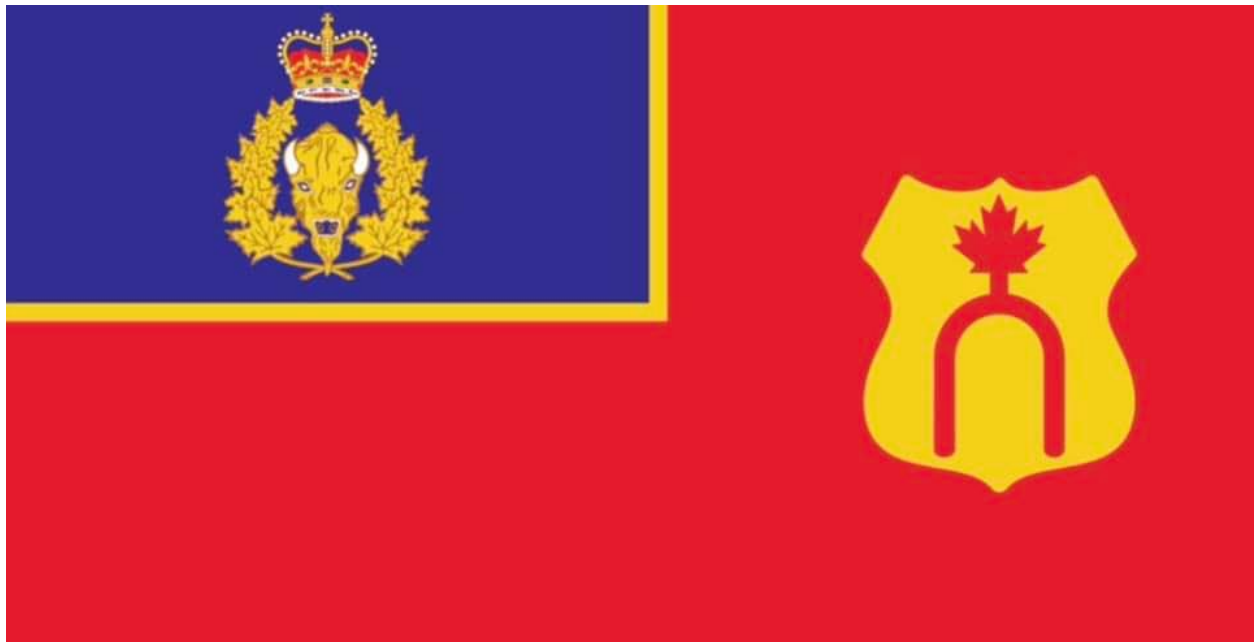


***RCMP Veterans Association
Saskatoon Division
September / October 2024 Newsletter***



President's Message:



I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer. It started out pretty wet, but it came around and we were blessed with some pretty nice weather in July and August.

As a Vets Division, we are back into the swing of things this September. Firstly, will be our September Luncheon on the 19th of September at the Shriner's Hall at 11:45 a.m. Our guest speaker that day will be Superintendent Grant St. Germaine, the Officer in Charge of Traffic Services for F Division. Grants has over 45 years service in the Force and is looking forward to attending our luncheon and regaling us with some tales from his career and some perspective on

how the Force has changed over his tenure.

Tony and Mary Shumilak will be hosting the October luncheon, and once again they will be featuring their homemade Borscht soup.

November will see us attend our annual Remembrance Day parade at SaskTel Centre and soon after that it will be time for our annual Christmas Social at the Saskatoon Golf & Country Club.

Our January luncheon will be on January 15 and will feature S/Sgt. Morgan Buckingham of the National Police Federation (NPF), which is the union for the members of the Force. Morgan will speak on labour relations between the members of the Force and management in this new model, which replaced the old DSRR model.

Looking back, our golf tournament and social was a huge success. We had 43 golfers this year and the low score for a mixed team was once again won by Les Winteringham and his group. The low score for a men's team was once again won by Adam Kinakin and his team. There were over 70 people in attendance for the social afterwards and numerous prizes were raffled off, including a \$350 50/50 prize. We also sold two prints from Hal Hepting's collection at a silent auction, the funds from which were donated back to the Vets by Hal's estate.

A group of us will also be travelling to Swift Current for the Cypress Hills Division, fall supper. We look forward to meeting with our fellow vets from the southwest corner of the Province.

I look forward to seeing you all at one of our numerous functions in the fall.

*Warren Gherasim
President - Saskatoon Vets*

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News & Director's Reports:

Up Coming Events:

1. *Monthly Luncheon: September 19th, 2024 -1130hrs. – Masonic Hall, 1021 Saskatchewan Crst., Saskatoon*
2. *October Monthly luncheon – Date, time and location, to be announced.*
3. *December 2nd, 2024 – Christmas Social – Saskatoon Golf & Country Club*
4. *Citizenship ceremonies are always on the horizon. Anyone interested in helping out, please contact Murray Milne.*
5. *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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Monthly Luncheons:

We are happy to re-convene our monthly luncheons. Our upcoming luncheon will be held on September 19th, 2024 at 1130 hrs. at the Masonic Hall 1021 Saskatchewan Crst, Saskatoon. A guest speaker will be Supt. Grant St. Germaine. Cost: \$15 a person, or bring a spouse and/or friend, \$25 for two people. E-transfer your payment to Saskatoon Division at email treasurersaskatoonvets@gmail.com If you are planning on attending, please advise Warren Gherasim (306-291-1373) warren_gherasim@yahoo.ca

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Treasurer's Report – August 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.

Membership: Active Members: 173; Associate Members: 14; Honorary Members: 4; Life Members: 2; Total: 193. 19 members have not paid their 2024 dues: 15425, 21293, 21943, 25318, 27002, 28429, 28894, 29132, 31978, 32471, 34351, 37342, 37983, 46695, 46697, 50443, 51653, 65416, S00402.

Affinity Credit Union Bank and Investment Account Balances: Chequing: \$13,389.10; Investment Accounts: \$23,005.04 (\$10K future AGM).

Account payable of \$220.00 to National for 2024 dues collected but not yet remitted.

The 2024 Saskatoon Division Golf Tournament took place at the Holiday Park Golf Course on Wednesday, August 21, 2024. 43 golfers took part in the tournament. A dinner was held afterwards at the Nutana Legion. 71 people attended the dinner. A profit of \$68.04 was made on both events.

Rick Whattam
Treasurer

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Support, Advocacy and a Whole Lot More:



“A Little Help from a Friend” is what we are about. The RCMP Veterans’ Association’s Support & Advocacy initiative is designed to recognize, protect, promote, and generally champion the rights of its members as it relates to issues of pension, insurance, health care and benefits. In Saskatoon Division your Executive attempts to answer members’ questions or at least point them towards possible answers. No two cases or questions are identical; no two end results are the same.

As members of the Veterans Association the ‘Call to Duty & Service’ lives on. Reach out and help someone who could just need a little assistance or support during a transitional time in their lives. From time to time, we all need a little help. Think about it, the next time it could be you.

For more information, please contact our coordinator, Ed Miller - 306 230-2809
eamiller99@gmail.com

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Pensioners' Dental Service Plan (PDSP):

Affective November 1st, 2024 the PDSP previously covered by Sun Life, will now be covered by Canada Life. As members, we will be required to register a Positive Enrollment with Canada Life. Due to the rollout of Canada Life's, Public Services Health Care Plan, Canada Life will have completed a positive enrollment on our behalf. As members we are encouraged to review your positive enrolment details carefully to ensure that all information is complete and accurate. Your positive enrolment details and new digital PDSP benefit card are available in your PDSP Member Services account through [My Canada Life at Work™](#). If you have any questions related to the PDSP transition to Canada Life, visit the [PDSP Member Services website](#) or call the PDSP Member Contact Centre for inquiries within North America (toll-free) at 1-855-415-4414, Monday to Friday from 8 am to 5 pm, your local time, or for international inquiries (collect) at 1-431-489-4064.

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Guide to Health Benefits and Services:

A 2024 Guide to Health Benefits and Services, revised addition, has been posted. It was distributed to our membership. If you did not receive it and would like a copy, please let us know.

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Gravesite Inspection Program:

To those who continue to be involved with us in this project we thank you, and to others who are considering getting involved we welcome you. Everyone has a story, and their stories never end even after they are gone... Just reading the basic information on past members gravesites, triggers our investigative skills in wondering who they were, where did they serve, and how did they end up here. Sadly, in some cases we may had known the member, which is even more of a reason to check on the condition of their memorial in remembrance of them.

Since our previous newsletter we received a message from an Ops NCO in a Central District detachment who had heard of our gravesite inspection program. It was very clear that this member was very supportive and planned on promoting this initiative to get involvement of detachment personnel.

For those who would like more information or would like to become involved, please contact our coordinator, Darrell McFadyen dfmcfadyen@sasktel.net

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Troop 17, 7475 - First Female Troop Reunion:

From: troop17regina2024@myaccess.ca <troop17regina2024@myaccess.ca>

Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 10:23:25 PM

Subject: Troop 17 74/75 Dinner September 16 Regina

Greetings. I am working with Tammy Patterson on the 50th reunion of Troop 17 74/75, the first troop of female members in the Force. They wish to extend an invitation to all Vets in Saskatchewan who wish to attend a commemorative dinner to be held at the RCMP Heritage Centre at Regina on September 16, 2024. Would you please pass along the attached to each of your members.

Thanks, John

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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.

[20240809 Updated FINAL Newsletter Aug 21 .pdf \(mcusercontent.com\)](#)

[Travel Insurance Update Aug 21 2024 GS .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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New Member to our Division:

Wally Knox, Reg. # 25323 of Battleford, Saskatchewan has joined the RCMP Veterans Association Saskatoon Division. Many of us know Wally from his 32 years of service in FDiv. The Executive Committee welcome Wally and Diane to our Division of the Veterans Association.

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...

September: Art Hunter (2); Kirk Munro (3); Jim Forsyth (3); Keith Dalton (4); Don Meister (5); Hal Kruger (6); Ken Ross (6); Robin Ritter (8); Bert Sibilleau (11); Tony Shumilak (13); Karl Caslor (19); Jim Cruthers (19); Lin Siple (22); Merle Prpic (23); Joe Belyea (24); Dave Kerridge (25); Dave Young (28).

October: Terry Drover (1); Tim Popp (1); Rick Commer (2); Ken Poulsen (4); Wes MacPherson (6); Tracey Opheim (11); Jeff Keys (13); Larry Romanow (20); John Sutherland (23); George Parchomchuk (25); John Beasse (25); Lenore Jacques (29); Brian Stephenson (30).

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 people celebrating a milestone birthday: Ken Ross, Karl Caslor and Brian Stephenson.

Happy Birthday to all mentioned above.

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Last Post:

Sadly,.....

On July 26th, 2024, Hal Haepting (18457) passed away after being hospitalized in Saskatoon. Hal was 89 years of age. As outlined in our July / August newsletter, Hal was a Charter member of the Saskatoon Division which was founded in 1958. Hal joined the Force on November 30th 1953 and left on October 8th, 1956. After obtaining his law degree, Hal set up a law practice in Unity Saskatchewan. At the time of his passing, Hal was a Life Member of the Saskatoon Division.

On August 9th, 2024 Dan Brunen (24260) died at his home in Warman, Saskatchewan. Dan had a short service with the Force in EDiv before returning to Saskatchewan. He was a proud member of the Saskatoon Division of the Veterans Association. Dan was 81 years of age at his passing.

On October 9th, 1970, Cst. Douglas Bernard Anson, Reg. #21129, and Sgt. Robert James Schrader, Reg.# 15445, died near MacDowell, Sk. Both members were shot and killed on duty, while investigating a domestic dispute.

“ We will remember them.”

The executive of the Saskatoon Division wish to acknowledge the work done by Ralph Mahar (31117) for his volunteer work in posting obituaries of personnel connected with the RCMP. We receive a number of these obituaries on a weekly basis and only distribute those who served in FDiv. We endeavor to forward the obituaries where the regimental numbers are close to those members of the Saskatoon Division. However, we are aware that many of our members served in other Divisions across the Force and know a wide range of members who served in these Divisions. For those who wish to conduct their own research, the following is a link for the Last Post database. Have patience as this is big database and will take time to load...

[RCMP Vets Net | Last Post "Recent"](#)

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Health & Wellness of our Membership:

For those that know Yvonne and Wayne Browne of Battleford SK, a phone call of support to Yvonne would be welcomed. In the recent months Wayne has had some serious health issues and has required extended care. Wayne is home at present.

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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 Public Service Health Care Plan (PSHCP):

The Public Service Health Care Plan, is now covered by Canada Life, contact # 1-888-415-4414.

Pensioners’ Dental Service Plan (PDSP):

PDSP Member Contact Centre within North America (toll-free) - 1-855-415-4414, Monday to Friday from 8 am to 5 pm, local time.

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
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.		
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