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Presidents message

Well February has come and gone. Hopefully March continues to bring us out of the cold weather and into spring.

Sharon Meredith our February guest speaker did an excellent job discussing a topic that can be very difficult for some people.

Operational Stress Issues have been a taboo subject for many years and not fully understood by many. We are very fortunate that as retired Federal Government employees we have supports available to those that need it. The processes involved in gaining access to these initiatives itself can sometimes be traumatic, but there is light at the end of the journey for those that embark up on it. Again, KUDOS to our life partners for standing by our sides faithfully. They are invariably the first ones to recognize that something may be amiss. I encourage all to not be afraid to reach out for some assistance if they require it, even if it is to just ask questions.

I would like to thank everyone for supporting Chuck Neher and his role in supporting Valour Place. The "re-stock" the cupboard drive at the last dinner had good success. I have it on pretty good authority that one of our Vets won the 50-50 draw that Valour House was running during the re-stock campaign..... enough for a quick trip to Mexico, a round for the house or replenish the poker stash.

We had 60+ people attend the February dinner. A lot of hard work goes into these monthly affairs. Jerry Plastow, Elaine Schnepf and the social committee continue to exceed our expectations.

Stella Devanthey, Ross Hogg and Jerry Plastow won the pocket litter treasure hunt. They will be the first tables up to the food trough in March. I encourage

you to bring your purses and manbags to the next dinner to see if you can also win a trip to the front of the line.

Hope to see you all on March 25th.

Cheers

Dave Mitchell

president@edmrcompvets.ca

Further to President Dave's comments above on the presentation by Sharon Meredith, she started out with the following list showing what -

Occupational Stress Injuries May Include

- ✓ Post-traumatic Stress/Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
- ✓ Depression
- ✓ Anxiety
- ✓ Complex post-traumatic stress disorder
- ✓ Adjustment disorder
- ✓ Obsessions and compulsions
- ✓ Addictions
- Chronic illness – pain, IBS, Fibromyalgia, autoimmune illness
- ✓ Prolonged grief
- ✓ Acute stress disorder (3 days to 1 month)
- ✓ Sexual dysfunction
- ✓ Disordered eating

Sharon also mentioned where someone can **Get Help with your Application**. They are:

- ❖ Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) 1-866-522-2122
- ❖ [The Royal Canadian Legion Service Officers](#)

Legion Service Officers, Edmonton

310 - 11808 St. Albert Trail T5L 4G4

Office Administrator: Beth Veikley

Phone: 780-448-4982

Service Officers: Gerry Finlay & Darryll Newsham

Following her presentation, Dave Mitchell presented Sharon with a small gift in appreciation as noted to the right.



Sharon Meredith & Dave Mitchell

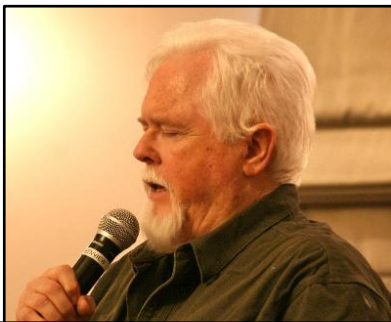
CHILDHOOD IS LIKE BEING DRUNK.
EVERYONE REMEMBERS WHAT YOU DID, EXCEPT YOU.

I don't let my age define me, but the side effects are getting harder to ignore



First time attendees Ray & Allison Boudreau & Tanis Gioczi

A few pictures from our Dinner/General Meeting on February 25th.



Before we eat, our Chaplin, Cyril Gowler, left, always has a few words of wisdom and a prayer. To the right we have Stella Devanthey & Simon Chance



Shirley & Wayne Carroll



Ross Hogg



Charlotte & Jim Price



Jim & Deanna Robertson



Bill & Pat Donahue



Deanna & Charlottee

The following information is being provided for all Pensioned RCMP Members and their spouses.

MEMBER PENSION PLAN INFORMATION

Members are being encouraged to email the Pension Centre copies of their spouses Birth Certificate and Marriage Certificate in advance so the Pension Centre can have these placed on their records as they are two documents the Pension Centre require at the time of death in order for the spouse to obtain pension benefits etc.

This is recommended by a Client Experience Advisor from the Pension Centre as it's much easier to locate these document now versus the executor, or executrix having to run around and find them at the time of death.

Contact information for the Government of Canada (RCMP) Pension Centre is:

In Canada and/or United States:

Toll Free: 1-855-502-7090 - Fax: 1-418-562-7965

Outside Canada and the United States: Ph: 506-533-5800 (collect calls accepted)
Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm (Atlantic Time)

Email: pensioncentrercmp.centredespensionsgrc@pwgsc-tpsgc.gc.ca

RCMP GROUP LIFE INSURANCE

Members can access a confirmation statement from SEB (Smart Employee Benefits) Administrative Services Inc. who look after our Group Life & Disability Insurance Policy on behalf of the RCMP stating what coverage level members have for themselves and their spouses. When a Pensioned members turns 70 years old, you still pay monthly deductions for Basic Life Insurance. Coverage for member is \$10,000. If you opted in for Spousal Insurance, it is \$5,000, but that ends when the spouse turns 70.

Website Access: <https://fp.seb-admin.com/fpconnect/#/rcmpgrc>

Phone # 1-877-778-8084

As you may recall, we asked those attending the Dinner Meeting to bring something for Valour Place. The following is a note from Valour Place's Director:

*On behalf of Valour Place and Director Sylvie Keane, a **BIG THANK YOU** to all the Edmonton Vets who made donations of food, paper products and the \$100 cash at the RCMP Vets Dinner on February 26 at the monthly dinner. Special THANKS to John ZUBKOWSI for proposing the Dinner attendees bring a donation! We all make a difference. **Thank you!***

Chuck Neher, our Valour Place Liaison Director, delivered the donated goods and he, along with Sylvie Keane are seen below with the donations.



Chuck also asked we include the following in the Newsletter on behalf of Valour Place.

The 14th Annual Event

The MattRad committee is happy to announce that the 14th annual MattRad is happening on **April 12, 2025 at the New Sarepta Agriplex**. With the purchase of a ticket you can join us in our silent auction, Ukrainian dinner, 50/50, listen to our guest speakers from Valour Place, and most importantly enjoy the company of your family and friends. MattRad has created a very loving and close community, and we would love for you to join it!

Tickets:PREPURCHASE only****

\$30 per person or \$200 for a table that sits eight - kids ten years of age and under are \$10

Purchase your tickets through e-transfer to mattradfundraiser@gmail.com or click **MATTRAD Tickets**

Location: The New Sarepta Agriplex 5088 1 Ave S, New Sarepta, AB T0B 3M0

Doors open at 430PM

Dinner starts at 530PM

Visit the MATTRAD Fundraiser page on Facebook



Chuck attended the Valour Place Board Meeting March 6th, 2025 and reports the following:

1: MATTRAD, as noted above, is a non-profit organization celebrating its 14th fundraiser. It was formed after the tragic loss of an incredible individual, Private Matthew Radawetz. A group of Matt's friends and family have come together every year since 2011 to raise funds, in his name, and donate to a worthy cause.

2: **Huge THANKS** to the Vets that answered the call to volunteer at the Nov 20/21, 2024 Casino. VP received their cheque for \$79,762.78 from AGLC.

3: **Mark this date on your calendars.** Sunday September 14, 2025 is the Annual Walk for Valour. Volunteers will be require and more information will be forthcoming.

A large crowd gathered at the Fallen Four Memorial Park on Monday the 3rd March to mark the anniversary of the 2005 tragedy which saw four Mayerthorpe and Whitecourt RCMP officers killed.



Constable Anthony Gordon
Constable Leo Johnston
Constable Brock Myrol
Constable Peter Schiemann

To the families, friends, and colleagues of the Mayerthorpe Fallen Four, we honour their memory, we share in your sorrow, and we thank these officers for their service. Their heroism will forever be etched in the heart of Canada.

*"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."
— John 15:13*

We will remember them.



MENU

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

Woodvale Community Facility

4540 – 50 St. Edmonton, AB

Meet and Greet 5:00 PM Dinner 6:00 PM

THEME: ST. PATRICK'S WEAR GREEN!

Southern style meat Loaf, Butter Chicken, Jasmine Rice

Grilled Glazed Carrots, Chef's choice salad, Caesar salad

Fresh Vegetable Tray, Dinner Buns, Butter, Assorted Squares, Fresh Fruit

Coffee and Tea.

Cash Bar

PLEASE ADVISE OF ANY FOOD ALLERGIES OR FOOD RESTRICTIONS

GUEST SPEAKERS: **BOB LAYTON, FORMER RADIO ANNOUNCER, AND GLOBAL NEWS**

HELICOPTER REPORTER, SHANE BLAKELY

TOPIC: WORKING IN RADIO & TV (APPROX. 1 1/2 HRS)

There will be a short intermission time.

This presentation will be a very worthwhile, humorous

and interesting entertainment you don't want to miss!

Bob and Shane have written books which will be available for purchase at a very reasonable cost

The benefits of their books go to various charities.

Cost per person: **\$30.00** PAYMENT AT THE DOOR: CASH, CHEQUE, DEBIT OR CREDIT CARD

PLEASE CONTACT JERRY PLASTOW TO REGISTER FOR THE DINNER

EMAIL jplastow@shaw.ca Phone 780-499-3235.

Register by Friday, March 21, 2025

A FRIENDLY REMINDER: THE ASSOCIATION MUST PAY FOR THOSE WHO REGISTER AND FAIL TO ATTEND. PLEASE ADVISE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IF YOU ARE NEEDING TO CANCEL.

BRING YOUR BOOKS AND PUZZLES FOR EXCHANGE.

NEW MEMBERS EDMONTON DIVISION

February 2025

KOONS, Barbara, Reg #40024 - South Baptiste, AB

LOU, Marco, Reg #46656 - Parkland County, AB

CAVE, Gordon, Reg #36045 - Devon, AB

CRAIGEN, Monique, Reg #46799 - Edmonton, AB

MAMELO, Joseph, Reg #31460 - Edmonton, AB

We again welcome our new members to Edmonton Division and of course, encourage all of you to join us when you can at our Dinner/General Meetings held the last Tuesday of each month except for July, August and December.

Koffee Klatches'

We have been asked to include a list of Koffee Klatches' within our Division's area. So, if anyone wishes to add to the list as noted below, I will add you information in next the next newsletter.

- Smitty's in Spruce Grove, Monday to Friday around 9:00 AM for coffee except for the 2nd Wednesday of each month.
- Kingsway Legion, 14339 50 St NW, Edmonton every Tuesday around 11:30 AM for lunch.
- Beaumont AB, Jef's Cafe - 5012 50th St. - Time: 0900 Hrs every Thursday for coffee.

Used Red Vet Blazers

Attention all members, including Associate Members, who may have a red blazer hanging in the closet that's not being used. We often get asked if we have any used blazers and if we do get them, we take them to the Gift Shop and they are sold for \$100.00. If you do have one and unable to take it to the Gift Shop, please contact me or anyone on the Executive and we will find a way to take it off your hands.

If any of you have any questions or comments please direct them to me as noted below and/or our President, Dave Mitchell.

Kees Kikkert, Past President
pastpresident@edmrcompvets.ca

Edmonton RCMP Veterans' Executive Meeting Minutes February 20/2025, Woodvale Community Centre, Edmonton

Meeting called to order: 10:00 am

Members Present; Kees Kikkert, Jerry Plastow, Elaine Schnepf, Barry Callbeck, Jim Medley, Dave Mitchell, Carol Blannin, Chuck Neher, Tom Dunlop, Bruce Allen.

Unable to Attend; Randy Montgomery, Dianne Lehman, Shane Ramteemal, S/M Leilani Collins, Eric LaFoy, Linda Plomp.

Barry Callbeck, Secretary:

- Motion for acceptance of the minutes for January 2025 as published in the February Newsletter, Seconded by Jim Medley, Carried.

Dave Mitchell, President:

- Association Council (A/C) Meeting on 11th Feb update:

- frustration at National level in Vets obtaining the red blazer. Warren Gherasim is looking to try and resolve this at the National level (i.e. maybe through RCMP stores/QM processes)
- Policy with respect to the A/C to be incorporated in the Operations Manual being worked on.
- I.D Cards - looking at possibility of digital cards being used with an expiry date is being looked into Policy and process issues need to be sorted out.
- The Association's website: The integration with the website and the Member Management System (MMS) is complicated and being worked on.
- The process of including the Veterans' Foundation into the Association's website is proceeding.
- Biggest issue is the "paywall" as some content will only be available to RCMPVA members ... this requires user name and password capability that currently only exists for MMS payments.
- Wayne Jacquard, Ottawa Division President has been named the A/C Chairman.

Dave Mitchell on behalf of Linda Plomp, Treasurer:

- Financial Update
Chequing Account \$37,723.10
Total GICs \$ 107,418.29

Kees Kikkert, Past President:

- There are delays when ordering Blazers, National has been approached to rectify the challenge.
- The Koffee Klatches will be added to the newsletter, so for those that read the newsletter you will know the where and when of the gatherings.

Jerry Plastow, Past President:

- A donation from the gift shop was given to St. Paul for a hockey game silent auction, where they made \$600.00
- The registration for the February Dinner is still open.
- Guest Speakers for March and April are in place. Info will be in the newsletter.

Elaine Schnepf, Director – Boost Program:

- Ten members have been contacted for 2025, with one home visit, and one member in hospital for surgery.

Jim Medley, Director, Gift Shop:

- Kim is filling orders from phone calls and emails, Kim will follow-up with the challenge of getting Blazers.

Carol Blannin, Director Membership:

- Membership numbers: Active 417, Associate 209 and National shows 15 for unpaid dues.

Chuck Neher, Director, Valour Place:

- Valour Place is looking for help with supplies, Donations can be brought to the February Dinner. A list of items has been sent out to the membership, and all donations will be greatly appreciated.

Commanding Officer's Message

Even though the weather has been chilly over the past couple of months, things are already warming up for the Alberta RCMP in 2025.

Exemplifying the great work being done by our organization, I was proud of the many Alberta RCMP employees who were honoured with the King Charles III's Coronation Medal in January. They embody the core values of the RCMP with their integrity, professionalism, respect, and compassion.

We have also had a number of operational successes this new year, including combatting drug trafficking and showcasing how our specialized units, like Police Dog Services, come together to provide the best policing service to Albertans.

Lastly, we took the time to recognize and honour 50 years of women in the RCMP, as well as Black History Month—celebrating the diversity of our employees and those we serve.

As winter hopefully starts to draw to a close, I look forward to the many upcoming events and opportunities this spring to meet with our veterans and community members across the province.

Respectfully,

Rob

Deputy Commissioner Rob Hill
Commanding Officer of the Alberta RCMP

Alberta RCMP employees receive King Charles III's Coronation Medal

In three separate ceremonies, two on January 14 in Devon, and the other on January 23 in Cochrane, employees of the Alberta RCMP were awarded the prestigious King Charles III's Coronation Medal.

The medal was created to commemorate the coronation of King Charles III, with 30,000 Canadians selected to receive recognition for their hard work. To be eligible to receive the medal, a Canadian must have made significant contributions to Canada or to a particular province, territory, region, or community, or have made an outstanding achievement abroad that brings credit to Canada.

The RCMP employees selected for this honour have served in a variety of roles and positions. Special consideration was given to those whose actions have had an international impact that reflected well on the RCMP and Canada, who have significantly contributed to RCMP cultural evolution and reconciliation, who have contributed to domestic operations to assist their fellow Canadians, and who are deeply committed to their communities through involvement and volunteer work. These individuals have innovated and changed the way the RCMP operates, their actions have demonstrated expertise, and some have been recognized as national and international authorities in their fields.

Every single medal recipient has set an incredible example of leadership and service in their communities. They represent the core values of the RCMP – integrity, professionalism, respect, and compassion. This is recognition of the lasting impacts they've made on the people they serve.



Drumheller GIS and multiple partners conclude yearlong drug trafficking investigation

In November of 2023, staff from the Correctional Service of Canada at the Drumheller Institution reported to Drumheller RCMP that they located a package containing methamphetamine, cell phones, nicotine patches, and fentanyl. Drumheller RCMP General Investigations Section (GIS) officers initiated a drug trafficking investigation and located a drone near the Drumheller Institution believed to be used to smuggle the contraband into the institution.

As the investigation progressed, Drumheller GIS obtained assistance from Several RCMP units including the Federal Policing Northwest Region's Federal Serious and Organized Crime, Cold Lake GIS, Cold Lake General Duty, Digital Forensic Services, Forensic Identification Section, Firearm Support Services, the National Firearms Tracing Centre, and also the Edmonton Police Service Robbery Unit.

On April 17, 2024, RCMP officers from the Drumheller GIS, Cold Lake GIS, and Cold Lake Detachment executed a search warrant on a residence on 8 Street in Cold Lake, Alberta. As a result of the search warrant, police located supporting evidence of drug trafficking into an institution, including drones and drone parts. Also located was a loaded handgun. On the same date, Drumheller GIS executed a search warrant on a vehicle that was seized by the Edmonton Police Robbery Unit. Additional evidence supporting drug trafficking into an institution was located, including cell phones and evidence of drone use.



As a result of this investigation, a 39-year-old resident of Cold Lake and 34-year-old resident of Edmonton, were jointly charged with:

- Conspiracy to Commit the indictable offence of Trafficking a Controlled Drug; and
- Trafficking Fentanyl and Methamphetamine.

In addition, the 39-year-old and a 26-year-old resident of Bonnyville, were jointly charged with:

- Possession of a Prohibited Firearm;

- Possession of a firearm without holding a license; and
- Possession of a firearm knowing that the serial number on it had been altered, defaced or removed.



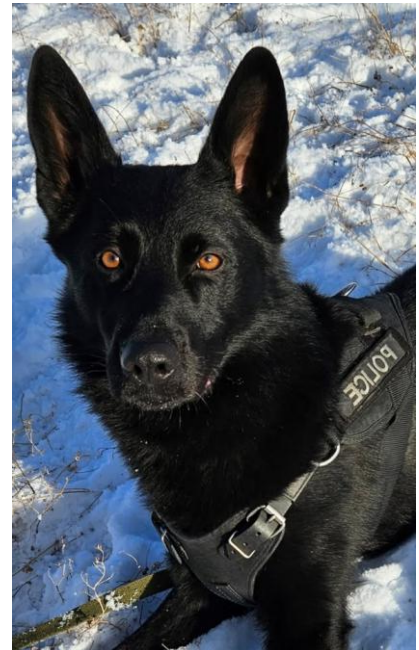
Additionally, the 39-year-old was charged with:

- Possession for the Purpose of Trafficking Fentanyl and Methamphetamine; and
- Possession of a Firearm while being prohibited from doing so.

Success of Police Dog Peyak

Throughout the month of January, Police Dog Peyak had a busy time protecting Albertans.

On January 9, High Prairie RCMP initiated a project to target offenders on warrants in the area with help from various units, including Peyak. When a suspect with a stolen vehicle fled on foot, Peyak tracked him to a residence. The suspect was arrested without further incident.



On January 28, as part of the same project, members attempted a traffic stop on a vehicle, which then began driving into oncoming traffic before eventually stopping at a residence. The driver then fled on foot, but was tracked by Peyak and then arrested.

On January 29, RCMP in Peace Regional responded to a report of a suspicious person near Simon Lake. With containment established, Peyak located a suspect with several active warrants hiding in a trailer. When the suspect did not comply with police demands, Peyak assisted in securing him until he could be safely arrested.

Peyak's work has been exceptional, but it's important to highlight that Peyak is just a part of the many units that work together each day to serve Albertans.

50 years of women in the RCMP

On September 16, 1974, 32 women across Canada took the oath to become RCMP police officers. They arrived at Depot on September 18 and 19, and formed Troop 17. In March 1975, they completed their training and started working at detachments across the country. They were the first women police officers in the RCMP.



On Friday, January 31, female RCMP officers from across Southern Alberta came together at Spruce Meadows in Calgary to mark 50 years of women in the RCMP. The event welcomed Deputy Commissioner Marianne Ryan and Constable Sue Sturgeon, a member of Troop 17.

Women make up one fifth of the RCMP's police officers. Every day they show up to make our communities a safe place to work, live, and play.



Black History Month

In early February, Alberta RCMP officers from the Diverse Community Engagement Unit attended the opening ceremony for Black History Month 2025 in Edmonton, hosted by the National Black Coalition of Canada NBCC Edmonton. The event is an annual kickoff for a month-long celebration of the history, accomplishments, and ongoing contributions of Alberta's Black community.

Our officers spent the afternoon meeting with community members and partner agencies, learning and sharing stories of Black Albertans throughout history, and renewing our commitment to ensure safety for all.



Polar Plunge at Millennium Park

Alberta RCMP officers from Canmore took the plunge at Millennium Park on February 6 in support of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Alberta. With the stunning Rocky Mountains behind them, participants were doused by Canmore Fire Rescue before making their icy leap.

Proceeds from the event directly supported Bow Valley Special Olympics athletes from Cochrane, Canmore, and Banff, helping fund their training and development. Special Olympics athletes were on the site to cheer on the brave participants.



THE LAST POST

<u>Reg #</u>	<u>Name :</u>	<u>Date of Death:</u>	<u>Passed &/or from</u>
17910	Stocker, William Gerrard "Bill"	2025-02-06	Smiths Falls, ON
32994	Murray, Gregory Dean	2025-02-06	Hart Lake, NS
21928/0.1428	Bolton, Gary Frederick	2025-02-07	Mill Cove, NB
15183	Goodhand, William Wilson	2025-02-03	Regina, SK
35511	Dueck, Eldon J.	2025-02-02	Not mentioned
20428	Doyle, Terrence Alexander Paul	2025-02-09	North Bay, ON
20517/0.938	Davignon, Guy Leo	2025-02-06	Ayer's Cliff, QC
26692	Chaput, Paul	2025-02-06	Rock Creek, BC
C/1331	Gardner, Kevin Joseph	2025-02-08	Corner Brook, NL
44710	Natyshak, Sherry Evangeline	2025-02-11	Melfort, SK
34939	Hutchings, Edward Gerard	2025-02-13	Corner Brook, NL
16145	Stewart, James Ray	2025-02-13	Stratford, ON
14940	Hall, Thomas Leonard	2025-01-29	Whitehorse, YK
C/0947	Gunn, Richard Kim	2025-02-16	Lethbridge, AB'
16081	Hoswitschka, Herbert M.	2024-12-10	Ottawa, ON
17310	Nan, Mircea "Mitch" Rudy	2025-02-15	Not mentioned

25000	Walsh, Benjamin Morris	2025-02-06	Regina, SK
27086	Unsworth, David Arthur	2025-02-17	Sydney, NS
C/0285	Fahie, Terence Robert	2025-02-17	Ottawa, ON
26485	Turnbull, David Frederick	2025-02-15	Kars, ON
28422	MacLean, Harris Curtis	2025-02-25	Port Hawkesbury, NS
PSE	Zalesak, Dianne	2025-02-22	Lethbridge, AB
	Brassard, Leger	2025-02-19	Saint-André-du-Lac, QC
PSE	Raymond, Paul Robert Vincent Patrick	2025-02-18	Gander, NL
C/2509	St. Laurent, Mary Arlene	2025-02-27	Fredericton, NB
21041	Sipley, Allan Phillip	2025-02-25	Kentville, NS
A/Cst.	Butt, William Douglas	2025-02-06	Coquitlam, BC
36936/0.2669	Coulombe, Joseph André	2025-02-24	Chateauguay, QC
PSE	Orman, Jenna Marie	2025-02-13	Ft. Qu'Appelle, SK
28171	McCallum, Craig	2025-02-23	Dollard des Ormeaux, QC
23740	Croucher, Allan George	2025-01-13	Greenock, UK
22658	Gingras, Mario Byron	2025-02-07	Not mentioned
17781/0.790	Schindeler, William Henry (Bill)	2025-02-15	Surrey, BC
23888	Thompson, Robert L.	2025-01-30	Langley, BC
A/Cst.	Parker, Baron	2025-02-08	Cloverdale, BC
26827	Kalman, George Davide	2025-02-25	Weyburn, SK

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>