

EDMONTON RCMP VETS'

April Newsletter



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Hello Everyone,

How does the saying go, "Spring has Sprung!" – thank goodness. Although winter has not been as harsh as years gone by, it did seem to last forever. As I start putting the newsletter together, Easter weekend will have passed. For those who celebrated the Resurrection of Jesus three days after his death by crucifixion, God Bless! For those who are not disposed to this celebration I hope you took a moment to enjoy the time and spent it with family and friends.

Your Executive and the 2024 AGM Team have been keeping busy. On the Division level, we decided to update our Division Profile (still working on this) which is included on the Association's Website. All Division members / Veterans' are invited to the **Blue Sunday Mass** on May 5th, 2024, 11:00 AM at St. Albert Parish / Catholic Church, 7 Vital Avenue, St. Albert. If you have never attended one of these, I encourage you come and experience the occasion. More information about this event is noted further on in the Newsletter.

In December, 2023, the Association's Treasurer provided everyone the 2024 Budget based on 6,200 paid members. However, the Association has never had that many Active members. In fact, over the past three or so years, we have averaged around 5,200 paid members. Therefore, with the Executive's approval, I have asked the Association's Treasurer to provide a "balanced budget" for 2024 showing the average number of paid members at approximately 5,200.

We believe a budget should be set at an achievable level, so the entire Association Membership has a better understanding of the Association's actual financial situation. We also asked that the balanced budget be based on no more increases in dues. To date, there has been no response.

AGM business is also keeping many of us busy. Although most of planning has been finalized, there are numerous things that remain to be completed. We have confirmed the Alberta RCMP Pipes & Drums Band will be performing at the Gala prior to the meal. Later on that evening we have an Elvis impersonator and his band to enjoy and dance to.



AGM Banner on display with Jerry & Kees on both ends

For those only attending the Gala, there will be designated seating and therefore if you wish to be seated with certain people, please let us know. We also need to know your food selection and any allergies or food sensitivities as noted on the Registration Form.

Isaac Verbaas was our guest speaker and gave a very informative presentation about his deployment to Ukraine from March 2019 to March 2020. The RCMP were there to help train Ukrainian police officers. His first slide was, as noted to the right, a picture of their mission patch, the Canadian maple leaf embedded with the Ukrainian trident on a Ukrainian flag background. They did not wear it on their shirts, only on exterior jackets. Pictured here is an enlargement of the mission patch.



The following came from the RCMP's website. I copied and pasted two paragraphs below which explains the deployment Isaac was on in Ukraine. If you wish to read the entire article, just click on title of the article.

[Canada increases police deployments to Ukraine](#)

Led by the RCMP, Canadian police serving in Ukraine support Ukraine's police reform efforts. They offer training and strategic advice to strengthen the National Police of Ukraine's capacity and effectiveness on topics including police safety, criminal investigations, and preventing and responding to gender-based violence. Canada's contributions to Ukrainian police reform are helping to ensure the sustainability of reforms and build a transparent and accountable law enforcement agency at the service of Ukrainians.

The goal of the Canadian Police Arrangement, a partnership between Global Affairs Canada, Public Safety Canada, and the RCMP, is to support the Government of Canada's commitments to build a more secure world through Canadian police participation in international peacekeeping and peace support operations, which are critical to longer-term security sector reform and conflict-prevention efforts.

I included a few more pictures from Isaac's presentation below.



The photo above is the first class at the Krivvy Rih Academy with mission members present. As Isaac said, we assisted in getting them off to a good start!



This picture shows the RCMP members on mission at Remembrance Day at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Kyiv Ukraine.



Kees Kikkert & Isaac Verbaas

Following his presentation, Isaac was presented a token of our appreciation as noted above and to the right.



We had two "first time" attendees to our Dinner Meeting as noted to the left and right. Jean Vickery ← Pat Harrish
 Welcome, and we hope to see at future meetings. Unfortunately, we missed getting a picture Erin Benedict's son Zach who was also a first-time attendee.



Quote That Will Help You Conquer Fear

Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.

— Thomas Edison

Give a guy your camera to take a few pictures during the evening and this is what he came up with.



Jerry Plastow & Shane Ramteemal



Nick Taylor & Jim Medley



Erin Benedict, Isaac Verbaas, Wendy Allen, Charoline DeHedervary-Dul, Ed Dul, Marg Elliott and Elaine Taylor

A few of our attendees dressed for Easter and the ones to the left were picked as the best dressed. First place was no contest, Charoline DeHedervary-Dul and Ed Dul were clear winners!

APRIL FOOLS DAY

Is cancelled this year
cause no made up
prank could match the
unbelievable s*** going
on in the world right now

At our last Executive meeting S/M Leilani Collins advised the Force has appointed a new C/S/M, Elaine Maisonneuve and also S/M Mike McGinley who will be assisting in way of protocol and ceremony for the Commissioner.

With our new Commanding Officer D/Comm'r Rob Hill now in place, Leilani also advised a Change of Command Ceremony will be held and hopes the Vets will participate as they have in the past. More information on this later.

There will also be an **Awards Ceremony** taking place on **May 14, 2024 in Devon, AB**. We are looking for two Vet members to assist. More information to come, however, if you are interested in assisting, please contact any of our Executive members or me at: president@edmrcompvets.ca

The Provincial Government recently announced Seniors' Discount when paying for your operator's licence, etc. Full details are noted below. Click on "Seniors' discount" for more information.

Seniors' discount

Effective April 1, 2024, Alberta seniors aged 65 and older will be eligible to receive a 25% discount on personal registry services.

Table 1. Savings seniors can expect on some common personal registry services

Product	Discount
Operator's licence – first applications or renewal	\$23.25
Registration of passenger vehicles – first application or renewal	\$23.25
Knowledge tests – all license classes (includes additional languages)	\$4.25
Disabled placard	\$2.25
Duplicate registration certificate	\$7.00

Who is eligible

The seniors' discount is available to individuals aged 65 and over who reside in Alberta. To receive a discount on eligible services, you must be 65 or older on the date of purchase.

- The seniors' discount is available to seniors, and agents acting on behalf of a senior for motor vehicles and vital statistics services. The seniors' discount is available to seniors who are part of a group accessing a service (for example: joint vehicle registration).



You are being told to lower your AC usage on hot days to prevent overwhelming the existing electric grid while simultaneously being told to trade in your gas cars for electric vehicles 🤖

Thoughts on Aging....

"Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician."

- Anonymous

Well, it's that time of the year, spring has 'sprung' ladies and gentlemen, time to get out of the house, dust off the golf clubs, bicycles, do your outdoor walking / running, the Stanley Cup playoffs just around the corner and the BBQ's are hard at work. Get out, visit friends, and enjoy this time the year; I probably like it the best of all seasons.

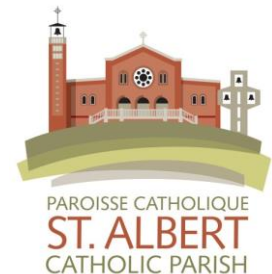
I "Welcome" our new members as noted to the right, and although Francis and Paul are located quite a drive from where we hold our dinner meetings, I hope all of you will be able to join us at some time. I am sure you will enjoy it!

If anyone has any questions or concerns or if there is something you would like to see in the Newsletter, please let know and I will do what I can.

Have a wonderful Spring, stay safe and stay well,

Kees Kikkert, President
president@edmrcompvets.ca

Knights of Columbus
St. Albert
Council No.
4742 7 St.
Vital Avenue
St. Albert, Alberta T8N 1K1



Re: Blue Sunday Mass, 11 AM, May 5, 2024

To: All RCMP Vets

On May 5, 2024, there will be another Blue Sunday Mass at St. Albert Parish, 7 St. Vital Ave. at the 11 AM Mass. All first responders are invited to attend and that includes everyone, who at one time or another, worked in the public safety field. This invitation is extended to all **servicing and retired** members, and their families.

There will be a special acknowledgement of all first responders during the Mass, and afterwards, everyone including their families, will be invited for a complementary pancake breakfast. This small gesture is the communities way to say, "THANK YOU, WE APPRECIATE YOUR WORK." This is also an opportunity for first responders to experience the support and appreciation the community has for them.

Please plan to arrive prior to Mass so seating can be arranged for you to sit with your coworkers and/or your families.

All Vets and families are welcomed regardless of your faith.

Knights of Columbus , St. Albert

New Members Edmonton March 2024

Dave Wilkinson	41199	Edmonton, AB
Barbara Holmes-Lydom	C8939	Sherwood Park, AB
Francis Hachey	38917	Athabasca, AB
Paul Vermeulen	51070	Lloydminster, SK

Edmonton RCMP Veterans' Executive Meeting Minutes March 21/2024

Woodvale Community Centre, Edmonton

Meeting called to order: 10:00 am

Members Present: Kees Kikkert, Tom & Denise Burkett, Leilani Collins, Eric LaFoy, Tom Dunlop, Jim Medley, Nick Taylor, Jerry Plastow, Elaine Schnepf, Shane Ramteemal, Dave Mitchell.

Unable to Attend: Linda Plomp, Dianne Lehman, Randy Montgomery, Bruce Allen, Barry Callbeck.

Tom Burkett on behalf of Barry Callbeck, Secretary:

- Motion for acceptance of minutes for February 22/2024 as published in the March Newsletter, seconded by Eric Lafoy, Carried .

Kees Kikkert, President:

- OLD BUSINESS: Kees suggested that our Division's Profile on the National's Website needs some changes. It was decided we would add our Mission, Vision & Values and re-word the area about Membership numbers. All agreed and Kees will take care of it.
- Blue Sunday Mass, May 5th @ 11AM - 7 St. Vital Avenue, St. Albert, Alberta. Looking forward to seeing some currently serving members in attendance. Money raised at the Mass after expenses will go to Valour Place.
- The Association Budget for 2024 as forwarded by the Association's Treasurer on 2023 Dec 19 was discussed. Considering the average paid members over the last few years has been around 5,000 to 5,200, and the fact this budget is being presented as showing 6,200 paid members, all agreed the chance of achieving 6,200 paid members is slim. It was suggested Kees broach the Treasurer asking for a "Balanced Budget" showing the average of paid members over the past 3 to 5 years. Everyone agreed achieving a balanced budget would result in significant cuts in some areas of the budget to meet the requirements and without raising dues.

S/M Leilani Collins, RCMP Liaison :

- New CO is D/Comm Rob HILL coming from D. Div. D/Comm Hill previously served as OIC Parkland Detachment and will be here on Monday, 25th March. There are various matters Leilani has to discuss with him surrounding the AGM. These matters will be discussed at the next AGM Planning meeting on Saturday, 23rd March.
- The new C/S/M is Elaine Maisonneuve and S/M Mike McGinley will be assisting in way of protocol and ceremony for the Commissioner.
- Leilani also advised there will be a Change of Command Ceremony and hopes the Vets will participate as they have in the past. More information on this will be forthcoming.
- Awards Ceremony: This will take place on May 14, 2024, and being held in Devon, AB and asks for two Vet members to assist. More information coming soon.

Jerry Plastow, Past President:

- The Donation Committee:
 - Veterans Association 3rd Annual Charity Golf Tournament is again asking for a donation and will be offered \$100 to be spent at the Gift Shop.
- Jerry also pointed out that the Dinner Meetings numbers have been down by 20 to 30 the last few months. Hopefully with Spring on the way the numbers will increase.

Elaine Schnepf, Director- Boost program:

- Boost Program is still very busy as we have had some members pass away and several are having health issues.

Dave Mitchell, 2nd VP:

- Looking for Executive Members to provide 'Headstone Data' to enable a database to be made relating to every member that served on the Executive. This can be done with paper documentation provided by Dave, or by email to him.
- Update on presentation by Dan Mitchell – Web Based Microsoft Office Program. Meeting is scheduled for 8 April with Dan to go over web-based MS Office. Cost of \$8 per person who requires to be online which will be paid for by our Division. This service will allow all Edmonton Division's information, i.e. Newsletters, minutes of meetings, etc. to be stored for easy access of information should an executive member leave, or as a result of personal computer issues.

Jim Medley, Director, Gift Shop:

- Kees brought up the fact some of our members don't use computers and therefore, other than the information within the Newsletters, these members have not received the AGM Registration Form or Registration Information documents. Kees will check to see how many there are, and we will ensure they are sent the appropriate documents.

Tom Burkett, Director Membership:

- Reminders were sent to all members in arrears as requested by Association Treasurer and as result, several people have provided their payments. Currently there are 62 Active members who have yet to pay for their 2024 membership dues.
 - Unpaid Members: 2023/2024 = 8. They will be removed from the roster within 7 days.
 - The unpaid for 2024 will continue to receive reminders.
- Presently, there are 408 Active Members and 207 Associate members for a total of 615.

Tom Dunlop, Director, Hospital Passes:

- New Hospital Parking Passes have arrived. Tom reported the passes have proven to be a major benefit for our members, not only for saving money but the convenience they provide.

Eric Lafoy, Director:

- The Alberta Motor Association is recognizing retired RCMP and Armed Forces Members from November 1 to 11 inclusive with incentives to attend Jasper National Park. Check with AMA website, or in person for details.

Nick Taylor, Director, Valour Place:

- Nick advised the Walk for Valour walk-a-thon is in the planning process for 2024. Details to follow.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:17 AM

Tom Burkett for Barry Callbeck, Secretary

Next Executive meeting: @ Woodvale Community Facility April 25/2024 at 10:00 AM

EDMONTON DIVISION GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Woodvale Community Centre -Tuesday, 26 March 2024

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

Eric LaFoy on behalf of Barry Callbeck , Secretary:

- Eric motioned the General/Dinner Minutes from the February 27, 2024, as published in the March Newsletter be adopted; Seconded by Don Watson, Carried.

Kees Kikkert, President:

- On behalf of the Friends of the Mounted Police Heritage Centre, Kees asked Dayle and Darlene McKibbon, and Chuck Neher to come forward and Kees presented them with plaques and Life member lapel pins.



Kees Kikkert presenting Dayle & Darlene McKibbon & Chuck Neher with the plaques

Eric LaFoy for Barry Callbeck, Secretary
Next Meeting, April 30th, 2024

Commanding Officers Message

I am honoured and humbled to be chosen as the new Commanding Officer of the Alberta RCMP. During my time with the RCMP, I have served in many locations across the country, but serving in Alberta as the Officer in Charge of Stony Plain/Spruce Grove/Enoch Detachment was one of the highlights of my career. For me, and my family, returning to 'K' Division is a homecoming and a genuine privilege.

Thank you to Assistant Commissioner Trevor Daroux for acting as Commanding Officer during the selection period. A/Comm. Daroux's work while acting and the support he has already provided as I transition into the position has been a great help.

The members of the Alberta RCMP exemplify the core values of the RCMP and its commitment to community safety and well-being. During my time in Alberta, I witnessed great work done by members everyday, and I'm happy to see that they continue to serve Albertans to the highest standards.

I look forward to working with the team in Alberta. As the Commanding Officer of the Alberta RCMP, I will help guide our employees and ensure they have all of the tools and resources they need to continue to provide Albertans with exceptional service.

Respectfully,

D/Comm. Rob Hill

International Women's Day

March 8 marked International Women's Day and this year's theme – Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress – spoke to gender equity and supporting a stronger, diversified and more successful team. Women, and their roles in the RCMP, are a part of our storied history and critical to our success in the future.

This year marks 50 years of women in uniform in the RCMP. It is an important milestone for our organization. Troop 17, made up of 32 women from across Canada, started their training at Depot in September 1974. While that is a significant event in history for the Force, women had been vital to the success of our organization for decades. As spouses of serving members, going back as far as the 1890s, women were often the "Second Man" at isolated posts, serving as matrons and assisting during female prisoners.

Women also served within the RCMP in a number of ways throughout our history. From providing professional services in detachments and divisions, to working in the fields of forensics and pathology, women have long been a part of the Force and continue to advance our work.

We've come a long way since the days of Troop 17 and a "Second Man," but we must continue to support diversity and foster an environment where no matter your gender identification, everyone has the opportunity to succeed and prosper.



Special Olympics 2024 takes over Alberta

The Special Olympics Canada Winter Games (SOCWG) Calgary 2024 ran from February 27 to March 2, making its return to the national stage for the first time since the Special Olympics Canada Winter Games were held in Thunder Bay in 2020.

Calgary brought together over 1,250 participating athletes, coaches, and support staff from across Canada and more than 2,500 spectators.

Special Olympics Canada National Games provides Canadian athletes with intellectual and developmental disabilities a competitive opportunity and venue to pursue excellence. For many athletes, this national competition serves as a pivotal stepping stone towards the Special Olympics World Winter Games Torino 2025.



Vice President of the Southern Alberta Special Olympics Chair, S/Sgt. Ryan Singleton, and several members of the Southern Alberta District Office, geared up for this momentous event participating in the SOCWG Opening Ceremonies as Law Enforcement Torch runners.



As well, RCMP detachments across the Southern Alberta District participated in the annual Polar Plunge in support of Special Olympics Alberta bravely jumping into cold, winter waters raising money for the cause.

This year, the Canmore detachment participated in their local annual Canmore Polar plunge, raising \$9,326.

Insp. Bannerholt and members of the Airdrie detachment took on the Calgary region Polar plunge, helping to raise \$46,829



Red Deer RCMP lay charges after year-long weapons trafficking investigation

In January 2023, Red Deer RCMP General Investigation Section initiated an investigation into firearms trafficking. The investigation continued over the course of the year, resulting in the seizure of numerous items and the laying of 27 charges against one individual.

“This investigation is an excellent example of intelligence led policing and furthers our goals with the City of Red Deer’s policing priorities,” said Inspector Heidi Ravenhill.

Red Deer RCMP thanks the public for their assistance with this matter, as a concerned citizen reported suspicious activity to police, which assisted with the investigation at its onset. The RCMP encourages the public to always report suspicious activity.



THE LAST POST

Reg #	Name :	Date of Death:	Passed &/or from
29942	Barrett, Archibald Calvin	2024-03-02	Upper Island Cove, NL
24411	McKay, John Ross	2024-03-04	Saskatoon, SK
41778	Richard, Laurent	2024-03-03	Laval, QB
20430	Ayres, Frederick David Charles	2023-07-09	Vernon, BC
21033	Kopp, Raymond Richard	2024-02-26	Calgary, AB
24304	Johnston, William Gordon "Bill"	2024-03-07	Burk's Falls, ON
19006	Johansson, Allan Lennart	2024-03-08	Victoria, BC
17316	Redford, Bernard Ralph	2024-03-13	St. Albert, AB
27735	MacQueen, Robert Douglas	2024-03-18	Cranbrook, BC
S/314	Carignan, Michael Warren	2023-09-15	Dorval, QB
19191	Hackett, James "Jim" Donald	2024-03-24	London, ON
20081	Ridgway, Glen Cameron	2024-03-20	Weyburn, SK
20167	Holotuk, Leslie Frederick Stephen	2024-03-12	Mission, BC
29835/0.1683	Steele, James "Jim"	2024-03-16	Blind Bay, 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>