

EDMONTON RCMP VETS UPDATE.

I assumed the position of acting Edmonton Division President on December 1st, 2021, (*following President Bruce Allen's departure*) until April 1st, 2022. Kees Kikkert has now assumed the acting President's position as of March 1st. I will be assisting Kees with a few of the activities.

Jerry Plastow
Acting President Edmonton Division

From the C.O.'s Desk

When it comes to first response and law enforcement, each day and month is unpredictable. Over the past month, during the unexpected roadblocks at the border, I am proud of the work by our members who worked tirelessly around the clock for public safety. The dedication and commitment of our members and employees to galvanize efforts in maintaining both the safety and well-being of citizens is truly commendable. I would like to also extend a special thank you to our partners at the Lethbridge Police Service for their support and service during the weeks of roadblocks in southern Alberta. Lethbridge Police employees and members provided coffee and refreshments to the frontline officers working long shifts during cold weather and showed true camaraderie and support. This is an example of the kind of service and teamwork that represents our profession and how we assist each other during times of crisis. Good news that emerges out of difficult situations is always welcome for us and to keep aligned with that, I look forward to continuing to share with positive achievements, activities, and news with our Veterans.

RCMP Veterans participate in National Flag Day

Early in February, National Flag Day was celebrated at the Royal Canadian Legion General Stewart Branch at the Lethbridge division of the RCMP Veterans Association with the traditional raising of a new Canadian flag. The ceremony included the national anthem, an Indigenous blessing by Lambert Fox, and an honour song led by Newton Bullshields.

According to the Lethbridge Herald, Glenn Miller, co-chair of the branch's public relations committee, said, "*The Canadian flag is actually one of our symbols, just as much as the poppy is.*"



The flag unites a lot of people, if you look at the Olympics that are going on, the Canadian flag speaks volumes – just a presence in itself without saying anything.”

On February 15, 1965, Canada’s national flag was raised for the first time on Parliament Hill. In 1996, February 15 was declared National Flag of Canada Day. In honour of the RCMP’s connection with the original dedication on Parliament Hill on February 15, 1965, the branch was joined by members of the RCMP Veterans Association to assist with lowering and raising the flag.

I am proud that we were able to participate in this important ceremony and continue the tradition of flag raising with the significance of RCMP presence as we were with the original dedication on Parliament Hill in 1965. Ken Taylor, president of the Lethbridge division of the RCMP Veterans Association, was present and remarked about the privilege of participating with the community in the ceremony. Alongside him, the other veterans who participated in the event were Mike Duffy who held the flag as it was raised, Don Vincent who took the salute to represent our division, Brian Watts who lowered the old flag, and attending were Moe Larson, Bob Byers, and Rick Drought.

The full Lethbridge Article can be [read here](#).

Regimental Headstones

I am happy to be able to acknowledge the recent change implemented for veterans regarding RCMP Regimental Headstones. The current RCMP policy states the details of a pensioned member’s spouse cannot be included on an RCMP Regimental Headstone. I commend the Veterans Association for reaching out to the RCMP late last year to request a change to this



policy to allow spouse details for headstones. The RCMP Director General, Compensation Services, consulted with the Treasury Board and was advised that the policy in place could indeed be changed and that other policies related to spousal benefits for the deceased will also be reviewed and amended if needed. Currently, veterans are able to include spousal details for their headstone information submitted. For now, any additional costs will be the responsibility of the veteran or his/her

estate, but it is possible this could change once reviewed.

Being able to have a spouse recognized and included on a headstone is important, and I understand the value of family connection. I am happy this change is now implemented and support any improvements to policies for our veterans.

This is a good opportunity to acknowledge the valuable legacy and experience of our Veterans once again during their years of service, which continues to guide us as an example of excellence and remains a proud aspect of our continuing success.

Alberta RCMP Historical Homicide Unit works to find answers to unsolved cases

I am impressed with the work of our Historical Homicide Unit (HHU) which was established under the Serious Crimes Branch (SCB) to review, assess, prioritize, and investigate historical homicides in RCMP jurisdiction across the province. The HHU is responsible for the investigation of unsolved homicides within Alberta by making use of advanced and complex investigative techniques.

In 2002, the Alberta RCMP conducted a strategic review of unsolved homicide and missing person cases involving high-risk females in the Edmonton-metro area. As a result, a taskforce called Project KARE was created with the purpose of investigating several of these cases. The work of Project KARE also identified a need to create a dedicated homicide unit that would focus on long-term unsolved suspicious missing person and homicide cases across Alberta. In 2007, the Alberta RCMP Historical Homicide Unit began with three regular RCMP members. When Project KARE was dissolved in 2014, some personnel from the initiative were added to the HHU. The HHU is now comprised of 10 RCMP investigators and one civilian RCMP employee analyst.

In 2020, the HHU secured funding for a federally funded investigator to support the recommendations of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. This investigator will assist with the completion of case summaries, assist in MMIWG investigations, and support the Provincial Family Information Liaison Unit as they work with families of murdered and missing women.



“Homicide investigations are among the most complex and resource intense operations undertaken by law enforcement, “said S/Sgt. Jason Zazulak from the HHU and Missing Persons Unit. “There are over 200 unsolved homicides and 100 long-term missing persons’ cases in RCMP jurisdiction in Alberta. Therefore, it is crucial that the HHU remain committed to its work in finding answers to serious, unsolved crimes and ultimately bringing them before the courts.”

I am proud of the work of the Alberta RCMP SCB as an investigative services branch that is responsible for leading or supporting complex investigations. The work of the branch is comprised of multiple investigative and support units which provide expertise in several areas, including the investigation of homicides, serious persons crimes, child abuse, multi-jurisdictional offences, complex investigations, or investigations making use of advanced investigative techniques.

As always, take care and stay safe.

Curtis

Curtis Zablocki, M.O.M.
Deputy Commissioner
Commanding Officer “K” Division

Edmonton RCMP Veterans’ Executive Meeting Minutes February 28/2022 Virtual Online

Meeting called to order: 1:10 pm

Members Present: Jerry Plastow, Bruce Allen, Tom & Denise Burkett, Kees Kikkert, Roger Goulet, Tom Dunlop, Elaine Schnepf, Rob Stewart, Nick Taylor, S/M Leilani Collins

Absent with regret: Barry Callbeck, Neal Stanley, Linda Plomp, Joe Collinson, Randy Montgomery, Doug Stapleton, Bob Bacchus, Eric Lafoy, Jim Medley.

Kees Kikkert, Acting Secretary:

Moved the minutes of the online meeting on January 27/2022 be accepted as written, seconded by Nick Taylor, motion carried.

Jerry Plastow, President:

- 1) Jerry advised that Kees is attending the AGM in Calgary, 1st to 4th June and that he is looking for three more people that might be interested attending. Registration fee for four has already been paid by the Division. Dianne Lehman indicated she might be interested. After the meeting was done, **Dianne Lehman** confirmed she would attend plus **Roger Goulet** and **Laurie Samis**.
- 2) Jerry had sent out a list of dates for upcoming Executive & Dinner meetings. The dates are listed below.
- 3) Menu selection for March 29th dinner meeting as per below.

Old Business:

Jerry brought up the fact that he will not be continuing as President effective the 1st April. He advised Kees and he will be discussing this in person shortly and wondered of anyone else might be interested in attending. There were no responses.

Correspondence:

National office has requested a list of Division activities for 2022 so we will be sending them a list of our General Dinner Meetings.

Kees Kikkert, Director:

Kees advised that Two Hills Detachment Regimental Dinner is again being held on Thursday, 28th April and they have LtCol. Joshua KUTRYK, Astronaut Training Candidate, as their guest speaker. Copy of Invitation Letter will be included below.

Tom Burkett, Membership:

We have 582 total active memberships.
387 are Active memberships, including Life and Honourary.
195 are Associate (non-paying) members.
89 have not paid as to date.



Tom mentioned it would be nice if people would get their payments in very soon as they were due on 1 January 2022.



Elaine Schnepf – Boost:

Elaine reported that it's been very quiet. She and Jerry did a "porch visit" (because of Covid restrictions) with one individual and there's been only a couple of other BOOSTS this month.

Tom Dunlop - Parking Permit Program:

Tom reported the cost for the passes went up \$121.00 from last year (round figures) for eight Permits. Previously we have been billed for eight Permits, but have been able to get extras. He obtained the cheque for payment this past weekend and will take it in and once again try to get the extra Permits.

S/M Leilani Collins:

Noted the following: **2 upcoming Awards Ceremonies** (morning and afternoon) in Edmonton – **wish to invite 1 or 2 volunteers from our Vets’ Association** who may wish to assist on those dates. **Dates: April 28 and May 4** at the **WEM Ballroom**.

Anyone interested in helping out, please contact Jerry Plastow or Kees Kikkert. Those volunteering will be provided more information by the Honours and Recognition members/team as to times, etc.

Leilani also advised that she and the CO will be attending the Calgary AGM (June 1st to 4th) and Commr. Lucki is also anticipated to attend.

Bruce Allen - Past President:

Bruce advised that we have renewed our annual contract with Telus Webhosting for the edmrcompvets.ca web site. Cost \$138.60 plus Domain name registration for \$20.99.

Meeting adjourned 1:50 pm

Next Meeting at Woodvale: 24th March 2022

**General MEETING dates for 2022
at**

Woodvale Community Facility, 4540 50 ST, Edmonton

Executive Meetings - 10 AM

March 24th

April 21st

May 26th

June 23rd

August 25th

Sept 22nd

Oct 20th

Nov 24th

2022 December Christmas Function – Date still to be decided.

General/Dinner Meetings - 5:00 PM

March 29th

April 26th

May 31st

June 28th

Sept 27th - Appreciation Dinner

Oct 25th

Nov 29th - Div AGM

WELCOME BACK!!!

WE'RE EXCITED FOR OUR EDMONTON RCMP VETERANS' FIRST DINNER MEETING

IN TWO YEARS!!

EVERYONE WELCOME!

WOODVALE COMMUNITY FACILITY 4540-50 ST. EDMONTON, AB.

MARCH 29,2022.

Meet and greet – 5:00 PM

Dinner 6:00 pm

DINNER MENU



Southern Style Meat Loaf
Greek Lemon Chicken
Mashed Potatoes
Chef's Choice Pasta
Garden Fresh Vegetables
Penne Pasta Salad with Dill Sauce
Pickled Vegetable Salad



Also included will be Caesar Salad, Fresh Vegetable Tray, Dinner Buns, Butter Assorted Squares, Fruit, Coffee, and Tea

CONTACT LINDA PLOMP TO REGISTER FOR THE DINNER

Email: lfplomp@hotmail.com - or - Phone: 780-238-7606

PLEASE REGISTER BY MARCH 21 ST.

Cost per plate \$30.00 (includes meal, gratuity and gst.)

**Dress Casual – wear green for St. Patrick's Day! Let's
celebrate our good fortune!**

REALITY BITES

In lieu of a 50/50 draw and door prizes for us, a suggestion has been made to collect donations to assist Ukrainian refugees arriving in the Edmonton Area.

What say you!



TWO HILLS RCMP 39TH ANNUAL REGIMENTAL DINNER

Thursday, April 28, 2022

Two Hills Centennial Hall
5301-45 Avenue
Two Hills, Alberta

Cocktails 6pm Dinner 7pm

Guest Speaker - LCol. Kutryk
Canadian Space Agency Astronaut

All RCMP, PSE, ME. CM's & Police Force Welcome

Tickets \$60

Contact Trish Proznick at Two Hills RCMP
(780) 657-2820
Etransfer payment to: trish.proznick@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

Any Current COVID regulations in place will be followed

Accommodation Options:
Two Hills Junction Inn (780) 657-3341 or
Vegreville Suites (780) 632-2094