

The

Fall 2023

Newsletter of the



Beret



The **BLUE** *Beret* Fall 2023

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COVER PHOTO

Front Cover || CPVA leads the commemoration ceremony at the National War Monument in Ottawa on 29 May 2023. Photo courtesy Veterans Affairs Canada.

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THE CANADIAN PEACEKEEPING VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1991 by Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans, the Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association (CPVA) is a national, democratic, apolitical, non-profit, Veterans-only organization open to all Veterans. [More on page 22.](#)



CPVA Veterans' Week Representation



Project PK75 has certainly increased our visibility as an association this year, and with that, the number of invitations to various Veterans Week events has increased considerably. While living in Kingston has somewhat limited the events I can attend, I am out as much as possible to get CPVA seen and heard.

First Poppy

As is usually the case, the [First Poppy](#) event at Rideau Hall started off the season. Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon is presented the first poppy of the year by senior Royal Canadian Legion representatives, then she presents poppies to those representatives and moves on to a group of assembled Veterans. This Governor General took the time to speak with each Veteran along the line and, at the reception afterwards, did not leave the room until the last of the Veterans had departed.

Here is the text of her remarks:

Welcome, all of you, to Rideau Hall. I would like to acknowledge that we are gathered on the unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinabe people who have lived on and cared for this land for thousands of years.

As Governor General and Commander-in-Chief, I'm honoured to host the launch of the National Poppy Campaign. Every year, from the end of October until Remembrance Day, our country is full of vibrant red poppies. It is a sign of respect. It is a signal that we will listen to the stories of veterans, reflect on their service, and carry their stories with us, wherever we go.

With this poppy, we honour the sacrifice of those who served, of those who are serving today, and of those who never made it home. We know that the cost of war is enormous. So many lives over time have been lost to fighting. Canadians have been killed in two World Wars, the Korean War, Afghanistan, and in countries around the world. It is a terrible thought.

It is important that all Canadians, especially young Canadians, learn the stories of our veterans. When we listen to our history, we learn lessons from the past—we learn about the path that led us to war and conflict. And in learning from history, we can avoid those same steps... we can foster peace.

It can begin simply, with a poppy pinned proudly over your heart. It can begin by scanning the poppy with your phone and reading the anecdotes presented through the "Poppy Stories" initiative. I commend the Royal Canadian Legion for their innovative efforts to reach more Canadians and to commemorate the lives of our heroes... our veterans.

And to all those veterans with us today, and to veterans across the country, and to every serving member, I want to say how proud I am, for all that you have done for our country. Whether at home or abroad, whether in times of war or peace, whether you have served during the pandemic in a long-term care home or helped communities recover after a climate disaster, you have been there for us. We can do no less than be there for you after you have served our nation, to support you with your physical and mental health, and with your quality of life. That is what the National Poppy Campaign is all about.

The Remembrance period offers so many ways to remember, and so many ways to give thanks.

I'm honoured to receive the first poppy. I'm honoured to present poppies today to veterans. And I'm honoured to have with us young people, who we are entrusting with these stories. I encourage Canadians, not just today but every day, to remember and to honour and support our veterans. Thank you.

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PHOTO CREDITS

Page 1 || Photos from the First Poppy Ceremony at Rideau Hall, Ottawa, 20 October 2023. Photo: Office of the Governor General.

Personal Visit

Next up was a very quiet event at a local nursing home in Kingston where I visited a former Base Chief Warrant Officer now in declining health, to share stories of our UN deployments and time in uniform. I was able to present him with the poppy I received at the First Poppy ceremony in Ottawa, along with one of the CPVA PK75 coins we minted this year. I was told by the family later on that the visit meant a lot to all of them, and that he cherished that poppy.



Senate administration sent invitations to several peacekeeping organizations, including the CPVA, to be present at this ceremony. CPVA representatives included: Donald MacPherson (President CPVA, military, UNDOF, UNPROFOR), John Leech (military, UNEF II), Shelagh Stevens (military, MFO, UNTAG, UNPROFOR, UNHQ, civilian, ONUCI), Greg Munz (military, UNFICYP), Stephen Diblee (RCMP, MINUSTAH, EUCAP - MALI), Lee-Anne Quinn (military, UNPROFOR, UNISOM), Karen Breec (military, UNDOF), and Geordie Elms (military, UNFICYP, UNTSO, UNGOMAP, UNPROFOR).

While the Senate of Canada is undergoing extensive renovations, the temporary Senate of Canada Building is a government building and former railway station that was, from 1912 to 1966 known as the Ottawa Union Station. From 1966 to 2018, the building was operated by the Government of Canada as the Government Conference Centre and it now houses the temporary Senate chamber.

Even though temporary, the Senate chambers served as a majestic setting for the Ceremony of Remembrance Programme which included representatives

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Senate Remembrance Service

Several members of CPVA were invited to the Remembrance service put on by the Senate of Canada in their chambers on 3 November 2023. One of those members was Shelagh Stevens, who provided the following report:

On Friday 3 November at the Senate's 24th Ceremony of Remembrance, the focus was on the annual recognition of the service of Canadian veterans and also to commemorate the 75th anniversary of United Nations peacekeeping. The United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) was formed in 1948, which then heralded 75 years and more of UN peacekeeping. And Canadians were there from the beginning. Therefore, the



PHOTO CREDITS

Page 2 || Photos courtesy Bruce Ndayizeye and Karen Breec.

Veterans' Week, Continued from page 2

from the Senate, House of Commons, Veterans, current military, indigenous (Algonquin), youth, Ottawa Children's Choir, piper, bugler, and the Central Band of the Canadian Armed Forces. From the programme, a description of the wreath is included: "The ceremonial wreath is composed of white orchids symbolizing the gallantry of service and sacrifice of Canada's military men and women. The cluster of red roses, in the heart position, symbolizes the eternal respect and thanks of a grateful Canada."

At the beginning of the programme appears: "In the Service of peace. 2023 marks the 75th anniversary of the United Nations peacekeeping. Canada has a long history of helping defend and maintain peace around the world. More than 125,000 Canadian Armed Forces members have served in international peacekeeping efforts in dozens of countries. We recognize and remember their courage, service, and sacrifice."

After the ceremony, a reception was held. Some CPVA members were able to have a group shot with Senator Rebecca Patterson (above, herself a military peacekeeping veteran with service in UNISOM).

Lest we forget.



Indigenous Veterans Receptions

With the demise of the federal ballroom facility in the West Block, the government created a new venue inside the former Bank of Montreal Ottawa Main Branch building at 144 Wellington Street (pictured above). It was here that the Honourable Anita Vendenbeld, Member of Parliament for Ottawa West—Nepean (and CPVA member), and Ms Hélène Cayer of the Anishanaabe Algonquin Nation held their annual reception to honour Indigenous Veterans and peacekeepers on the evening of 7 November 2023.

This was a wonderful evening of drums and songs, along with personal stories of Veterans long past. I was privileged to

be standing next to an Indigenous woman who knew many of the Veterans depicted in the slide show, and shared many of their stories.

Also attending was Kelly Willis, CPVA member and member of the RCMP who is often seen holding the Eagle Staff at various events around Ottawa, including our own PK75 commemoration on 29 May, and with me at the Service Women's Aspire and Inspire event in Ottawa on 13 October.

On the next night, 8 November, the Canadian Aboriginal Veterans and Serving Members Association hosted their annual dinner and dance at the Westin Hotel. Invited each year are representatives from many Veterans groups and other organizations that work with CAV throughout the year. An excellent opportunity to meet new people and introduce them to CPVA, the evening was held in the top floor Twenty-Two venue with a spectacular view of downtown Ottawa.

National Remembrance Service



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PHOTO CREDITS

Page 3 || Photos courtesy Donald MacPherson.



Veterans' Week, *Continued from page 3*

As I've done for a few years now, was privileged to lay the CPVA wreath at the National War Memorial in Ottawa on Remembrance Day. While I have participated in many November 11 ceremonies over the years, I do note the difference when attending the national ceremony.

It begins with arriving about an hour early to gain access to the site through the security gates. The heavy police presence, both on the street and on over-watch from the tops of surrounding buildings, along with cement barriers and dump trucks blocking street access, are testament to the times we're living in.

From inside the security perimeter, though, I get to see first-hand not only the effort that goes into making this a ceremony worthy of national attention, but also the rapt attention paid by the public on the street. As shown above, the crowds are gathered many rows deep along the fencing to witness this event. While there are a few large screens around the area for viewing the event, most people are only able to catch glimpses of the activities as they progress. Yet still they come every year.

It's a large ceremony, as you can imagine, so after the VIPs have been individually announced and placed their wreaths, the other various organizations, individuals and diplomatic representatives, all approach the monument to lay their own wreath and move out of the way of those who follow. It's more efficient than you might suspect, with dozens of wreaths finding their place within a rather short time.



This year, I took a few behind-the-scenes photos to give you some perspective, showing representatives of the various Veterans groups assembling with their wreaths (above, left), and my view from the assembly area to the left of the monument (above, right).

After the march off and laying my poppy at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, I made my way to the Chateau Laurier which puts on a wonderful brunch each year for Veterans. The hot shepherd's pie and soup are so very welcome after standing outside in the cold for two hours.

I will also note that the people of Ottawa seem very accommodating to Veterans on this day, judging by the number who took a moment out of their day to comment or say thanks as I walked through the Rideau Centre to my vehicle.

For all these events, I hope that I am doing CPVA proud, and that I am representing the membership to the best of my ability. **BB**

PHOTO CREDITS

Page 4 || Photos courtesy Donald MacPherson.

Remembrance Day in Miramichi



The Remembrance Ceremony, hosted by the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #10, held at the Newcastle Civic Centre on Saturday, 11 November 2023 was an outstanding success and everyone involved deserves a very big thank you.

The link to the 117 photos of the event taken by Peter Gadd is shown under Photo Credits at the bottom of this page. Peter has been doing this service at many significant events in the Miramichi area for a long time. He has a capability for capturing the soul of the activity with his natural, unposed photos which is a genuine gift to those who took part. I have already thanked Peter privately and do it once again here. Thank you very sincerely Peter.

The biggest contributor to the event was the City of Miramichi. City staff, particularly Community Wellness and Recreation and Public Works Departments were involved in every aspect of the event especially the use of the Civic and Lindon Centres, set-up and tear-down of the parade area, provision of materials and equipment and even including His Worship, the Mayor Adam Lordon, being the Guest Speaker.

Groups that participated in the parade were: Legionnaires, Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association and other Veterans, 4th Artillery Regiment (GS) from CFB Gagetown, North Shore (NB) Regiment, Miramichi Police Department, Miramichi Fire Department, 315 RC Air Cadet Squadron (with the Band, parade contingent and wreath escorts), the Scout/Guides and the program's junior members.



Individual participants and contributors were so many I have made the below list but probably have missed someone:

- Reviewing Officer: Korean War Veteran Allison Furlotte
- Guest Speaker: His Worship, the Mayor of Miramichi, Adam Lordon
- Chaplain: Reverend Thomas Nisbett
- Memorial Cross Representative: Mrs. Georgie Matheson
- Master of Ceremonies: Comrade Tony (Bucket) Walsh
- Parade Commander: Captain Victor Richard, North Shore (NB) Regt
- Deputy Parade Commander: Master Warrant Officer Yves Martel, North Shore (NB) Regt
- Colour Party Commander: Comrade Terry Scott, Legion Branch #90
- Cenotaph Guard Commander: North Shore (NB) Regt
- Wreath Laying Controller: Captain Cédric Arseneau, 405 Long Range Patrol Squadron
- Music: Susan Butler and David Bunnell
- Marching Band: 315 RC Air Cadet Band

Of course, a very essential component of the Ceremony was made up of the organizational and individual wreath-layers who very directly represented the commemoration of our fallen heroes.

To all who took part, please accept my very heartfelt thank you on behalf of Legion Branch #10 for honouring those who made the ultimate sacrifice of giving their lives on our behalf. **BB**

PHOTO CREDITS

Page 5 || Photos courtesy Peter Gadd (<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjB34cJ>).



CPVA Commemorates the 75th Anniversary of Peacekeeping

The year 2023 marked two peacekeeping milestones — the 75th anniversary of the first United Nations (UN) peacekeeping operation (UNTSO), and the 35th anniversary of the Nobel Peace Prize for UN Peacekeepers. To commemorate those who lost their lives in the furtherance of Canada's peacekeeping goals, CPVA hosted an event at the National War Memorial in Ottawa on 29 May 2023.

The Commemoration Event

On a beautiful and sunny day in Ottawa, past and present military, police and civilian members of various peacekeeping operations gathered to commemorate those 140 Canadians who lost their lives in pursuit of our goal of peace (the complete list of fatalities is now available on-line at <https://pk75.ca/en/pk75-anthology/fatalities>). CPVA hosted this commemoration along with an educational presentation afterwards in the Shaw Centre, with gracious support from [Veterans Affairs Canada](#) and the [United Nations Association in Canada](#). Lawrence MacAulay, then-Minister of Veterans Affairs Canada, attended and spoke at the service

At the commemoration, CPVA National President Donald MacPherson delivered the following speech on our reasons for gathering:

Unlike the two world wars, when virtually everyone in Canada knew a friend, neighbour, or family member who was killed or died, when we commemorate our fallen Peacekeepers, many of us may find it far more difficult to personalize our thoughts and prayers.

After all, of the more than 130,000 military, police, and civilian peacekeepers who left home to deploy for months or years on dangerous peacekeeping missions abroad, the deaths of 140 of them, spread out over the past 75 years, may not seem like a very large number. But to those of us who knew

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them, those of us who lost friends and comrades, any number is too large, and the feeling of personal loss will never disappear.

And of course it would be much, much worse for the families of those who died, and no well-meaning expressions of condolence will ever ease their pain and suffering. Some families will wonder why their beloved husband or wife, son or daughter, father or mother, was in that far away land in the first place, and in their grief and suffering would quite rightly demand to know why it was so important for Canadian peacekeepers to be there.

Unfortunately, clear and meaningful answers are not so easy to find. However, from the perspective of many of the peacekeeping veterans you see before you on parade today, we can only tell you that we have often seen the tremendous good that can come from peacekeeping in war-torn and conflict affected regions. That good is not always measured in achievement of lofty strategic-level goals and ambitions, but for many of us, it may be measured in small, incremental, and more personal ways.

It might be the satisfaction of seeing farmers fields made safe by the removal of land mines, or roads opened, or bridges constructed, all to allow farmers to harvest their crops and make their way to a village market to sell their wares, sometimes for the first time in many years.

Personal satisfaction might come from visiting an elderly couple who finally feel safe and secure enough to return to their ancestral home because the fighters who threatened them — for no reason other than their ethnicity — are no longer a threat.

Or—and this happens often wherever Canadian peacekeepers are found—success can be measured by the smiles on the faces of young orphans

who now have a roof over their heads, fresh water to drink and food in their bellies, clothes to wear, and even toys that have been handmade by unknown family members of the peacekeepers who come from a far-off land named Canada.

We peacekeepers have witnessed the worst of what conflict can inflict, but have also been privileged to help bring peace, stability, and humanity to the innocent. We volunteered to serve our own country so that our families can live in peace, and we can think of no endeavour more honorable and more satisfying than helping others less fortunate to achieve the same for their families, regardless of what country they inhabit.

It is, therefore, our greatest hope that the families of those 136 Canadian Peacekeepers who died due to sickness or accident, or who were killed as a result of a malicious act, can find some measure of comfort in knowing that their loved ones believed in what they were doing, and were probably heartened by their own individual measures of success that they witnessed around them as a direct result of their own, individual peacekeeping services.



The Education Event

At the educational event at the Shaw Centre later that afternoon, hosted by our own Bob Chaloux and Jane Boissonneault (who also have their stories included in our Peacekeeping Anthology),

Donald MacPherson again delivered comments about the event:

On this very special day of 29 May, recognized every year around the world as the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers, we of the Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association welcome you to a celebration of 75 years of United Nations Peacekeeping.

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So, in partnership with Veterans Affairs Canada and the United Nations Association in Canada, and with the tremendous support provided by the International Police Peacekeeping and Peace Operations program of the RCMP, today we hope to shed some light on this proud Canadian heritage by offering this afternoon of multi-generational activities and exhibits. At the end of the day, we hope you will have learned a bit more about peacekeeping than you did when you arrived. We also hope you will have some fun and will take advantage of the opportunity to meet peacekeepers and hear their stories.

But as important as it is to shine that light on peacekeepers today, CPVA has found a way to reach a much broader audience through creation of a peacekeeping anthology containing the individual biographies, photos, and peacekeeping anecdotes of more than 100 Canadian peacekeepers from across Canada. The anthology will be distributed freely to schools throughout Canada to provide teachers with an additional, on-line resource for their students to consider Canada's National Day of Peacekeeping, Veterans Week, Aboriginal Veterans Day, and Remembrance Day, and will offer students an opportunity to experience peacekeeping through the eyes of individual Canadian Peacekeepers.

The Anthology is our way of saying thank you to all 130,000 Canadian peacekeepers, to celebrate their achievements, to understand their frustrations, and to share their pride in their personal and individual contributions towards world peace. Ladies and gentlemen, we are happy you are with us today to witness the Anthology's unveiling, to take place in just a few minutes.



Behind-the-Scenes

This endeavour took an enormous amount of work to produce, led by CPVA's Special Advisor—Peacekeeping, Greg Mitchell. Greg started this project in 2020 and worked diligently making this happen, from conception to inception, from fundraising to fact-finding. To put the actual size of this project in perspective, the annual budget of the CPVA national office is about \$1,500, but the PK75 project cost just under \$45,000!

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PK75 Commemoration, Continued from page 7

This morning at the National War Memorial, the Minister of Veterans Affairs led Canadians in a commemoration service to honour the sacrifice of the 140 Canadian Peacekeepers — Military, RCMP, Police Services, and Civilians — who died or were killed while serving abroad on peacekeeping missions over the past 75 years. Having so honoured those whom we lost, this afternoon we now turn our attention towards celebrating the amazing contributions Canada has made to world peace, through the deployment of more than 130,000 of its citizens as Canadian Peacekeepers serving on virtually every United Nations mission, from Egypt to Mali. Many Canadians also saw peacekeeping service outside of the United Nations construct, with multinational organizations such as the European Union, the African Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the Multinational Force and Observers.

This is a record of which Canada can rightly be proud — and indeed they are, for in poll after poll, year after year, Canadians rank peacekeeping as one of the most important roles for our military and police, and they steadfastly take pride in knowing that Canada is well represented on the international stage. They are confident that our peacekeepers go about their daily work, accomplish their mission with determination and skill, and without fanfare, for quiet professionalism is a hallmark of Canadian peacekeepers. Despite the solid level of support, however, most Canadians know very little about the real work that peacekeepers do, or what they sacrifice, contribute, and achieve in their time on mission.





PK75 Commemoration, *Continued from page 8*

Greg sourced two \$10,000 grants from VAC, one for translation and the other for seminar development and production. Greg also found us a \$15,000 grant from the Royal Alberta United Services Institute to put towards the project. CPVA national office also contributed \$8,000 towards the event, mostly for gifting (commemorative coins and artwork) to participants and VIPs, but it appears we'll make around \$2,000 of this back from sales of surplus coins.

Aside from the event itself, we put great effort into the signature piece of our commemoration, the anthology of peacekeeper's stories (<https://pk75.ca/en/>). Currently containing about 110 stories from military, civilian and police members of various peacekeeping roles, we're continuing to add and tweak the project until years-end. Additionally, we've created and found educational resources and videos related to peacekeeping. The site even provides ways to sort the stories by mission or home town, and provides a way to contact those contributors should local schools want to hear their stories in person.

In particular, recorded presentations for educators are provided on our site for the following topics:

- Introduction to United Nations & Canadian Peacekeeping;
- Diverse Experiences in Peacekeeping—Women, LGBTQ, and Indigenous Peacekeepers;
- Integrated approaches—Military, Police, and Civilian Peacekeepers;
- Canadian Peacekeepers Around the World;
- Special Issues: Protection of Civilians and Child Soldiers;
- Canadian Peacekeepers in Africa;

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PK75 Commemoration, *Continued from page 9*

- Canadian Peacekeepers in the Middle East;
- Canadian Peacekeepers in Europe;
- Canadian Peacekeepers in the Americas; and
- Canadian Peacekeepers in Asia.

Perhaps most crucially, CPVA has researched Canadian peacekeeping fatalities since 1950 to create the most accurate and comprehensive list possible. This [list is available](#) on our PK75 website.



Greg was also responsible for reaching out to artist [Silvia Pecota](#) about designing a logo for PK75 that would be suitable for on-line, print, and specialty item production. The result, shown above, would be the focus of many of the gifting products produced for our events.

The logo featured prominently on our commemorative challenge coin (pictured on previous page), and on a lapel pin produced by our sister Peacekeeping organization, CAVUNP, as I'm shown (opposite column) wearing while presenting the RCMP representatives with their commemorative glass plate.

Also included here is a photo of long-time CPVA executive, Ray Kokkonen, presenting another of the glass plates to the [Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick](#), The Honourable Brenda L. Murphy, ONB.

Again, Greg was the lead in soliciting these stories and collecting all of the information. Donald MacPherson, being a retired graphic designer, was able to begin the design work to create and layout the anthology, before handing the project over to a paid designer to continue the work of both the anthology and the accompanying website.



In recognition of Greg's work, the CPVA National Executive at our 2023 Annual General Meeting, announced that we had modified the description of the Outstanding Service Award to include our own members, just so we could make this award to Greg. Well done!! **BB**



PHOTO CREDITS

All photos except the last were taken in Ottawa on 29 May 2023.
 Page 6 || Top: RCMP-GRC. (2023-05-29-75TH UNPK-199-MC.jpg)
 Bottom: Veterans Affairs Canada. (CNW_05 29 23_VAC_Peacekeeping_077.jpg)
 Page 7 || Top left: Richard Lawrence. (_Z9B2186.jpg)
 Top right: Cpl St-Cyr, CFSG(O-G) Imaging Section (20230529SUP0618D005.jpg)
 Bottom: Veterans Affairs Canada. (CNW_05 29 23_VAC_Peacekeeping_006.jpg)
 Page 8 || Top: RCMP-GRC. (2023-05-29-75TH UNPK-289-MC.jpg)
 Bottom left: RCMP-GRC. (2023-05-29-75TH UNPK-259-MC.jpg)
 Bottom right: RCMP-GRC. (DSC_1970)
 Page 9 || Top: Veterans Affairs Canada. (CNW_05 29 23_VAC_Peacekeeping_045.jpg)
 Bottom: CPVA
 Page 10|| All photos: CPVA

CPVA 2023 Annual General Meeting

This year has certainly been unprecedented for our Association, with Project PK75 keeping us fully engaged at the national level. Our Patron, Larry Gollner, offering sage advice while our Special Advisor—Peacekeeping, Greg Mitchell, was working diligently to find funding and organize the anthology and commemoration events. Our President, Donald MacPherson, spent countless hours in a dark room at a computer to work on the anthology and our Website. Our Treasurer and Membership Director, Ray Kokkonen, found himself handling tens of thousands of dollars and more than a hundred free two-year membership to contributors to the anthology.

With all this going on, and the commemoration event looming at the National War Memorial on 29 May, the Executive took the unusual step of delaying our Annual General Meeting for 2023, generally held in mid-May. Instead, with PK75 activity levels down to a slow burn and the summer behind us, our AGM was held by video-conference on 15 October 2023.

Nine members of CPVA from across the country attended the AGM, with the Chapter Presidents representing their respective members. No unusual issues arose other than the budget for the national office. Normally operating at a little under \$1,500 annually, we were maintaining that level of spending while also dealing with an additional \$35,000 in grants for PK75. Being so late in the year, the decision was made to forego a budget for the current year, resuming normal operations for FY 2024-25.

With Project PK75 wrapping up at the end of this calendar year, we expect to have precise reporting and a normal budget in time for the 2024 AGM currently planned for 26 May 2024.

At the same time, we cleaned up the list of appointed officers and directors, eliminating positions no longer required, including the Service Officer, Regional Director, and Honours and Awards Chair positions that have existed only in name for many years now.

The largest item dealt with during the AGM was the adoption of a new [Constitution and By-Laws](#), which passed by vote at the meeting. Our Executive had been working for a couple of years to update the old constitution to include various amendments adopted at AGMs over the years, and include language more consistent with federal guidelines. We also removed the stipulation that the National President could only serve two consecutive terms.



Elections were a quick affair, with our Vice President, Tim Sparling, and Second Vice President, David Hyman, both ending their terms and deciding to stand back from representation. Both have served CPVA very well over the years as our voice in the National Capital, but have decided it was time. I personally thank them both for their guidance to me and their service to the Association, and have arranged for both to stay on as Special Advisors without portfolio so I might continue to consult them on occasion for their wise counsel.

There was no nominations for Secretary, so that position remains vacant. Now subject to the new Constitution and By-Laws, I was able to stand for my third term as President with no other nominations received. Ray Kokkonen offered to continue his service as both Treasurer and Membership Director.

On a high note, the Executive changed the description of the Outstanding Service Award just a bit. While it had been envisioned to recognize the service of an individual or organization outside of CPVA, we felt there was good reason to open it up to our own members. With that change implemented, we then awarded the Outstanding Service Award to our own Greg Mitchell for his dynamic and highly successful work on Project PK75, without which it would not possibly have been as successful as it has been. Great work, Greg!

Finally, let me just say how much I enjoy the trust CPVA has put in me these past four years. I've worked hard to get us invited to many of the Veterans-community events held annually in Ottawa, where we are now standing with such major players as the Royal Canadian Legion and the Army, Navy, and Air Force Veterans in Canada on many issues. I've gone from simply attending the National Remembrance Ceremony on November 11 to this year having six other meetings and events in Ottawa in the days and weeks leading up to Remembrance Day. Over the next year, I will be working with Canadian Association of Veterans of United Nations Peacekeeping to mark the 50th anniversary of the downing of Buffalo 461 by Syrian missiles in 1974, still the largest single-incident loss of life in Canadian peacekeeping operations.

Again, thank you for your continued membership and activism with CPVA. You matter to us, and you're helping our work with—and for—Canadian Veterans. **BB**

Peacekeepers' Day in Miramichi



The event held on 5 August 2023 in Miramichi was a huge success in every respect.

Everyone taking part in the 9 August National Peacekeepers' Day event agrees that we were very fortunate, privileged and honoured by Her Honour, the Lieutenant Governor, gracing our activity with her presence. It certainly made a very big difference for the event and for our community. I have sent our sincere thanks to the Lieutenant Governor for her kindness in having taken the time from her very demanding schedule to be with us in Miramichi.



I was very impressed by Her Honour's thoughtfulness in going to visit the kitchen staff and thanking them. The staff appreciated that very much.

The turnout was excellent with 43 veterans and law enforcement people in parade related activities and 72 people at the luncheon.

I want to express our sincere thanks to Legion Branch #3 for their unstinting help and cooperation in making the event happen. The food and service were outstanding and the lunch hall was prepared and decorated very appropriately. I also want

to thank the Chapter members who so willingly gave their time and effort to make the event the best we have had. In particular, I want to thank Ed and Helene Oursien for the huge and important workload they took on both with the parade and lunch. Thank you also to Kelly MacKnight, our Communications Director, for her thorough and time consuming work in advertising the event and encouraging members to attend, as well as purchasing gifts for the Vice Regal couple. As well, thank you to Paul Matheson for his distributing of pins and coins and ensuring a smooth reception at the lunch. Ellis Savoie was surprised just before the parade by being appointed the Commander of the Veterans Troop but despite the suddenness of the appointment, carried out the task very professionally.

Of course, thank you to Mel McGraw for being our Chapter Photographer as always, and the Flag Party and everyone who took part in the parade and/or the luncheon – the turn-out was impressive.

Carolyn Wishart, Secretary of the CPVA Southern New Brunswick Chapter, came for the event to be the Acting ADC for the Lieutenant Governor and that is much appreciated.

A link to photos of the event by the best photographer I know in the area, Peter Gadd, is provided in the Photo Credits at the bottom of the next page. He is a former high school principal, Peter Gadd, who does photography as a hobby but obviously at a professional level. The online collection even has a couple of video clips and access to more photos by clicking on them. **BB**

A Community Remembers

11 November 2023

I had the privilege of attending the Hammonds Plains-Upper Hammonds Plains-Lucasville Remembrance Day ceremony today on the traditional “11th Month, 11th Day, 11th Hour” at the Hammonds Plains Cenotaph. I have attended Remembrance Day/Remembrance Sunday ceremonies around the world: Glace Bay, Wolfville, Royal Artillery Park Halifax, Bedford, Dartmouth in Nova Scotia; Base Lahr, West Germany; Base Petawawa, National War Memorial and Royal Canadian Artillery Memorial, Ottawa, Toronto, Base Trenton, Quinte West, and Frankford in Ontario; Base Gagetown, Fredericton, and Mactaquac, New Brunswick; Sonaguera, Colon, Honduras; Base Chilliwack, British Columbia; RAF St. Magwan in the United Kingdom (in a sleet storm so vicious that the Grade 4 Piper’s pipes squealed); Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (during a UN tour); and at shortly after dawn at the Commonwealth Graves Cemetery in Djibouti City, Djibouti due to the Al Shabab/Al-Qaeda terrorist threat to avoid being there at “the 11th Hour.” I have seen many, many variations on a theme with numerous nations — and today I was impressed.

Our mixed rural, suburban, and very dispersed Community, has been through significant traumatic events in the past 15 months with COVID-19, Hurricane Fiona, the Fires of June 2023, and the Floods of July 2023. The organizing committee orchestrated a moving, inclusive ceremony which recognized the contributions of service women, the Indigenous Mi’kmaq Community, the local Lucasville Black Nova Scotian Community, and serving CAF members and Veterans. The formal parade was led by 3 Military Police Regiment, supported by 2632 Halifax-West Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps, and 250 Royal Canadian Air Cadet Corps. Our Member of Parliament, our Member of the (Provincial) Legislative Assembly, and our District 13 Councilor of the Halifax Regional Municipality attended as did senior leaders of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) Police Department and the HRM Fire and Emergency Services. Approximately 1000 Community members attended during a brisk, cold morning with occasional rain squalls. The ceremony began with thanks to the brave members of the First Responder Community which did so much in mitigating the effects of the devastating fires, floods, and hurricanes of the past year.

Ian MacVicar, CD, DSS
Member, CPVA



One of the most impressive aspects of the ceremony is the cenotaph (Memorial number 12005-013). Installed in 2006 and dedicated in 2016, the cenotaph’s design harkens back to the Canadian “Brooding Soldier” Memorial at Ypres, Belgium, which was erected following the First World War. The cenotaph also recognizes the contributions of the Canadian Army, the Royal Canadian Air Force, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Merchant Navy, and Allied Forces. There are huge stones along a path adorned with plaques which recognize Nova Scotian winners of the Victoria Cross, Canadian Peacekeepers in Cyprus, and the Merchant Navy. The circle around the cenotaph is adorned at ground level with the names of local people who have served in war, conflict, and peacekeeping. What makes this cenotaph truly unique is that there are time capsules around the cenotaph containing soil from Vimy Ridge, France; Juno Beach, France; RAF Station Perranporth; Kapyong, Korea; Camp Julian, Afghanistan; salt water from the Atlantic Ocean; and a medicine bag from the Mi’kmaq Community. “Lest We Forget” is displayed in English, French, and Mi’kmaq. The care and respect for all members of our Community for Veterans, past and present is evident. I feel proud to be a member of this Community. **BB**

PHOTO CREDITS

Page 12 || Photos courtesy Peter Gadd (<https://www.flickr.com/gp/pmgadd/ts9406VR55>)

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The Power of One

Like many Veterans, I notice the outpouring of public attention paid to Veterans in the last week of October and the first week of November. I am very sensitive to the dichotomy between the temporary sentimentality surrounding Remembrance Day and the long-term practical aspects of helping Veterans to feel fully integrated in society. I was disappointed by the very symbolic role I was asked to play by a local church on 5 November, and by the low turnout for the Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association's (CPVA) 75th Anniversary contribution for Canadian schools on 6 November. I was further disappointed by feedback from several teachers that they had not even heard of the CPVA initiative.

On Sunday 5 November, (with the minister's last-minute concurrence), I introduced the church's Role of Honour by encouraging the congregation to consider the individual people beyond the annual recitation of well-known Bedford family names by briefly holding up four of the varied hats that I had worn during my service and explaining their symbolic relation to my military service. When the Remembrance Day church service concluded, a lady who would have been a child during the Second World War commented, "I didn't realize that

you had such active service, Ian." Another gentleman, a generation younger asked, "How do people get killed in peacetime training?" I was somewhat surprised by both comments, and I thought to myself "What do they think the Armed Forces does?" This past week I had resigned myself to thinking that maybe this was as good as it gets, and that I shouldn't worry about it any further.

Saturday 11 November dawned cold but bright with a few scattered showers that cleared up just as the well-attended ceremony began. I was buoyed up by the thoughtful, inclusive ceremony organized by the Greater Hammonds Plains-Lucasville organizing committee (story on previous page), and by the wreathes surrounding the magnificent cenotaph that is modeled on the "Brooding Soldier" Cenotaph at the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery at Ypres, Belgium. The cenotaph is surrounded by time capsules which hold soil from Vimy Ridge; Juno Beach, Kapyong, Korea; RAF Station Perranporth, Camp Julien, Afghanistan; and hold a Mi'kmaq medicine bag filled with sacred herbs. I felt proud of my adopted community.

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Given that the Deerfield Pub at the nearby Glen Arbour Golf Course had advertised a Veteran's luncheon special, my wife and I decided to check it out after the ceremony concluded. The pub's Facebook ad had offered "50 percent off an 'appie' and a free drink" for service people in uniform or Veterans wearing medals." As we settled into our booth, we noticed a CAF member in uniform and his family a few tables away. Our server had to come back three times, with coffee, silverware, and menus. She wasn't aware of the Veterans special and said that she would have to ask her manager about it. When she returned, she said that the discount was 25 percent off, which was the standard discount. I thought to myself, "Here's reality." Nevertheless, I showed her the Facebook ad stating 50 percent, which she reported to her manager. When she returned, she said, "You are right, it's 50 percent off and you can order any of the appetizers."

The rest of the meal went off without a hitch, less my spilling some coffee, which she dealt with graciously with a few napkins and a courteous refill. As she leaned back with the coffee pot she said, "I hope you don't mind me asking, but could you tell me about your medals."

Taking this as an expression of sincere interest, I began to explain, starting from the closest inward and working outward:

"That's the Operational Service Medal for service as the only Canadian with the U.S. led Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa headquartered in Djibouti. Our enemy was Al-Shabab and Al Qaeda, just across the border with Somalia. The bar with the maple leaf signifies that I did a double tour;"

"The next one is the Special Service Medal, the top bar signifies my service commanding the Disaster Assistance Response Team Company, or DART, in Honduras, following the earthquake and tidal wave caused by Hurricane MITCH in 1998. I had to make some hard triage decisions on where the aid went, knowing that some people would die whatever decision I took. The bottom bar is for NATO service in Germany, at a time when tensions with the Warsaw Pact and with European terrorist groups were high."

"The green, blue, white, and red ribbon is holding the Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal, which is awarded to Canadian military and police members who serve on a recognized peacekeeping mission. I also served in Bosnia with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; which is not recognized despite my life being threatened three times in a week;"

"The next one with the blue, yellow, white, and green ribbon is the United Nations medal for the UN-African Union Mission in Darfur." When I got a puzzled look I asked, "Have you ever heard of Darfur?"

"No, she replied."

"Darfur is a province in northern Sudan. There has been a civil war there for almost 20 years, leading to what has been described as the biggest humanitarian crisis of the 21st Century. The climate change driven expansion of the Sahara Desert and the drying up of oases led to conflict between the cattle herders and the farmers over land and water. The Sudanese government supported the herders in a genocidal campaign to push out the farmers, resulting in the deaths of at least a quarter million people and the displacement of another 5 to 6 million people.

"Only a few Canadians have served there, and as far as I know I am the only one to have served a double tour in the mission—the "2" on the medal signifies a double tour. I have had lung problems due to being caught in sandstorms... a scarf is not enough... and being exposed to toxins from numerous burn pits in Ethiopia and Sudan. I take three lung drugs daily.



I didn't have enough food due to administrative problems between the United Nations and Canada.

"When I returned, I had lost 22 pounds, my jaw was weakened, and I had two teeth removed due to their brittleness. I had a further two root canals, one of which is failing and needs to be redone on Monday (two days later, 13 November 2023).

"The next one is the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, which I received for my contributions to Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear Defence in Canada and internationally.

The next one, the red one with the three gold bars, is the Canadian Forces Decoration. You receive it after 12 years for good conduct and you receive a bar every 10 years afterward

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if you don't get into further trouble."The three bars mean that I served for 42 years. (Which was probably twice her age.)

"The last one on the outside, with the blue, green and white ribbon is an American medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, which they presented me for my service in their fight against Al Shabab and Al Qaeda in Africa , and for their peace stabilization efforts in eastern Africa."



"The gold bar on my lapel is the Chief of Defence Staff's Commendation for my role in the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, an arms control treaty, for Canada; and the silver bar, the Deputy Chief's of the Defence Staff's Commendation recognizes my leadership of the DART Company in Honduras."

"Thank you for explaining, I'll be right back with the bill."When she returned it was our turn to be shocked... "No charge for the appetizer and your coffees are free. My Grand Opa, served in the Second World War in Holland, (she began, paused, and shakily added), "I was the only great-grandchild he ever got to hold."

At that point I had to choke back tears, my mind going immediately to my grandfather's and father-in-law's service in Holland, and how well I had always been treated in Holland when they saw a Canadian flag on my shoulder. I barely heard the rest of what

she said other than her Oma and her parents have continued to keep the memory of Great-Opa's service alive in their family.

I could barely keep my voice under control as I replied, "Thank you so much for asking about my service. It means a lot."

As we were walking up the stairs from the pub, I told my wife, "She flipped the script. I never expected that." We were silent, lost in our thoughts of the significance of the Day and of our hopes for the next generation as we walked across the parking lot to our vehicle.

This silence continued as we drove home, my wife said, "Her parent's raised her well." I replied, "I think that she will raise her kids well also."

As we drove home, I couldn't help but think how that young woman had totally flipped the script on our defensive, condescending biases through that simple sincere question, "Tell me about your medals."

If you really want to thank a Veteran, rather than a hurried "Thank you for your service," make the time for what can be sacred conversations in the middle of what appears to be a bustling and uncaring world by saying "Tell me about your service." **BB**

PHOTO CREDITS

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Across the Country, CPVA Remembers



Charles Cameron, Winnipeg, MB.



Sylvain Bouliane, Ecole Mathieu Martin, Dieppe, NB.



Claude Vadeboncoeur, Sutton, QC.



Remembrance Dinner Theatre and Song, Miramichi, NB.



A fine-looking group of Royal Canadians attending the Remembrance Day service at the St Albans Centre in Adolphustown, ON. Names left to right, Bill Peters (host), John Carlson, Graham Meharg, Joe Aitchison, Dave Nolan, Walter Holmes. All except John are Veterans of UN Peacekeeping operations.

PHOTO CREDITS

Page 17–19 || Photos courtesy of the contributors.



Hal Skaarup, Woodstock, NB 2023. My uncle, Cpl Harold Skaarup, 8th Canadian Hussars, died of wounds in Italy in 1944. His name is on the cenotaph just above me.



Greg Mitchell, Class of 74, and Naval Cadet, Class of 2024, RMC Kingston.



Gary Silliker & Larry Clifton, Mahone Bay, NS.



Dave Serduk & Lynda Bartel, Winnipeg, MB.



Larry Gollner, CPVA Patron and 2023 winner of the Veterans' Ombud Commendation, in Vancouver, BC.



Gendarmes GRC, Yvan Legendre, Jean-Guy Boulianne, Ormstown, QC.



From Left: Jessika Laplante (Enseignante), Louis Laplante (Veteran), Jo-Anne Lapointe (Aide-Enseignante et épouse de Louis), Barrie, ON. Huge turnout for attendance.

Class Action Settlement

About the Class Action

Each year, as required by the Pension Act, Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) calculates annual increases in monthly disability benefits to account for inflation. Through this certified class proceeding, Class Counsel has identified several errors in VAC's calculations. These alleged errors date back to 2002.

Class Counsel believes that hundreds of thousands of veterans and their surviving family members have been, and continue to be, underpaid each month. Class Counsel brought these errors to the Government of Canada's attention in October 2019. So far, Canada has not corrected the alleged errors for ongoing payments.

Class Counsel is calling on VAC to promptly resolve the miscalculation and compensate disabled veterans and their surviving family members for the past two decades of what Class Counsel believe are underpayments of benefits.

Class Counsel continue to work with the Canadian Department of Justice to facilitate documentary discovery, which will be conducted electronically. A judicial case conference is expected in the coming weeks to formalize a discovery timetable and discuss other procedural issues. Concurrent with discovery, Class Counsel are committed to settlement discussions, which we are hopeful will take place with the Department of Justice after Parliament resumes, and once Ministers are in receipt of their mandates.

Class Members

On 23 December 2020, the Federal Court certified the action as a class proceeding. The class is defined as:

All members and former members of the Canadian Armed Forces and Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and their spouses, common law partners, dependents, survivors, orphans, and any other individuals, including eligible estates of all such persons, who received – at any time between 2002 and the present – disability pensions, disability awards, and other benefits from Veterans Affairs Canada that were affected by the annual adjustment of the basic pension under section 75 of the Pension Act including, but not limited to, the awards and benefits listed at Schedule "A" of the certification order:

- Pension Act: pension for disability; pension for death; attendance allowance; allowance for wear and tear of clothing or for specially made apparel; and exceptional incapacity allowance;
- Veterans Well-being Act: disability award; and clothing allowance;

- Veterans Well-being Regulations: remuneration of an escort;
- Veterans Health Care Regulations: remuneration of an escort; and treatment allowance;
- Veterans Review and Appeal Board Act: compassionate award;
- Civilian War-related Benefits Act: war pensions and allowances for salt water fishers, overseas headquarters staff, and air raid precautions workers; and injury for remedial treatment of various persons and voluntary aid detachment (World War II);
- Children of Deceased Veterans Education Assistance Act: monthly allowance for education; and
- Flying Accidents Compensation Regulations: flying accidents compensation.

Settlement Press Release

A proposed agreement has been reached to resolve a certified class proceeding involving underpayment of certain disability pension benefits administered by Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC). The benefits were payable to members and former members of the Canadian Armed Forces and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and their survivors.

The Representative Plaintiffs brought the proceeding on behalf of over 330,000 class members who received the benefits. The central allegation is that the benefits were miscalculated and not properly indexed for inflation.

The proposed agreement provides that Class Members will receive a one-time payment of approximately 2% of the total amount of their affected benefits received between January 1, 2003 and December 31, 2023. The estimated value of the proposed agreement is at least \$435 million and up to \$817 million.

For the proposed agreement to become effective, it must be approved by the Federal Court. The settlement approval hearing is scheduled to be heard in Ottawa on December 18, 2023. If the settlement is approved, the parties will provide further notice to the Class Members.

The Representative Plaintiffs are Dennis Manuge, Raymond Toth, Betty Brousse, Brenton MacDonald, Jean-Francois Pelletier, and David White. Class Counsel are McInnes Cooper, Gowling WLG (Canada) LLP, Koskie Minsky LLP, Murphy Battista LLP, and Michel Drapeau Law Office.

The Final Agreement itself can be read on-line [here](#). **BB**

Office of the Veterans Ombud

Donald MacPherson
National President, CPVA



We have really outdone ourselves this year, and it shows! Donald MacPherson, National President CPVA, received a call from Nishika Jardine, the Veterans Ombud, to hear that we have received the [Veterans Ombud Commendation](#) for contribution by a national organization for 2023.

The commendation is issued annually to a national organization or group to recognize the exceptional work and significant contribution of that organization or group that have resulted in a long-lasting and positive impact on the well-being of Veterans and their families. At the time of this writing, arrangements are being made for a formal presentation of the award, but we have already received the physical award and the Ombud's coin.



to civilian life. Larry was our lead in the effort to establish the Office of the Veterans Ombudsman, and drafted the Veterans Bill of Rights while pushing for its adoption. CPVA's Outstanding Service Award was one of his proposals, along with VAC's 1-800 help line and the Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal.

Interestingly enough, we have a photo (below) showing Larry at the Governor General's First Poppy presentation in 2017 along with Ray Kokkonen, then-President CPVA, and Lou Cuppens, then-Special Advisor Advocacy. All were in Ottawa to attend the presentation of the Ombud Commendation to Lou that year. **BB**



As if that wasn't enough, our Patron, BGen Larry Gollner (Ret'd), OMM, CD, will also receive an Ombud Commendation for his own lifetime of contributions. Larry served 37 years in uniform with the PPCLI and shifted to helping Veterans in 1990 with the PPCLI Association and CPVA. As just one example, noting clearly poor support for 3 PPCLI after their deployment to Afghanistan, he led the establishment of the Voluntary Patricia Program (VPP), a Veterans-helping-Veterans program that still exists today.

As Colonel of the Regiment for the PPCLI from 2006 to 2010, he helped establish a Casualty Care Cell within the PPCLI to take care of the returning fatalities and wounded from Afghanistan, an arrangement so effective it would go on to be used throughout the CAF.

Larry worked in the formation of CPVA and has contributed to the cause ever since, working on our efforts to implement the New Veterans Charter and improve the transition from military



About the CPVA



The CPVA, founded in 1991, is a national, all Veteran, all volunteer, not-for-profit, apolitical organization with Chapters from Vancouver Island to St. John's, Newfoundland. It has its Headquarters in Kingston, Ontario, and is not funded by the Government in any way. Our Mission Statement is: "To be a strong and leading advocate for all Veterans and to provide a forum of comradeship for Veterans". The CPVA is a longstanding Veterans' organization, national in scope, which welcomes all Veterans of all generations, of all conflicts, men and women, regular or reserve, military or police, serving or retired, who participated in peace support, peace-keeping, anti-terrorist, or war operations, national and international, overseas or on the home front.

In addition to its long-term work for Veterans, which has produced substantial gains, CPVA has a number of notable organizational strengths such as an effective governance, democratic representation of all members and a nationwide communications network which reaches virtually all Veterans and a large portion of the CAF. As well, the CPVA has a bona fide behavioural sciences capability and component. Below is a summary of some of the Association's achievements and capabilities:

- CPVA's proposal in the late 1990's led to the establishment of the VAC-Canadian Forces Advisory Council, the first forum established by VAC to allow CAF (modern-day) Veterans organizations to participate equally at the table with the traditional Veterans organizations.
- CPVA, in its nearly twenty-five years of existence, has provided the Canadian Veterans community with focused, knowledgeable, innovative and cooperative leadership. This leadership has reached far beyond our own membership and has expressed itself in many ways, ways that have benefited all Canadian Veterans. The Veterans Bill of Rights, the Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal, the 1-800 VAC assistance line, the Veteran's Ombudsman, and the 9th of August National Peacekeepers' Day being just five achievements of such benefits. The CPVA has also made several appearances at the hearings of the House Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs to provide input about various Veterans issues.
- CPVA has consistently worked cooperatively, albeit without always being in agreement, with the Minister of Veterans Affairs and senior VAC staff, providing



CPVA President Donald MacPherson attending the Senate's Remembrance Ceremony at the Senate Chambers in Ottawa on 3 November 2023. Photo courtesy Bruce Ndayizeye.

them with innovative suggestions on a wide variety of topics. Topics such as a comprehensive method of validating VAC's statistics, rational and reasonable ideas on how to resolve the on-going issue of cash versus disability pension, and other ways to improve the NVC and VAC support to Veterans. The Association has always provided strong membership and leadership to numerous VAC committees, working and advisory groups, NVC regulatory discussions, and so on. At present, the CPVA is a member of the VAC Stakeholders Committee. CPVA, alone amongst Veterans associations, has taken the initiative to recognize the VAC staff for good support and service to Veterans with its outstanding national and regional service awards program.

- Working with other stakeholders, CPVA led the effort to commemorate and celebrate the 75th anniversary of peacekeeping in 2023, highlighted by a commemoration service at the National War Memorial on 29 May 2023.

CPVA's steady and active leadership to the Canadian Veterans community, while avoiding public confrontation with VAC, has earned it a reputation for being a straight-shooting Veterans organization that has a proven and recognized capacity to reach far beyond its own membership to influence events and activities affecting all Canadian Veterans. CPVA is a staunch member of the Veterans Consultation Assembly and fully supports the collective initiatives of about twenty Veterans groups. **BB**