



RCMP Veterans' Association, Edmonton Division - June 2022 NEWSLETTER

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER – JUNE 2022

Good Day Everyone:

I must apologize for being so late in getting this Newsletter done and out to you. It has been a very busy last couple of weeks with the General/Dinner Meeting on Tuesday, 31st May and then heading to Calgary the following day for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Veterans' Association returning home on Saturday, 4th June. I will comment on the AGM further on in this letter.

Thanks to Jerry Plastow's observing people training Service dogs in St. Albert, we were fortunate that Jerry got Mr. John Dugas, Chairman of Courageous Companions, along with his service dog, Bailey, as our Guest Speaker. He was, in my opinion and of many others, one of the most compelling speakers we have ever had at our meetings. John didn't do his normal presentation as he couldn't get his laptop to interface with our projector. John suffers from PTSD as result of his service within the military and he used his story with the help of his companion, Bailey, to demonstrate how invaluable these Service Dogs are. As result of his condition, he ended up forming Courageous Companions. The website is <https://courageouscompanions.ca> and best describes the mission of Courageous Companions which is as follows:

Our mission is to provide top quality service dogs to help military veterans and First Responders live full and meaningful lives if they have been impacted by physical, sensory and/or psychological injuries from their service. We are a dedicated group of volunteers that run this program, which is why every dollar donated goes directly to funding the programs for participants that have helped them regain their independence.

As a national charity, we have volunteers, program participants, and donors from all across Canada. We are so grateful for the wonderful support of those that believe in our program and understand the true value of a Service Dog.

Some of our program participants are very vocal about how their Service Dog K9 and this program has saved their lives.

We thank all military personnel and first responders for their service. Many of the volunteers at Courageous Companions have experienced the trauma of operational injuries in service to our great nation and are therefore in a unique position to understand the challenges of stress injuries.

If you are a military veteran or a first responder who may be suffering physical, sensory and/or physiological operational injuries such as Post Traumatic Stress Injuries, we encourage you to reach out to Courageous Companions.

The following page is copied from the Courageous K9 2022 magazine which is attached. Note that one of our Edmonton Vets is also featured in the magazine.



Message from the Chairman

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Courageous K9 2022 Magazine. This is our fourth magazine. 2021 proved to be an incredibly challenging year for fundraising efforts due to COVID 19.

Despite these challenges Courageous Companions had a very positive year.

Courageous Companions has been a charity since 2016 with its sole mission to provide service dogs to veterans and first responders.

A service dog can cost anywhere from \$20,000-\$30,000 depending on the type of disability the person has and their location. Training can take up to one year and often travel is required for training and testing.

Donations are critical to the placement of our service dog teams.

Courageous Companions prides itself on minimizing its administrative costs to ensure approximately 90% of all its funding goes towards placing dogs with injured Canadian Veterans or First Responders.

I would like to personally thank all those who participated in fundraising efforts to make 2021 a very successful year for our organization.

Thank you!



John Dugas and K9 Bailey



The AGM in Calgary is the first one after the pandemic where we actually got together in person. I, along with Jerry Plastow, Elaine Schnepf, Dianne Lehman, and John Griffiths attended. The first speaker was Commissioner Brenda Lucki. The following are just a few notes I took from what she talked about:

- She doesn't watch the news,
- The RCMP have filed numerous positive reports, video with mainstream media (MSM) however, they tend not to be picked up and reported on by the media,
- Communities who contract the RCMP were informed in advance numerous times about the back-pay members would receive once a new contract was signed and were aware these costs would be their responsibility,
- The RCMP have worked with the Military with respect to pension benefits but are always very careful about ask's which could result in take-away's,
- The mental health of the membership is always being considered and as result of the Government asking what the Force is doing for prevention in this area, the Force is introducing Emotional Resistance Training. This is very new and being monitored closely but considered very positive.
- She mentioned the political rhetoric around provinces talking about forming their own provincial police forces and commended the terrific work done by K Division and the National Police Federation (NPF) here in Alberta and the fact that First Nations Communities in Alberta want the RCMP,
- 10,000 body cameras for the on patrol members will be sent out by the end of the year,
- That celebrations will be happening all across Canada next year for the RCMP 150 and hoped the Veterans will join in on these commemorations.

Needless to say, there was lots more, but all there found her very open and frank with her comments and in tune on what is going on regionally, divisionally, and nationally. I came away very impressed!

Anybody that knows me is very aware I am not a union man and when the Force was in essence, forced the membership to form a union, I had real concerns. Well, those concerns were wrong. After listening to the Commissioner and later that day to Jeff McGowan, Director for the Prairie and North Region, having the NPF in place has probably been the best thing that has happened to the RCMP in many years. I will work at possibly having Jeff as a guest speaker at one of our Dinner Meetings and learn a bit more about the NPF and how it operates.

This was the first AGM I attended in many years, and they certainly have changed, but for the better, in my opinion. There was a great deal of especially interesting and informative information shared. The AGM itself is the formal part of the gathering and was only about 1.5 hours long on the 2nd day. During this time, the fact we, Edmonton Division, had withdrew from holding the 2024 AGM was mentioned. Once the meeting was over, I broached Jerry, Elaine, Dianne, and John where the idea of us possibly being able to host the 2024 AGM was discussed and all agreed it could. The biggest hurdle will be to find a hotel that can hold it considering the short notice as people are probably already booking weddings, etc. two years down the road. When I voted to cancel the 2024 AGM, I had in mind all the work it took to put on the last AGM we hosted. Today's AGMs are less formal, and in my opinion, a great deal less work for the host Division.

After those discussions, I informed the National President, Mr. Sandy Glenn and the Chief Administration Officer, Glen Siegersma, that we would like two months to see if we can put things together and actually host the 2024 AGM. I honestly believe we can do it!

Our Executive will be discussing this further later this month and the membership will be informed should we decide to move forward with this event. If any of you have any suggestion, concerns, ideas, please pass them on to me or any of our Executive Members.

The next general dinner meeting will be on Tuesday, June 28, 2022 at Woodvale Community Facility with **Chaplain George Madden, K Division Chaplain Coordinator** as our Guest Speak. I hope to see you there. The next Newsletter won't be until September, so from me and all of the Executive Members, have a wonderful summer, enjoy visiting your friends and traveling to your fond destinations.

Kees Kikkert, President
Edmonton Division
RCMP Veterans' Association

From the CO

Summer is around the corner and we are all happy about the emergence of community activity and the involvement of our Veterans in some recent events! It has been motivating to be able to gather again in person for awards ceremonies, the Veterans lunch and now with the Veterans Annual General Meeting to kick off June. Being able to engage with those we serve and those pioneers who have served is important to the Alberta RCMP, as it is the support of all Albertans which helped us through difficult times to get here. I am excited about so much ahead to share with you in the weeks and day to come for the remainder of this year. For now, let's celebrate where we are, enjoy a happy upcoming Canada Day and the following days of rest in the summer months. I look forward to resuming updates on our work and activities once again in the fall.

National Police Week

Sunday, May 15, marked the start of National Police Week 2022. The annual campaign hosted by the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, encourages new connections between police and the people they serve. The purpose of the campaign is to show how police officers are not only members of the community they live in, but also members of the policing community they work in.

In support of this year's campaign theme Connected to Our Communities, we shared profiles of members from different



detachments across the province on our social media platforms.

These profiles will provide Albertans insight into why our members have chosen a career in law enforcement, along with other details such as their favourite part of working in their community or a favourite memory from a day on the job.



Policing is about working with people, building community and earning trust, each and every day. National Police Week is an opportunity to recognize the police professionals working together with the citizens and communities we serve. Policing requires dedication, commitment and sacrifice, and I am proud to work alongside everyone in an organization like the Alberta RCMP, where employees work tirelessly to uphold the safety and well-being of all Albertans. Employees contribute to making Alberta a better, safer place to live and this hard work should be recognized beyond this week throughout the days of the year.

Red Dress Day

Red Dress Day took place in early May and the Alberta RCMP participated by honouring and remembering missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and two spirited people.



Each year, red dresses are worn or displayed outside homes and workplaces throughout Canada as a symbol of hope and to raise awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG).

“Today, and every day, we stand with our Indigenous communities in honouring the many women and girls we have lost,” said Insp. Kim Mueller, Officer in Charge of Alberta RCMP Indigenous Policing. “We will continue to raise awareness of the over-

representation of violence and crimes committed against this vulnerable group, and are dedicated to bringing justice to these women – to ensure their voices are heard, even if they can no longer speak for themselves.”

This is an important date to remember the many missing and murdered women, girls, and two spirited people across our country’s treaty lands. We mourn with the families whose daughters, sisters, and mothers never returned home. We not only hold space for the memory of those we have lost, but we also remain steadfast in the hope that we will continue to reconnect individuals with their families, bring resolution to these cases, and give closure to their loved ones.”

The RCMP has created a document titled “[Honouring, Empowering, and Protecting Indigenous Women](#)” to be transparent about the work being done in regards to MMIWG files here in Alberta and to raise awareness and share information with everyone in the hopes of reducing and eliminating crimes against Indigenous females.

Please watch our video of Inspector Kim Mueller addressing Red Dress Day here: https://youtu.be/8Puj_nrluGQ.

Alberta RCMP creates specialized teams for sexual and domestic violence crimes

In a commitment to ensuring a victim-centred and trauma-informed response is provided to all survivors of sexual violence, the Alberta RCMP has been expanding its response to sexual crime. We are aiming to highlight the importance of understanding the impact of sexual and domestic crimes in our communities during Sexual Violence Awareness month.

Sexual Violence Awareness for the month of May began in 2018 when the Government of Alberta launched a commitment to working towards ending sexual violence. On average, there are about 2,500

calls for service relating to sexual violence each year. In 2021, there was just over 3,000 sexual offences reported to the Alberta RCMP which was an increase from the previous year.

Having specialized teams in place for sexual violence occurrences has proven to be valuable for centralizing service and having specific expertise to support survivors. In 2020, a Specialized Investigative Unit was piloted in Grande Prairie and surrounding areas to focus on investigating sexual assault and domestic violence offences. Grande Prairie has one of the highest reported sexual and domestic occurrence rates in Alberta for an RCMP jurisdiction. Within the 12-month pilot of the project, SIU took the lead on 227 calls for service, of which 148 were related to sexually based offences and 48 to domestic violence offences. In the first year of the pilot, SIU completed additional investigational reviews which amounted to approximately 2,212 domestic violence files and 214 sexual offence files.



Edmonton RCMP Veterans' Executive Meeting Minutes May 26/2022, Woodvale Community Centre, Edmonton

Meeting called to order: 10:00 am

Members Present: Kees Kikkert, Jerry Plastow, Elaine Schnepf, Bob Bacchus, Dianne Lehman, Barry Callbeck, S/M Leilani Collins, Cpl. Jocelyn Cardinal.

Unable to Attend: Neal Stanley, Randy Montgomery, Doug Stapleton, Linda Plomp, Bob Stewart, Bruce Allen, Tom Dunlop, Roger Goulet, Joe Collinson, Eric Lafoy plus Tom & Denise Burkett.

Barry Callbeck, Secretary:

- Moved that minutes from April 21/2022 be adopted as published. Seconded, Bob Bacchus, Carried.

Kees Kikkert, President:

- K Div RCMP 150 in 2023 was discussed. Vet Eric Lafoy is now a sitting member of the K Div Committee who will meet virtually every 2nd Tuesday of each month. S/M Collins advised this committee will be informing us of activities taking place throughout the Division in due course. One event is the Musical Ride which will be in Alberta from July 5th to 19th. Calgary Stampede is one stop and discussions are happening as to other locations. There was also discussion about possible monies that may be available to help with some of the activities. Kees advised a GIC in excess of \$22,000.00 (NOTE comments below under Linda Plomp) is presently earmarked as "Vets Canteen Operating Reserve". As the Gift Shop/Canteen is now a separate entity as an Alberta not-for-profit company, these monies can be used for a different purpose. This matter will be discussed further in the coming months prior to 2023.
- Detachment Liaison Members: Calgary Division is looking into having Vet Members as a Detachment Liaison member at various Detachments within their Division. More information will be sought before it is decided if Edmonton Div will partake in this program.

- There was discussion on the grave site of William Henry White which is in the RCMP cemetery at Fort Saskatchewan. There are no known family members alive to consult with and the grave site is in need of repair and cleaning up. After a round table discussion, it was agreed repairs are required, but as the grave site itself has some unique characteristics a proper plan including a cost assessment of the work required has to be done. Kees will be looking into this and report back at a later date.

On behalf of Linda Plomp, Treasurer:

- Linda advised our financials for as of May 26/2022 are as follows:

Chequing Account	\$23,515.06
Total GIC's	\$125,532.71

As result of discussions as noted above, the Account marked as "Vets Canteen Operating Reserve" is to be changed to "K Div RCMP 150 Celebrations".

- As result of Edmonton Division not hosting the 2024 AGM, the monies in a GIC in excess of \$50,000.00 under "Savings for future AGM 2024" was discussed. Serval ideas came to the floor as to how this money can be used such as the White grave site as mentioned above, a possible new website as the current site is dated, and transferring some funds to the Wall of Honour Reserve GIC. This requires more discussion and was set over to the June 2022 Executive Meeting.

On behalf of Randy Montgomery:

- Randy advised he has figured out most of the workings of the MailChimp system and it has made his job much easier, and messages sent out quicker.

Jerry Plastow, Past President & Social Committee Chairman:

- Jerry advised the social committee has the next two months dinners organized and will finalize the fall schedule shortly.

Elaine Schnepf, Director- Boost program:

- Elaine is making visits and sending out cards, phoning and keeping very busy with the boost program.

S/M Leilani Collins:

- Leilani advised two members have been chosen to attend the Cst Heidi Stevenson's memorial in Halifax on June 29th as result of the Slain Peace Officers Fund.

Cpl. Jocelyn Cardinal, K Div Peer to Peer Coordinator:

- This was the first time Jocelyn was able to attend one of our meetings. She indicated she has been very busy travelling the Province and assisting members as part of the RCMP's Employee Assistance program. She appreciated the fact we have our Support Advocate and Boost programs.

Meeting Adjourned, 11:30 AM

Next Executive meeting: @ Woodvale Community Facility June 23/2022, 10:00 AM

Barry Callbeck, Secretary

Edmonton Division General Meeting Minutes

Woodvale Community Centre, Tuesday, May 31st, 2022

Prior to the General Meeting, **Past President Jerry Plastow**, introduced the guest speaker **John Dugas**, Chairman of Courageous Companions. Their mission is to provide top quality PTSD dogs. John gave a very detailed talk on the purpose and training of the dogs and handlers as well. Everyone present were able to see firsthand the ability of his dog "Bailey" when he responded to triggers given by John. Questions were asked by guests as to different needs. A very impressive presentation by both John and Bailey.

Meeting Called to Order at 7:50 pm

Barry Callbeck, Secretary:

- Barry moved the minutes for the April 2022 General meeting as published in the May newsletter be approved. Seconded by **Don Martin**, carried.

President Kees Kikkert:

- Kees brought up issues at the May Executive Meeting:
 - Kees reminded everyone next year is the RCMP's 150 Anniversary. Director Eric Lafoy is now a sitting member of the K Div Committee who will meet virtually every 2nd Tuesday of each month. Discussions are ongoing as to what we can look forward to as the planning progresses.
 - Kees mentioned that as result of our division dropping the planned 2024 AGM, monies that were set aside for that function will have to be redesignated. Several ideas were brought up as mentioned in the Executive Meeting Minutes. The membership was asked that if they have any thoughts to bring them forward to the Executive and further discussions on this will take place at the June Executive meeting.

Jerry Plastow, Past President:

- Jerry said the entertainment committee will meet in July to finalize the rest of the years menus and also asked for any ideas on guest speakers.

Nick Taylor, Valour Place:

- Nick asked for volunteers for the Valour Place Walk-a-thon on the 11th of September at Laurier Park. Please contact Nick if you can help.

Tom Burkett, Director of Membership:

- Tom presented **Simon Chance** with his 5 year pin and bar, and **Tom Dunlop** with his 30 year bar.

5 Year bar & Pin - Simon Chance



30 Year bar – Tom Dunlop



Barry Callbeck, Secretary

Tuesday, June 28, 2022 Dinner Meeting

Woodvale Community Facility – Millwoods Golf Course
4540 -50 St. Edmonton, AB.

Meet and greet – 5:00 PM - Dinner 6:00 PM

CORRECTED DINNER MENU

BBQ STEAK AND BBQ CHICKEN

CAESAR SALAD COLESLAW

CHEF'S CHOICE SALAD

VEGETABLE PASTA SALAD

CORN ON THE COB

DILL HONEY GLAZED CARROTS

BAKED BEANS GARLIC TOAST

BAKED POTATOES SOUIR CREAM

BACON BITS - CHIVES

FRESH FRUIT - ASSORTED SQUARES - TEA AND COFFEE

Contact **LINDA PLOMP** to REGISTER for the DINNER

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

Please try to register by Wednesday, June 22, 2022

Cost per plate \$35.00 (includes meal, gratuity, and GST)

Payment at the door - Cash, Cheque, or Credit Card.

Dress Casual – Celebrating Canada Day, wear red/Canada Day wear.