



# Markham District Veterans Association Newsletter

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January 2022



## **President's Remarks – David Smith**

Dear members,

I hope everyone had a safe, healthy and joyful holiday with family and friends.

It is not the way I was hoping to start the new year out, with another lockdown, but it is what it is. In just over another month, we will be going into year 3 of this pandemic....I only hope this is the last lockdown and we can bring this craziness to an end very soon.

Looking back at last year, while it was a topsy turvy one, the MDVA was able to function quite well....

- We received grants from the provincial and federal government and other agencies that helped us to manage financially while we were locked down. A huge shout out of thanks goes to our Treasurer, John Craig, for securing them for us.
- We were also the recipient in December of a donation of \$2,000 from the Connecting GTA association. Rukshan Para, one of our members, was the driving force in securing this for us. Thank you Rukshan.



- Our Poppy Campaign was again successful despite the restrictions that we had to operate under. Rick Paci and Bill Guiler, along with the entire Poppy team brought in approximately \$25,000.00, a slight increase over the 2020 Poppy Campaign. Way to go team.
- We brought back the famous MDVA meat draw and had 2 very successful events thanks to Karen Mooney and Shelley Fazackerley. They even managed to get our very own, and the one and only, Busy Betty to MC both events. Both events raised over \$2,000 not to mention the additional revenue bump we received from the strong bar sales. Way to go ladies!
- Thank you to Michele Chalmers, Carl Amoyette, Mike Johnson and Dave Watson for running the various weekly and special events that our members so enjoy.

- Karen Kearns and her team have done an outstanding job of supporting our members and others in the community. They have provided gift baskets to some of the Long Term Care facilities, they have sent flowers and fruit baskets to our members who have been ill, taking members to hospital or doctor visits and done grocery shopping for supplies. We have also supported members financially when requests have been brought forward, Karen is a gem!
- We purchased 2 air purifiers for the Club and Unionville rooms to clean the air and provide a safer environment for our members.
- We applied for 2 grants to provide upgrades to the building but have yet to hear back on them.

On the downside, we were not able to host many of our usual social events because of lockdowns and capacity restrictions so we lost a lot of revenue from those events and the rental of the hall. More importantly, we also lost a number of our beloved members. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their family and friends and we will always remember them. Our plan is to do a Celebration of Life honoring them once we can safely gather again.

Lastly, thank you to all of the members who come in on a regular basis to support the club and enjoy the fellowship and camaraderie that we all need to help us stay sane during this pandemic.

Member support is the lifeblood of the MDVA so please renew your 2022 membership, make us a regular stop for a drink and if you're interested, join one of the social groups that have weekly events at the MDVA.

2022 membership dues were due by the end of December to avoid the late penalty. While we may be closed right now, membership dues can be paid by doing an e-transfer to [markhamveterans@rogers.com](mailto:markhamveterans@rogers.com) or sending your dues in by mail or dropping them into the mailbox at the MDVA.

### **Membership Reminders**

As we begin 2022, and going into year 3 of the pandemic, it is always useful to remind ourselves of a few basic requirements that we as members are asked to follow:

- Members are asked to carry their membership cards on them when visiting the MDVA or attending General Meetings.
- Members must sign in guests when entering the MDVA
- Members are permitted to bring the same guest into the club up to a maximum of 6 times in a 3 month period. Hopefully you will convert these guests to members during this time to enjoy your club facilities.
- Only members who are fully vaccinated are permitted to visit the club until further notice. Please make sure that you have your vaccine certificate on you to present to the Bar Steward or in the event a bylaw office pays a visit to the club.
- Members who are not feeling well or exhibiting any cold-like symptoms, are asked not to visit the club. Omicron is highly transmissible and we need to do whatever it takes to protect our members
- Members must be respectful to Bar Stewards and to each other.
- Please refrain from the use of obscene language while in the club as it is not acceptable to many of our members and may discourage them from coming in.

This is your club, let's keep it a friendly, joyful, safe and a healthy haven for everyone to enjoy.

The MDVA has a number of new and very enthusiastic Board members and they look forward to working hard on your behalf. The Entertainment Manager and I had had some talks about social events to kick off the year, but those have now been put on hold with us back in lockdown.

I sure hope that we can bring an end to the pandemic sooner than later and start to live our lives in a new normal with some terrific social events.

Stay tuned, stay safe and stay healthy.

.....**David**

**Secretary: Bridget Wells**

**January 10<sup>th</sup> - Board of Director Meeting Highlights**

**Correspondence received:**

- None

**Correspondence sent:**

- Thank you notes to all those who renewed for 2022
- Requests for volunteers for Hall, Publicity and Entertainment
- Request to renew memberships by end December; late fees will be applied as of January

**Topics of Discussion & Carry-forward from previous Board meetings:**

- Veteran Appreciation Event February 20<sup>th</sup> - Postponed - date to be determined
- Hall rental pricing
- Bar pricing
- Board input to strategic plan (ongoing)
- MDVA Constitution & Standing Rules – amendments & review
- Membership numbers, membership cards, sign-in of guests & application forms

**New Business** – none

..... **Bridget**

**Treasure's Report : John Craig**

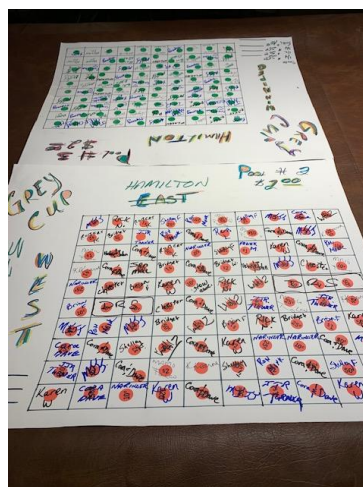
**Attached as a separate document !**

**Publicity & Communications Director – Karen Mooney**

Hello Members & Happy New Year !!!  
Well December was a very busy month at the MDVA ....

**December 12<sup>th</sup> at the MDVA – Grey Cup Game !**

**Congratulations to the Winnipeg Blue Bombers who beat the Hamilton Tiger Cats at home !**







**Well look who's been very busy again !**

The M.D.V.A. would like to thank **Helen Stuart** for the beautiful quilt that she made to honour our men & women in the services.

There was a plan in place in 2021, for a special luncheon to take place, & the quilt was to be dedicated at that time, to honour those who protect & serve us.

Once again, due to the pandemic, the luncheon was cancelled. Hopefully, we can re-schedule the luncheon in 2022 !

**Monday December 13<sup>th</sup>** – MDVA General Meeting – 7:30 PM – in the **Lower Club-Room**

Well this was a first ! Due to the Hall Rental we had our first General meeting, in a year & half (or more) in the Lower Club-Room ! Thanks for the pictures Larry Lau !



At this General Meeting we had a number of new members join the M.D.V.A. that were inducted that evening. As timing was an issue, we didn't have each inductee give a short "bio" as we usually do so with the consent of the new members, below please read their short "bio's" .....

**Billy Kam**

Reason to join MDVA: to support the local veterans community and be part of it.

Any affiliation with MDVA members: Larry Lau

Do you have military service before: No

Your job/professional: Coin Laundry owner

**Dr. Brian Keen & Jean Keen**

My name is **Jean Keen**. My reason for joining the MDVA is that my parents were both involved in the WWII effort. My mother was an RN and worked as a Nursing Sister overseas in London during the war. My father worked as a radio operator in the Canadian Air Force, although he never went overseas.

I do not have any affiliation with other MDVA members, nor have I ever seen any military service. My husband, Brian pretty much grew up in Markham and I frequently go to Markham in my work. I am an accountant (CGA, CPA) and I help small businesses to be successful.

Name: **Brian Keen**

Reason to join MDVA: To honour my parents. My father was in the army and my mother was in the CWACs.

Any affiliation with MDVA members: We hope to meet MDVA members, since we respect what you have done for Canada.

Do you have military service before: no

Your job/professional: theologian.

We have always supported the veterans, since as a boy I saw MDVA transform the building and watching war movies at the Roxy Theatre.

**Donna MacDonald**

I am a relatively new resident to this area, and from past knowledge of an organization like yours, knew it would be a great place to meet new people and enjoy social activities.

I met one of your long serving members at line dancing at the Unionville Community Center.

I have done no military service.

I am retired. My late job was being the Executive Director of Community Care Haliburton County for 28 years. It is now part of the Haliburton Highlands Health Services.

Name: **Sai Hung Lee**

Reason to join MDVA: to perpetuate the comradeship and support MDVA.

Any affiliation with MDVA members: Yes, the Royal Hong Kong Regiment members

Do you have military service before: Royal Hong Kong Regiment from April 3, 1979 - Sept. 3, 1995; retired as Warrant Officer.

Your job/professional: Retired teacher

Name: **Peter Tong**

Reason to join MDVA: To maintain contact with my army comrade.

Any affiliation with MDVA members: Ryan Mitchell and Larry Lau

Do you have military service before: Yes, from 1975 to 2009 Queen's York Rangers; retired as Captain.

Your job/professional: Retired.

Name: **Blair Simpson**

Reason to join MDVA: While I did not have the honor to serve my family has a long history of military service.



My Mother was a Sergeant in the Army Territorial Service (1939 to 1945), and served in Field Marshal Montgomery's headquarter staff and was stationed in England, France and then Belgium. My father was a Corporal in the Royal Air Force (1939 to 1945) as an air frame fitter and served in England, France and South Africa.

Any affiliation with MDVA members: None.

Have military service before: No

Your job/professional: Electrician (retired)

**Nancy Siew** is a fourth-generation British subject by virtue of her Great grandfather's naturalization in Hong Kong. She came to Canada in 1976 and later joined the Federal Government service. In 2014, the Governor-General-in-Council appointed her a Citizenship Judge and she served for three years with diligence. She was later appointed as the Hon. Lt-Colonel of the Military Police Academy. (current status: retired)

She first met MDVA members in the 1990s during a Remembrance Day ceremony. Now, having moved to York Region, she is privileged to join this distinguished organization with which she'll continue to give back to society. A volunteer for over 30 years, she has advocated for veterans, seniors and multiculturalism.

Job status: retired

**Welcome to all of our new members !**

***Friday December 17<sup>th</sup>*** – ***Meat Draw with a HOLIDAY twist !*** Although we didn't have as many people in attendance as we did in November, we had a lot of fun !

**A promise** for the next time – we **won't buy** nearly as much stuff so the night won't go on **sooooo** long! Heaven only knows when that will be, with new restrictions & closures upon us again!



### January Dates to Remember !

- Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> – Robbie Burns Day

### Birthday's & Anniversaries !

**HappyBe-lated Anniversary Wishes to :**

**Karen & Paul Kearns who celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (in-lockdown)**



**Happy Birthday Wishes to :**

Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> – Shelley Fazackerley  
Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> – Jackie Lawton  
Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> – Bobby McInnes -  
Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> – Terry Hoshowsky  
Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> – Dirk Mooney  
Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> – Janet Morgan  
Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> – Nancy Lavender  
Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> – Rob Libby

**Happy 80<sup>th</sup> Bobby !**



**We want to share a couple of photos taken at Jack Paley's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday ! What a day !**





**January 4<sup>th</sup> , 2022** – Look what's new ! The new pool table was delivered & set up & our members had exactly **one evening** to use it before we had to close our doors again !



I would like to thank all of you who have taken the time to communicate with me by sharing moments or photos of special days – let's keep them coming in !

***Do you have a special day, Birthday or Anniversary coming up ? please let me know !***

**Puzzles or Books anyone ?** I've dropped off a couple of puzzles already, so now that we're stuck in our houses again – if anyone is interested in a new jigsaw puzzle to do or a new book to read / or exchange, please e-mail me at:



**[mooneykaren@hotmail.com](mailto:mooneykaren@hotmail.com) OR [markhamveterans@rogers.com](mailto:markhamveterans@rogers.com)**

**There are lots more books & puzzles to choose from – these just happen to be the ones I have at home right now!**



## **Announcement – re: Monthly Newsletters – change of distribution**

Dear Members, for several years you've been receiving your Newsletter the first week of each month. After discussions at the Board of Directors meeting last night, we've agreed to change the timing of its distribution.

It was noted that the current timing of the newsletter – right after the monthly Board meeting – is challenging for Board members to produce their notes due to time constraints. • Decision: It was agreed, that the timing of the newsletter distribution would change to the **15<sup>th</sup>** of each month after the monthly General Meeting.



I would also like to add, that if there's anything that you would like to see included in the newsletter, please let me know & I'll do my best to meet your requests. .... **Karen M.**

**Director of Entertainment and Fundraising – Carl Amyotte**

Dear Members,

When the MDVA re-opens, our interest is to have more member participation. We need to solicit your opinions as to how we can accomplish that goal, your help is required. Many of our members are not participating or even dropping in to the MDVA for a visit. We believe you are not benefitting from your membership. You may have a few ideas regarding possible activities or future events that would help entice more of your presence at the club . The following are some events, options that we could make happen if there's enough interest.

- Euchre one evening a week , presently it is only played on Fridays afternoons
- Dart teams or league one evening or weekend activity
- Cooking class
- Beginner Yoga class
- Dance exercise classes, proving to be better for coordination and mind (on 60 Minutes) better then straight gym exercise.
- Group outings to the Theatre, Casino, Picnics

Future events, days and times will be determined from your input, simply email us at the [markhamveterans@rogers.com](mailto:markhamveterans@rogers.com) or [Camyotte@rogers.com](mailto:Camyotte@rogers.com)

Presently we have movie night on Monday evenings, Pool on Wednesday, and Thursday evenings and Euchre on Friday afternoons. Any suggestions as to other possible activities you would like to be a part of are welcome. We would be delighted to have your participation.

I look forward to hearing from you and hope to see you at the club, your presence is missed !

.....**Carl**

**Service Bureau – Karen Kearns**

Welcome to the New Year, I hope ever one is keeping safe.

On Dec 25<sup>th</sup> 2021, a long time member of the Club, Bob Cheevers passed away. Our Condolences go out to his family.

Rose Kelly ( WHIZ'S ) Mom suffered a stroked and is in MSH . She is recovering, but very slowly, we wish her the best.

Bobby McInnes was in MSH with some sort of infection , but I am glad to say he is now home recovering under the careful watch of Nurse Betty. We wish him a speedy recovery.

I am also keeping in touch with a few members who are not well at this time. We also wish them the very best.

Please take care and if you know of anyone that needs help with anything please call.

Service Bureau – 416-885-0908

..... **Karen Kearns**

**Hall Director : Michael Felip**

As we begin 2022, it feels like we took 2 steps forward and 3 back. There was a lot of promise for ongoing hall rentals from the York Region Public Health Unit until their staff were diverted to cope with the ongoing threat of the current variant.

Also, there were discussions how we could bring back some familiar Club activities and events to once again feel 'almost' normal. Well, it seems that we will need to wait this one out until we can be certain that the safety our Club members won't be compromised.

At some point, this will end but until then, wear a mask and stay safe..... **Michael Felip**  
[MDVAhall.manager@outlook.com](mailto:MDVAhall.manager@outlook.com)

**Membership Director : Tom Farrar**

Dear Members, I need your help for me to do my job as your 2022 Membership Manager.

As Members, you are well aware of the great facilities and activities that your club offers. To continue to thrive we need to build our membership numbers.

You can help by spreading the word to your families and friends on the advantages of membership in the M.D.V.A. After creating an interest please pass on their contact information to me and I will initiate the process of membership acceptance.

....**Tom**  
[email: tomfarrar813@gmail.com](mailto:tomfarrar813@gmail.com)

The updated membership numbers are as follows:

Associate	95	
Relative	95	
Regular	47	
Life	17	
Honorary	13	<b>Total 267</b>

Membership application forms – we've decided to revise & update the current form, once we have done that we will upload that to the MDVA web-site so people who are interested in joining can go on-line & print it, fill it in , & return it to the MDVA for review & processing.

.....**Tom**



**Members! Please stay home , wear your mask if you must go out & stay safe!**



The cadets are still doing well virtually every Thursday night.

We are getting 35 cadets out so I am happy we are still recruiting new cadets.

Unfortunately, we can't have our Marksmanship practice at the MDVA because of the recent vaccinations going on upstairs, & now the MDVA is closed again. Our headquarters is still closed now going on 2 years, as it's a community center.

The seniors center is all closed until January 16<sup>th</sup>. The seniors center was opened the first of October and was doing well, welcoming members back with full vaccination screening at the front door.

I am very proud of what the cadets have accomplished in these difficult times. I know the cadets will come back stronger than ever when we get our boots back on the ground together.

Cheers

Capt Carlsen CDCaptain | Capitaine Roger Carlsen, CD  
Commanding Officer, 748 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps Canadian Armed  
Forces roger.carlsen@cadets.gc.ca TEL: 416-576-2722



## **Final two Rivalry Series games between Canada, U.S. women cancelled in Alberta**

- CALGARY — Two hockey games between the Canadian and U.S. women's hockey teams in Alberta have been cancelled
- Canada and the U.S. were scheduled to conclude their Rivalry Series on Jan. 3 in Edmonton during the world junior men's hockey championship and Jan. 6 in Red Deer.
- Both games were called off because several Canadian players and staff were in COVID-19 protocol, Hockey Canada said
- "Unfortunately, we need to do what is right for our athletes from a health perspective and for our team preparation in order to ensure everyone remains healthy and eligible for Beijing."
- The announcement came the same day the U.S. junior men's team forfeited a preliminary-round game at the under-20 championship to Switzerland because two American players tested positive for the COVID-19 virus.
- What was a nine-game series between the Canadian and American women to help both prepare for February's Winter Olympics in Beijing and choose a roster for it was limited to six games.
- **Canada won four of the six games played against the U.S., including two in overtime.**

**Please - please support these businesses!**



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# Happy New Year!

*I hope you had a good holiday.*

**Best wishes  
for a healthy and  
happy 2022!**



**Karen  
Rea**

Ward 4 Councillor

Tel. 905.479.7751

To keep informed on Markham and Ward 4 issues, visit:  
[www.karenrea.ca](http://www.karenrea.ca) or email: [krea@markham.ca](mailto:krea@markham.ca)

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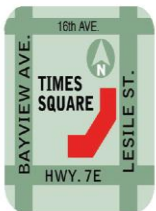
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