

December Newsletter

Edmonton RCMP Vets'

2023

Merry Christmas Everyone,

I neglected to mention Remembrance Day in my last Newsletter, so I added an article and pictures showing some of our Veterans' involvement on Remembrance Day. Below is some pro-active work on behalf of Veteran Eric LaFoy as noted in his message to the paper resulting in the picture being included La Nouvelle Beaumont Newspaper.

"My name is Eric LaFoy and a retired member of the RCMP living here in Beaumont. I would like to submit this picture taken following the Remembrance Day Ceremonies held in the Field House at the Beaumont Sports and Recreation Center this year. It was an Excellent turnout of residents who came to honor those who have put themselves in harms way to provide Canada the freedoms we now share.

The RCMP traditionally are active participants in Remembrance Day Ceremonies all across Canada and Beaumont was also well represented by both serving members of the RCMP as well as our RCMP Veterans as depicted in this photo taken at this years ceremony. It's important to also recognize our members of the RCMP who continue to serve every day providing a safer community for all of us to live in.

Cst. Shyla DELOWSKI from Beaumont Detachment laid a Wreath of Remembrance on behalf of the RCMP."



L to R: Dayle McKibbon, Cst. Allison Gyonyor, Seppo Votkin, Cst. Andrew Gildart, Cst. Shannon Cossette, Cst. Shyla Delowski, Eric LaFoy, Cpl. Alanna Jardine, Carol Blannin

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**REMEMBRANCE DAY AT SHERWOOD PARK – MEMBERS FROM STRATHCONA COUNTY DETACHMENT,
RCMP VETERANS' EDMONTON DIVISION AND EDMONTON POLICE SERVICE VETERAN**



Left to Right: Sgt Ben Ruddick, Cst Jay Prasad, Cst Alexander Schaefer, Cst Liam King, Cst Mark Dunphy, Cst Chantelle Kelly, Cst Dan Meredith, Cpl Heather Pearce, Cpl Brent Dobinson, Cst Rageena Northey, Cst Hani Sawan, Cst Denise Caissie, Sgt Shayne Hartwell, Supt Dale Kendall, Vet. Bruce MacBean, Cst Desiree Matlock, Vet. Tom Dunlop & EPS Vet. Gary Jones

Next year we will pay the cost of one wreath to be laid on behalf of the RCMP Veterans' Association, Edmonton Division within our area which is the entire Province north of Wetaskiwin and the Northwest Territories. Prior to next years Remembrance Day, we will send out a notice asking any Edmonton Division Veterans wishing to lay a wreath in their community to advise us by a certain date. All requests will be gathered, and one will be picked with different locations each year. I would also like to give a special thank-you to all of our Veteran members who participated in Remembrance Day ceremonies throughout Alberta.

On the 18th November, Jerry Plastow and I were honoured to attend as guests to the Alberta RCMP Regimental Pipes, Drum and Dancer's Band, Mess Dinner at the CFB Edmonton Officer's Mess. They were celebrating their 30th Anniversary and this was also their first ever Mess Dinner. It was a wonderful evening, and the following are just a few pictures from that event.



Kees Kikkert, Jerry Plastow, Ret. S/M Hugh Stewart & Drum Major Gerard Redekopp



Back to us - Randy Rechner, Jim Medley, S/M Leilani Collins, Kees Kikkert & D/Comm. Curtis Zablocki



S/S/M (Rtd.) Ian Ferguson and S/M Leilani Collins

As result of the news about the Veterans Food Bank running out of product for the food hampers, our Donation Committee was asked to consider a donation. On the 18th November as noted to the right, Jerry Plastow presented Bob Cotton, the Veterans Food Bank Operations Director, a \$1,000.00 cheque. They were very grateful!

I received the article mentioned below from Chuck Neher. It's about a member of the Association who has done exceptional work. Edmonton Vet Joe Collinson is one of the many who has contributed. **I include the link to a GREAT STORY!**

'Buffalo Joe' Healy's tireless search for the RCMP's buried and lost



How a retired RCMP superintendent obsessively tracked and documented the burial places of more than 80,000 people who have ever donned the red serge dating back to 1873. To view the entire article please [click here](#).

J.J. Healy, a retired RCMP inspector, is the driving force behind RCMPgraves.com, a massive RCMP history project that aims to plot all of the graves of former members. His crowning achievement is to discover the unclaimed ashes of an assistant RCMP Commissioner, Alexander Eames, in B.C., fly them to Ottawa and inter them at Beechwood. PHOTO BY JEAN LEVAC /POSTMEDIA



Congratulations to C/M Rtd. Tim Whiting, the Band's Historian for putting this even together. It was a small crowd, and I was fortunate to have been seated across the table from the infamous S/M Rtd. Hugh Stewart who joined us from the BC lower mainland. Towards the end, Veteran Jim Medley, a founding member of the Regimental Band, gave an exceptional presentation of it's 30-year history. I have asked Jim if he wouldn't mind giving a similar presentation at one of our Dinner Meetings in 2024. Following that, I hope include this history in our Newsletter; it is a remarkable achievement for a volunteer organization and something to be proud of!

At our November General/Dinner Meeting, we were fortunate to have the Executive Director from Legacy Place, Diana Festejo, as our Guest Speaker. We learned Legacy Place is where first-responders can turn to for assistance. The following was provided by Diana and capitalizes her presentation:



Last month, Legacy Place Society (a not-for-profit registered charity) shared a bit about the organization at the Edmonton RCMP Vets sweater dinner. It's an intriguing resource that's available to those serving or retired as law enforcement, emergency medical/fire services, 911 dispatch, veterans and military personnel. Primarily based in Alberta since 1998, Legacy Place has provided significant support through its means of a confidential phone line, shelter houses in Calgary, Edmonton and Red Deer and a wide range of education partnerships on marriage, mental health and strengthening family relationships. The very nature of the daily work as a first responder can create emotional and physical havoc and the vicarious trauma, PTSD, operational or occupational stress injuries can become major stressors on the individual and their family. The psychological and physiological demands accumulate over time due to the multiple

exposures to the job demands.

Often what is faced as a family as they try to understand and be supportive during recovery while maintaining family stability is a wide variety of challenges. Legacy Place does not replace employee assistance programs or professional medical counsel.

What defines Legacy Place is how they work as a bridge of supportive possibilities between the individual, their place of work and their families.

Whether its through a phone call to it's confidential help line, or while an individual is staying at one of the Legacy Place Houses or during it's education partnerships, life changing experiences happen. Legacy Place promotes a shared responsibility approach that encourages the individuals and families to steer themselves through the everyday adversity, reframe the difficult realities of the profession and to encourage daily behaviors that are conducive to re-charge and re-engage with themselves, their families and work place.

RCMP members and Veterans are frequent clients within the Legacy Place Houses. They might be in town for a medical procedure or require use of the house due to safety, relationship breakdowns or general respite due to personal circumstances on the home front.

To learn more about Legacy Place Society or make a donation to the charity, contact them directly by phone at 403-201-9945, email: info@legacyplacesociety.com or visit the [website](http://www.legacyplacesociety.com).



Following Diana's presentation I and Jerry Plastow presented her a small gift

thanking her for a most informative presentation. To the left, we have Amberly Wrubleski, Legacy Place Fund Development Specialist seated with our Support Advocate, Dianne Lehman.



There were numerous pictures taken this evening and, sorry, I just don't have the room to include them all in the Newsletter. Below are just a few.



Wendy & Bruce Allen on the left and Shaunda & Wendy Farquhar & Marg Elliott to the right



Bill & Pat Whetstone, Barb Warechuk & Stella Medley on the left with Jim Medley & Shane Ramteemal on the right



Fay Plomp & Rita Parks

A LAUGH:

I thought swimming with Dolphins was expensive until I went swimming with sharks It cost me an arm and a leg.



Left to right: Kurtis Ouellette, Guy Ouellette, Kristina Ouellette, Hayley Ouellette, Montana Barnes, Stephanie Trynchuk, Austin Ouellette, Manny Langman, Tammy Ward, Russ Ward, Derian Ward.

Ugly Christmas Sweater attendees! Great job everyone!

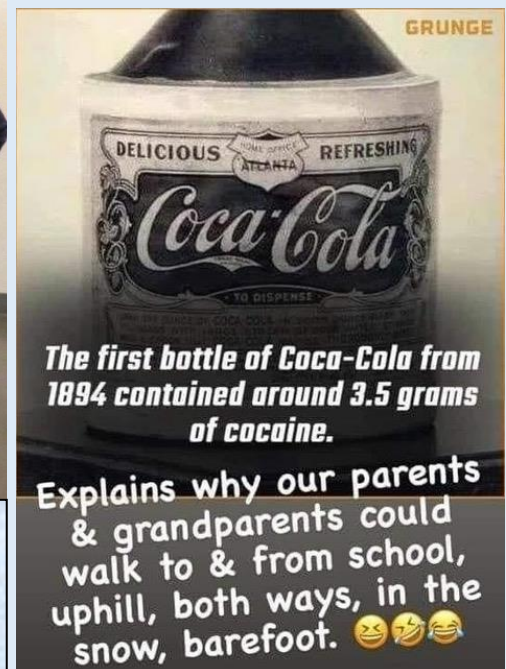


Joe Collinson, Bob & Donna Bilodeau, Eric LaFoy, Bruce Allen, Aggie Collinson, Manny Langman, Dianne Lehman, Tom Burkett, Tammy Ward, Denise Burkett, Darion Ward, Wendy Allen, Cathy Potvin, Shanuda Farquhar, Rudy Kolodychuk, Shane Ramteemal, Rita Belke, Bill Whetstone, Norma Dunlop, Russ Ward, Don Belke, Jerry Plastow, Elaine Schnepf, Tom Dunlop and kneeling – Darleen McKibbin & Marg Elliott



Best Dressed Ugly Sweater Contest winners

Tom & Denise Burkett, Shaunda Farquhar, Darian Ward, Donna Bilodeau, Joe Collinson, Tom Dunlop & Rudy Kolodychuk on scooter



The first bottle of Coca-Cola from 1894 contained around 3.5 grams of cocaine.

Explains why our parents & grandparents could walk to & from school, uphill, both ways, in the snow, barefoot. 🙄🙄🙄

RANDUM THOUGHT:

IF GUNS KILL PEOPLE, THEN PENCILS MISSPELL WORDS, CARS MAKE PEOPLE DRIVE DRUNK, AND SPOONS MAKE PEOPLE FAT.

We had our Christmas Dinner and Silent Auction on Tuesday, 12th December. What a wonderful evening with approximately 140 people in attendance, subpar food and the many auction items were all sold. Thanks so much to all the people who donated things for the Auction. The money will help us pay for the Food Hampers for two needy families and probably some more things. One of the hampers will be going to the Evensburg/Entwistle area to a mother of four boys ages 9 to 18 years where the father recently passed away. Shane Ramteemal will be heading to Grande Prairie to help a Mother and Father four sons, 2, 8, 10 & 12.

Following the meal Edmonton Division member and the RCMP's Lead Chaplain, Chaplain George Madden, and Gwen Krawczyk, Manager, K Division Wellness Unit, presented our Chaplain, Cyril Gowler, a certificate honouring his 20 years of faithful Chaplaincy work for the Force and our Division. George also presented a beautiful, framed print to a very surprised, grateful and most deserving Cyril Gowler!



Kees Kikkert, Gwen Krawczyk, Cyril Gowler & George Madden

Late last month, Tom Burkett, our Membership Coordinator received a "New Member Sign Up" notification from National's Membership Administrator. However, the Regimental number on this application was "17530". Then shortly after receiving this message Tom received this heart-warming message from the person who made the application on behalf of her husband. With her permission, this is the slightly modified message:

Hello, and thank you for considering my husband Ed for membership. He turned 90 this past September and he will be tickled pink if his application goes through.

If possible I am asking this be expedited so it can be my Christmas present to him, and I can give him some kind of letter you might send (?) by mail (we don't have a printer for an email) that I can give to him as a "physical" present, and proof of his membership. I know there is less than a month until Christmas — I am sorry for applying so late; I just learned of your organization, and then briefly thought he wouldn't be accepted until I spoke by phone to Glen Siegersma just now and he explained Ed does not need to have had 5 years' service.

Ed joined when he was 18 in Feb of '52. He was a "Constable 3rd Class Under 21", then was eventually promoted to Constable. He trained at Regina, then was posted to Winnipeg. He applied to go up north and was sent to Edmonton for "northern training," then was transferred to Fort Smith, NWT, where he served the majority of his time.

In Fort Smith Ed met Dorothy Cummins, and they got married a week after he turned 21 (and got her father's permission). This was against the rules: members had to have permission also of the RCMP and, apparently, \$1200 in the bank! Difficult to come up with on a 3rd Class Constable Under 21 on a salary of around \$130.00 (that was with northern pay) a month.

About two months after they were married Ed decided he had to tell his superior officer. He was fired a week later, although they asked him to stay until the new member arrived. He received a dishonourable discharge, something I am going to pursue having changed, and given \$30 of his superannuation. The rest, \$300, was taken as a fine for breaking the rules.

Ed and Dot were married for 63 years until she passed away in 2017. They farmed near Fawcett, AB and Dapp Corners, and Ed also built houses to make ends meet. They had 8 children, all of whom are grown and survive to this day, and an infinite number of dogs.

I am Ed's second wife and we moved off the farm last year to live in town (Westlock). We live very modestly with (guess what!) two small dogs and no money. But we are happy; Ed is proud of his history with the RCMP, and I also worked for several years in Justice (Territorial Women's Correctional Centre, also in Fort Smith). Ed is a very good man, fair, honest, and a loving dad and husband.

I am very much looking forward to us receiving The Quarterly Magazine, and will contact them for some back issues. This is a surprise for him, and I know he will be over the moon when it is all, hopefully, arranged (and, fingers crossed, maybe by Christmas!). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email or phone.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Caroline deHedervary Dul



Kees Kikkert, Gerry Tetzloff, Ed Dul, Caroline deHedervary Dul and Henry Dule, Ed's brother

Shortly after all this and a few emails back and forth, Caroline advised they would be attending the Christmas Dinner as a surprise to Ed; and it was a surprise to Ed right to the end as he and Caroline entered Woodvale Community Facility.

Chaplains Corner

As result of the recent deaths of police officers which caused an inquiry by one of our Vet Members, our Chaplain, Cyril Gowler, advises should any Veteran experience difficulty with PTSD / OSI and wish to talk with someone, he is available should they wish to talk with him. Please note one may think seeing the word "Chaplain" you may immediately think "religion." Cyril wants people to know it's always about their personal challenges and he would NOT be responding to them with the motive of "preaching" at them.

If they understand this reality he can easily approach them if they contact him.

Cyril has an extensive network, so he is able to direct people to resources or handle their challenges "in-house" himself or whatever they choose.

As time goes on we hope to add people to the help list, especially female chaplains so they are offering equal opportunities. Cyril's contact information is as follows.

Cyril M. GOWLER
Chaplain Services
Police, Corporate & Community
Email: cmgowler@icloud.com
Phone: 780-446-5033

As the saying goes, **"It's a Small World."** I learned before introducing Ed and Caroline, that Gerry Tetzloff (Reg. #17547) was Ed's Troopmate. Not only that, George Rechner (Reg. #17389) recognized the name from training. And then later, Linda Plomp broached Ed and asked if he remembered her Dad, Ken Plomp, and Ed immediately replied, "Kenney"? He knew him well and worked with him in Fort Smith. Gerry and Ed had seen each other back in 2002 at their 50th Troop Reunion, but hadn't seen each other since.

Ed Dul is now an Active Member of the Association and Caroline deHedervary Dul is an Associate Member, and both were presented their name tags. This was truly a memorable evening for the Dul's, but also for those who attended and witnessed this occasion. To the right is Gerry and Ed shaking hands after I called Gerry up to the front.



Gerry Tetzloff and Ed Dul renewing their acquaintance



Randy Montgomery getting served by Woodvale's Executive Chef (Jasbir) Mann

We all enjoyed a wonderful meal prepared by the Woodvale culinary staff headed by the Executive Chef (Jasbir) Mann. To the right we have Woodvale's new General Manager, Cindy Wiebe and Banquet Manager Sandra Chan. We presented the entire staff a small Christmas present as a token of our appreciation for all they do making our meetings so pleasurable!



Woodvale's new General Manager Cindy Wiebe with Banquet Manager Sandra Chan

Next are some more pictures from the Christmas Dinner / Silent Auction evening. The amount we raised via the auction including donations was \$4,4632.20 . **WOW, THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED OUT!**



LtoR: back to us - Leona McGillvray, Shane Ramteemal, Kees Kikkert, Curtis and Deb Zablocki, Leilani Collins, Gary Tater and Kevin McGillvray



These three pictures show here show just a few of the 75 items we had for the auction. We thank everyone for donating and buying the items and for those who made cash donations!



Rudy Kolodychuk & Cathy Potvin

A LAUGH:

My teachers told me I'd never amount to much because I procrastinate so much. I told them you just wait.



Sandra McKinney and “First Time Attendee” Kathy Van Keimpema plus Barb & Paul Warchuk



Kathy and Geoff Frisby, plus Gerry and Ruth Forst and Marilyn Comeau



Kevin and Leona McGillvray on the left plus Len & Vivian Kilroy, Kathy Kutryk Cathy Bush on the right



A LAUGH: The word “incorrectly” is spelled incorrectly in every dictionary.



Cindy & Rodney Fedoriuk and Julian Fedoriuk. Rod is Julian's son and works for the Canadian Border Services.



Colleen Gunderman, Elaine Schnepf, Myra Fedoriuk & Jerry Plastow.



Don Watson & Julian Fedoriuk. Picture provided by Don who stated; "Julian and I have maintained close ties for close to 50 years. We have worked together and maintained a strong family friendship"

New Members – November/December 2023

Edward Dul, Reg. #17530, Westlock, AB
 Caroline deHedervary-Dul, Reg. #17530A, Westlock
 Darcy Forsen, Reg. #44852, Surgeon County, AB
 William Parker, Reg. #30491, Cold Lake, AB
 Charles Brown, Reg. #47696, Tofield, AB
 Kenneth Siddall, Reg. #28660, Leduc, AB
 Grant THOM, Reg. #49518, Beaumont, AB

We just recently received word that D/Comm. Curtis Zablocki is retiring taking on a job with the Provincial Government. He has been a staunch supporter of the Veterans Association, and he will be missed. We all wish him the best in his new endeavours.

2023 is almost done and 2024 is upon us. I wish to particularly thank our Executive Team plus all the other members who volunteered this past year to make our Division one of the best and most active in Canada. It has been a busy year for many of us and 2024 will undoubtedly be as the same as we will be hosting the Association's 2024 AGM.

Please note we are looking for Volunteers for the AGM so if you haven't yet put your name forward please contact anyone of our Executive Members or send me a note at: president@edmrmpvets.ca.

On behalf of the Executive, **I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas** and a safe and healthy New Year.

Kees Kikkert, President

Edmonton RCMP Veterans' Executive Meeting Minutes November 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, Shane Ramteemal, Dave Mitchell, Tom Dunlop, Tom Burkett, Denise Burkett, Nick Taylor, S/M Leilani Collins.

Unable to Attend: Linda Plomp, Bob Stewart, Joe Collinson, Bruce Allen.

Barry Callbeck, Secretary: Motion for acceptance of minutes for October 19/23, seconded by Dave Mitchell, Carried

Kees Kikkert, President:

- The donation to Valour Place was inadvertently shown in last month's minutes as \$500.00, it should have been \$5000.00.
- Kees advised he has asked Shartz to start the production of the Challenge coin. Shartz advised the generally make samples of the coin that the factory will photograph for us to review. Once we approve the coin, full production takes 3 to 5 weeks and expectation is the coins will arrive in early January. Once the coins are in our possession, it is anticipated they will sell for \$20.00 plus \$5.00 if mailed.
- Next AGM Planning meeting confirmed for Nov. 25 is confirmed, this being an important one.
- The idea of the Association purchasing a wreath to be used at a select location each year.

Jerry Plastow, Past President:

- The Donation Committee has received a request from the Parkland Detachment for an item to be placed on an online auction, approved.
- Alberta Police Golf Association has asked for a donation for August 2024 which is approved, but will be deferred until January 2024.
- Social Committee Meeting to be held to select next year's meal selection plus other matters.
- We will again be doing food hampers this year. One will be in Grande Prairie or area and Jerry is looking for another one in the Edmonton area.
- Shane Ramteemal and Dave Mitchell have agreed to fill the positions of 1st and 2nd Vice President positions.

Elaine Schnepf, Director- Boost program:

- Elaine is busy contacting members going for surgery, sending out gift cards, etc.

Kees Kikkert on behalf of Linda Plomp, Treasurer:

- Financial Update:

Chequing Account \$42,688.06
Total GICs \$102,004.92

Jim Medley, Director, Gift Shop:

- The possibility of hiring a part time person to assist Kim is still being addressed, in the interim Kim will work Mondays only on the web site with Bob Stewart assisting her.

Tom Burkett, Director Membership:

- We have 602 members including Active and Associate members.

Dianne Lehman, Director, Support Advocate:

- Dianne is doing follow up discussions with people she has had contact with.

Tom Dunlop, Director, Hospital Passes:

- The parking passes are being well accepted. Some people are retaining passes because of future hospital visits; however, Tom recommended the passes should not be retained for extended periods unless approved.

Nick Taylor, Director, Valour Place:

- The facility is doing great, Nick will be attending their upcoming Meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:46 AM

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

Barry Callbeck, Secretary

EDMONTON DIVISION GENERAL - AGM MEETING MINUTES
Woodvale Community Centre -Tuesday November 28th,2023

Meeting Called to Order at 7:10 PM by President Kees Kikkert:

Barry Callbeck, Secretary: Moved that minutes for the meeting published in the October Newsletter be approved as published in the newsletter. Seconded by **Joe Collinson**, carried:

Kees Kikkert, President:

- Reminder to all that the November General Dinner Meeting is our AGM

Jerry Plastow, Past President:

- The Parkland RCMP Social Committee were seeking an item for a silent auction, approved by the Donation Committee.
- Alberta Police Golf Association has requested a donation of \$500.00, which will be deferred until January 2024.

- **Elections for Executive Positions:** Jerry indicated as the Vice President was vacant, he called for nominations. Since there were no other nominations and as Shane Ramteemal and Dave Mitchell have put their names forward for the position, Shane would take on the position of 1st Vice President and Dave 2nd Vice President.

To the right we have President Kees Kikkert, 2nd Vice President, Dave Mitchell, 1st Vice President Shane Ramteemal and Past President Jerry Plastow



Linda Plomp, Treasurer:

- Linda made the motion for the acceptance the 2024 budget as presented published in the October 2023 Newsletter. Seconded by: Bob Bacchus. Carried.

Tom Burkett, Director of Membership:

- Services Pins and Bars for November 2023: 5-year bar & pin – Dianne Lehman, 10-year bar- Eric Lafoy, 20-year bar- Kees Kikkert and 45-year bar- Manny Langman.



Tom Burkett presenting Dianne Lehman her 5-year pin and Bar and Eric LaFoy his 10-year bar



Tom Burket presenting Kees Kikkert his 20-year bar and Manny Langman his 45-year bar. WOW - Congrats Manny!

Meeting Adjourned 7:23 PM **Next Dinner Meeting Tuesday, January 30th , 2024 at Woodvale Community Facility** Barry Callbeck, Secretary

CO's Message

Seasons greetings, everyone!

The holidays are finally upon us. December is a time of year where many in the community take the time to gather, spend time with friends and family, and celebrate. I hope that you will all have the chance to meet with your loved ones and enjoy the season.

Community Safety and Well-being Branch hold auto theft prevention information session and steering wheel lock giveaway for Coaldale residents

In a proactive effort to address rising concerns around auto theft in the community, S/Sgt. Luke Halvorsen and Crime Prevention Liaison Carolyn McTighe from the Community Safety and Well-being branch, hosted an information session and steering wheel lock giveaway event to provide community members with preventative tips to help keep their vehicles safe. The event was held at the Coaldale Sportsplex and garnered a great deal of community interest, with an impressive turnout of over 150 concerned residents.

The event provided residents with valuable insights on the current trends in auto theft, preventative measures, and community safety collaboration. Attendees had the opportunity to interact with S/Sgt. Halvorsen, gaining firsthand knowledge on how to enhance security measures for their vehicles.



The distribution of anti-theft clubs to attendees was a highlight of the event. These clubs, designed to deter potential thefts, were in such high demand that the entire supply was gone within the first 10 minutes of the event, underscoring the community's eagerness to actively participate in crime prevention.

"I heard about the event and thought this was a great thing to be having in the community," said a long time Coaldale resident. "The chance to pick up a club and know that I am doing something to secure my vehicle, is really important."



The Coaldale auto theft info session marks a collaborative effort between law enforcement and the community to address and prevent criminal activities. As a successful initiative, it sets a positive precedent for future engagements of a similar nature and speaks volumes about the collective effort and power of community involvement.

Alberta RCMP Chaplin George Madden Receives Award of Excellence

On Oct. 26, 2023, Alberta RCMP Chaplain Coordinator, George Madden, received the prestigious Public Service Award of Excellence at a ceremony in Ottawa.

With his passion for employee wellness, Chaplain Madden was recognized for having built the most diverse and inclusive chaplaincy program in the country, which currently includes female, Indigenous Elders, Military and Veteran chaplains offering supports in over 20 faiths.

The Public Service Award of Excellence distinguishes public servants who demonstrate efforts to tackle racism and advance reconciliation, accessibility, equity, and inclusion to build a strong public service for Canadians.

Together with the Manager of the RCMP Chaplaincy Program, I had the honour of presenting Chaplain Madden with the award.

This is a highly prestigious and honoured award, recognizing those who exemplify respect, integrity, stewardship, professionalism and service to Canadians. Since he joined us in 2017, George has worked tirelessly to bring diverse and inclusive spiritual wellness supports to the employees of the Alberta RCMP, representing over 20 different faiths. I am extremely lucky to have George on the Alberta RCMP team, and I am proud of him and all he accomplishes here in Alberta.

During the pandemic, as Vice President of the Canadian Police Chaplains Association, Chaplain Madden developed and made available numerous online training courses for police chaplains across the country. He was also recently awarded the RCMP Commissioner's Commendation for Outstanding Service and the

Alberta Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal recognizing the impact of his leadership, innovation and dedication.



Given Chaplain Madden's unwavering dedication to serving, it is fitting that his life motto be always leave people better than you found them.

We at the Alberta RCMP congratulate Chaplain Madden and thank him for his service.

Leduc Stuff the Cruiser event

For the past five years, Leduc RCMP, along with the City of Leduc Enforcement services, Vintage Towing, and Oil Country Towing, have run a Stuff the Cruiser charity event in December. The goal of the event is to stuff cruisers and tow trucks with food and supplies in support of the Leduc & District Food Bank.

This year, on Dec. 2, the Leduc RCMP and partners will be at grocery stores in the community collecting donations in hopes of beating last year's record of 2,600 pounds of donated food.



Alberta RCMP welcome refugees from Afghanistan

On Nov. 23, 2023, officers of the Alberta RCMP partnered with the Catholic Immigration Society (CCIS) to welcome 325 Afghan refugees to Calgary. With CCIS, officers handed out smiles and care packages to refugees, many of whom had been travelling for over 32 hours.

Cst. Omdi Nezami, originally from Afghanistan, was able to welcome many of the refugees in their own language. "I can relate to and understand some of the challenges families can face within the settlement process," says Cst. Nezami. Drawing from his own journey as a young refugee arriving in Canada from Afghanistan years ago,



he recognizes the importance of empathy and understanding when greeting newcomers. "Speaking the same language was an immeasurable help in approaching the refugees. For us to be here, welcoming them in our red serge, and to be the first to greet them home is a meaningful way to express our support."

Events like these are important to show newcomers to Canada that the RCMP are approachable, are a part of the community, and are committed making everyone in the community feel safe.

Leduc RCMP face-off against CFCW Critters in charity hockey game

On Nov. 16, Leduc RCMP officers strapped on their skates to face-off against the CFCW Critters in a charity hockey game to support the Leduc Community Hospital Foundation. The event was hosted to celebrate the Leduc Community Hospital's 30th anniversary and raised \$6,300 towards the foundation's current campaign for the Shimadzu Mobile Radiography System for the emergency department at the Leduc Community Hospital. Our own Cst. Cheri-Lee Smith was asked to drop the puck in recognition of the RCMP's 150 anniversary.



MADD Canada award RCMP members at the launch of 2023 Red Ribbon Campaign

On Nov. 3, 2023, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Edmonton launched the 2023 Red Ribbon Campaign at Edmonton's City Hall. The campaign runs until January and is the largest public awareness campaign running Canada-wide. During the launch, enforcement officers who have achieved silver and gold Corporal Cummings Award status were recognized for their achievements for apprehending impaired drivers.

The Corporal Cumming's Watch is a collaborative effort between Alberta RCMP, MADD Canada, and Alberta Transportation to support police efforts in detection and apprehension of impaired drivers on Alberta roadways. It was named in honour of Cpl. Graeme Cumming of the RCMP, who was killed on duty by an impaired driver while attending a traffic incident.



RCMP members who received recognition were Cpl. Richard Nowak, Cpl. Terra Lisson, Cst. Cory Kornicki, Cst. Kevin O'Brien, and Cst. Brian Ortman.

As 2023 draws to a close, it's important that we take the time to reflect on the past year. With the RCMP's 150 anniversary, this year has been full of celebration for our organization. Communities across the province have used the 150th as an opportunity to honour law enforcement who serve in their communities. There have been parades, BBQs, and even a giant corn field across the province where we've been able to commemorate this milestone with our communities. We have seen how much the RCMP, and its employees are valued by the people of Alberta.

However, we've also seen our share of hardships over the past year. Record breaking wildfires caused the evacuations of thousands of Albertans from their homes. We've felt the strain of conflicts from overseas affect the communities we serve here in Alberta. One of our members, Cst. Harvinder Singh Dhami, made the ultimate sacrifice, dying in the line of duty. Throughout these lows, our employees continued to serve with courage and honour.

Being a police officer can be a difficult path. It's dangerous, it's stressful, and it's challenging in a way very few people outside of law enforcement could understand, but every day our members meet these challenges. A career with the RCMP is more than a job, it's a calling, and it takes special individuals to answer this call. I am honoured to serve with such fine people.

I want to thank you all for the support that you've shown us this past year and wish each and every one of you happy holidays and a safe new year.

Thank you,

Curtis Zablocki, M.O.M.
Deputy Commissioner
Commanding Officer Alberta RCMP

THE LAST POST

<u>Reg #</u>	<u>Name :</u>	<u>Date of Death:</u>	<u>Passed &/or from</u>
29091	Stewart, Dave	2023-11-01	Ottawa, ON
33228	Spencer, Robert Elliott	2023-10-24	North Bay, ON
21104	Harris, Raymond Wilson	2023-10-15	Medicine Hat, AB
33189	Neufeld, John Helmut	2023-10-24	Shoal Lake, MB
18218	Jamison, Gerald Thomas	2023-10-21	Lachute, QC
M/Cst.	Williams, Clayton Nathaniel	2023-11-03	Lockeport, NS
C/1855	Pettigrew, Kenneth Allison	2023-10-04	Ottawa, ON
18817/0.626	Reid, Campbell J.	2023-11-04	Halifax, NS
41864	Malouin, Claude	2023-11-	Conception Bay, NL
28347	Gill, Vernon William	2023-11-03	Forestburg, AB
44068	MacDonald, Jane Marie	2023-11-07	Tatamagouche, NS
34810	LeBarron, Robert J. "Bob"	2023-10-29	Kelowna, BC
17436	Jordsvar, Thomas Edward	2023-09-22	Victoria, BC
18705	Green, Clifford Wesley Howard	2023-11-06	Cranbrook, BC
20411	LeBlanc, Leonard Joseph	2023-11-05	Bouctouche Bay, NB

19229	Durling, Russell	2023-11-12	Truro, NS
C/3871	Antle, Raymond Philip	2023-10-16	Sydney, NS
25600	Phillips, Philip Taylor	2023-09-03	Penticton, BC
C/2664	Brett, William "Bill"	2023-11-12	Stony Plain, AB
38505	Stice, Dan W.	2023-11-13	Gimle, MB
22413	Floyd, Richard Alexander	2023-11-12	Calgary, AB
C/9344	Melnychyn, Kyle Martin	2023-11-10	Ottawa, ON
20770	Eby, Arthur Andrew	2023-11-16	Southampton, ON
24151/0.1408	Watson, Donald James	2023-11-10	Smith Falls, ON
42350	Demarbre, Michel "Mike"	2023-11-12	Ottawa, ON
47864	Portz, Dean Willam	2023-11-13	Rocky View Ct, AB
40194	Philipsz, Denzil Lambeth Bernard	2023-11-20	Brampton, ON
61494	Hansen, Christopher Kenneth	2023-11-05	Armstrong, BC
38617/R.1149	Deziel, Joseph Phillipe Gilles	2023-11-20	U/K
31872	Helppi, Kalevi 'Kal'	2023-11-18	Barton, Digby Co., NS
17171/0.770	Aubry, Joseph Philippe Isidore	2023-11-17	Ottawa, ON
30631	Osatyuk, Warren Frederick	2023-10-27	Phoenix, AZ
38505	Stice, Daniel Wesley	2023-11-13	Gimli, MB
S/914	Lacroix, Jean	2023-11-17	Napierville, QC
24609	Hay, John Allan	2023-11-14	Saskatoon, SK
A/Cst.	Cowley, Stanley A.	2023-10-11	Exshaw, AB
28319	Hirst, John Neville	2023-11-21	Winnipeg, MB
27947	Henderson, Brian Muir	2023-11-04	Salmon Arm, BC
22773	Galliford, Roger B.	2023-11-08	U/K
20284/0.1092	de Groot, Ralph Lambert	2023-11-23	Peterborough, ON
22091	Julyan, Robert Lynn	2023-11-09	Red Deer, AB
24391	Dutcher, Frederick Norman	2023-11-13	Stephenville, NL
54153	Joven, Christopher Avblang	2023-11-21	West St. Paul, MB
32265	Bennie, Raymond Gemmell	2023-11-16	New Westminster, BC
15779	Smith, Russell Evans	2023-03-15	Winnipeg, MB
19422	Kleiningner, Roy Jack	2023-11-25	Toronto, ON (?)
A/Cst.	Blood, Ronald Kevin	2023-11-21	Prince George, BC
A/Cst.	Shaver, Bonnie	2016-11-28	Comox Valley, BC
20276	Trudeau, Germain	2023-11-19	Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, QC
24443	Commer, Richard Vernon	2023-11-25	North Battleford, SK
21175	Taylor, Chipman (Chip) Ross	2023-11-29	Wittenbrug, NS
23619	Hammond, Hugh Arthur	2023-11-16	Misson, BC
C/1312	Owens, Kenneth Charles	2023-02-27	Rigina, SK
19447	Crich, George Terrence "Terry"	2023-11-26	Saint John, NB
23134	Hansen, Fred (Frode) Gert	2023-11-16	Abbotsford, BC
26256	Roberts, I. Wayne T.	2023-11-21	Kamloops, BC
22907	Hendrickson, Carl Walter	2023-12-03	Arnprior, ON
28556	Bandurka, Donald Peter	2023-11-30	Vancouver, BC
21374	Lawlor, Donald Thomas	2023-11-18	London, ON
C/1444	Edwards, Terrance David	2023-11-08	Grand Forks, BC
17393	Swim, Milton Henerson	2023-12-06	Ottawa, ON
33553	Howard, Eric Roland Thomas	2023-12-06	Cochrane Cty, AB
20764	Marshall, Harold "Hal" Earle	2023-12-07	Colchester E., NS

43050	Renaud, Sylvie	2023-11-23	Ontario (?)
21456	Collins, Gordon T.	2023-10-30	Alberta (?)
C/153	Sebelsky, Adolph Edward	2023-11-17	Langley, BC
17889	Marshall, Lyall Arthur	2023-11-20	Athabasca, AB
26028	Plecas, Ronald	2023-11-28	Nanaimo, BC
35733	Arseneault, Todd David	2023-12-08	Niagara Falls, ON
39309	Hoto, David Francis	2023-12-10	St. Catharines, ON
28011	Brodie, John	2023-12-09	Hamilton, New Zealand
23229	Beers, Reginald T.	2023-12-07	Ottawa, ON
35152	Droppo, Peter Allan	2023-11-26	Calgary, AB
31850	Arnott, Grant Frederick	2023-12-10	Ottawa, ON
28643	Smylski, Richard Russell	2023-05-09	Dauphin, MB
21455	Gilding, Bernard George	2023-11-16	Shawnigan Lake BC
17333	Szun, Norman R.	2023-12-09	Surrey, BC
28142	Naud, Gilles	2023-04-14	Granby, QC
23524	Sukut, Russell "Russ" C.W.	2023-12-16	Courtenay, BC
32144	Tousignant, Yves	2023-04-09	Nicolet, QC
23712	Shaw, Barry T.	2023-10-18	Courtenay, BC
34171	Koganow, Kristophe L.	2023-10-16	Vernon, BC
31078	McRae, Bruce Andrew	2023-04-11	Kelowna, BC
35947	Hutton, Gordon C.	2023-11-12	Delta, BC
S/449	Humphries, David Lees	2023-07-14	Orleans, ON
32964	Hough, Darrell S.G.	2023-05-02	Langley, BC
C/1209	Smith, Robert	2023-04-27	Ottawa, ON
43922	Boudreau, Stephane	2023-03-16	Surrey, BC
C/4666	Hawdon, Dianne	2023-01-08	Stouffville, ON
35947	Hutton, Gordon Callum	2023-11-12	Ladner, BC
C/M	Gruson, Geoffrey	2023-12-19	Ottawa, ON
23068/0.1332	Watson, Robert J.	2023-11-15	Rockwood, ON
24229	Libbey, Ian Howard	2023-01-20	Maple Ridge, 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>