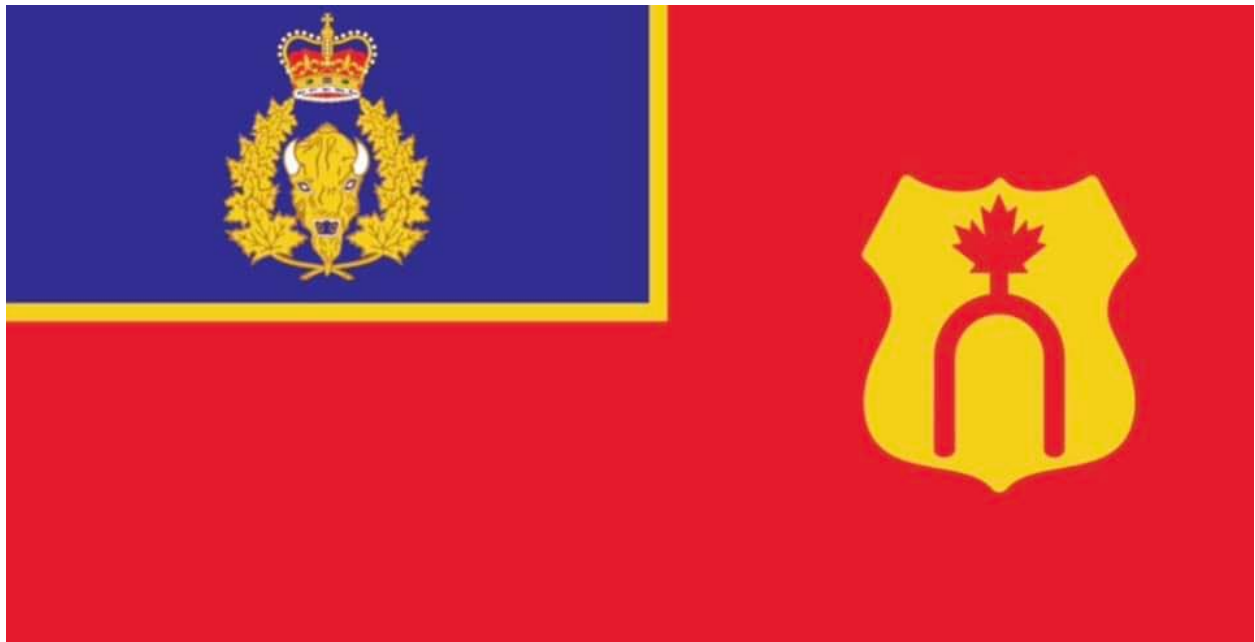


***RCMP Veterans Association
Saskatoon Division
May / June 2024 Newsletter***



President's Message:



Spring is sprung and another beautiful summer approaches. Many of our membership will find themselves heading to different destinations, cottages, lakeside retreats, golf vacations and all kinds of exciting activities. This is the time of the year when we all seem to get moving in our different directions, and we tend to put our fellowship on hold until the fall. And that's how it should be. This is a great time of the year to spend with family, friends and others.

There are a few reasons to reflect this year. 2024 represents the 100th anniversary of the RCMP Veterans Association, which was first incorporated in 1924. It is also the 50th anniversary of the inclusion of women into the uniformed ranks of the RCMP. It was also 150 years ago that the first three hundred men left on the "March West". These are just a few reasons to celebrate within our ranks. Our own division is 66 years old now and looking forward to our 70th anniversary in 2028. It might be worthwhile to consider planning for the hosting of an Annual General Meeting in anticipation of that milestone.

The Association continues to advance. One of the latest advancements is a newly inked deal with Johnson Insurance, a subsidiary of Belair Direct, to attract the same deal for MEDOC insurance coverage that is currently afforded to members of the National Association of Federal Retirees (NAFR). There will be more to follow on that in the coming weeks.

As far as destinations, members of our own division will soon be headed on an Alaskan cruise in late June, and later this year on a Caribbean cruise in late November. From June 6-8 many of us will be headed to Edmonton to participate in our Association's Annual General Meeting. I would encourage any member of our Association to attend as there will be many opportunities to renew old friendships or make new acquaintances within our group. The planning committee has organized plenty of activities for the weekend and it promises to be a great time.

Our annual luncheon in North Battleford soon approaches, at which time we will be visited by the Honourable Russ Mirasty, the Lieutenant-Governor of Saskatchewan, and his wife, Donna. Many of you will recall interacting with Russ during his service with the Force here in F Division. We look forward to re-connecting with him in his last year as our LG.

Finally, we will be planning a barbecue supper here in Saskatoon in June as our last event before the summer kicks off. I hope to see you all at one or more of these functions before we head out in our different directions.

All the best,

Warren Gherasim
President - Saskatoon Vets

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News & Director's Reports:

Up Coming Events:

1. May 7th, 2024. Luncheon – North Battleford SK. – Royal Canadian Legion.
 2. June 6th-8th, 2024 - AGM Edmonton AB
 3. August 21st, 2024 – Memorial Golf Tournament – Holliday Park
 4. December 2nd, 2024 – Christmas Social – Saskatoon Golf & Country Club
 5. Citizenship ceremonies are always on the horizon. Anyone interested in helping out, please contact Murray Milne.
 6. Coffee Klatch:
 - a. Saskatoon: Nutana Legion, Friday's between 9:30-11:00am.
 - b. Battleford: A&W, 11401 Railway Ave E, North Battleford every morning for coffee, @ 07:00, except Sundays.
 - c. Rosetown & Humboldt: Awaiting response.
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Treasurer's Report – May 2024:

Annual dues for 2024 are \$65.00. You can pay your dues in one of the following ways:

1. E-transfer your payment to Saskatoon Division at email treasurersaskatoonvets@gmail.com
2. Mail cheque to the Saskatoon RCMP Vets Association at 400 Brand Place, Saskatoon, SK, S7J 5L6.
3. E-transfer your payment directly to National at email Chantal.renaud@rcmp-grc.gc.ca;

4. Mail cheque to the RCMP Veterans Association at the Canadian Police College, Box/CP 8900, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0R2, care of Chantel Renaud.
5. Log in to your membership profile at rcmpva.org and provide a credit card number, which can be automatically charged every year at renewal time.

Current Membership: Active Members: 173; Associate Members: 14; Honorary Members: 4; Life Members: 3. Total: 194

Affinity Credit Union Bank and Investment Account Balances: Cash: \$0.00; Chequing Account: \$17,666.80; Investment Accounts: \$23,005.04 (\$10K allocated to a future AGM)

Cheques Outstanding: None. Accounts Payable: \$110.00 owing to National for 2 dues collected but not forwarded.

Unpaid 2023 Dues: 24417

Unpaid 2024 Dues Status: 21943, 22225, 23166, 24135, 24417, 25318, 25943, 26067, 27002, 27555, 27626, 28429, 28894, 29132, 31978, 32471, 34351, 35917, 37342, 37983, 38115, 46695, 46697, 50443, 51653, 65416, S00402

Monthly Luncheons: March Luncheon (Prince Albert) – loss of \$355.30. May Luncheon (Battlefords) – 61 meals have been paid for.

Rick Whattam
Treasurer

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Support, Advocacy and a Whole Lot More:



Remember the saying, “Nothing’s a problem, Until it’s a Problem – Then it’s a Problem?” Life has a way of biting us in the butt when we least expect it. Planning in advance may not guarantee success but it does provide peace of mind for you and your beneficiaries.

Audrey and I took a bit of time (ok a month) away from Canada this winter. What information and directions do we leave for our family should something tragic happen and we do not return? While it may sound a bit morbid to talk about death and dying, the fact is that the prognosis on life is death. We made use of information found on our National RCMP Veterans website and laid out directions just in case we did not return.

RCMP Veterans Advocates from across Canada are meeting in Edmonton this coming June just ahead of the Annual General Meeting. We have two full days of information

sharing and presentations planned. I will report back to you on the discussions and direction planned for VAC.

What can you do now, for your situation and the overall benefit of our Veterans family?

- 1. Contact me by phone or email and let me know of any specific questions you have.*
- 2. Review your wills and retirement strategies. Our Federal Finance Minister in her recent budget has proposed Capital Gains tax changes; how will that impact your estate planning?*
- 3. Your Executive recently embarked on an, every member telephone contact. We know our membership is spread across many provinces and we do not get a chance to see everyone at Friday Coffee. Keep in touch with your colleagues, a timely phone call is a small way do make that happen.*
- 4. If you know of someone who would benefit from joining the Veterans Association, reach out to them. During our service we learned to be independent thinkers and work alone when need be. The time has come to join the team and continue working together.*
- 5. Membership in the Association allows all of us to make the Association more effective and reach a larger number of the RCMP Veteran community. We are all volunteers and as the saying goes, "Many hands make for lighter work."*

Ed Miller,

VAC - Saskatoon Division

306 230-2809

eamiller99@gmail.com

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Gravesite Inspection Program

Within the RCMP Central District, we identified a total of 283 sites for inspection in 2023. We inspected 114 sites of which 44 were marked with some form or regimental marking and would fall under the Force's Perpetual Care Policy. A report to that effect along with the names of the 44 regimental sites was provided in a report to the OIC Central District earlier this year.

The remaining 70 sites bore no regimental markings, however we provided upkeep and cleaning to those sites as needed. We were able to send information on 52 sites to Supt. Joe Healy (ret'd) to either edit or add information to the database at

rcmpgraves.com.

Based on the reports to me from our volunteer team, Hillcrest Cemetery and Woodlawn Cemetery in Saskatoon and the NWMP Cemetery in Battleford likely won't need visits on an annual basis. They are all well kept although some cleaning was required at Woodlawn.

Over the next month or so, a plan will come together to visit the sites we didn't get to in 2023.

Darrell McFadyen

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2024 RCMP Veterans Association Annual General Meeting & Conference:

Time to get involved. Annual dues continue to increase and the question often asked, 'What am I getting for my dues...'. This year the AGM is being held in Edmonton AB on June 6th-8th. Your executive will be sending members to represent us at the AGM, but we are encouraging anyone interesting in attending to join us at the AGM. By getting involved and understanding the national issues will hopefully present new ideas to look forward into the future of our Association. For more information contact a member of the executive, and follow the attached link:

[Registration Instructions 2024_02_02_Final.pdf \(mcusercontent.com\)](#)

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National Communications Update:

In our newsletters we endeavor to keep the membership of the Saskatoon Division updated with news and events that are happening in our Division. Donna Morse, is the RCMP Veterans Association Communications Director. Donna disseminates monthly newsletters to all Divisions and the full membership of the Veterans Association. These newsletters provide information on a national perspective that impact us all, no matter which Division we are in. The information contained within the Communications Updates are very informative, and we encourage our membership to continue to stay informed.

[March Newsletter Final April 8 2024 .pdf \(mcusercontent.com\)](#)

[April Newsletter Final April .01.pdf \(mcusercontent.com\)](#)

Regina Division Newsletter:

[April 2nd 2024 newsletter.pdf \(mcusercontent.com\)](#)

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Red Blazer for Sale:

One of our members donated a red blazer to our Division. We have a size 40 regular blazer for sale. \$150.00

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Birthday's:

We have a number of people who are celebrating birthdays in the next couple of months. If you have the opportunity to cross paths with any of the following people, I am sure they would appreciate a friendly acknowledgment that they are looking a year younger...

May: Ujin Humenny (02); Rolly Zimmer (04); Dominic Parent (05); David Tysowski (06); GlenTrites (07); Chris Williams (07); Virginia Dowler (09); Kerby Buckingham (09); Al Keller (09); Dave Bird (10); Brian Merryweather (15); Josh Graham (16); Bob Boyd (18); Barry Schindel (18); Scott Sutton (20); Maurice Gaudet (21); Cliff Gerow(25); Tim Martin (26); Frank Wilson (28); Eric Vincent (29); Terry Chilibeck (29); Liz Little(30); Dale Bagnall (31); Ronald Kucher (31)

June: Terr Wozniak (4); Al White (5); Rick Kreiser (7); John Hiebert (8); Joy Ingram (9); Gen Rollheiser (9); Mike Yanota (10); Wayne Mauthe (12); Jan Boyenko (12); Marge Champion (15); Keith Klim (15); Lorne Senko (20).

We are getting to age that every birthday is a special day. Pick up the phone and wish a friend, a fellow Veteran best wishes. We acknowledge the following person for celebrating a milestone birthday: Terry Wozniak.

Happy Birthday to all mentioned above.
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Last Post:

Sadly,.....

On April 10th, 2024, S/Sgt. (Ret'd) Omar OMAN, Reg # 32285, passed away at St.Paul's Hospital in Saskatoon. Omar was a member of the Saskatoon Division of the Vets and served in the Force from 1974 to 2010, with all postings in F Division. Omar retired as the NCO i/c Warman Det. in 2010 with almost 36 years of service.

On April, 25th 1978, Constable Brian King; Reg# 31915, was killed on duty, while checking a motor vehicle, near Saskatoon.

On April 27, 2024, Don Light, an honorary member of the Saskatoon Division, passed away in North Battleford. Don was 90 years of age. The funeral for Don Light will be on Saturday 18 May @ 1 pm at the Alex Dillabough Center Battleford.

“We will remember them”

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Addition to the Chaplaincy Program:



We have recently added an additional Chaplain and welcome him to our fold! Many of you have met Marvin - he has been coming to our various functions for the past year or so. He and his wife Robin attended our last Christmas function, some of the luncheons, and some coffee times.

Reverend Marvin Mountney has lived in Saskatoon for some 40 years. He was born and raised and attended school in Belleville, Ontario, the youngest of four children. While mostly a city kid, he did spend some time in his earlier years on a farm. He enjoyed sports and played football through his high school years.

After graduation from high school, Marvin enrolled in a three-year pastoral course at Toronto Bible College and graduated at the age of 21. He returned to Belleville and took up duties as a youth pastor. He felt that position wasn't just right for him so moved to Elmira, Ontario, enrolled in university and was also the pastor of a church in Elmira. After graduation from the University of Waterloo he was asked to go to Northern Ontario to serve dually at a church in Cochrane and another in Moosonee. After serving for five years, both churches had been established, with building projects finished and had become self-supporting. Next, he was asked to take on a home mission church in Saskatoon. He led it in building projects and on to become self supporting in 5 years. He remained as its Pastor for 35 years. He retired in 2014.

Not one to sit around, Marvin took an interim position at a church in Broadview. When that church found a full-time pastor in 2019, Marvin finally retired for real and with Robin returned to Saskatoon.

Marvin and Robin, a native of Penetanguishene, Ontario, met while they both attended Toronto Bible College. They were married in August, 1968. They have three sons, eleven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Marvin stays active and plays hockey twice weekly from September to April in the Saskatoon 60 Plus Hockey League.

Please welcome Marvin and Robin to our fold when you get the opportunity.

Remember, our Chaplains are here to provide support, assistance or just be a friend. They may be reached at:

Rod Andrews: rod.andrews@sasktel.net H: (306) 9556-1750 C: (306) 270-5370

Marvin Mounthey: allmou924@gmail.com C: (306) 220-2956

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Health & Wellness of our Membership:

Many of our members are periodically in and out of hospitals and we are not aware. Happy to report Dave Young and Neil Mathison are home from their hospital stay. I am sure they would appreciate a phone call to let them know they are being thought off.

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Friday Morning Coffee:

On Friday mornings the Nutana Legion have been gracious in opening their doors so we can gather as a group for coffee. As the regular people in attendance know we often have 30 plus people in attendance. The cost for coffee at the Legion is \$5.00 which covers the cost of coffee and also covers the morning rental for the hall we gather in. Lately, the cash donations made have not covered the cost for all the members attending. We recognize that some members bring their own coffee, however ask they contribute the \$5.00 towards the cost of operating the building.

Also, the first Friday of the month is referred to as Food Bank Friday. Lately our contributions have been meager and hardly worth the effort of delivery to the Food Bank. Please keep in mind that cash is better used by the Food Bank as they get much more food for cash than we can deliver.

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Don Light's NWMP / RCMP Book Collection:

Don had an extensive collection of NWMP / RCMP books: Over seventy (70) books including the following titles: Opening Up the West (1874-1881); Sam Steele Lion of the Frontier; The Horsemen; A Winter at Fort McLeod; My Life with Horses; The Law Marches West; The Riders of the Plains; Maintain the Right, and many, many more. Included in the collection are two old metal hat badges.

Don's daughter, Donna Light Laycock is selling the book collection and articles. Should anyone be interested please contact her at 306-480-7045 OR email - thelighthouse@sasktel.net

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Division Executive:

President: Warren Gherasim; warren_gherasim@yahoo.ca 306-291-1373

1st Vice President: John Hiebert; John.hiebert@sasktel.net ; 306-380-8020

2nd Vice President: Boyd Godfrey; bbgodfrey@sasktel.net 306-371-4399

Past President: Terry Drover; tjdrover1@gmail.com Ph: 306-651-0703

Secretary: Stewart Kingdon; Stewart_kingdon@hotmail.com 306-260-0907

Treasurer: Richard Whattam; rwhattam@hotmail.ca Ph: 306-381-3235

Directors: Bill Briscoe wgb@sasktel.net Ph: 306-292-6569
Darrell McFadyen: dfmcfadyen@sasktel.net Ph: 306-220-2843
Tony Shumilak; shuma@sasktel.net Ph: 306-250-2903
Garth McLean: biggerfish@shaw.ca Ph: 306-260-4889

Advocacy & Support: Ed Miller; eamiller99@gmail.com Ph: 306-230-2809

Chaplain(s): Right Reverend Rod Andrews; rod.andrews@sasktel.net Ph: 306-270-5370
Rev. Marvin Mountney: allmou924@gmail.com C: (306) 220-2956

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Links & Contact Information:

RCMP Veterans Association: <https://rcmpva.org>

Survivor's & Executors Guide: [Guide for \(rcmpva.org\)](#) and Checklist [2020-Association-Survivor-Executor-Checklist.pdf \(rcmpva.org\)](#)

Canada Life PSHCP:

Affective July 1st, 2023, if a member maintained The Public Service Health Care Plan, the plan is covered by Canada Life (1-888-415-4414).

Chaplain:

To contact the **Depot Division Chaplain**, contact Chaplin Tom McCullagh, tom.mccullagh@rcmp-grc.gc.ca or at 306-737-0535 for further information.

Saskatoon Division: Right Reverend Rod ANDREWS 306-955-1750 (cell)306-270-5370 rod.andrews@sasktel.net and Rev. Marvin Mountney: allmou924@gmail.com C: (306) 220-2956

Advocate: Association Advocate: Mike DUFFY (Lethbridge Division) Chief (403) 381-8200 (Office) (403) 866-8200 (Cell).

Division Advocate: Ed Miller: 306-230-2809

Our Pension is administered by Public Works Canada to make inquiries you must supply your Pension Number. Toll-Free: 1-800-561-7930
Monday to Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (your local time) www.rcmp.pension.gc.ca

RCMP Group Life Insurance Center c/o SEB Administrative Services Inc. --Telephone: 1-877-778-8084 RCMP-GRCGrouplife.com

Veteran's Affairs Liaison Grame Shaw_(902) 370-4908; (902) 388-7592 (cell)

Call Veterans Affairs Canada; 1-866-522-2122; www.veterans.ca To speak to a Mental Health Professional call VAC Assistance Services at 1-800-268-7708.

RCMP Group Life Insurance Centre:

As of the July 1st, 2021, the RCMP Group Life Insurance Centre moved from Morneau Shepell to Smart Employee Benefits (SEB) Administrative Service Inc. The RCMP Group Life Insurance Centre will solely handle: Life Insurance and Accidental Death / Dismemberment Insurance enquiries. Updated contact information is as follows:

RCMP Group Life Insurance Centre
c/o SEB Administrative Service Inc.

395 boul, de Maisonneuve West 3rd Floor
 Montreal, Quebec H3A 1J6
 Telephone: Toll Free: 1-877-778-8084 (Monday to Friday: 0730-1800 EST)
 On-line: RCMP-GRCGroupLife.com

Common Contact Information

Agency	Phone #	Website
RCMP Pension Office	1-855-502-7090 1-855-502-7088 (EX-01/C/Supt. and above)	www.rcmp-grc.pension.gc.ca
Canada Pension Center	1-800-561-7930	www.canada.ca/pension-benefits
CPP, OAS GIS, Survivors' Benefit & Disability Payments	1-800-277-9914	www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits.html
Veteran's Affairs Canada (VAC)	1-866-522-2122	www.veterans.gc.ca
SEB Administrative Services – RCMP Group Life Insurance Centre	1-877-778-8084	https://fp.seb-admin.com/fpconnect/#/rcmp-grc
Public Service Health Care Plan (PSHCP)	1-855-415-4414	Welcome Public Service Health Care Plan (canadalife.com)
Pensioners' Dental Service Plan (PDSP) – Sun Life	1-888-757-7427	https://www.sunnet.sunlife.com/signin/csi/pdsp/e/home.wca
Notify Federal Government of a Death		https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/notify-government-death.html
Social Insurance Number (SIN)	1-866-274-6627	https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/contact/sin.html
Passport	1-800-567-6868	https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/canadian-passports/help-centre/general.html

Bureau of Pension Advocates (BPA)	1-877-228-2250	https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/veterans-rights/how-to-appeal/bureau-pensions-advocates
Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)	1-800-959-8281	https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/corporate/contact-information.html
Programs & Services for Seniors – Government of Canada		https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/campaigns/seniors.html
Veterans Ombudsman	1-877-330-4343	https://ombudsman-veterans.gc.ca/en
Saskatchewan – Vital Statistics (Birth, Marriage, Death, etc.)		https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/births-deaths-marriages-and-divorces
Saskatchewan Health Card	1-800-667-7551 (306)787-3251	www.eHealthSask.ca
<p>Contact Equifax or TransUnion to Obtain a Free Credit Report, you are allowed one report per year. Requesting a report does not affect your Credit Score. There are various methods to request reports ranging from on-line to mail to phone – be certain you are obtaining the free report. Follow their instructions explicitly or you will not receive your report.</p>		
Equifax	1-800-465-7166	https://www.consumer.equifax.ca/personal/products/credit-score-report/
TransUnion	1-800-663-9980	https://www.transunion.ca/product/consumer-disclosure

Updated: 2023-10-19