

FEBRUARY 2024



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Ken Taylor

Happy New Year 2024! Our Lethbridge Division had a full and busy 2023, given our participation in many RCMP150 celebrations as well as our own Division events. We are looking forward to many new adventures in 2024.

Many thanks to all our Lethbridge Members and friends and family who have supported our Division during 2023, through their volunteerism, participation and support.

RCMP 150th Celebrations

As mentioned in our previous Newsletter, the RCMP Members, support personnel and resources were severely taxed due to the wildfires that devastated both provinces. As a result, celebrations and events will continue nationally until the end of the RCMP's 2023 fiscal year. Although our Lethbridge Division does not have any specific events planned, we will participate with any upcoming provincial or national celebrations.

Fort Macleod Museum

The provincial government will be re-opening the Barracks building at Fort Macleod to the public in 2024, once renovations and upgrades are completed. The building contains several displays and artifacts of the NWMP and RCMP. The Barracks are located near the historical doctor's house, located on the south side of Hwy 3, at the west end of Fort Macleod, near the rodeo grounds. Our Division is currently in discussions with the Fort Macleod Museum to allow our Lethbridge Division Members to attend these venues during the summer, to meet with visitors and tourists and act as ambassadors to promote the museum and the RCMP/RCMPVA. More information will be forthcoming, including a request for volunteers from our Division.

FEBRUARY 2024

Meetings with National Police Federation (NPF)

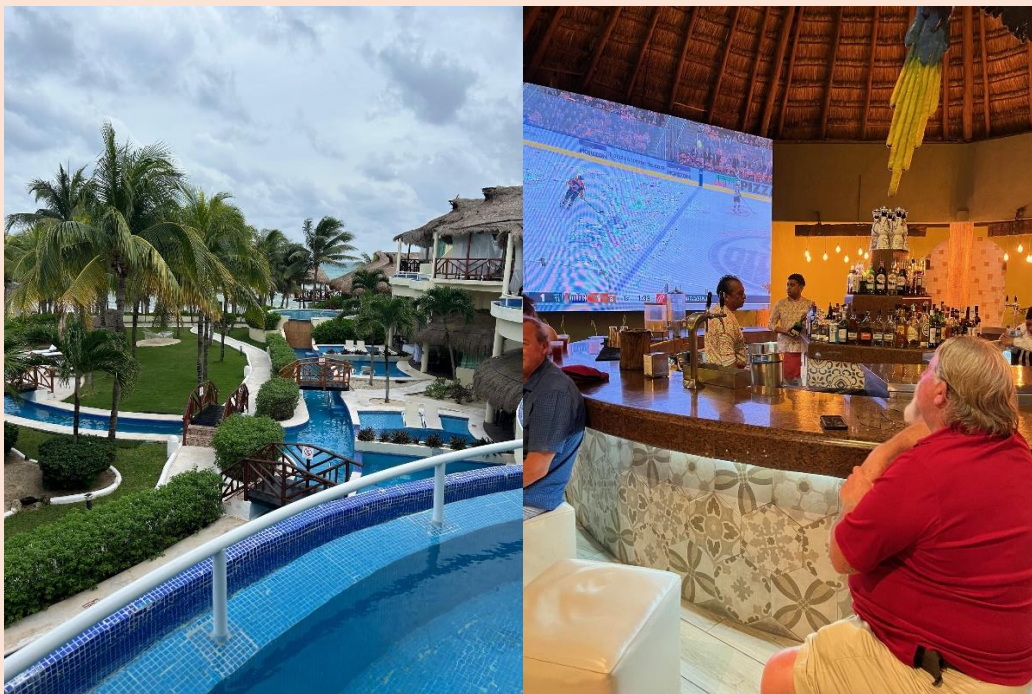
The Association continues to work with the NPF to find ways that the RCMPVA can assist both Serving Members and Veterans, especially with Support and Advocacy. Mike Duffy will address this in his report (attached).

RCMPVA Association news

Note: We often use the term, “National” or sometimes, “Ottawa”, when referring to our Canada-wide organization of our 35 Divisions. You’ll note that I am using the correct term, “Association”. Although the RCMP provides the RCMPVA with office space at the Canadian Police College in Ottawa, few of the Directors of the RCMPVA actually reside in or near Ottawa. Like Association Vice-President, Bob Byers, most of the volunteer Directors are located across Canada.

Bob Byers will continue as Vice-President of the Association. Our Division Secretary, Mike Duffy, remains as National Co-Director for Support and Advocacy. Information from Mike is further on under the title Support & Advocacy.

Our Division is indeed fortunate to have as one of its members the Vice President of the Association. Bob Byers is an extremely committed and busy individual who continues to work hard on behalf of all Association members. But, like all good leaders, he needs to have some well-deserved relaxation time as well. Therefore, Bob sent us the following photographs from his holiday location in Mexico to let all his friends know that relaxation is beautiful.



FEBRUARY 2024



Photo #1 is the view from their suite, #2 shows a diehard Canadian from Alberta watching the Edmonton Oilers on the big screen and #3, well, presumably that is relaxation personified.

Association Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The Association's AGM will be hosted by Edmonton Division from June 6th to 9th, 2024. The AGM is open to all Association Members. You received noticed by email on December 18, as to the venue and how to register. The AGM will celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the arrival of the RCMP in Alberta and also the 75th Anniversary of RCMPVA Edmonton Division.

Mobility Device (scooter) now available

As you recall, from our previous Newsletter (with photos), we received an almost brand-new mobility device from a generous donor. If any of our members require the use of this device, please contact Mike Duffy (1-403-866-8200) or Gary Oberg (403-380-6362) and arrangements will be made. Special thanks to Don Vincent who is generously storing the scooter for safe keeping in his heated garage.

Continuing Partnerships

We continued to participate in events with both RCMP, RCMPVA and other external partners throughout the summer and fall. We appreciate being included us in these events.

FEBRUARY 2024

In addition to our RCMP family, we have also been involved with ceremonies with other community partners, including the Lethbridge Fire Dept., Lethbridge Police Service and Royal Canadian Legion.

Last fall, at the SAD Detachment Commander's meeting in Lethbridge, we notified detachment commanders in our Division area that we were available to attend detachment meetings to offer our membership and services to Serving Members and support employees. So far, were fortunate to be invited to two detachment meetings to promote the RCMPVA. On October 16, Sgt. Lafleur invited Bob Byers and I to attend the Fort Macleod Det. meeting. Mike Duffy and I, at the invitation of Sgt. Koehli, attended Vulcan Det. and spoke to detachment Members and the Town of Vulcan Peace Officer and County Police Officer. We look forward to invitations from other detachments in our RCMPVA Division area.

At the invitation of Platoon Captain, Shawn Folk and his wife Arynne Tran, I attended the Lethbridge Fire Dept. Gala and Awards, with my wife, Nataalka (C4646), on Oct 13. This formal dinner recognized service awards for LFD members. MP Rachael Thomas and MLA Shannon Philips were also in attendance.



FEBRUARY 2024

Congratulations to Mike Duffy

On January 17, Mike was recognized with a commendation from the Hon. Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Minister of Department of Veterans' Affairs and Deputy Minister of National Defence. The award was presented to Mike at the Military Museums in Calgary for "exemplary contributions by generously giving of themselves and so both benefiting Veterans and making manifest the principle that Canada's obligation to all who have served in the cause of peace and freedom must not be forgotten." We thank Mike's continuing efforts in promoting the need for Support and Advocacy for RCMP and RCMP Veterans. Glenn Miller, Retired Warrant Officer and Royal Canadian Legion member in Lethbridge also received the Commendation. Glenn also works with Mike in their co-efforts with the Last Post Fund and RCMP Graves.

Farewell to CO "K" Division

Lethbridge Division extends a fond farewell to A/Comm. Curtis Zablocki on his retirement as Commanding Officer, "K" Division. During his tenure, Curtis has been a strong supporter of the RCMP Veterans Association in our province and nationally. Hopefully, upon his retirement, he will become an Active Member of the RCMPVA. We thank Curtis for his service to the Force and RCMPVA and wish him all the best in his new position with the Government of Alberta.

Membership and Recruiting

We have a great Division with a tremendous Membership. However, to sustain our Division, we need to keep our Membership growing and diverse. It is up to all of us to promote the RCMPVA. You can do this, first, by participating in events that we host. When planning to attend an event, don't be hesitant to invite an RCMP veteran who is not a Member of the RCMPVA. This may be the spark for them to consider membership.

Welcome new Lethbridge Division Chaplain

To end my portion of this newsletter, on behalf of the Lethbridge Division Executive and Members, we welcome our new Division Chaplain, Rick Saban. Rick and his wife have recently moved to Lethbridge from Grande Prairie. He has volunteered to succeed Brian Beveridge who was taking over new duties with the Salvation Army in High River. At our recent AMM, Rick was provided with two stoles for his use while serving as our Chaplain. We look forward to Rick contributing to our next Newsletter.

FEBRUARY 2024



(l-r) President Ken Taylor, Chaplain Rick Saban, Mike Duffy presenting Chaplain Saban with the two Stoles.

Division Honour Guard Report for 2023 – Brent Hawker

With the year end of 2023 and the return to somewhat normalcy after the Covid 19 pandemic, we saw an increase in Honour Guard activities. Before providing particulars regarding our activities for the year, I would like to inform our General Meeting attendees of the increase in membership for the Honour Guard.

To date we currently have 15 Honour Guard Members, with 5 new guard members being added this year. I would like to acknowledge our HG members from prior years and to welcome our newest members. Our newest HG members are:

Glenn Henry, Marion Weibe, Jim Bennett, Richard Drought, and Gary Oberg

Welcome all!

FEBRUARY 2024

In 2023 we received requests for our attendance at 20 different functions or events and we can categorize these requests into 4 main areas:

Memorials and Services – these can be requests to attend RCMPVA members Funeral Services or Memorials or Memorial Services for Fallen RCMP/Police or other Emergency Services.

Parades- these include marching in Parades or participating in Events where we have a HG Member acting as a member of a Colour Party.

Remembrance Day Services – these include requested for either School Services leading up to Remembrance Day or Remembrance Day Services themselves. We have experienced a marked increase in requests surrounding Remembrance Day and we strive to attend as many local and area Services as possible.

Special Community Functions – this is a catch all for any requests that do not fall into the first three categories.

2023 Year-in-review

Jan 26 – Funeral Services for Stan Grier – Fort MacLeod

Feb 15 – Flag Days Services – City of Lethbridge & the Lethbridge Royal Canadian Legion

Mar 8 – Book Signing – Fort Macleod Library

May 17 – Sons of Norway Flag Raising- Lethbridge City Hall

Jul 1 – Canada Day Celebrations – Fort Macleod (NWMP Fort)

Jul 1 – Opening Ceremonies for Canada Day- City of Lethbridge – Honour Guard – Henderson Park – Celebration of the RCMP 150th Anniversary

Jul 12 – RCMP Musical Ride – Fort Macleod – Celebration of the RCMP 150th Anniversary

Aug 12 – Candy Parade – Town of Coaldale

Aug 12 – Nobleford Parade – Town of Nobleford

Aug 19 – Picture Butte Parade – Town of Picture Butte

Aug 27 – LPS Fallen Members Memorial – City of Lethbridge Police HQ

Sep 11 – Lethbridge Fallen Firefighters Memorial Parade and Services

Sep 24 – Provincial Fallen Officers Memorial

Oct 29 – Police Officer Memorial – Lutheran Church of the Good Shepard

Nov 9 – Warner School Remembrance Services – Warner

FEBRUARY 2024

Nov 10 – Kate Andrews School Remembrance Day Services – Coaldale

Nov 11 – Remembrance Day – HG Members attended Services in the Following Communities Vulcan, Coaldale, Coalhurst, Calgary, Barons, Raymond, High River and Lethbridge (6 HG). We have been attempting to increase our visibility within surrounding Communities for Remembrance Services.

Nov 25 – Memorial Service for Al Byrne – Helen Schuler Nature Center – Lethbridge

Dec 9 – RCMPVA Christmas Dinner and Fallen Members Memorial Table.

Thanks again to the dedicated services from our Honour Guard members who support our mandate to increase the visibility of the RCMPVA within Lethbridge and surrounding communities.

Support & Advocacy – Mike Duffy

The Support & Advocacy initiative in the RCMP Veterans' Association (RCMPVA) is one of the primary functions of the RCMPVA. Advocates assist those RCMP Veterans in need because of illnesses, injuries or other conditions resulting from their service to Canada.

Advocates are also called upon to assist serving RCMP members when they are not assisted by the Force or by the National Police Federation (NPF).

During the pandemic and for an extended period after, Training Workshops for Advocates were suspended – but not by the RCMPVA.

As we move into 2024, more RCMP Veterans are stepping up to be part of the Support & Advocacy initiative. The number of Advocates has grown from about 18 Advocates across the country in 2021, to 50 Advocates and growing, as of January 2024.

The team-approach in the RCMPVA Divisions is proving to be the best working environment – many hands make light work.

In 2024 the Training Workshops are being planned again, with the first tentatively scheduled for June 4th and 5th, 2024 in Edmonton. This to be held immediately prior to the 2024 RCMPVA Annual Members' Meeting which commences on June 6th. Every member of the Association was given Notice of the Meeting on December 18th, 2023.

Training Workshops provide information about:

1. Advocacy objectives and means to achieve them. Location of resource materials, contact information for experienced Advocates, plus records keeping (keeping records of enquiries and resolutions is vital because similar situations will arise again & again).

FEBRUARY 2024

2. Member & Family Programs within the RCMP for serving/retiring members, such as Support for Operational Stress Injuries (SOSI). SOSI coordinators assist Serving RCMP members and Veterans.
3. Liaison with & submitting a claim to Veterans' Affairs Canada (VAC).
4. The Nova Scotia model of Advocacy – Nova Scotia consistently demonstrates best practices for assisting RCMP Veterans and sharing that knowledge with others.
5. Submitting Appeals of VAC decisions and the roles of the Veterans' Ombudsman, the Veterans' Review and Appeal Board (VRAB) and the Bureau of Pension Advocates (BPA).
6. Disability claims, disability insurance, disability pensions & allowances, and disability tax credits.

And more ... in 2023 the RCMPVA Support & Advocacy teams assisted over 350 serving RCMP Members. As a result, we are continuing to liaise with the RCMP and NPF for assistance with providing Training Workshops and facilities. The goal is to provide all Advocates, new and seasoned, with more knowledge so they may better assist RCMP Veterans and serving RCMP Members.

Lethbridge Division Annual Member's Meeting (AMM)

Our Division AMM was held on January 16 at the Lethbridge Pure Casino Board Room. The minutes of this meeting are included at the end of this newsletter.

New Members

Welcome to those who have joined our Division since our last publication 2023. Apologies to anyone that I may have missed.

Chaplain Rick Saban	Joanne Haffner	Deb Byers	Dalyn Orsten	Constance Robinson
Melody Howell	Lori Pelletier	Jennifer Tate	Ron Clark	

Dues reminder

Our 2024 dues remain at \$60.00. For those who have not yet paid, you can pay via the Member Management System (MMS) at <https://rcmpva.org/>. Through the MMS, you can also arrange for your annual dues to be paid automatically each year. The MMS was recently upgraded to be a "one stop shop" for information related to the RCMPVA, as well as facilitating payment of dues and for updating your Membership profile.

If this option doesn't work for you, we'll also gladly accept your dues payment by cash, a cheque made out to "Lethbridge Division RCMP Vets Association", or an e/Transfer to mpvetsla@telus.net. For those whose dues are outstanding, don't be surprised if you receive a friendly phone call or email from our Membership Director, Marion Wiebe.

FEBRUARY 2024

Veterans' Affairs Canada – Notice of Settlement Approval Hearing

Following is information about the settlement of Class Action against Veterans' Affairs Canada (VAC) to settle the underpayment of VAC Disability Benefits.

The Government of Canada has agreed to settle a certified class action (“**Class Action**”) involving underpayment of certain disability pension benefits administered by Veterans Affairs Canada (“**VAC**”) payable to members or former members of the Canadian Armed Forces (“**CAF**”) and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (“**RCMP**”) and their spouses, common-law partners, survivors, and other related individuals.

We are pleased to inform you that the Federal Court has approved the settlement of this class proceeding. The Court's Order will not become effective until March 18, 2024. Later this year, Class Members who currently receive disability pensions directly from Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) will automatically receive settlement payments from VAC by direct deposit or cheque. Estates and other Class Members and survivors who do not currently receive disability pensions directly from VAC will be required to file a Claim Form: Claim Forms may be filed with the settlement administrator beginning on March 18, 2024. We will post more information about the claims process at that time. A copy of the Federal Court decision approving the settlement is now posted on this site at: <https://vetspensionerror.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/T-119-19-Doc-68.pdf> .

If you have questions, contact VAC direct Toll Free at: 1-866-522-2122 Monday to Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM local time.

Do not contact the RCMP Veterans' Association Advocates – because of the Privacy Act, VAC will only disclose details about specific individuals' entitlements with the specific individuals.

Police Memorial Sunday

The following photo was taken following church service on Police Memorial Sunday, October 29th at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Lethbridge where the congregation recognized fallen police officers. Moe Larson and Lyle Lambert attended this service wearing the veteran's scarlet blazers. Pastor Tom Peterson addressed the congregation explaining that Police Memorial Day falls on the last Sunday of October. Pastor Tom shared that the congregation wanted to participate in recognizing officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty serving and protecting Canadians. Fallen and serving members were included in the prayers of the day. He thanked Moe and Lyle for their service. The members of the congregation showed their appreciation.

When the policy was developed the members of the Honour Guard were encouraged to honour the fallen annually by attending the church of their choice which several did. However, during

FEBRUARY 2024

COVID this was not possible, so Moe and Lyle were pleased to pay their respects in this way again this year.



(l-r) Moe Larson, Pastor Tom Peterson, Lyle Lambert

Remembrance Day 2023

Each and every year, the Division's Honour Guard attend Remembrance Day ceremonies at various locations throughout Southern Alberta.



(l-r) Cst. Dan Livingston, Ken Taylor at the Coalhurst Alberta Community service on November 11th, 2023

FEBRUARY 2024



(l-r) Piper Kevin Mortensen (Lethbridge Police Service retired), Ken Anderson (RCAF retired), Ken Taylor, Cst. Dan Livingston (Coaldale Detachment), Jack Van Rijn (Coaldale Mayor), Calvin Mutch (Coaldale Emergency Services). (Photo credit: Jack Van Rijn)



Glenn Henry at the Coaldale Remembrance Day Ceremonies. Glenn is the past NCO I/C of Coaldale Detachment who also served a 9-month deployment in Bosnia. (Photo credit: Fused Elements Photography, Lethbridge, AB)

FEBRUARY 2024



(l-r) Mike Duffy, Gary Oberg, Moe Larson at the Lethbridge Remembrance Day ceremonies on November 11th, 2023

Challenge Coin Committee and Social Director's 2023 Report – Ken McLaughlin

I - The Social Committee Report

The Social Committee actively organized 3 events in 2023.

The Christmas Dinner was held on December 9th at Paradise Canyon. This year there were 55 guests. This was down from the previous year, which saw 66 guests. Up was the number of door prizes to 20 prizes with an average value approximately equal to the price of admission. The meal appears to have been well received. The desired social aspect of the evening appears to have been met, with most guests remaining much later than what has been seen in previous years. The cost per guest was \$60.00 per person. The Division netted \$192.

The summer BBQ was held on June 21 at Paradise Canyon. This year there were 26 guests, which was down from the previous year which saw 35 guests. The steak component of the meal was well received, the chicken less so. The desired objective of the evening being a social event appears to have been met with the last guest lingering until about 8:00pm. We had extended invitations to the Cypress Hills division, which 2 couples attended from. We also extended invitations to the neighbouring RCMP detachments. Nobody attended from any of the detachments. The cost per meal was \$40.00 per person. The Division netted \$52.00.

On March 23rd a supper was held at Luigis' South. Capacity was limited to 28 guests. We probably would have had about 33 guests if the restaurant did not have a cap on numbers. (All of the restaurants that we reviewed no interaction required from the treasurer in terms of

FEBRUARY 2024

collecting and disbursing meal costs. There was a silent auction for a bottle of liquor which was supplied externally which netted about \$175 to the division. The guests generally appeared to have a good time with most people departing about 8:30pm.

We had considered a Lobster meal over the course of the summer, but the final quoted cost of a meal was more than what it was anticipated as being acceptable to the majority of our members.

Two events that were social in nature, but not organized by the Social Committee were a tour of the Waterton Detachment and a meeting in Crowsnest Pass. I was unable to attend either function and cannot speak to them directly.

II – The Challenge Coin Committee Report

In April 2022 I submitted a proposal to the President for the sale of 500 Challenge Coins. Although not specific, it was hoped that the coins would reflect the 150th anniversary of the RCMP. The coin purchase was approved by the Division Executive. The coins were delivered on September 26th and went on sale in the first week of October 2022. All of the first order of 500 coins was sold by March 28, 2023 and a second order of 100 coins was placed in early April. This second order of coins was delivered on May 23rd, and all but 7 coins were spoken for or sold by the time of the coin's arrival.

The net profit of the coin sales including income generated from postage sales was \$3478.86. The idea of the division being involved in coin sales did not receive universal approval at the executive level. The vote to produce the coins was a narrow 4 to 3 vote. Challenge Coins can require a large amount of seed money to get started.

III – Golf Day Event

The annual Calgary v. Lethbridge Golf Day was held at the 'Bridges at Claresholm GC' on June 6th. This year Lethbridge was the host division. We had 24 registrants with 23 attending. The previous year there were 16 golfers. We had a number of prizes, which dovetailed into the income made from the registrations. Lethbridge Division also contributed \$100 from an operating line in its budget. So all of the income over expenses was funneled into prize packages so that at the end of the day there was zero dollar balance. Calgary did not have prizes the previous year. The prizes were distributed at the end of the golf day, which in turn brought all of the golfers together, which resulted in a social atmosphere and renewal of acquaintances. Claresholm and Nanton RCMP Detachments as well Cypress Hills Division were invited but nobody attended from either location. The entrance fee was \$65.00 per golfer. As mentioned, there was no revenue and no loss to the Division (exclusive of the \$100 line expenditure).

The following article is provided with permission of the Lethbridge Herald.

City men honoured for work with veterans

BY LETHBRIDGE HERALD ON JANUARY 20, 2024.



Herald photo by Al Beeber

Retired warrant officer Glenn Miller and Michael Duffy, a member of the RCMP Veteran's Association, have been honoured with the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation.

Eight Albertans including two Lethbridge residents have been recognized for their unwavering support to Canada's veterans.

The eight were honoured with the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation during a ceremony at the Military Museum in Calgary on Wednesday.

FEBRUARY 2024

Making the presentation were Ginette Petitpas-Taylor, Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence.

Retired warrant officer Glenn Miller, who is well known here for his work on many veteran-focused endeavours, was one of the recipients.

The other is Michael Duffy who Veterans Affairs says “has been an invaluable member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Veteran’s Association (RCMPVA) for 18 years. He served as a liaison and advocate for his peers in conflict resolution, he honours the legacy of fallen RCMP members by serving on the Graves Committee and was instrumental in the establishment and direction of the RCMPVA Support and Advocacy Program.”

On Friday at the Legion, Miller and Duffy discussed the honour and what it meant to them.

“It’s a great recognition. It was quite a surprise to me. I was caught unawares that this was going to be presented until about a week beforehand,” said Duffy.

“It’s nice to see that the service officers of the Royal Canadian Legion, historian’s advocacy group in the RCMP Veterans’ Association are getting recognition” because they look after those who looked after others in their service to Canada, said Duffy.

Some have visible injuries and others that can’t be seen and “when they retire, they need a little bit of assistance and we steer them, we’re the conduit to help them get the assistance they need,” Duffy added.

In the RCMP, Duffy was elected to a staff relations representative position before that force had an association, but rather elected representatives. He was elected once and re-elected five times.

He took those 12 years experience and knowledge into retirement and applied it to advocacy initiative which he’s been doing since 2009, five years in Cypress Hills and the last 10 in Lethbridge, he said.

Duffy helped serving personnel in the RCMP locate unmarked graves, especially the original 300 who marched west – their graves whose wooden markers deteriorated over the past 100 years and have been lost to time.

“We know for the most part where they are so we engaged the commanding officer of the different divisions across Canada to get new regimental markers and have them installed,” said Duffy.

Duffy said the work he does isn’t done in isolation.

FEBRUARY 2024

“We work with service officers in the Royal Canadian Legion and in Nova Scotia we have a large group of advocates that do a lot of work. Nova Scotia’s advocacy program has grown unfortunately on tragedy, first of all Swissair and then the mass murders a few years ago. And there are people that need the assistance of the advocacy group. And Nova Scotia teaches the rest of us what needs to be done.”

Miller said he was “quite excited and quite humbled. It’s nice to be recognized for the decades of service” he’s done towards advocacy.

“Working with the Military Museum, there’s a lot of rich history in southern Alberta” and Miller was glad to see come to fruition to “have a formally accredited military museum and to continue to share that history with the current generation and more importantly, future generations.”

Miller has helped veterans in many aspects here as well as their families.

He will continue to be part of the overall military family, he said.

“These exceptional Canadians have contributed to the wellbeing of veterans, and helped to preserve their memory and contributions,” said Veterans Affairs Canada.

The Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation is presented to individuals who often volunteer countless hours and go the extra mile to ensure Veterans are recognized and supported.

“Every day, dedicated volunteers enrich the lives of Canada’s Veterans and their families. Presenting them with the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation is one of the ways we acknowledge the significant contributions of these individuals, who have gone above and beyond to be there for Veterans and their families. You make us all very proud,” said Petitpas Taylor in a release.

In 2001, the Warrant of the Governor General created the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation with the approval of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

To date, over 1,300 individuals from coast to coast to coast have received this commendation over the past two decades.

The Commendation consists of a certificate, a lapel pin for civilian wear and a bar to wear with decorations.

Veterans Affairs says Miller “has been actively helping veterans and commemorating their sacrifices for many years. A veteran himself, he has been a member of the Royal Canadian Legion, General Stewart Branch for 19 years, with over a decade as Branch Service Officer. Glenn Miller volunteers with, and is a founding member, of the Lethbridge Military Museum.

FEBRUARY 2024

He also regularly lectures on Canada's military history through the Memory Project. Glenn serves as the president of Lethbridge United Services Institute, president of Alberta branch of the Last Post Fund and is an individual member of the Organization of Military Museums of Canada."

Miller was branch Service Officer with the Royal Canadian Legion for more than a decade, assisting veterans with their applications for pensions and benefits, transported veterans to medical appointments and visited local veterans, says Veterans Affairs.

He also helped members and families replace lost medals and apply for memorial ribbons, educated families on Canada's Books of Remembrance and helped obtain copies of the pages. He also participates in the honour guard at funerals as part of Gabriel Angels, offering comfort and support to families. Glenn remains actively involved in the annual Poppy Campaign working with local media and assists local schools with planning of remembrance programs leading up to Veterans' Week.

"Glenn actively engages youth whenever possible to promote remembrance. He conducts field trips to cenotaphs, teaching students what a cenotaph is, how to properly lay a wreath and about the history of the poppy. He organized the planting of 300 poppies by students for the 70th anniversary of D-Day. Glenn was the driving force behind the refurbishment of the Field of Honour and the Immortal Flame in Mountain View Cemetery in Lethbridge. In doing so, he recruited two cadets to assist in repainting the memorial gates to the Field of Honour monument, giving them a sense of pride in doing something positive to remember Veterans' sacrifices," a tribute on the Veterans Affairs website says.

Miller also works closely with the Indigenous community and has worked to promote and acknowledge their military service He worked with elders to develop a bilingual Blackfoot and English poster of "In Flanders Fields" which was unveiled on Indigenous Veterans' Day in 2021.

And he played a key role in marking the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge in Southern Alberta. He worked to create a Vimy Ridge display for the city of Lethbridge. He also assisted in the planning and execution of a commemorative ceremony for the community of Waterton. He arranged participation by the Canadian Armed Forces, the United Kingdom, the RCMP and members of the Indigenous community.

Of Duffy, Veterans Affairs writes in 2005 he joined RCMPVA as one of the founding members of the Cypress Hills Division until he moved to the Lethbridge Division membership.

"In a short time, Mike took on volunteer duties with the Lethbridge Division, soon being elected to the executive as Secretary, a position he still holds.

FEBRUARY 2024

” He was elected to the volunteer RCMP staff relations sub-representative position at “K” Division for a two-year term. He was re-elected by his peers five more times for a total of 12 years of service to his fellow officers and RCMP staff.

“This volunteer position allowed Mike to provide support to RCMP officers as well as civilian members who required assistance related to personal or professional issues concerning their duties within the RCMP. He was often required to act as liaison between the members, their supervisors and/or management, acting as conflict manager and advocate. His 12 years of service is a testament to the trust, respect and credibility he was afforded by his peers and RCMP management. During that time, Mike also advocated on behalf of VAC employees.

Duffy currently volunteers as Director of the Graves Committee, working with the relevant RCMP detachment commanders to ensure the graves, gravestones or memorials of those who served are properly maintained.

“The responsibility for grave maintenance lies with the RCMP, but Mike and his committee ensure inspections are done annually by the detachments. He and his team will assist them when required. As a result of Mike’s initiative, the Graves Committee also works with the Royal Canadian Legion and the Last Post Fund in the Lethbridge area,” says Veterans Affairs.

“Mike also participated as volunteer member of the Honour Guard, attending ceremonial events representing the RCMPVA at national, provincial and local memorial services, funerals of the fallen and participating in local parades, community charity events and other related functions.

“For close to seven years, Mike has also been active in the RCMPVA Support and Advocacy program, both locally and nationally, from its inception. He developed a training program for the volunteer advocates and has provided expertise in developing the program policies. It provides information and guidance to RCMP Veterans and their families when dealing with VAC, the Public Service Health Care Plan, insurance companies, long-term disability issues and life insurance issues, as well as assisting with funerals, memorials, interments and regimental burial markers upon the death of an RCMP Veteran and/or spouses.

“Mike has also been actively involved in other community organizations such as the Boy Scouts, United Way and Kinsmen Club just to mention a few.”

FEBRUARY 2024

Annual Christmas Dinner

What follows are photos of the Annual Christmas Dinner that was held on December 9th at the Paradise Canyon Golf and Country Club.



Duane Taylor (Retired EPS) & wife JoAnne



President's Table



Mike Duffy and Pat Krecsy, winning bidder of Nataalka Taylor's handmade bag donation.

And a few more photos of the Gala Event

FEBRUARY 2024



FEBRUARY 2024



FEBRUARY 2024



Birthdays for February 2024

Bert CHAMBERLAIN

Lynn SPRING

Roy DAVIDSON

Michael COURTNEY

Sandy McPHEE

Larry WILTSHIRE

Gary MITCHELL

Dalyn ORSTEN