adopted as published. Seconded, Bob Bacchus, Carried.

Kees Kikkert, President:

- Kees has registered and paid for the upcoming Ottawa AGM with one other position to be filled. Vern Colley will register and pay and if unable to attend someone will fill his position.
- A planning meeting for the 2024 AGM is scheduled for March 2/2023 at Woodvale 10:00 AM for all that have volunteered to assist.
- Kees advised as result of the Commissioner’s retirement, she will no longer be the guest speaker at the Two Hills Regimental Dinner. Veteran Bill McIldoon who initiated this Regimental Dinner will now be the Guest Speaker. Kees hopes to attend.

Kees on behalf of Linda Plomp, Treasurer:

- Financial update on Linda's behalf:

Chequing Account	\$42,988.99
Total GIC's	\$100,962.36

Vern Colley, Vice President:

- In discussing the 2024 AGM, Vern offered to help out in various areas such as fund raising, arrival packages/paraphernalia and more. To be discussed more on 2nd March.

Jerry Plastow, Past President plus Social Committee Chair:

- The cost of meals will be going up by \$2.00 per plate for the special dinners with no change to the regular dinners at this time.
- The Speaker for the March Dinner is a member from the Force who will be speaking on Senior Fraud.

Elaine Schnepf, Director- Boost program;

- Elaine advised she has been extremely busy with six new calls from members with issues and a few house calls have been made as well.

Bruce Allen, Director:

- Bruce advised he is still working on the new website trying to resolve issues with the new system, but making the progress, all-be-it slow.

Eric Lafoy, Director:

- Eric was able to bring three Banners for the RCMP 150 for display. Advised meetings are ongoing but slow as far as any decisions. The logo for K Division is as noted below:



Tom Dunlop, Director Parking Passes;

- Tom received an Invoice from AHS for the 2023 Hospital Parking Passes. All 2022 passes have to be turned into him by mid March so he can exchange them for 2023 passes when he meets with AHS.

Jim Medley, Director, Gift shop:

- The Gift Shop Committee will be meeting shortly, and he hopes to receive a donation for Edmonton Division at that time.

Tom Burkett, Director Membership:

- We have 406 Active members with 140 of those that have not paid their 2023 Dues as of this date. Also there are twelve members that have not paid dues for the past three years.

Nick Taylor, Director Valour Place:

- Necessary repairs were made to the Mechanical system and are complete and the facility is full and doing well.

Dianne Lehman, Director- Support Advocate:

Dianne commented on the following items:

- Our Mission and Vision Statements - Dianne shared her concerns regarding our lack of Mission and Vision Statements for our Division. She offered National's current Mission and Vision statements as a framework for us to determine our statements. They are as follows:

OUR MISSION: To be responsive to the physical, psychological, social and economic welfare of all former employees of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and their families.

OUR VISION: To provide exemplary service and support to our family of retired peace officers and employees and their families, today, tomorrow and always."

- A comment was made to consider including the word 'members', not just employees. This and other feedback will be taken into account as Dianne writes one or two more examples of each for consideration at our next executive meeting.
- Dianne is recommending another survey be conducted, this time by email. It will be similar to the paper survey at the January General Meeting with the results included in the February Newsletter. This survey would be a Division Wide Survey which would help us understand and retain our current membership while finding ways to help attract more. Dianne indicated there will be a cost to conducting the survey so she will submit a proposed budget at our next Executive Meeting.
- She would also like to survey/canvas serving members if possible later this year to realize how to attract the next generation of veterans. Dianne suggested utilizing Leaflets & Posters in an effort to recruiting retirees. The core of the design hinges on the actual Features and Benefits of being a Member of our association. This is yet to be determined however, and Dianne will provide an estimated budget down the road.
- **New: *From Dianne's Desk***. Dianne will release helpful email bulletins to our membership as/when important information crosses her desk that will positively impact our members' quality of life.
- **Legacy Place Society:** Dianne shone a light on this nonprofit organization worthy of consideration for relationship building and possible support. Legacy Place is a key stakeholder and a valuable resource for our members and has been supporting RCMP members and their families for over 25 years. It is a 'Home away from Home' for many first responders in Alberta, for various reasons. They have safe houses in Edmonton, Red Deer and Calgary which have served many members and their families over the years. They provide accommodation and support for members and their families regardless of the reason (not just medical reasons). Legacy Place is also an educator for first responders. They host a number of workshops and

symposiums to support and educate members. These include topics such as Mental Wellness & Suicide Awareness Conferences and forums.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:45 AM

Next Executive meeting: @ Woodvale Community Facility March 23/2023

Barry Callbeck, Secretary

EDMONTON DIVISION GENERAL/DINNER MEETING MINUTES Woodvale Community Facility - Tuesday February 28th, 2023

Meeting called to Order at 7:15 PM by President Kees Kikkert

Barry Callbeck, Secretary:

- Moved the minutes for the General Meeting held January 31st, 2023, as published in the February Newsletter be approved. Seconded by **Rob Bacchus**, carried.

Kees Kikkert, President:

- Kees reminded everyone that we are in the process of obtaining Hospital Parking Passes again for 2023 and that all old passes should be returned shortly. Those in possession of these passes should contact the person where they were picked up.
- **Two Hills Regimental Dinner:** Kees advised that as result of the Commissioner's retirement, there will be a new Guest Speaker, Retired Sgt. Bill McILDOON.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM

Next General/Dinner Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 28, 2023

Barry Callbeck, Secretary

The Last Post

Reg #	Name :	Date of Death:	Where Passed &/or from:
15858	Stevenson, Marvin Stuart "Steve"	2023 Jan 23	Edmonton, AB
33156	Clark, Robert Shannon	2023 Jan 27	Cowichan, BC
34419	Nelson, John (Jack)	2023 Jan 28	Peterborough, ON
Chaplain	McNeil (Rev), Donald Edward	2023 Jan 26	Regina, SK
63611	Zimmerman, Aaron David	2023 Jan 25	Cancun, Mexico/Red Deer, AB
20269	Schulhauser, Gerald Kelly	2023 Jan 24	Red Deer, AB
21075	Hills, Percy Nicholas	2023 Jan 19	Peace River, AB

27165	Lafleur, Daniel	2023 Jan 26	Not Indicated
15169/0.651	Watson, Denis Illingsworth	2023 Feb 02	London, ON
28092	Way, Terrance Arthur William	2023 Feb 02	St. John, NB
51381	Holliday, Bruce Franklin	2023 Jan 24	Bashaw, AB
A/Cst.	MacKenzie, Donald Kenneth	2023 Jan 19	Antigonish, NS
19377	Reed, Clarence Nelson	2022 Dec 03	North Vancouver, BC
32921	McIntosh, Robert (Bob)	2023 Jan 31	Williams Lake, BC
21691	Schneider, Dennis Lars	2023 Jan 31	Whitehorse, YK
29426	Harrison, Ronald Gordon	2023 Jan 29	Langley, BC
18113	Sawatzky, Albert Edwin	2023 Jan 23	Vancouver, BC
18415	Hill, Thomas Jon	2023 Jan 27	Kelowna, BC
16775	Tyrrell, Walter Phillips	2023 Jan 31	Richmond, BC
17349	Doig, John Andrew	2023 Jan 20	Burnaby, BC
20153	Stinson, Clarence "Clare" William	2023 Jan 02	Edmonton, AB
23335	Josok, Kenneth Melvyn	2023 Jan 07	Edmonton, AB
41901	Carter, Arthur F.	2022 Dec 05	Belmont, ON
15858	Stevenson, "Steve" Marvin Stewart	2023 Jan 27	Edmonton, AB
C/3085	Van Damme, Shelley Lee	2022 Nov 18	Nanoose Bay, BC
37456	Karrys, Tim J.	2023 Jan 12	Maple Ridge, BC
36404	Klassen, Laurel Bruce	2023 Feb 12	Niverville, MB
16079/0.648	McFarland, William Leslie	2023 Feb 11	Orleans, ON
25657	Craig, Kenneth Alvin "Ken"	2023 Jan 27	Selkirk, MB
41338	Barry, Robert Alfred Joseph	2023 Feb 05	Carleton Place, ON
40533	Archibald, Thomas H.	2023 Jan 29	Ridgetown, ON
22013	Bull, William Glenister	2023 Feb 10	Campbell River, BC
18655	McKernan, Brian Daniel	2023 Feb 16	Ottawa, ON
A/Cst.	Wertz, Marvin Eugene	2023 Feb 08	Summerland, BC
59648	Sanchez, Christopher	2023 Feb 01	Campbell River, BC
23093	Parlee, Charles Foster	2023 Feb 17	Summerside, PEI
PSE	Turner, Gloria Jean	2022 Dec 20	Lunenburg, NS
A/Cst.	Krawchuk, Steve	2023 Feb 16	Drayton Valley, AB
26015	Bourque, Laurie	2023 Feb 07	Chambly, QC
43886	Brown, Clayton Darnell	2023 Feb 21	Winnipeg, MB
18873	Richardson, Clare Douglas	2023 Feb 17	Hamilton, ON
A/Cst.	Therault, William Leroy	2023 Feb 17	Stittsville, ON
C/6575	Shiells, Jennifer Lynn	2023 Feb 19	Regina, SK
21464	Marchand, Donald N.	2022 Dec 27	Comox, BC
27879/0.1666	Parnell, Allan Rodger	2023 Feb 23	Kemptville, ON
17078	Thibodeau, Jean Louis	2023 Jan 28	Not indicated
A/Cst.	Fix, Gerald Joseph Kilian	2023-02-26	Maple Ridge, BC
17058/0.1421	Gibbs, George William	2023-02-14	Ottawa, ON
24734	Vanderkracht, James Dale	2023-03-02	St. Albert, AB
15676	Berkey, Donald J.	2023-02-10	Vancouver, BC

May they rest In Peace

Should anyone wish more information on anyone on the list you can go to the National website at https://www.rcmpvets.ca/last_post.php and/or the RCMP Graves site <https://www.rcmpgraves.com/index.html>