

**L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE
DES VÉTÉRANS DES FORCES
DE PAIX DES NATIONS-UNIES
(ACVFPNU)**



**CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF
VETERANS IN UNITED
NATIONS PEACEKEEPING
(CAVUNP)**

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THE THIN BLUE LINE/SUR LA CORDE RAIDE EN BLEU

**EDITOR: Ron Griffis
ASSISTANT EDITOR: Sylvain Bouliane**

Winter 2025/Spring 2026

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – April 2026

Dear fellow members of the Canadian Association of Veterans in United Nations Peacekeeping,

I bring you greetings on behalf of the Executive of our Association.

To begin this issue of the Thin Blue Line (TBL) I want to "THANK" our co-editor Sylvain Bouliane, for moving our Association to where we now have an "app" where our documents, including the TBL can be viewed in English or French by utilizing our translation "app" from our website located on the top right corner of the website — Thin Blue Line page.

I am pleased to report that our Association has received invitations from our colleagues to attend various conventions and meetings. They include:

- "The 13th annual Sam Sharpe Breakfast" located at the Sir John MacDona Id Building, Room 100 — Parliament Hill, 144 Wellington St., Ottawa, Ontario.
- An invitation to attend the Royal Canadian Legion's 50th Dominion Convention, 22 —26 August 2026 in Winnipeg, Manitoba.
- The ANAVETS 57th Biennial Convention, to take place in Vernon, British Columbia, 19 — 24 September 2026

EMAIL ADDRESSES:

As you have noticed, we are still collecting "email addresses" from our members to be able to send out our TBL and/or other documents to our complete membership at one time. We now have a substantial number of email addresses and when we reach all of our members, we will

send out documents under "Bcc" as opposed to two pages of email addresses. If you wish to participate, please send me your email address and it will be recorded immediately.

In conclusion I wish to "Thank" our CAVUNP Executive's and all CAVUNP members for their support as President. It is appreciated.

Ron Griffis
CAVUNP President

Chers membres de l'Association canadienne des vétérans du maintien de la paix des Nations Unies,

Je vous adresse mes salutations au nom du comité exécutif de notre association.

Pour commencer ce numéro de la Thin Blue Line (TBL), je tiens à "REMERCIER" notre coéditeur Sylvain Bouliane, pour avoir fait évoluer notre association au point où nous disposons maintenant d'une "application" permettant de consulter nos documents, y compris la TBL, en anglais ou en français en utilisant notre application de traduction disponible sur notre site Web, dans le coin supérieur droit de la page Thin Blue Line.

J'ai le plaisir de vous informer que notre association a reçu des invitations de la part de nos collègues pour assister à diverses conventions et réunions. Elles comprennent :

- Le "13e petit-déjeuner annuel Sam Sharpe" situé à l'édifice Sir John MacDonald, salle 100 — Colline du Parlement, 144 rue Wellington, Ottawa, Ontario.
- Une invitation à assister au 50e congrès Dominion de la Légion royale canadienne, du 22 au 26 août 2026 à Winnipeg, Manitoba.
- Le 57e congrès biennal des ANAVETS, qui aura lieu à Vernon Colombie-Britannique, du 19 au 24 septembre 2026

ADRESSES COURRIEL : Comme vous l'avez remarqué, nous sommes toujours en train de recueillir les « adresses courriel » de nos membres afin de pouvoir envoyer notre bulletin TBL et/ou d'autres documents à l'ensemble de nos membres en une seule fois. Nous avons maintenant un nombre substantiel d'adresses courriel et lorsque nous atteindrons tous nos membres, nous enverrons les documents en « Cci » plutôt que de montrer deux pages d'adresses courriel. Si vous souhaitez participer, veuillez m'envoyer votre adresse courriel et elle sera enregistrée immédiatement.

En conclusion, je souhaite « remercier » notre exécutif de la CAVUNP et tous les membres de la CAVUNP pour leur soutien en tant que président. Cela est grandement apprécié.

Ron Griffis
ACVFPNU Président


From the Web manager...

Dear Members,

We're always working to improve our cavunp-hq.ca website to better serve our members and visitors — and we'd love to hear from you!

A quick survey on the website content is in the making and will follow shortly and ask for your input. It will take just a few minutes to share your thoughts on what you'd like to see on the site. The survey will be sent via email to all members and can be answered by either your mobile phone or by your computer. For your articles that you would want to insert in the TBL, please send to Ron at griffisgrove@gmail.com or to me at cavunp.hq@gmail.com.

If you wanted to share your events or pictures from a Facebook account, please send us your FB account name. I probably could capture articles and pictures. Thank you for your input and continued support!

I have posted two articles on our website “Blog Posts” page for your viewing. For the French translation, please click on the  (yellow toggle switch) on every page of our website.

Sincerely,

Sylvain Bouliane,
CAVUNP-HQ Web manager

National Awards Committee-CAVUNP Honours and Awards

As we try to recruit new members, we must also not forget recognizing our current members, either with CAVUNP awards or with awards from other places.

It is important that each Chapter let us know of any wards received by our members so we can update records and spread the great news amongst our association. One award many of our members have received is the “Sovereign’s Medal for Volunteers”. www.gg.ca

“Are you looking to celebrate great volunteers who contribute to your community by selflessly offering their time and effort? Do you know a friend, a co-worker or a member of your community who inspires you and who should be recognized? The Sovereign’s Medal for Volunteers honours the exceptional volunteer achievements of Canadians from across the country in a wide range of fields. To be eligible, volunteers need to have made significant, sustained and unpaid contributions to their community in Canada or abroad.

Why not nominate someone today? Anyone can do it, and there is no deadline for submissions.

1. Think of an eligible candidate and tell us why they deserve the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers. Be sure to provide details about the type of volunteer work accomplished, the names of any organizations involved, the dates and length of service, the candidate's paid occupation and the impact their work has had on the community.
 2. Gather your candidate's contact information.
 3. Provide two references who support the nomination and can describe the significant, sustained and unpaid volunteer work accomplished by the candidate.
- You are now ready to submit your nomination.

Ensuring Confidentiality

Please do not notify the candidate about the nomination or initiate a letter-writing campaign. This avoids disappointment if the nomination is not successful. The Chancellery of Honours will keep nominations confidential. As part of this commitment, the Chancellery will respond to inquiries about the status of a nomination only to the nominator identified on the nomination form.

Please also note that the information you provide online is secure and will not be shared with third parties."

Please consider nominating someone today. More information is available on the website.

Thank you

Phil George
National Honours and Awards Committee Chair

Regalia and other Items Available

Spring is in the air and the need for Peacekeepers in our world is more prevalent. To grow our association, we need to make the younger generation aware of the comradery enjoyed by our members.

One way to advertise and display our existence is to proudly wear a uniform or unofficial regalia. We served on a mission of peace for our county so, be proud. The Kit Shop, a CAVUNP/ACVFPNU Association entity, has recently restocked much of the uniform regalia and is also offering other items like golf shirts and baseball caps.

Each Chapter should take the time to work with their members to ensure that our uniform is well displayed this August and at any other event. If a Chapter makes a group order to the Kit Shop, they could save money on the shipping cost.

We can direct you to the source of our light blue blazer and uniform shirts. Proper uniform is described in our Article of Continuance and General Bylaws. Many items are shown in the “Members Only” area of the National website

If you have questions or to order, please email CAVUNP_Kit_Shop@yahoo.com

Thank you,

Phil George
CAVUNP Kit Shop Manager
E: CAVUNP_Kit_Shop@yahoo.com

CAVUNP In-house Medal 2026

CAVUNP AGM 13 (Sept 2010, Greenwood, NS) and AGM 14 (Sept 2012, Hamilton, ON) unanimously approved the wearing of a CAVUNP In-House medal as reported in the Minutes of both AGMs. The new Articles of Continuance & General By-Laws Dress Code (Articles 6.03 & 6.04) will be amended after CAVUNP membership ratification to permit the wearing of these items on the right side of the CAVUNP blazer/shirt together with the UN 50th Anniversary medal and the 1988 Nobel Peace Prize medal

The CAVUNP Regular medal, Miniature medal and the Undress Ribbon Bar is to acknowledge and publicly project the achievements of the CAVUNP member wearing the medal or the Undress Ribbon Bar.

These items DO NOT REPLACE but are in addition to the CAVUNP Certificate of Appreciation issued by CAVUNP HQ to Executive personnel when they leave office Or to those members who have been recognized by their Chapter for their extraordinary service.

Dave Diggs’ Motion at AGM 13, Greenwood, 2010 that a CAVUNP Award for issue to Executive Personnel and for Exemplary Service by Regular Members.

Originally, the CAVUNP in-house medal., CAVUNP in-house Miniature medal and the CAVUNP in-house Undress Ribbon Bar could only be purchased from the Cpl Albert Storm, CD (Niagara) Chapter.

Since his passing, The CAVUNP Kit Shop now holds the only inventory for these items. There are, no doubt, many members of the Association who have demonstrated exceptional skill and service at the National and/or Chapter level beyond Regular membership activity. The only recognition they have for their contribution is a Certificate of Achievement or nothing at all.

It's the Chapter's decision to award:

- a. the CAVUNP In-House Regular medal.
- b. the CAVUNP Undress Ribbon bar; and/or
- c. the CAVUNP In-House Miniature medal

to those members who:

1. are not now in an Executive position; or
2. have continued their CAVUNP membership but are not currently active.

The presentation of the CAVUNP In-House medal to any member PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 2010 is a Chapter decision.

Chapter Bar

A plain, polished silver bar is attached to the top of the CAVUNP medal's ribbon complete with pins and clutches. It will be engraved with the:

Location (City) of the Chapter

Mid Bars

A plain, polished silver bar will be attached to the CAVUNP medal's ribbon midway between the top bar and the medal's claw. The mid bar will be engraved with the Executive position held by the member being awarded the medal

Exemplary Service Silver Bar

A plain, polished silver bar will be attached to the CAVUNP medal's ribbon midway between the top bar and the medal's claw. It will recognize Chapter personnel who have demonstrated a unique and generous contribution to the Chapter without seeking retribution. The mid bar will be engraved with: Exemplary Service

Medal Design

The CAVUNP medal and Miniature medal are polished silver with embossed lettering and logos. The Obverse depicts the United Nations (UN) logo with the word CANADA surmounted above the center top edge of the UN logo UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPERS is embossed around the inner edge of the CAVUNP medal & Miniature medal.

The Reverse depicts the CAVUNP hat badge with the acronyms CAVUNP and ACVFPNU embossed around the inner edge of the CAVUNP medal & Miniature medal.

A Miniature medal is available. The Miniature medal will have the same design on the Obverse and Reverse as the Regular medal.

The ribbon will be identical to the Regular medal. There are **** NO BARS **** associated with the Miniature medal. Replacement ribbon is also available

The above is a summary (updated slightly) from the original Don Bowman PowerPoint presentation.

These medals are available to National or any Chapter upon request by the President or Honours and Awards Chair. The respective area will be billed directly for the items they request plus shipping. It is suggested that requests be made at the same time to reduce shipping costs. The total cost will be related prior to any shipment. We are preparing an updated order form.

For now, requests can be made, by email, to the CAVUNP Kit Shop at cavunp_kit_shop@yahoo.com

Please indicate the number of:

Swing mount or court mount medals

The Executive Bars required (sate positions)

The Exemplary Service bars required

Miniatures

Undress Ribbons

Red Maple Leaf (The red maple leaf was not addressed in the original PowerPoint. It is available to be awarded in lieu of a second medal if that is a consideration.)

We realize that some medals may have been issued without the Chapter or Mid Bars so orders can be made for those items only.

The National Honours and Awards Chair would like the names of recipients so that the Association Service Record can be updated. It is unfortunate that this medal seems to have gotten lost in the mix, but it is never too late to do the right thing.

I look forward the hearing from you,

Phil George

Kit Shop Manager

Chapters Reports

Don Ethel Chapter, Calgary, AB

The Calgary Chapter has had a busy year supporting Veterans and Veteran activities in Calgary both physically in our attendance and financially through our fundraising efforts. As we age, we have suffered losses in our members and their family members, which, although expected, is difficult. We have an awesome Service Officer, Don Lotzer, who is very diligent in visiting and assisting our members during their times of need.

Throughout the year the Chapter members have attended various activities in the city such as supporting the ANZAC community in their service in April.

The majority of our efforts are toward our Peacekeepers Day commemoration. The evening prior we have a “Meet and Greet” with the membership and their spouses with the Memorial Cross families. We are always pleased to have people attending from all walks of life including the Emergency services, politicians, members of the immediate community and the city of Calgary. We are especially grateful to have Peacekeepers, members of the military community and the Memorial Cross Families. In 2025 we had approximately 500 people in attendance! This includes the children and 4-legged friends who add so much to our service. We are always proud to have a guest speaker who adds so much meaning to why we do what we do. We have a 2-part commemoration- initially the service is at Peacekeepers Park followed by a second service in Buffalo Park.

November is a very busy time for our membership. Many of our members are asked to participate in speaking to various schools, scout troupes and nursing homes. We are always pleased to be invited to conduct a Remembrance Day service at a Long Term Facility in the community of Garrison Green, Garrison Green used to be the Lincoln Park PMQ area where all the streets are named after Peacekeepers (past and present) and where there are 3 parks — Peacekeepers Park, AD Ross Park and Buffalo Park. The Chapter holds a Remembrance Day service in Peacekeepers Park which started so our members didn’t have difficulties finding parking and it has “exploded” to now we have 2-300 people in attendance. Everyone participates including the children who will make their own wreaths to lay at the wall and make a poppy out of painted rocks.

The City of Calgary has a “Field of Crosses” to remember the southern Albertans who have lost their lives in service. Each morning and evening they raise/lower the flags in honour of those we remember. Each year the Calgary Chapter of CAVUNP are invited to raise the morning flags the day before Remembrance Day. Truly an honour for our members.

Throughout the year we have various guest speakers attend our monthly meetings. The windup of our year is a Member and Spouse breakfast in January.

Linda Wright
Wed, Apr 15, 1:56 PM





CAVUNP GERRY TREMBLAY CD, CENTRAL ONTARIO CHAPTER

Well hello from the Gerry Tremblay CD, Central Ontario Chapter. It has been a busy time for our chapter. I will try to summarize what we have been up to. I will probably miss a lot of things and so I will start with our chapter elections.

This took place on 28 March 2026. We had a strong turn-out for the elections and the following members were elected to the positions noted:

President: Fern Taillefer

Vice President: Phil George

Secretary: Gary Miner

Treasurer: Vince Eagan

Sgt-At-Arms: Mike Mihalus

Special Projects: Bob George

Park Warden: Louis Laplante

CFB Borden Liaison: Fern Baillargeon

Kit Shop: Phil George

We have Chapter elections every two years. Next stop 2028!

A huge thank you to the outgoing executive. You did a wonderful job. Special thanks to Andy Bruyere, past Park Warden who is only relinquishing this duty because he is moving to the east coast. Wish you and your family the very best my friend.

This past month, on 25 April 2026, we conducted our annual luncheon marking 22 years as a chapter. Representative from Base Borden were in attendance as were members of the Federal, Provincial and Municipal representative. Things kicked off with our regular meeting from 1100 to 1130, followed by the reception.

Formal speeches from the Mayor and our Federal Member of Parliament John Brassard, as well as the Base Representative. A formal cake cutting ceremony followed by coffee, tea, sandwiches and cookies. I have included some photographs of the ceremony.





Member of Parliament John Brassard



Group Photo



Receiving in-house medal is Andy Bruyere

I also had the honor earlier that week to escort a 103-year-old WW2 veteran to the Barrie Veterans Club Dinner. Mr. Snow will be 104 this September



In the photo are myself, Mr. Bill Snow, the President of the Barrie Veterans Club Mr. Fisher, Mr. Snow's grandson and Misty Young.

Several awards/in-house medals were handed out as well to deserving members including the years of service with the Chapter

We have been busy administratively as well. An updated Chapter Objectives was completed which also reflected the duties and responsibilities of the various positions within the chapter.

The objectives are as follows:

- a) Promote CAVUNP;
- b) Promote the history of Canadian Peacekeeping Missions;
- c) Maintain the Peacekeeping presence at the Annual Peacekeepers Day Parade in Angus;
- d) Raise funds and support the Charity of choice in Simcoe County and sponsor youth events such as baseball and soccer teams as voted by the Chapter members;
- e) Maintain a speakers' bureau for such agencies as schools and media interviews;
- f) Maintain a library of Peacekeeping material to be retained by the Secretary
- g) Arrange such social events as appropriate; and
- h) Follow the objectives of the Association, in the General Bylaws.

As well, this document talks about the duties and responsibilities of the following officers:

1. President;
2. Vice President;
3. Secretary;
4. Treasurer;
5. Membership Chair;
6. Sgt At Arms;

7. Special Projects Manager;
8. Park Warden

We also have:

1. Entertainment Committee;
2. Hospital Committee; and
3. Cadet Liaison Committee

I have not added these duties in this report as it would take a lot of time and space.

There is a project underfoot by one of our veterans for a new flag and pin specifically geared to veterans. Retired Major Kent Smerdon has been presenting this idea which will probably go to a Private members bill. The following is submitted for your information only at this time.

Here is the information in his words:

THE CANADIAN MILITARY VETERAN UNITY (CMVU) FLAG

Major (Retd) Kent Smerdon CD

PROJECT MOTIVATION:

After some personal thoughts last fall and some comprehensive research, I determined that currently, Canada's military veterans do not have a single unifying flag, emblem or symbol that would identify them as such to the public at large.

Those who have retired with sufficient time in uniform have their CDs, perhaps other medals and awards of distinction and their service pins. The newer service pins have added crowns to the bronze, silver and gold versions depending on length of service. Other than fellow veterans, it could be stated with some confidence that the general public would fail to recognize a service pin let alone what the pin means and what it stands for. Those who served with honour and diligence and were honourably discharged with less than 12 years of service may be very proud of their service but have nothing to show for their duty except a Certificate of Service or a CF-One card.

At Remembrance Day Parades and other days or functions commemorating wartime events, we put on our medals, we fly the Canada Flag, the CAF Ensign, the Legion Banner, unit, branch or affiliation flags, colours and badges etc., and of course, all wear the poppy during Remembrance Week. Then, all is put away for another year after the solemn ceremonies on the 11th and veterans virtually disappear from view.

According to the 2021 census, there are over 460,000 veterans living in Canada. There are close to 80 different veterans' organizations in the country, the majority of them are organized

around veterans of specific trades, classifications, units, branches or specialties. Yet there is no single emblem, universally recognizable, that Canadian military veterans can wear all year round that identifies them as such. Baseball hats, T-shirts etc. that sport military emblems can be purchased and worn by anyone. Vehicles with Veteran license plates are not always driven by veterans themselves. Even though there are dozens of veterans' associations and regardless of service, branch, squadron, battalion, ship, or unit to which veterans are both loyal and justifiably proud, once retired, ALL are veterans. We all become the same in that sense.

There is a need for a wearable unifying symbol for Canada's military veterans that would more publicly identify them (if they choose) and recognize their service to the nation and to the citizens of Canada. This emblem could do this.

THE CANADIAN MILITARY VETERAN UNITY FLAG



Smerdon©2025

“SIMPLICITY, INCLUSIVITY, CLARITY”

FLAG SYMBOLISM

COLOURS:

RED: Background - Courage, sacrifice and the bloodshed of wounded veterans and the fallen.

Maple Leaf - The Nation of Canada

WHITE: Peace, purity and the snows of Canada

THE “V”; Denotes Veteran in both official languages, valour or vaillance.

The base denotes the solid foundation afforded by the rock of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Canadian Shield and the Rocky Mountains.

THE WHITE MAPLE LEAF:

-surrounding the red symbolizes the veterans roll in the defense of the nation's borders.

-touches the “V” at three points, symbolizing the three main branches of the CAF.

-touching the top of the flag represents Canada's territory extending to the top of the globe.

PROJECT AIMS:

1. That the flag be recognized and adopted by the Federal Government as Canada's Military Veterans National emblem;
2. That November be declared National Veterans Month;
3. That the flag be flown on Parliament Hill, at Federal and Provincial Government buildings and at public schools and businesses that so choose at some time during November.

All proceeds for merchandise bearing the flag will go to veterans' needs. The lapel pin version will be gifted only to veterans and qualified family members as a gesture of appreciation for their service.

To accomplish these worthy aims, we need YOUR personal or organizational support! See last page for details.

SUMMARY:

I strongly believe that this concept is long overdue. Virtually all who are aware of this project enthusiastically agree that Canada's military veterans be granted a unique and distinguished symbol to show or wear year-round if they wish. My vision is the flag design, worn as a lapel pin by veterans, states to any onlooker in a striking, yet respectful, manner that "I served Canada in uniform". I would like to see the day when ALL Canadians know what this symbol means, who wears it, and why. Several Canadian causes or campaigns have flags, banners and entire months granted to them. Veterans get one day and that should change.

TO SUPPORT THE CMVU FLAG PROJECT

Please contact: canvetflag@gmail.com

- For your submission of personally signed letters of support addressed to the Minister of Veterans Affairs or the Chair, Standing Committee on Veteran Affairs OR for further information, suggestions or comments.
- Or mail letters to; Treasurer, CMVU Flag Project
154 Lilian Crescent Barrie ON
L4N 5X5

We are undergoing another special project for Peacekeepers Park. It will be called "Friends of Angus Peacekeepers Park."

I will not go into details of the project just yet but will give you an idea as where we are going with it. If you need more information, please contact Bob George.

SIMCOE COUNTY LIVING VETERANS PROJECT

Simcoe County residents who died in conflicts and assignments around the world are recognized at cenotaphs around the County.

There is no recognition for those who served and came home, or those that served and never left our shores.

FRIENDS OF ANGUS PEACEKEEPERS PARK in Angus is changing that. In addition to recognizing those who gave their lives, our goal is to recognize ALL who were born or lived in Simcoe County and served in our Armed Forces. An Obelisk and mini walls will be erected in Peacekeepers Park, separate from the existing Memorials but part of the Park.

Application forms are available at scheduled meetings. When completed – with a picture if available – return to Bob George. The cost is \$20.00 per application. Instructions are on the form.

That's all for now. Hope everyone has a great summer.

**Fern Taillefer
President
Gerry Tremblay CD Central Ontario Chapter**



IN MEMORY



Stuart (Stu) MacKeigan

January 19, 1947 - November 20, 2025



On November 20, 2025, surrounded by his loving family, Stuart David MacKeigan “Stu” at the Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital in his 79th year. Thoughtful and caring husband to Dianne. He had a loving and positive influence on his children, proud grandfather and Great grandfather.

He was a proud and active member of Ironworkers Local 736 for 45 years. Stuart was a regular member having served in CF, and particularly Cyprus.

Originally, Stuart was a member of the Tillsonburg Ontario Chapter, when it folded, he became a member of the Gerry Tremblay CD Central Ontario Chapter CAVUNP.

May He Rest in Peace

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

**They shall grow not old as we who are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
we will remember them.**

ACTE DU SOUVENIR

**Ils ne vieilliront pas comme nous, qui leur avons survécu.
Ils ne connaîtront jamais l'outrage, ni le poids des années.
Quand viendra l'heure du crépuscule et celle de l'aurore,
Nous nous souviendrons d'eux.**