



RCMP VETERAN'S ASSOCIATION

SOUTH OKANAGAN DIVISION

SPECIAL JULY 2024 NEWS BULLETIN

- Summerland Pot Luck at Hooper's continues annual success
- Welcome Elizabeth Smith, Division's new Co--Benefit Support Advocate
- Update on new scam alerts – "they" are still trying to get your money!!
- Tulips in Holland – our members travel pictures
- check out our member's special birthday celebration
- **SHORT BYTES**



Summer on the Okanagan Lakes – and the RCMP Patrol Boat keeping us safe!!

Annual Summer Pot Luck at Glenn and Marika Hooper's Continues its Success!

Sunday afternoon on July 28th a large group of South Okanagan Division Members and guests gathered the lovely home and garden of Glenn and Marika Hooper in Summerland. The day was smoke-free and clouds provided a welcome cooling. As is the custom the attendees brought a variety of great food and desserts with complimentary wine from Glenn's quality wine cellar. In addition a number of lucky members won beautiful hand crafted wooden bowls and bottles of Glenn's Rose wine. Summerland Director and Past President Orv Robson kept the program going and introduced our Chaplain, Rev. Rick who gave a moving grace prior to sampling the many tasty dishes. THANK YOU GLENN AND MARIKA FOR ONCE AGAIN HOSTING THIS FUN AND ENJOYABLE EVENT!



Pictured: Finn Nielsen, Beth and Darcy McGifford, Elizabeth Smith, Theresa Baxter, Sandy Foreman, Kerry Baxter, Orv Robson, Alida and Barry Erickson, Rick Gay, Elizabeth Bullock, Glenn Hooper, Heather and Bill Hacock, Dee Sellner, Marika Hooper, Bruce and Tanis Cieslikowski, Regina Lyons, Ernie and Judy Brydon.

SOUTH OKANAGAN DIVISION WELCOMES OUR CO-BENEFIT SUPPORT

ADVOCATE ELIZABETH SMITH: In the past year our current President, Rob Boulet relinquished his Benefit Support Advocate role and our Senior Support Benefit Advocate Bruce Cieslikowski has been providing support and important information to both current members of the Veterans' Association and those having recently retired or about to retire from the Force. We are very pleased to announce Elizabeth Smith has joined our Executive and will be providing support to our members along with current Advocate Bruce Wieslikowski in all areas of our Benefit Support Advocate Program.

In that connection Elizabeth attended the Benefit Support and Advocacy Workshop held in Edmonton in June of this year. Her report follows:



RCMP Veterans' Assoc. Support & Advocacy Workshop June 5-6, 2024

Submitted by Elizabeth Smith

The Spring workshop was held at Canadian Forces Base Edmonton with the CAF paying for attendees' accommodation and meals. I'm brand new to the program and was pleased to represent the South Okanagan Veterans' Assoc. for the training.

Hosting were Glen Siegersma (CAO of the RCMP Veterans' Assoc.) and Mike Duffy (Support Teams Co-Chair). Also attending were: Dianne Lehman (Edmonton Workshop Coordinator) and Sandra Conlin (RCMPVA President). In addition there were 22 other advocates from across Canada. Presenters were: Melanie Mitra (Calgary), Cheryl Cameron (Virtual Hospice Edmonton), Chris McNeil (Veterans Review & Appeal Board, Charlottetown).

Volunteers with the Support & Advocacy Program are here to help serving and retired members, Public Service Employees, Municipal employees and all of their families, not just Veterans' Assoc. members.

Of note:

- New training will be coming this fall to assist homeless Veterans
- Canadian Virtual Hospice is being launched this fall, available to the public to assist with transition, loss and grief
- Chair of the Veterans' Appeal & Review Board spoke about how people don't understand their benefits – the highest number of Veterans' Affairs Canada (VAC)

applications are for “Hearing Loss and Tinnitus” which has surpassed Backs, Hips and Knees

- Canadian Armed Forces created a Transition Support Framework to assist and support employees and their families through every stage of their career, from recruitment to retirement, including promotions and physical transfers
- RCMP is developing a similar program to be rolled out across the country
- Goal of a Transition Framework is to have people leaving the organization as “advocates,” not “critics.”
- Survivor & Executor Information Package has been updated and is online at: <https://rcmpva.org> -> Resources & Support -> Support & Advocacy then scroll down to the package

Most importantly – reach out to Bruce Cieslikowski (c:236-795-0388) or Elizabeth Smith (c:778-839-5316) if you have any questions! or need help in sorting through our Veterans’ benefits on any matter.

A Friendly Reminder about Computer and Phone Security:

Treasurer Beth McGifford has kindly provided a summary of the latest scams and the continuing effort to part you with your hard earned pension and money:

We all need to be diligent in exercising caution when responding to phone calls, using emails, social media, banking and other apps on our smartphones, tablets and computers. While our March Bulletin had good information courtesy of Jo Ann Ruppenthal here are some updated cautions:

- If you didn’t initiate the call you don’t know to whom you are talking so be suspicious and DON’T give out any personal information
- Don’t click on links or download attachments received in unsolicited messages, even friends can send jokes and pictures that are compromised
- Don’t trust a message because it looks legitimate, fraudsters can “spoof” the address
- Use strong passwords for everything and don’t use the same password for multiple accounts and devices. Change passwords often.
- Turn off and restart your devices regularly.
- Ensure that software updates on your devices are installed timely.
- Don’t stay logged on to applications and databases on any of your devices. Log into these each time, do your business and be sure to LOG OFF.

Closing the browser is also recommended.

Note: if you do fall victim to a fraud or scam share it with your friends and your Division Executive in order to alert our membership.



DIVISION ADVOCATE BRUCE AND TANNIS CHECK OUT THE TULIPS:

We always appreciate the pictures from the many travel adventures our Division Members experience. Below are pictures of the Cieslikowskys during their early summer visit to Holland:

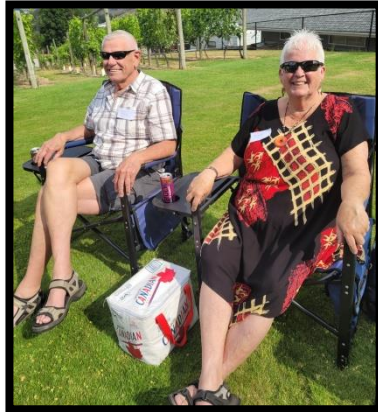


SPECIAL BIRTHDAY CELEBRATED IN PENTICTON:

Helen and Joe Driscoll are long-time hard-working members of our South Okanagan Division. It was with great pleasure a number of our members took the opportunity to celebrate Helen's 99th !! Birthday on August 7th at the Athen's Creek Lodge where the Driscolls reside. Helen actually turned 99 on July 18th but it's never too late to have a party. Thanks to Bob and Ginny Ogden for bringing the cake and lovely flowers and to Dee Sellner and Sandy Foreman who joined the happy group along with the editor. We also toured the lovely suite that Joe and Helen occupy at this classy senior home.



POT LUCK PICTURES:



Clockwise: Barry and Alida Erickson; Bruce and Tannis Cieslikowski; Beth and Darcy McGifford; Regina Lyons and Elizabeth Smith; Elizabeth Bullock, Heather and Bill Hacock; Glenn Hooper, Rick Gay and bowl winner Sandy Foreman. (Sorry not to include all pictures):

SHORT BYTES:

- A full News Bulletin will be issued in early September after our first Executive Meeting scheduled for Sept.13th.
- As an Association we need to support each other particularly when illness or mishaps befall our members. While we want to share news the need or wish for privacy can make it more difficult to reach out and help / visit etc. Always check with the family.
- Remember: News and Opinions on National Web Site has many Newsletters.
- The Pot Luck was very successful but we know the ANNUAL SUMMER BBQ AT PAST PRESIDENT ORV ROBSON'S ON SUNDAY AUGUST 25th WILL BE THE EVENT OF THE SUMMER. WE HOPE OUR MEMBERS FROM THROUGHOUT THE REGION WILL ATTEND
- WATCH FOR SECRETARY KERRY'S SPECIAL NOTICE ON BBQ DETAILS COMING SOON.