



**RCMP
VETERANS'
ASSOCIATION
Ottawa**

**ASSOCIATION
DES VÉTÉRANS
DE LA GRC
Division d'Ottawa**

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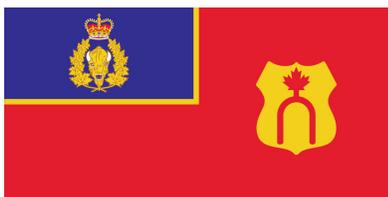
Events - Événements

March 28, 2026: RCMP Pipes and Drums and Dancers at Perth and District Collegiate Institute, Perth, Ontario; details inside / Le 28 mars 2026, cornemuseurs, tambours et danseurs de la GRC visite à Perth; voir l'intérieur pour les details;

June 5 juin: 11th Annual BBQ at Long Island / 11e BBQ annuel à Long Island

Did you know: As a serving or retired Civilian Members or Public Service Employee, you are eligible to join the RCMP Veterans' Association? Check it out at: [Become a Member | RCMP Veterans' Association Ottawa Division | Ottawa, ON](#)

Saviez-vous que si vous êtes un(e) membre civil(e) ou un(e) employé(e) de la fonction publique, vous êtes admissible à devenir membre de l'Association des Vétérans. SVP voir [Devenir membre | Association des vétérans de la GRC, Division d'Ottawa | Ottawa \(Ontario\)](#)



Published By / Publié par

RCMP Veterans' Association—Ottawa Division
 Association des Vétérans de la GRC—Division d'Ottawa
<https://ottawa.rcmpva.org>

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Executive Committee 2026 / Conseil d'administration

President	Wayne Jacquard	Président
1st Vice-President	Luisa Russo-Lemay	1re Vice-présidente
2 nd Vice President	Don Mahar	2 ^e Vice-Président
Division XO	Estelle Legault	DG de la Division
Treasurer	Lynne Siegersma	Trésorière
Past President	Michel Pelletier	Président sortant

Directors / Directeurs-Directrices

Communications	Ron Lamb	Communications
Editor, <i>The Spirit</i>	Dave Jeggo	Éditeur, <i>The Spirit</i>
Internal Communications	Ed Strange	Communications internes
Webmaster	Gary Walkling	Webmestre
History	Vacant	Histoire
Event Planning	Susan Munn	Planification d'événements
Honours/Recognition	Joanne White	Reconnaissance et Distinctions honorifiques
Quartermaster	David Muirhead	Quartier- maître
Member Services	Terence McDonald	Services aux membres

Chaplains	Pierre Bélanger	Aumôniers
	The Reverend Canon Catherine Ascah	Réverend Chanoine

Membership/Recruiting	Luisa Russo-Lemay	Adhésion/Recrutement
Sergeant-at Arms	Marc Dureau	Sergent d'armes
Director-at-Large	Michel Saurette	Directeur par mandat spécial

Committee Chairs / Présidents des comités

Golf Tournament	Vacant	Tournoi de golf
National Memorial Cemetery	Beechwood	Kevin Mole
Cimetière commémoratif national, à Beechwood		
Financial Stewardship	Vacant	Gérance financière

Ongoing Projects / Projets en cours

Education / Bursaries	Bill Maxwell	Education / Bourses
Memorial Maintenance Program	Joe Healy	Programme d'entretien des mémoriaux

ADVERTISING / PUBLICITÉ

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Division

Association des Vétérans de la GRC

Division d'Ottawa

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The Spirit is published by and for the members of the RCMP Veterans' Association, Ottawa Division. Editorial views and opinions expressed this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Division.

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Les articles et commentaires doivent être signés et envoyés à Ottawa.info@rcmpva.org ou Ottawa.thespirit@rcmpva.org. SVP inclure toutes informations pour vous joindre. Nous révisons et adaptions. Indiquez le volume et le numéro. Tous droits réservés.

The Spirit est publié par et pour les membres de l'Association des Vétérans de la GRC, Division d'Ottawa. Les éditoriaux et les opinions publiés dans ce bulletin d'information ne sont pas nécessairement ceux de la Division.

COVER: Winter Wonder Land. Photo courtesy of Gilbert Bouffard. / Pays des merveilles de l'hiver. Photo gracieuseté de Gilbert Bouffard.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the 2026 Division Executive Committee, I would like to wish every member of Ottawa Division a happy and healthy 2026.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome our new 2nd Vice-President, Don Mahar, to the executive table. Don brings with him a vast amount of experience having been a part of other Associations.

With new arrivals there are also departures from the Executive. I would like to take the opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you to David Jeggo, who has completed his term as the 2nd Vice-President. Dave's knowledge and experience have been and will continue to be an asset to the Ottawa Division and the Association as a whole. For the time being, Dave continues to be the Editor of The Spirit; however, we continue to actively search for a new editor so Dave can take a well-deserved rest.



As most of you are aware, last year we developed a strategic action plan to guide us into 2025. Here is a brief update on what we were able to achieve in support of the plan as well as provide you a brief snapshot of what Ottawa Division was able to achieve in 2025.

1. Communications:

In 2024, the ODVA website had been active for nearly 3 years, and it was determined that it was time for a refresh. A content audit was conducted, and another service provider was identified to accomplish this important initiative. Unfortunately, the old website suffered a critical error in the Fall of 2024, one that it could not recover from. Therefore, we committed to having a new website developed and rolled out for 2025 for our membership to meet our communication needs for today and into the future.

I am happy to say that, in September 2025, the new Ottawa Division website went live and is being well received. Work continues to make it even better to meet our membership's needs. Please check it out at <https://rcmpva.org/ottawa/>.

2. Recruiting & Retention:

Ottawa Division committed to having a recruiting and retention strategy for the 2025 fiscal year understanding that this aligns with our Mission 'To be responsive to the physical, psychological, social and economic welfare of all former employees of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and their families.'

As of December 9, 2025, Ottawa Division had seen an excess of 60 new members having joined its ranks. This is a wonderful outcome compared to previous years.

3. Information/Record Management:

Ottawa Division, led by the Director of Administrative Services, was asked to examine and to commence the development of appropriate procedures surrounding the proper management of information and records for the Ottawa Division.

This work continues in partnership with the Association Office so that a standardized approach can be taken for the Association.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The three items above denote what Ottawa Division Executive had made out to be priority initiatives for the year 2025. Along with these, the Ottawa Division also committed to continuing its delivery of the following.

1. **Timely Communications through Email** — updates and changes were made to the MailChimp system is used to send out bulletins and messages to our membership. This led to establishing an accurate mail list as well as to having financial savings due to the elimination of duplication.
2. **Publication of The Spirit** — publication continues; however, ODVA is still in search of a person to become the new Editor of The Spirit.
3. **Social Events** — 10 social events were held with the Long Island BBQ and the Holiday Brunch having been the most popular.
4. **Honours & Recognition Events** — Several events and awards were presented in 2025. This is to continue in 2026.
5. **Regular General Meetings** — 9 RGM's were held
6. **Member Service Initiatives**
 - A. **Advocacy** — 4 ODVA members attended a workshop sponsored by the Association to better assist those within our division.
 - B. **Visitation of those in need** — our Visitation Program has continued, and we look to enhance and transform it in 2026.
 - C. **Christmas Hampers/Cookies for Youth** — another very successful event during the holidays. Once again led by our Chaplain, Pierre Belanger, and his wife Karen.
 - D. **Estate & End of Life Assistance** - 22 Funerals were supported. Numerous requests for assistance and numerous cards & letters of thanks were received for the care and support provided.
7. **Education Awards** — Awards were provided in September 2025 to 8 deserving student candidates. A big thank you to Belair Direct, who is our primary sponsor for this initiative.

As we welcome 2026, we do so with open hearts, fresh hope, and positive energy. May this new year bring new opportunities, renewed strength, and moments that inspire us to keep moving forward.

Happy New Year

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Hayward". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed in a light blue rectangular box.



MESSAGE DU PRÉSIDENT

Au nom du comité exécutif 2026 de la division, je souhaite à tous les membres de la division d'Ottawa une année 2026 heureuse et en bonne santé.

Je profite également de cette occasion pour souhaiter la bienvenue à notre nouveau deuxième vice-président, Don Mahar, au sein du comité exécutif. Don apporte une vaste expérience acquise au sein d'autres associations.

Les arrivées s'accompagnent également de départs au sein du comité exécutif. Je tiens à profiter de l'occasion pour remercier chaleureusement David Jeggo, qui a terminé son mandat de deuxième vice-président. Les connaissances et l'expérience de Dave ont été et continueront d'être un atout pour la division d'Ottawa et l'association dans son ensemble. Pour l'instant, Dave continue d'être le rédacteur en chef de L'Esprit/The Spirit, mais nous continuons à rechercher activement un nouveau rédacteur en chef afin que Dave puisse prendre un repos bien mérité.



Comme la plupart d'entre vous le savent, nous avons élaboré l'année dernière un plan d'action stratégique pour nous guider jusqu'en 2025. Voici un bref compte rendu de ce que nous avons pu réaliser dans le cadre de ce plan, ainsi qu'un aperçu de ce que la division d'Ottawa a pu accomplir en 2025.

1. Communications :

En 2024, le site web de l'ODVA était actif depuis près de trois ans, et il a été décidé qu'il était temps de le renouveler. Un audit du contenu a été réalisé, et un autre prestataire de services a été sélectionné pour mener à bien cette importante initiative. Malheureusement, l'ancien site web a subi une erreur critique à l'automne 2024, dont il n'a pas pu se remettre. Nous nous sommes donc engagés à faire développer et à lancer un nouveau site Web pour 2025 afin de répondre aux besoins de communication actuels et futurs de nos membres.

Je suis heureux d'annoncer qu'en septembre 2025, le nouveau site Web de la division d'Ottawa a été mis en ligne et qu'il est très bien accueilli. Les travaux se poursuivent afin de l'améliorer encore davantage pour répondre aux besoins de nos membres. N'hésitez pas à le consulter à l'adresse <https://rcmpva.org/fr/ottawa>.

2. Recrutement et fidélisation :

La Division d'Ottawa s'est engagée à mettre en place une stratégie de recrutement et de fidélisation pour l'exercice 2025, sachant que cela correspond à notre mission « Répondre aux besoins physiques, psychologiques, sociaux et économiques de tous les anciens employés de la Gendarmerie royale du Canada et de leurs familles ».

Au 9 décembre 2025, la division d'Ottawa comptait plus de 60 nouveaux membres. Il s'agit d'un résultat remarquable par rapport aux années précédentes.

3. Gestion de l'information et des dossiers :

La division d'Ottawa, sous la direction du directeur des services administratifs, a été chargée d'examiner et de commencer à élaborer des procédures appropriées pour la bonne gestion de l'information et des dossiers de la division d'Ottawa.

Ce travail se poursuit en partenariat avec le bureau de l'Association afin qu'une approche normalisée puisse être adoptée pour l'Association.



MESSAGE DU PRÉSIDENT

Les trois points ci-dessus correspondent aux initiatives prioritaires définies par la direction de la division d'Ottawa pour l'année 2025. En plus de cela, la division d'Ottawa s'est également engagée à poursuivre la mise en œuvre des mesures suivantes.

1. **Communications rapides par courriel** — des mises à jour et des modifications ont été apportées au système MailChimp utilisé pour envoyer des bulletins et des messages à nos membres. Cela a permis d'établir une liste de diffusion précise et de réaliser des économies financières grâce à l'élimination des doublons.
2. **Publication de L'Esprit/The Spirit** — la publication se poursuit, mais l'ODVA est toujours à la recherche d'une personne pour devenir le nouveau rédacteur en chef de The Spirit.
3. **Événements sociaux** — 10 événements sociaux ont été organisés, le barbecue de Long Island et le brunch des fêtes ayant été les plus populaires.
4. **Événements d'hommage et de reconnaissance** — plusieurs événements et prix ont été présentés en 2025. Cela se poursuivra en 2026.
5. **Assemblées générales régulières** — 9 assemblées générales régulières ont été organisées.
6. **Initiatives de service aux membres**
 - A. **Défense des intérêts** — 4 membres de l'ODVA ont participé à un atelier parrainé par l'association afin de mieux aider les membres de notre division.
 - B. **Visites aux personnes dans le besoin** — notre programme de visites s'est poursuivi et nous cherchons à l'améliorer et à le transformer en 2026.
 - C. **Paniers de Noël/biscuits pour les jeunes** — un autre événement très réussi pendant les fêtes. Une fois de plus, il a été organisé par notre aumônier, Pierre Bélanger, et son épouse Karen.
 - D. **Aide à la succession et à la fin de vie** — 22 funérailles ont été prises en charge, de nombreuses demandes d'aide ont été reçues et de nombreuses cartes et lettres de remerciement ont été envoyées pour les soins et le soutien apportés.
7. **Bourses d'études** — Des bourses ont été accordées en septembre 2025 à huit étudiants méritants. Un grand merci à Bélair Direct, notre principal commanditaire pour cette initiative.

Nous accueillons l'année 2026 avec un cœur ouvert, un espoir renouvelé et une énergie positive. Que cette nouvelle année nous apporte de nouvelles opportunités, une force renouvelée et des moments qui nous inspirent à aller de l'avant.

Bonne année !

Cordialement,



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK / DU BUREAU DE L'ÉDITEUR

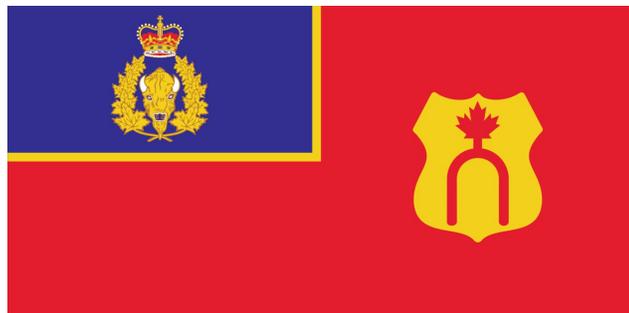
Opportunity to be the new Editor of *The Spirit Magazine*

The *Spirit* magazine is a critical element of the RCMP Veterans' Ottawa Division communications strategy. It is disseminated in hard copy and in digital format. In addition to being distributed to all RCMP Veterans in the Ottawa area, *The Spirit* is also available on the Division's website and in all RCMP Buildings in the National Capital Region.

The Editor is responsible for gathering and layout of articles and accompanying photos using **MS Publisher**, determines and chooses copy, edits articles, co-ordinates translation, printing and distribution, and renewal of advertising. While the current publication is built using **MS Publisher**, there are other software and possible AI tools that could be used to assemble this magazine.

The Spirit is published quarterly with flexible deadlines to accommodate your retirement responsibilities and pursuits. Although not completely bilingual, there is a strong commitment to translation of major articles or those which are of most interest to readers.

If you are an experienced communicator who is comfortable with computer software, willing to learn new (and relatively easy) skills, dedicated to good grammar and making sure the facts are right, and interested in the work and interests of Ottawa Division Veterans, consider putting your name forward to Ron Lamb, Director Communications at ottawa.dircomms@rcmpva.org, or Wayne Jacquard, President Ottawa Division at ottawa.president@rcmpva.org.



Possibilité d'être le nouvel éditeur du magazine *The Spirit*

Le magazine *The Spirit* est un élément essentiel de la stratégie de communication de la Division Ottawa des Vétérans de la GRC. Il est diffusé en version papier et en format numérique. En plus, d'être distribué à tous les Vétérans de la GRC dans la région d'Ottawa, *The Spirit* est disponible sur le site Web de la division et dans tous les bâtiments de la GRC dans la région de la capitale nationale.

L'éditeur est responsable de rassembler et d'élaborer des articles et des photos accompagnant en utilisant **MS Publisher**, déterminer et choisir une copie, modifier des articles, coordonner la traduction et l'impression, assurer le renouvellement annuel de la publicité. Bien que la publication actuelle soit construite à l'aide de **MS Publisher**, il existe d'autres logiciels et outils d'IA possibles qui pourraient être utilisés pour assembler ce magazine.

Le magazine *The Spirit* est publié trimestriellement avec délais flexibles pour tenir compte de vos responsabilités et de vos devoirs de retraite. Bien que l'actuelle publication soit réalisée à l'aide de MS Publisher, il existe d'autres logiciels ainsi que des outils d'intelligence artificielle qui pourraient être utilisés afin d'assembler cette revue.

Si vous êtes un communicateur expérimenté, à l'aise avec les logiciels informatiques, désireux d'acquérir de nouvelles compétences (relativement faciles), soucieux de la qualité de la grammaire et de l'exactitude des faits, et que vous vous intéressez au travail et aux intérêts des Vétérans de la Division d'Ottawa, nous vous invitons à soumettre votre candidature à Ron Lamb, Directeur Communications à ottawa.dircomms@rcmpva.org, ou Wayne Jacquard, Président Ottawa Division à ottawa.president@rcmpva.org.





LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Words Matter: I wish to commend Kevin Mole for his informative article in the latest edition of The Spirit on the RCMP Veterans' Legacy Pathway at Beechwood. The pathway is an impressive and meaningful addition to our national cemetery, and those who conceived and supported this project deserve a lot of credit – it is beautiful!

That said, I must address a serious concern that was not mentioned in the article: the wording on the final plaque, which reads in part, "...the often painful role played by the RCMP in the history of Indigenous peoples."

Displaying the phrase "often painful" at our national cemetery - our sacred place of honour - is unacceptable. This is not a museum. This is a final resting place for those who served in the RCMP, and it should reflect respect, not highlight a controversial narrative.

Whether this language was shaped by RCMP Communications or by broader government messaging is irrelevant. What matters is that this wording is inappropriate for a memorial environment and unfairly characterizes generations of members whose service was overwhelmingly professional, dedicated, and respectful.

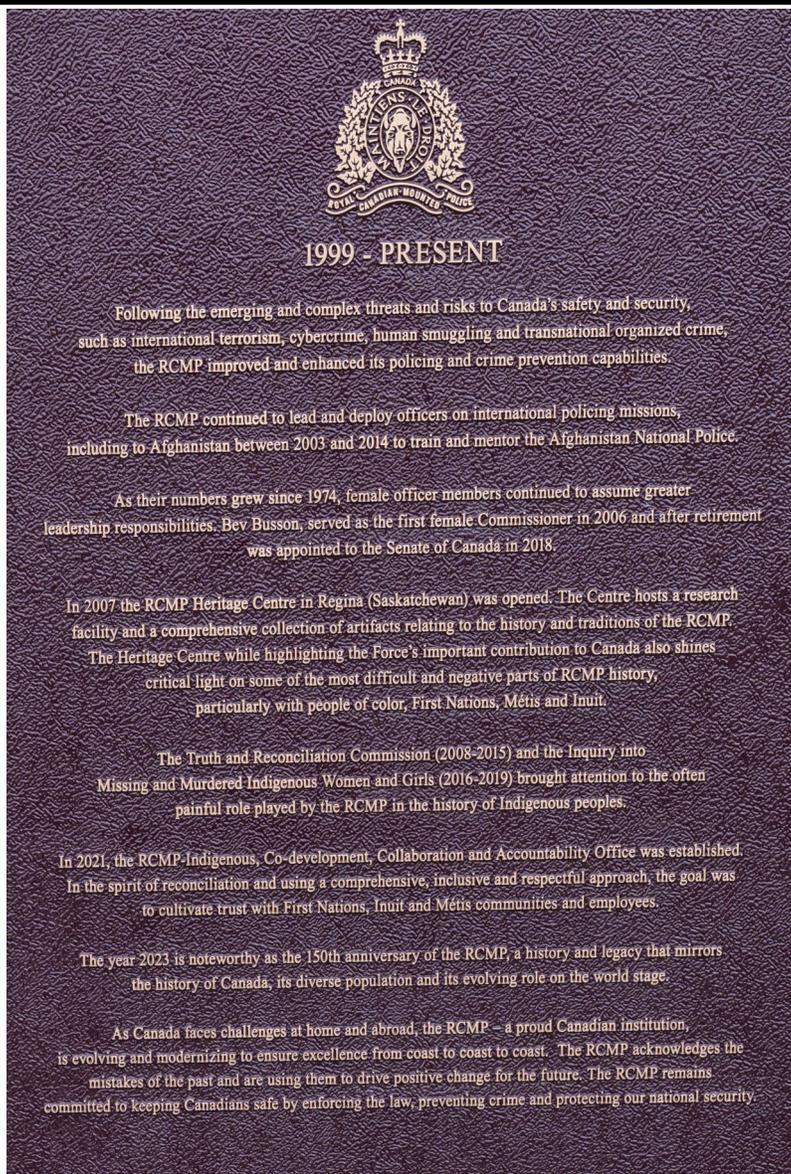
I understand our division contributed \$50,000 to this project. As a partner in the project, we ought to have strongly objected to this wording. The wording on this one plaque now casts a shadow over the legacy of the very people it is meant to honour.

I want to be clear: acknowledging our organization's historical shortcomings is necessary and appropriate in the right context. But a national cemetery is not that context. To suggest that the RCMP played an "often" painful role is an overstatement that many of us who served cannot accept as accurate.

Most members of our division have not seen this plaque, and they deserve to know the message being presented at what could be their eventual resting place. The inscription should be revisited and revised to ensure it honours our veterans without mischaracterizing their legacy.

Sincerely,

C/Supt. Ronald Mostrey (Ret'd)





IN CASE YOU MISSED IT / AU CAS OÙ VOUS L'AURIEZ MANQUÉ

BULLETIN PUBLISHED JANUARY 23, 2026

BULLETIN PUBLIÉ LE 23 JANVIER 2026

An Afternoon of Bagpipes, Fiddles, Jigs and Reels

Un après-midi de cornemuses, violons, jigs et reels

WHEN: Saturday March 28, 2026, 2:30 PM
WHERE: Mason Auditorium, Perth & District Collegiate Institute, 13 Victoria Street, Perth, ON

QUAND: Samedi le 28 mars 2026 à 14:30
OÙ: Mason Auditorium, Perth & District Collegiate Institute, 13 RUE Victoria, Perth

WHO: Featuring the RCMP Pipes, Drums & Dancers -
With special guests: The Oakfield Players and the Celtic band Shabraque.

QUI: Mettant en vedette les cornemuseurs, tambours et danseurs de la GRC

Avec des invités spéciaux : The Oakfield Players et le groupe celtique Shabraque.

Tickets available from TicketsPlease.ca
613-485-6434

Billets disponibles sur TicketsPlease.ca
613-485-6434

For more information: mail-to:concert@rcmppipesanddrums.com

Pour plus d'informations : mail-to:concert@rcmppipesanddrums.com

OAKFIELD PARK presents
**An Afternoon of
Pipes, Fiddles, Jigs and Reels**
featuring:
**The World-Renowned
Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Pipes, Drums and Dancers**

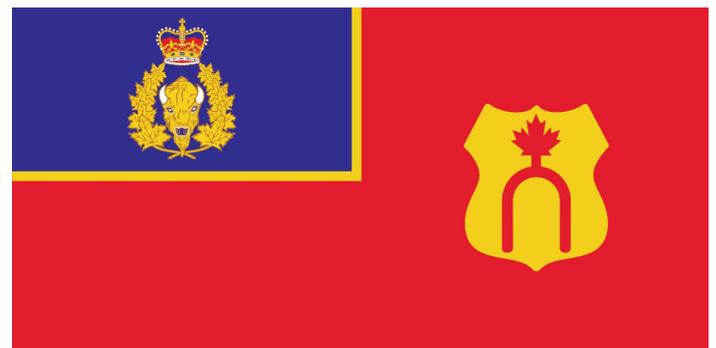


with special guests:
**The Oakfield Players
and the celtic band Shabraque**

MARCH 28 | 2:30PM
Mason Auditorium,
Perth and District Collegiate Institute
13 Victoria Street, Perth

Tickets available from TicketsPlease.ca
613-485-6434

For more information: concert@rcmppipesanddrums.com



Thanks to our sponsors:



Christmas Cheer Follow-Up

Submitted by Pierre Bélanger, ODVA Chaplain:

RCMP Veterans Association, Ottawa Division, just completed two holiday initiatives that they have been organizing each Christmas for more than 11 years. Members of the Association put together **62** Christmas hampers which have been distributed to the spouses of Ottawa area RCMP veterans who passed away in the past year and to current veterans who are shut-ins or are currently in hospital or for other reasons are unable to get around. A second initiative is baking and providing Christmas cookies for distribution to homeless or street involved youth who are served by Operation Come Home, a not-for-profit organization which assists youth experiencing homelessness to achieve their goals and avoid the experience of homelessness as an adult. They offer Employment, Education, Housing, Mental Health, Harm Reduction, and Drop-In programs for at-risk youth aged 16-29. This year's cookie drive resulted in over **3,200** home baked cookies being donated. Volunteer Veterans packed 133 personal cookie boxes donated by a local Metro Grocery store which were brought to OCH to be distributed to the youth. In addition, several trays of pastries, and tins of quality commercial cookies were made available to the youth and staff at OCH to eat while at the drop-in centre in downtown Ottawa.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Many thanks to ODVA members and families who contributed their time and efforts to support these community initiatives.



Christmas hamper and cookie assembly line L-R / Chaîne de montage de paniers de Noël et de biscuits G-D : Bernadette Dupuis, Estelle Legault, Luisa Russo-Lemay, Karen and Pierre Bélanger

Suivi des festivités de Noël

Soumis par Pierre Bélanger, aumônier de l'ODVA : L'Association des anciens de la GRC, division d'Ottawa, vient de mener à bien deux initiatives qu'elle organise chaque année depuis plus de 11 ans à l'occasion des fêtes de fin d'année. Les membres de l'Association ont préparé 62 paniers de Noël qui ont été distribués aux conjoints des anciens membres de la GRC de la région d'Ottawa décédés au cours de l'année écoulée, ainsi qu'aux anciens membres actuellement confinés chez eux, hospitalisés ou incapables de se déplacer pour d'autres raisons. La deuxième initiative consiste à préparer et à distribuer des biscuits de Noël aux jeunes sans-abri ou vivant dans la rue qui sont pris en charge par Operation Come Home, un organisme à but non lucratif qui aide les jeunes sans-abri à atteindre leurs objectifs et à éviter de se retrouver sans domicile à l'âge adulte. Il offre des programmes d'emploi, d'éducation, de logement, de santé mentale, de réduction des méfaits et d'accueil aux jeunes à risque âgés de 16 à 29 ans. La collecte de biscuits de cette année a permis de récolter plus de 3 200 biscuits faits maison. Des vétérans bénévoles ont emballé 133 boîtes de biscuits individuelles offertes par un magasin d'alimentation local, qui ont été apportées à l'OCH pour être distribuées aux jeunes. En outre, plusieurs plateaux de pâtisseries et des

boîtes de biscuits industrielles de qualité ont été mis à la disposition des jeunes et du personnel de l'OCH pour qu'ils puissent les déguster au centre d'accueil du centre-ville d'Ottawa.

NOTE DE LA RÉDACTION : Un grand merci aux membres de l'ODVA et aux familles qui ont donné de leur temps et de leur énergie pour soutenir ces initiatives communautaires.

**Christmas Cheer Follow-Up
Continued**

**Suivi des festivités de Noël
Suite**



Cookie Reception Line at Operation Come Home Headquarters: L-R: Pierre Bélanger with Talia, Josh and Katie.

At the RGM on November 18, 2025, attendees were treated to a presentation by retired CSIS member and ODVA member Don Mahar. Don shared his personal reflection on the case file that started the Cold War; "Fighting in the Cold War", the 80th Anniversary of the defection of Soviet GRU Intelligence Officer, Igor Gouzenko, who defected to the Canadian Government with proof that his country, Russia, was spying on its wartime allies, Canada, Britain and the United States. This prompted what is known as the Gouzenko Affair.

These photos are in relation to the Ceremony to Honour the 80th Anniversary of Igor and Svetlana Gouzenko's Defection to Canada on September 5, 1945, with 109 highly classified documents. Gouzenko was a cypher clerk, a Lieutenant in Soviet Military Intelligence (GRU). It is acknowledged in the West that his startling revelations and testimony before a Royal Commission led by Chief Justices Kellock and Taschereau confirmed the existence of a huge spy ring aimed at obtaining atomic secrets. Thirteen Canadians were arrested on espionage charges on February 15, 1946, and one month later, on March 14th, a further 26 were arrested, including Canadian Member of Parliament, Fred Rose.

In the photo on the left, Don is wearing his Pillar Society jacket and standing next to the Muskoka granite stone which marks the grave site of Igor and Svetlana Gouzenko. Their gravesite is in Springcreek Cemetery in Mississauga, Ontario. The family made the decision to remove the Witness Protection name they lived under for eighty years and reinstate their rightful Gouzenko name on the grave marker. However, in full disclosure, some of Gouzenko's sons were not in favour of this public disclosure.

The other photograph is of Igor Gouzenko being interviewed by an unnamed journalist on CBC TV in 1966. Gouzenko wore the head covering to protect his identity as he and his family were under RCMP Witness Protection.



Thanks Don, for a very informative presentation. Merci Don, pour cette présentation très instructive.

Lors de l'assemblée générale régionale du 18 novembre 2025, les participants ont assisté à une présentation de Don Mahar, ancien membre du SCRS et de l'ODVA. Don a partagé ses réflexions personnelles sur le dossier qui a déclenché la guerre froide : « Combattre pendant la guerre froide », à l'occasion du 80e anniversaire de la défection d'Igor Gouzenko, officier du renseignement soviétique (GRU), qui a fait défection au gouvernement canadien avec des preuves que son pays, la Russie, espionnait ses alliés de guerre, le Canada, le Royaume-Uni et les États-Unis. Cet événement a donné lieu à ce que l'on appelle l'affaire Gouzenko.

Ces photos ont trait à la cérémonie organisée en l'honneur du 80e anniversaire de la défection d'Igor et Svetlana Gouzenko au Canada, le 5 septembre 1945, avec 109 documents hautement confidentiels. Gouzenko était cryptographe et lieutenant dans les services de renseignement militaires soviétiques (GRU). Il est reconnu en Occident que ses révélations et son témoignage surprenants devant une commission royale présidée par les juges en chef Kellock et Taschereau ont confirmé l'existence d'un vaste réseau d'espionnage visant à obtenir des secrets atomiques. Treize Canadiens ont été arrêtés pour espionnage le 15 février 1946 et, un mois plus tard, le 14 mars, 26 autres ont été arrêtés, dont le député canadien Fred Rose.

Sur la photo de gauche, Don porte sa veste de la Pillar Society et se tient à côté de la pierre de granit de Muskoka qui marque la tombe d'Igor et Svetlana Gouzenko. Leur tombe se trouve au cimetière Springcreek à Mississauga, Ontario. La famille a décidé de supprimer le nom de protection des témoins sous lequel elle a vécu pendant quatre-vingts ans et de rétablir le nom légitime de Gouzenko sur la pierre tombale. Cependant, en toute transparence, certains des fils de Gouzenko n'étaient pas favorables à cette divulgation publique.



L'autre photo montre Igor Gouzenko, interviewé par un journaliste anonyme à la télévision CBC en 1966. Gouzenko portait un couvre-chef pour protéger

son identité, car lui et sa famille bénéficiaient du programme de protection des témoins de la GRC.



The Division's RGM / AGM night on December 9, 2025 featured guest speaker and award winning author, Mike Martin, a Canadian author who is known for writing the Sgt. Windflower Mystery series of books. He is also the author of *Change the Things You Can: Dealing with Difficult People*. In addition to his book writing, Martin is a long-time freelance writer and has written articles and essays that have appeared in multiple publications, including newspapers and magazines, across his home country of Canada. In addition, his writing has also appeared in other publications in the United States and New Zealand. His short story writing is prolific as well with his stories appearing in Canada in Canadian Stories and Downhome Magazine.

Mike introduced three books to the Veterans, featured below. He spoke particularly about *A Capital Mystery*, mainly because all of the short stories are written by Ottawa authors AND all of the stories take place in and around Ottawa, AND, one of the featured authors is Veteran and ODVA member Joanne White.

Mike also introduced the latest book of the Sgt. Windflower series, number 16, *Friends are Forever*. The Sgt. Windflower Mystery Series came from a desire to "write stories that reflected the people, culture and customs of Newfoundland, the most easterly province in Canada." That is where Martin was born and he says the character of Sgt. Winston Windflower came out of the fog one night and started telling him stories that he turned into his books. In the series, there are of course crime and mysteries that Sgt. Windflower, a Canadian Mountie, has to investigate and solve, but Martin says that the series is much more about family, friends, good food and good times.

While reminiscing about his childhood days in Newfoundland, he reflected on what Christmas was like in the 60s as he introduced the third holiday tales collection, *Christmas in Newfoundland 3*. Christmas is a time to celebrate, but also reminisce and remember, hopefully pleasant memories to share with family during the holidays and throughout the year.



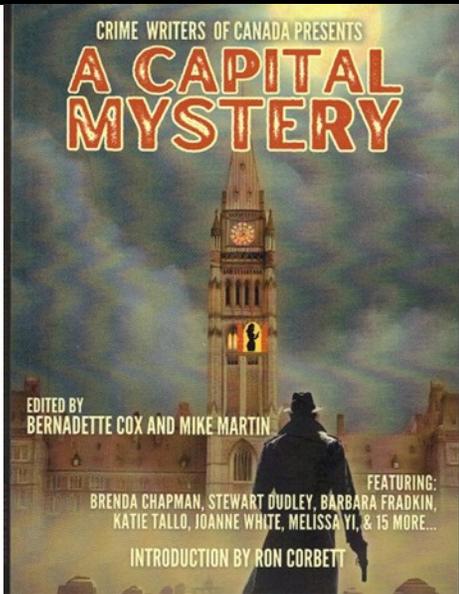
La soirée RGM / AGM de la division, qui s'est tenue le 9 décembre 2025, a accueilli comme conférencier invité l'auteur primé Mike Martin, un auteur canadien connu pour avoir écrit la série de livres Sgt Windflower Mystery. Il est également l'auteur de *Change the Things You Can : Dealing with Difficult People*. En plus d'écrire des livres, M. Martin est un rédacteur pigiste de longue date et a rédigé des articles et des essais qui ont été publiés dans plusieurs publications, notamment des journaux et

des magazines, dans son pays natal, le Canada. De plus, ses écrits ont également été publiés dans d'autres publications aux États-Unis et en Nouvelle-Zélande. Il est également un auteur prolifique de nouvelles, dont certaines ont été publiées au Canada dans Canadian Stories et Downhome Magazine.

Mike a présenté trois livres aux anciens combattants, tous présentés ci-dessous. Il a particulièrement insisté sur *A Capital Mystery*, principalement parce que toutes les nouvelles sont écrites par des auteurs d'Ottawa, que toutes les histoires se déroulent à Ottawa et dans ses environs, et que l'une des auteures présentées est Joanne White, ancienne combattante et membre de l'ODVA.

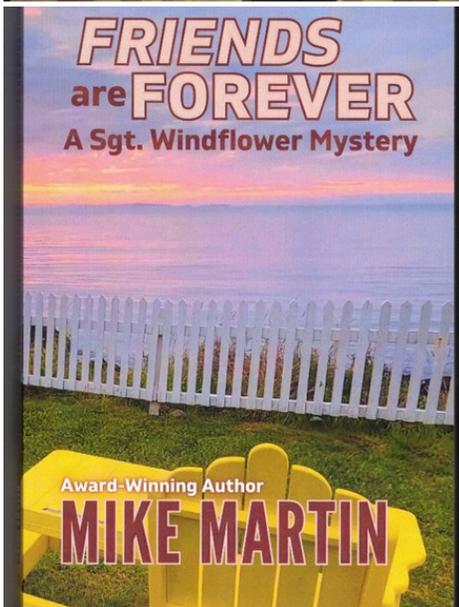
Mike a également présenté le dernier livre de la série Sgt Windflower, le numéro 16, *Friends are Forever*. La série Sgt Windflower Mystery est née du désir « d'écrire des histoires qui reflètent les gens, la culture et les coutumes de Terre-Neuve, la province la plus à l'est du Canada ». C'est là que Martin est né et il raconte que le personnage du sergent Winston Windflower est sorti du brouillard une nuit et a commencé à lui raconter des histoires qu'il a ensuite transformées en livres. Dans la série, il y a bien sûr des crimes et des mystères que le sergent Windflower, un policier canadien, doit enquêter et résoudre, mais Martin dit que la série parle beaucoup plus de la famille, des amis, de la bonne cuisine et des bons moments.

Tout en se remémorant son enfance à Terre-Neuve, il a évoqué ce qu'était Noël dans les années '60, alors qu'il présentait le troisième recueil de contes de Noël, *Christmas in Newfoundland 3*. Noël est un moment de fête, mais aussi de souvenirs et de reminiscences, des souvenirs agréables, espérons-le, à partager avec la famille pendant les fêtes et tout au long de l'année.



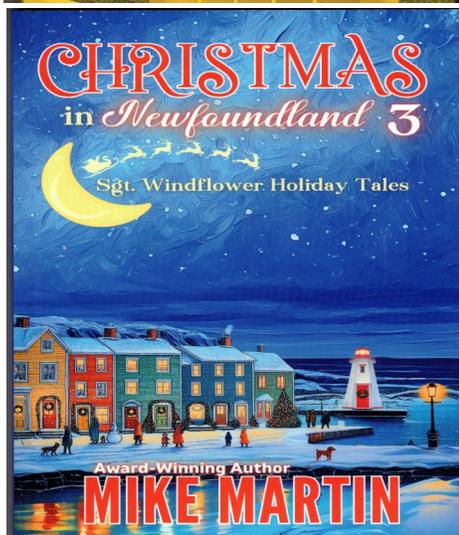
A Capital Mystery is a book that celebrates the magic, history and most of all – mystery—that is Ottawa. Edited by Bernadette Cox and Mike Martin. Some of these twenty-one (21) mysteries, are set in modern times, some reach all the way back to Bytown, Ottawa’s original settlement. But what each story features – whatever the setting -- is a crime that will leave you wondering, or leave you shocked, or maybe, awake at night pondering if you should read one more. Check out page 263, **The Greely Widow’s Secret**, a short story by Joanne White. Available / disponible on / sur [Amazon.ca](https://www.amazon.ca)

A Capital Mystery est un livre qui célèbre la magie, l'histoire et surtout le mystère qui entourent Ottawa. Sous la direction de Bernadette Cox et Mike Martin. Certaines de ces énigmes, toutes les vingt et une (21), se déroulent à l'époque moderne, d'autres remontent à Bytown, la colonie d'origine d'Ottawa. Mais chaque histoire, quel que soit le cadre, met en scène un crime qui vous laissera perplexe, vous choquera ou vous empêchera peut-être de dormir, à vous demander si vous devriez en lire une autre. Découvrez à la page 263, **The Greely Widow’s Secret**, une nouvelle de Joanne White.



Friends are Forever, By Mike Martin: In Book 16 of the Sgt. Windflower Mystery series, bestselling author Mike Martin returns readers to the beloved, fog-kissed coast of Newfoundland and Labrador, where the bonds of family, friendship, and community are as strong as ever. But even in the coziest corners of Grand Bank, danger can creep in like the tide. Whether you're a longtime fan or meeting Sgt. Windflower for the first time, you'll be swept up in a mystery rich with charm, warmth, por' cakes, movie nights, and the unmistakable magic of a lighthouse that's long overdue for a facelift. **“Be prepared to be charmed by Windflower, a food-loving sergeant who could possibly be Canada’s most polite Mountie.”** — *Halifax Chronicle-Herald* Available / disponible on/sur [Amazon.ca](https://www.amazon.ca)

Friends are Forever (Les amis sont éternels) Par Mike Martin : Dans le 16e tome de la série policière Sgt. Windflower Mystery, l'auteur à succès Mike Martin ramène ses lecteurs sur la côte brumeuse et tant appréciée de Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador, où les liens familiaux, amicaux et communautaires sont plus forts que jamais. Mais même dans les coins les plus accueillants de Grand Bank, le danger peut s'insinuer comme la marée. Que vous soyez un fan de longue date ou que vous découvriez le sergent Windflower pour la première fois, vous serez emporté par un mystère riche en charme, en chaleur, en por' cakes, en soirées cinéma et en la magie incomparable d'un phare qui aurait bien besoin d'être rénové. **« Préparez-vous à être charmé par Windflower, un sergent amateur de bonne chère qui pourrait bien être le policier à cheval le plus poli du Canada. »** — *Halifax Chronicle-Herald*



Christmas in Newfoundland: Sgt. Windflower Holiday Tales By Mike Martin: Christmas in Newfoundland: Sgt. Windflower Holiday Tales is the third book in the Sgt. Windflower Christmas collection. Christmas in Newfoundland Vols. 1 and 2 are available from fine bookstores and always online from Amazon in Canada, the United States and all over the world. Available / disponible on /sur [Amazon.ca](https://www.amazon.ca)

Christmas in Newfoundland: Sgt. Windflower Holiday Tales Par Mike Martin : Noël à Terre-Neuve : Contes de Noël du sergent Windflower est le troisième ouvrage de la collection Noël du sergent Windflower. Les volumes 1 et 2 de Noël à Terre-Neuve sont disponibles dans les bonnes librairies et en ligne sur Amazon au Canada, aux États-Unis et dans le monde entier.



THE SPIRIT



LAST POST - DERNIÈRE SONNERIE

Reg / Service #	Surname	Given Names	Age	Date of Death	Place of Death
33072	DUPUIS	Guy Rejean Joseph	73	January 4, 2025	Moncton, NB
39362	HAMELIN	Alfred Cory	61	February 26, 2025	Nelson, BC
30555	ARENDT	Edward T.	75	July 15, 2025	Calgary, AB
21698	CASSAN	William John	85	September 4, 2025	Salmon Arm, BC
C/3378	BATES	Norma J.	72	September 23, 2025	Revelstoke, BC
25954	FRASER	Dale Malcolm	78	October 15, 2025	Parksville, BC
18644	CLARK	Robert C.	90	October 22, 2025	Red Deer. AB
24225	HILTZ	David	90	October 23, 2025	Ottawa, ON
21846 / O.1142	BRIGGS	Gary George	85	November 1, 2025	Vancouver, BC
27041 / O.1667	McLEOD	George Stewart	79	November 4, 2025	Penticton, BC
21974 / O.1216	WILCOX	Stanley George	84	November 5, 2025	Mission, BC
23523	CHEYNE	David	81	November 8, 2025	Calgary, AB
20681	CHIZECK	Karel Venci	87	November 9, 2025	Victoria, BC
C/2042	SKIRDA	Margaret Ann	71	November 9, 2025	Surrey, BC
28355	MOSS	Clifford J.	74	November 12, 2025	Gibson, BC
54562 (DWS)	HEBERT	Raymond Martin	45	November 13, 2025	Kamloops, BC
22753 / O.1470	RICHARD	Joseph Michel André	82	November 15, 2025	Gatineau, QC
S/2569	McKENZIE	Keith Kenneth	78	November 15, 2025	Yorkton, SK
25208	SMILLIE	Edwin Stewart	78	November 16, 2025	Sherwood Park, AB
37403	BETTESWORTH	David Wayne	64	November 17, 2025	Swan River, MB
27099	McCANN	Thomas L.	78	November 17, 2025	Ladysmith, BC
25646	PRESTON	Robert David	78	November 18, 2025	Edmonton, AB
34447	FENTON	John Henry	78	November 18, 2025	Red Deer. AB



THE SPIRIT



LAST POST - DERNIÈRE SONNERIE

Reg / Service #	Surname	Given Names	Age	Date of Death	Place of Death
20030	CLAVELLE	James Douglas	86	November 18, 2025	Calgary, AB
35755	PARKER	Lorne Edward	71	November 18, 2025	Jinan, PRC
31937	PARENT	Marcel J.M.	77	November 18, 2025	Boucherville, QC
17422 / O.989	ZINCK	Raymond George	92	November 20, 2025	Dartmouth, NS
21481	INNES	James	83	November 21, 2025	Red Deer. AB
44199	LaPRISE	Terrance Harvey	56	November 23, 2025	Saskatoon, SK
30071	BARKHOUSE	Ian Andrew	76	November 24, 2025	Halifax, NS
C/3612	BOUDREAU	Alexandre	82	25 novembre 2025	Gatineau, QC
C/1452	COLLINSON	Bryon Allen	78	November 25, 2025	Swift Current, SK
19648 / O.851	SEBASTIEN	John	88	November 25, 2025	Peachland, BC
42877	SMITH	Felix	67	November 29, 2025	Baddeck, NS
22446	HEINTZ	Ronald Larry	84	November 30, 2025	Calgary, AB
20555	WEBSTER	David Ross	89	December 1, 2025	Kelowna, BC
28370	DONALD	David Arthur	79	December 2, 2025	Bridgewater, NS
20827	BARTON	James Carson	85	December 4, 2025	Windsor, ON
18536	BROWN	Allan Graham	92	December 4, 2025	Strathmore, AB
21316	HARRIES	Eric Byron	86	December 4, 2025	Vernon, BC
44587	WUTTUNEE	Camille Joslyn	64	December 5, 2025	North Battleford, SK
21399	HOLDEN	Norman Kenneth	90	December 5, 2025	Ottawa, ON
21369	McDONALD	Dallas	85	December 5, 2025	Red Deer. AB
23377	BASS	Garry Allan	81	December 5, 2025	Nanaimo, BC
Aux Constable	GERO	Samuel Howard	95	December 10, 2025	Antigonish, NS
20641	BELYEA	Kenneth Edwin	86	December 10, 2025	Warman, SK
22123	SCHMALZ	Leslie Arthur	83	December 12, 2025	Calgary, AB
15528	RUSSELL	Hugh John	97	December 13, 2025	Medicine Hat, AB
21516	HAMILTON	Lloyd Garry	83	December 15, 2025	Yorkton, SK



THE SPIRIT



LAST POST - DERNIÈRE SONNERIE

Reg / Service #	Surname	Given Names	Age	Date of Death	Place of Death
19779	BROOKER	Robert Joseph	89	December 15, 2025	Winnipeg, MB
32143	MATHER	Wayne Robert	72	December 15, 2025	Victoria, BC
22057	PAYNE	Roger A.	84	December 15, 2025	Delta, BC
Noticed of Passing	ALBRECHT	Harvey, MD	85	December 17, 2025	Edmonton, AB
27373	BELL	Terry R.	77	December 18, 2025	Georgian Bay, ON
35142	DIBBLEE	Matthew Brent	68	December 18, 2025	Maple Ridge, BC
16955	ELLIOTT	Herbert Ronald	95	December 18, 2025	Port Coquitlam, BC
19859	FLATLA	Larry Harold	88	December 19, 2025	Salmon Arm, BC
16677 / O.837	FULLERTON	Thomas R.	93	December 19, 2025	Courtenay, BC
44912	PHILLIPS (Née	Susan Marie	60	December 20, 2025	Fenwick, ON
S/553	CORNEAU	Aldoria	90	December 21, 2025	Hull, QC
40606	MILONAS	Paul James	67	December 23, 2025	Ottawa, ON
20755	ARNASON	Stefan Allan	86	December 23, 2025	St. Albert, AB
24168	ARNOLD	Brenton William	80	December 24, 2025	New Zion, NB
C/2912	TOFFOLI	Thomas Lawrence	87	December 24, 2025	North Bay, ON
25369	PIKE	Kenneth	78	December 25, 2025	St. John's, NL
C/3030	BATCHELOR	Bryon Douglas	77	December 30, 2025	Selkirk, MB
S/242	IDLOUT	Paul	90	December 31, 2025	Iqaluit, NT
23844	HINTON	John Kelsey	82	January 1, 2026	Yarmouth, NS
Aux Constable	CARVIEL	Gordon Ross	95	January 3, 2026	Kelowna, BC
18970	FOSTER	Miles Earle	89	January 4, 2026	Charlottetown, PE
20850	MAJOR	Stephen Michael	89	January 4, 2026	Langton, ON
15090 / O.697	TREFRY	Edward Harding	99	January 6, 2026	Lake Country, BC



THE SPIRIT



LAST POST - DERNIÈRE SONNERIE

Reg / Service #	Surname	Given Names	Age	Date of Death	Place of Death
28453	WORSTER	John Alexander	78	January 6, 2026	Carlsbad, CA
50792 (DWS)	GIBLIN	Amber Michelle	50	January 7, 2026	Kitchener, ON
18036	HOPPS	Harry	96	January 9, 2026	Orleans, ON
32112	LAKUSTA	Michael	79	January 9, 2026	St. Paul, AB
24915	VALIN	Marc Joseph E. June Doreen (Née Bolley)	78	10 janvier 2026	St-Jacques-le-Mineur, QC
Second Man	COUTTS	(Née Bolley)	93	January 12, 2026	Calgary, AB
20639	PECKHAM	Ralph	87	January 14, 2026	Ottawa, ON
18652	LOUNSBURY	James Earl	93	January 15, 2026	Saskatoon, SK
ME	SCHUTTLER	Elizabeth		January 17, 2026	Spruce Grove, AB
30094 / O.1706	BÉRUBÉ	Gavin Joseph Jacques	73	19 janvier 2026	Gatineau, QC
26491	GIBSON	Edward Michael	79	January 21, 2026	Kelowna, BC
44034	PORTER	William James Sean	59	January 21, 2026	St. John's, NL
41617	VACCARO	Luigi Marjorie May (Née Eggleston)	71	January 22, 2026	Laval, PQ
Second Man	OSTRUM	(Née Eggleston)	92	January 23, 2026	Regina, SK
19865	BLANCHARD	Michel	92	25 janvier 2026	St-Lambert, QC
26617	ROCKWELL	Glen "Rocky"	78	January 28, 2026	Cloverdale, BC
30771	NASTIUK	John Allen	72	January 29, 2026	Edmonton, AB
15970	EWASHKO	John	97	January 30, 2026	St. Boniface, MB
C/2647	WILLIAMS	Cynthia "Cindy" Marie	73	February 1, 2026	St. John's, NL
22102	HOBAN	Thomas Lewis	84	February 5, 2026	Miramichi, NB



Membre civile C/0079 Jean Isabel Blaney (née Gilmore) anciennement Geldart. - Beechwood, Section 23, TG46, Gr 2.

La membre civile (MC) Jean Isabel Blaney est né le 29 décembre 1921 à St. Stephen, au Nouveau-Brunswick. Geldart a servi dans l'Aviation royale canadienne de décembre 1942 à mars 1946. Elle a ensuite joint GRC le 11 novembre 1951 et fut promue en tant que MC le 24 janvier 1961. Basée au quartier général, Mme Geldart

s'est dévouée à la GRC en tant que MC jusqu'à sa retraite en 1981. La membre civile Jean Isabel Blaney est décédée le 11 février 2006.

Civilian Member C/0079 Kean Isabel Blaney (née Gilmore) formerly Geldart—Beechwood, Section 23, TG 46, Grave 2.

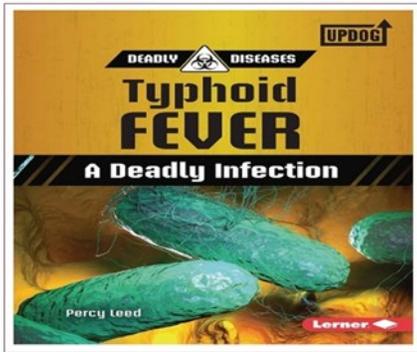
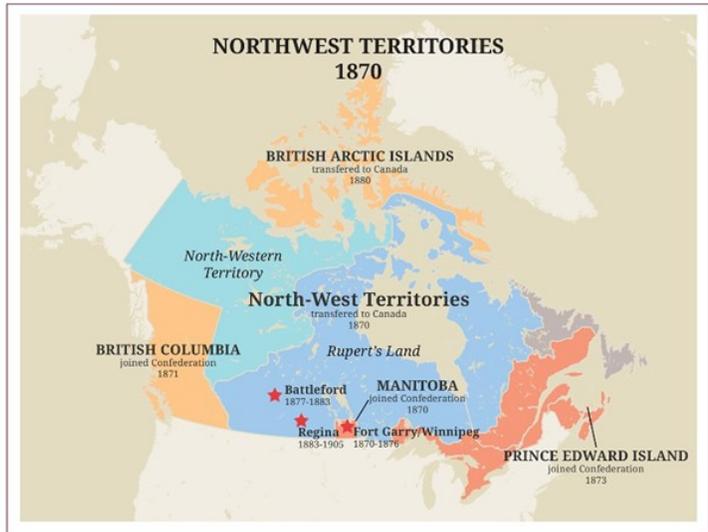
Civilian Member Jean Isabel Blaney was born on December 29th, 1921 in St. Stephen, NB. Geldart served with the Royal Canadian Air Force from December 1942- March 1946. She then joined the RCMP on November 11th, 1951, then was promoted to CM on January 24th, 1961. Working out of 'HQ', Geldart dedicated herself to the Force as a CM until her retirement in 1981. Civilian Member Jean Isabel Blaney died on February 11th, 2006.



Dangers and Tragedies of the Early NWMP

by J. J. Healy

In early Canada, the North-West Mounted Police (NWMP) faced extraordinary dangers during their formative years beginning in 1873, and many young police officers paid the ultimate price in service to the developing nation. Established by Prime Minister Sir John A. Macdonald to maintain law and order in the newly acquired western territories, the NWMP was tasked with policing vast, unforgiving lands with minimal resources. The harsh realities of frontier policing in the late 19th century led to numerous tragic deaths among these pioneering lawmen.



Medical care was primitive, and access to doctors was extremely limited on the Canadian frontier. Outbreaks of typhoid fever at several NWMP posts claimed multiple lives. Before the March West even began, Reg.#o57, F. B. Marshall, Reg.#o176, Sub-Constable W. C. Brown, and Reg.#o309, Sub-Constable McIntosh all died of typhoid at Dufferin, Manitoba. Although they lie in unmarked graves, a commemorative monument was erected in their memory. Reg.#o364, Constable Godfrey Parks became one of the first casualties of the March West. After months of hardship, Parks contracted typhoid fever while traveling through the Sweet Grass Hills. He had been drinking contaminated water and was ill-equipped for the journey across the unforgiving prairie. He died two weeks later, shortly after "F" Division Troop reached Fort MacLeod.

The unforgiving Canadian wilderness claimed many NWMP lives as officers patrolled vast territories in all weather conditions. During the historic March West of 1874 and in subsequent years, officers faced extreme temperatures, with some succumbing to hypothermia during brutal winter patrols when temperatures frequently dropped below -40°C. One particularly tragic example occurred on December 25, 1874, when two police officers on annual leave, Reg.#o247, Constable Frank Baxter and Reg.#o228, Constable Thomas Wilson, were en route to Fort MacLeod from Fort Kipp when they were caught in a blizzard. Both men suffered severe frostbite and died as a result, their Christmas Day journey turning into a fatal struggle against nature's fury. Frank Baxter was only 19 years old.



The daily duties of policing the frontier carried inherent risks that claimed officers' lives in various ways. Many officers died from falls, kicks, or being thrown from horses. Reg.#o272, Constable Robert Sherlock Tute, was one such casualty. A Winnipeg Free Press item from January 13, 1875, reported that he fell from his horse and subsequently died from brain fever.



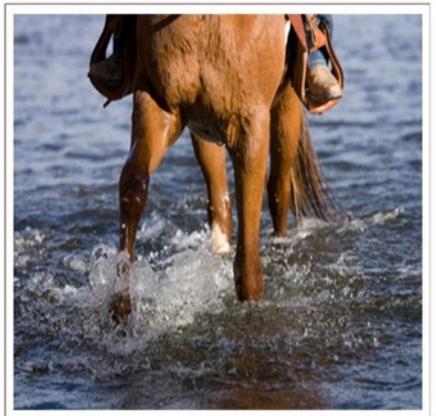
In March 1876, Reg.#o135, Sub-Constable John D. Nash was hauling logs with a team of horses for the construction of buildings at Fort MacLeod. Riding atop the load, Nash was about 10 kilometers from the Fort when, while descending a hill, the load spilled and he was fatally crushed by falling logs. Although Constable Nash had not yet completed the full three years required to qualify, a Land Warrant was nevertheless granted in his name and given to his mother in Halifax, Nova Scotia. John Nash was 27 years old.



Transportation accidents claimed the lives of officers both during and after their service. After leaving the NWMP in 1877, Reg.#o335, Sub-Constable John Boyd returned to Simcoe, Ontario, where he worked as an Assistant Railway Agent. He was killed in an accident by a train at the age of 26. Similarly, in 1879, Reg.#o74, Constable Wilmot German was struck and killed by a train while still serving with the Force.

While the NWMP generally maintained better relations with Indigenous peoples than their American counterparts, violence was still a reality. Manhunts for dangerous criminals sometimes ended in fatal shootouts. In 1879, Reg.#335, Constable Marmaduke Graburn was shot and murdered by a person or persons unknown while on duty near Fort Walsh, Northwest Territories. He was 19 years old. A monument to him stands in the RCMP National Memorial Cemetery in Beechwood Cemetery, Ottawa, Ontario.

River crossings proved especially treacherous for the Mounted Police, particularly during spring floods, and several police officers drowned while attempting to ford swollen waterways. In early 1877, Reg.#o409, Sub-Constable George Mahoney drowned when crossing the Red Deer River on patrol from Battleford to Fort Walsh, Northwest Territories. His body was never recovered, denying his family and colleagues the closure of a proper burial.



The Winnipeg Free Press of March 13th and 14th, 1878, contains a report of an unfortunate occurrence involving Reg.#o107, Constable Joseph Leondias Beaulieu. He was crossing the Red River on foot from Winnipeg to St. Boniface when he fell through the ice and drowned. According to a news item at the end of March, his body had not yet been recovered. Joseph Beaulieu was 28 years old.

Reg.#o181, Constable Claudius S. Hooley's story represents one of the most thoroughly documented drowning tragedies in early NWMP history. After failing to ford the Belly River the day before, teamster Sub-Constable Hooley urged his three companions — Inspector C. E. Denny and Constables Norman (Norrie) MacLeod and Alfred Stewart — to skip breakfast and attempt to get the team of horses and their wagon across the river so they could proceed on to Fort MacLeod. Halfway across the river, the horses were caught by the strong current and began to move downriver. As the wagon followed, Hooley's companions recognized the danger and jumped from the wagon and swam to shore. When the horses and wagon were hit with the full force of the current, the wagon began floating away. As his companions watched helplessly on shore, Hooley, a non-swimmer, frantically clung to the wagon as it overturned and dragged him and the team underwater. The overturned wagon and dead horses were found further down the river, but Constable Hooley's body was not recovered for over a month when it was found 12 miles downstream. He was buried with full honors at Union Cemetery at Fort MacLeod.



SPIRIT

LAST POST - DERNIÈRE SONNERIE



The sacrifice of these early NWMP officers laid the foundation for what would eventually become the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). Their willingness to face these dangers helped establish Canadian sovereignty in the West and created the legendary reputation of steadfast service that continues today.

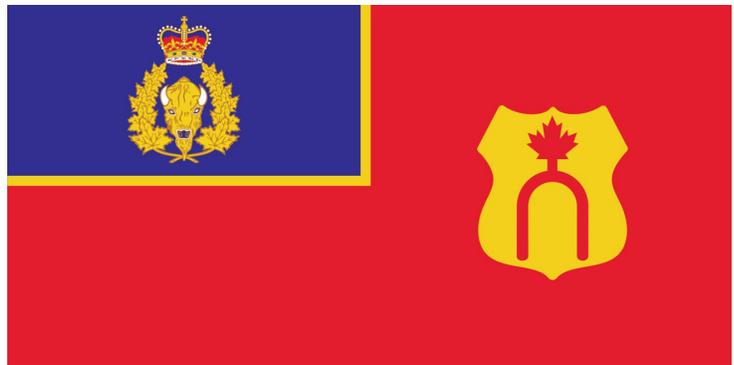
These tragedies also led to important improvements in police procedures and equipment. Following numerous drownings, the NWMP began implementing better safety measures for river crossings, including the construction of bridges at frequently traveled points. Medical protocols improved as well, with more emphasis placed on proper sanitation in NWMP posts to prevent typhoid outbreaks.



Today, the RCMP honors these early fallen officers through memorials, museums, and annual ceremonies that ensure their sacrifices are remembered by new generations of Canadians. The RCMP National Grave Discovery Database was created in 2001 to find, photograph, inspect and care for all RCMP graves and memorials.

The dangers faced by these pioneering lawmen helped forge the RCMP's enduring values of courage, perseverance, and dedication to duty in even the most challenging circumstances.

This story is dedicated to the honour of the first police officers who ventured into the Canadian western frontier. The data for this narrative was gleaned from rcmpgraves.com. The photographs used in this piece were taken from Google.ca. The narrative structure, grammar, and readability were enhanced with assistance from AI language model (Anthropic's Claude).



This story can be found at [here](#), or at [RCMP Vet of the Month: May, 2025](#)



COFFEE TIME / LES P'TITS CAFÉS

For the information of the members in the National Capital Region, here are the updated dates and times for various Breakfast /Lunch Clubs. Hope you all enjoy the meetings. À titre d'information des membres de la région de la capitale nationale, voici les dates et heures mises à jour pour les différents clubs de petits-déjeuners/déjeuners. J'espère que vous apprécierez tous les rendez-vous.

PERTH: The Perth Veterans are happy to inform everyone that their monthly breakfast is back. With a new management team, **The Perth Restaurant (23 Gore Street East)** will once again be hosting all former employees of the RCMP and their families on the **first Wednesday of every month** at 09:00 for a hearty breakfast. / Les Vétérans de Perth ont le plaisir de vous informer que leur petit déjeuner mensuel est de retour. La nouvelle administration du Perth Restaurant (au **23 rue Gore E.**) accueillera à nouveau tous les employés retraités de la GRC et leurs familles **le premier mercredi de chaque mois** à 9 h pour un petit déjeuner copieux. **Contact:** Michel Saurette at/à michel.saurette@hotmail.com

OTTAWA EAST: Second Monday of the month at 07:45 am; fourth Monday of the month at 09:00 am; Gabriel Pizza Restaurant, 2160 St Joseph Blvd, Orleans, ON.

OTTAWA EST: Deuxième lundi du mois à 07h45 ; quatrième lundi du mois à 09h00 ; Gabriel Pizza Restaurant, 2160 St Joseph Blvd, Orleans, ON.

Contact: Sig Sigurdson at/à eastenders@sympatico.ca

OTTAWA CENTRAL: Every other Wednesday starting May 25, 2022, 07:30 am, Stacked Smoked Meat and Grill, 2679 Bank Street, Ottawa, ON.

CENTRE D'OTTAWA: Tous les deux mercredis à partir du 25 mai 2022, 07h30, Stacked Smoked Meat and Grill, 2679 rue Bank, Ottawa, ON.

Contact: Brent MacDonald at/à brent.macdonald@rogers.com

OTTAWA WEST: Second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 10:00 am, Busters Bar and Grill, 420 Hazeldean Rd, Kanata, ON.

OTTAWA OUEST: Deuxième et quatrième mercredi de chaque mois à 10 h, Busters Bar and Grill, 420 Hazeldean Rd, Kanata, ON.

Contact: Bill Sandzuik (613) 828-8329

KEMPTVILLE: Fourth Tuesday of each month at 08:00 / Le quatrième mardi de chaque mois à 08h00 chez Hard Stones Grill, 2727 County Road 43, Kemptville, ON.

Contact: Luisa Russo-Lemay at ottawa.vp1@rcmpva.org

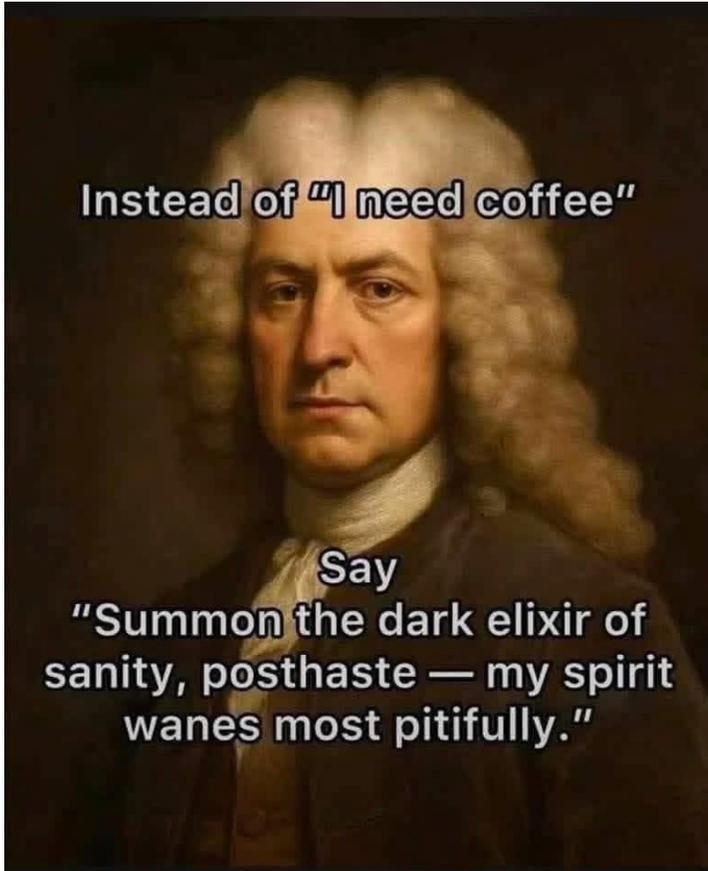
LES BONS VIVANTS DE GATINEAU: Retirees luncheon: At 11:30 a.m. last Thursday of every month at La Cage aux Sports, 325, blvd. Gréber, Gatineau, QC

Déjeuner des retraités : À 11 h 30, le dernier jeudi de chaque mois, à La Cage aux Sports, 325, boul. Gréber, Gatineau, QC

Contact: Michel Beland at/à meraille@videotron.ca

Important Phone Numbers and Website Links

- Ottawa Division: Assist as part of a pool of Peer Support Volunteers for Operational Stress Injury (VSOSI/ SOSI program. / Assister en tant que bénévole dans le cadre d'un groupe de soutien par les pairs pour le programme de Soutien-blessures de stress opérationnel des vétérans (« VSOSI / SOSI») : Paul Woods: 613-720-1335; paul.w.vsosi@gmail.com.
- RCMP Veterans' National Association: <https://rcmpva.org>. 1-877-251-1771 (Toll Free)
- Veterans Affairs (VAC) My VAC Account: http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/e_services and 1-866-522-2122 / Anciens Combattants Canada Mon dossier ACC = <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/fra/endirect/> 1-866-522-2122
- Veterans Affairs Liaison Officers: (1) Graeme Shaw – Sgt. Retired; RCMP Liaison Officer with Veterans Affairs Canada; National Compensation Services, RCMP; (902) 388-7592; graeme.shaw@rcmp-grc.gc.ca or graeme.shaw@veterans.gc.ca (2) Sgt. Clay Wortman; RCMP Liaison Officer to VAC; Agent de liaison de la GRC à ACC; Phone/Tél. (902) 397-2597; clay.wortman@rcmp-grc.gc.ca or clay.wortman@veterans.gc.ca
- Group Life and Disability Insurance (replaces Morneau Shepell) 1-877-778-8084 or <https://fp.seb-admin.com/fpconnect/#/rcmp-grc>
- Public Works Government Services Canada - PWGSC - Pension Administration: 1-855-502-7090
- Old Age Security (OAS) /Pension de la Sécurité de vieillesse & Canada Pension Plan (CPP)/Régime de Pensions du Canada: 1-800-277-9914
- Public Service Health Care Plan: Canada Life: 1-855-415-4414/ <https://welcome.canadalife.com/pshcp>; Public Service Health Care Plan, Dental Benefit: <http://www.pshcp.ca/coverage/extendedhealth-provision/dental>
- Sun Life Financial (Claims): Phone: 1-888-757-7427 or 613-247-5100 (National Capital Region)
- Service Canada: <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/portfolio/service-canada.html>; 1-800-622-6232
- Canada Revenue Agency/Agence du Revenu du Canada 1-800-959-8281
- Employment Insurance/Assurance-employ/Social Insurance/Numéro d'assurance sociale: 1-800-206-7218
- Immigration & Citizenship/ Immigration et citoyenneté/Canada 1-888-242-2100
- Passport Canada/Passeport Canadiens: 1-800-567-6868
- Service Ontario: 1-800-267-1234
- Ontario Disability Support Program/ Programme ontarien de soutien aux personnes handicapées: 1-800-267-5111
- Family Responsibility Office/ Bureau des obligations familiales: 1-800-267-7263
- Francophone Affairs/Ministère des affaires francophone: 1-800-268-7507
- Consumer Protection Ontario/Protection du consommateur de l'Ontario: 1-800-889-9763
- Drive Test Ontario/Test au Volant: 1-800-489-845



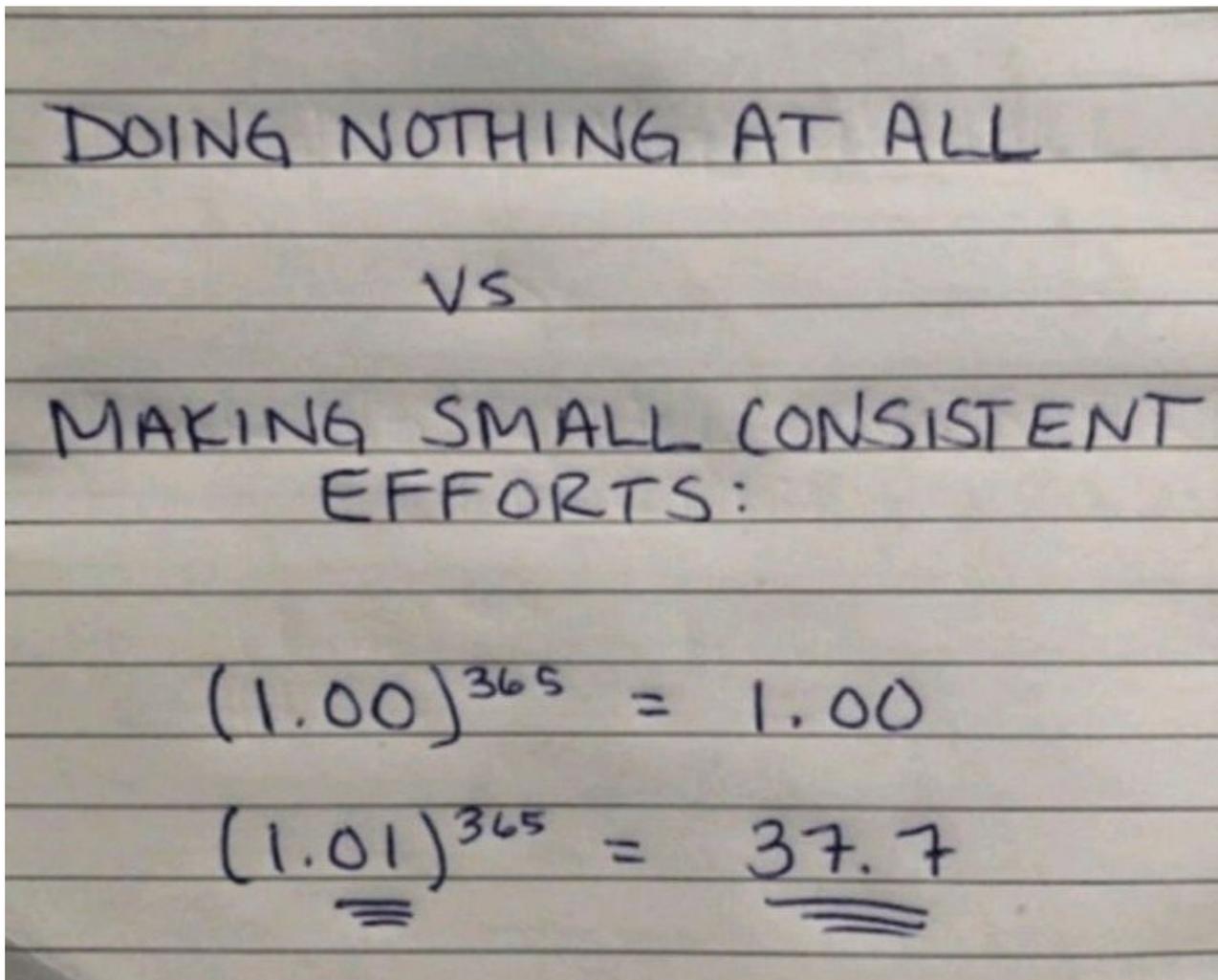
Instead of "I need coffee"

Say
"Summon the dark elixir of
sanity, posthaste — my spirit
waned most pitifully."

Courtesy of Terry Penney,
Occupational Health and
Safety Professional

newprint™





Perhaps this is LESS “Doing nothing at all vs small consistent effort”, and MORE “Doing what your required to do vs Doing a little bit extra”

[Ed]

En reconnaissance de votre service courageux

Le Cimetière commémoratif national de la GRC reconnaît de façon unique le courage de tous les membres de la GRC et de leurs familles qui servent ensemble pour protéger notre pays.

Les préarrangements offrent à votre famille la sécurité qu'elle mérite. Laissez Beechwood vous aider à planifier maintenant. Réservez dès aujourd'hui votre rendez-vous sans engagement avec le cimetière Beechwood.



280. Avenue Beechwood, Ottawa - 613-741-9530 - www.beechwoodottawa.ca

Propriété de la Foundation du cimetière Beechwood et administré par La Société du cimetière



Recognizing the courage of your service

The RCMP National Memorial Cemetery uniquely recognizes the courage of all RCMP members and their families who serve alongside each other protecting our country.

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280 Beechwood, Ottawa 613-741-9530 www.beechwoodottawa.ca

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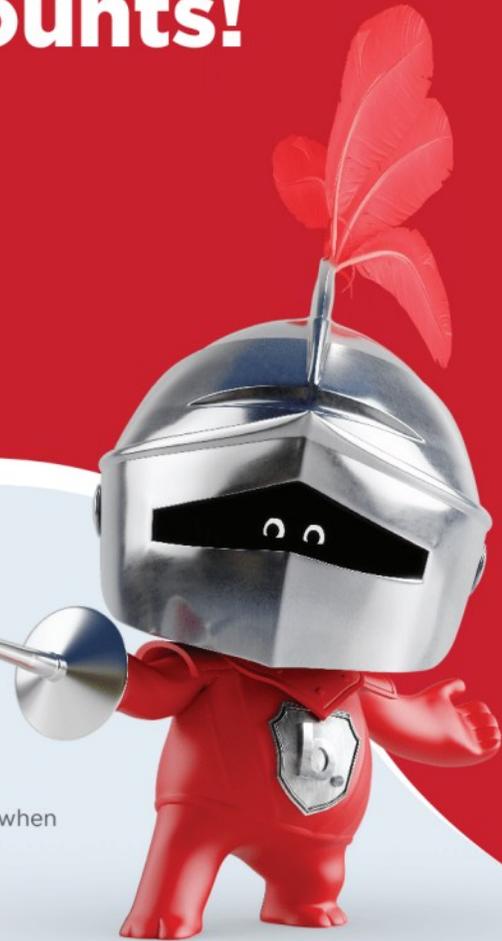
WINTER / HIVER 2026

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*Eligible family members include spouses and children under 25 that are residing with the Member, or attending an educational institution on a full-time basis.