

Bezanson Community Day

Hosted by Veterans Memorials Gardens & Interpretive Centre

“Ride for Vision and Valour Tour”

June 8 proved to be a “chilly” day – you could actually see your breath but that did not stop the corn-hole competitors from showing off their skills. However, Ag Society’s “Never Miss Hewings” lost to “Bezanson Senior’s “Hit and Miss” Hessler while the Rec Society’s “Stong Arm LaValley” won over Kleskun Hill Museum’s “Never Lose” Oe. We then had a “Toss Off” with Laura taking the title of “Boss of the Toss” as it says on her certificate and also took home a cup with a picture of a corn-hole board.



The parade was a great hit as the RCMP led the parade through the hamlet of Bezanson before parking at the school. The Military Police on their motorbikes were next followed by the classic cars and finally the Bezanson Fire Truck. **Deputy Canadian Forces Provost Marshal Col. Vanessa Hanrahan** rode with Grant Bulford in his 68 Charger in the parade.



The food sponsor **Secure Energy** under the tutelage of Tanner LaValley and his crew, was true to form as they prepared an excellent barbeque of hamburgers and all the fixings. Not only that, they also served poutine! All topped off with chocolate chip cookies prepared by local ladies.

The kids of Bezanson and surrounding area were encouraged to bring their change which would go to the Military Police Fund for blind children with a prize for the largest donation. A brother & sister from Teepee Creek had the exact same change so they shared the prize.



A very special gift, presented by Renee Charbonneau of Veterans Memorial Gardens and Interpretive Centre and Col. Hanrahan, was given to the RCMP Detachment for their new building currently under construction. Corporal James Johnston, who was dressed in his serge, accepted the gift. As the RCMP is the symbol of Canada; it was very fitting that he and his accompanying constables not only ensured the Military Police Riders had a safe crossing of highway 43 but also that they attended the Bezanson Community Day event. Unfortunately, the RCMP members received an emergency call that required their immediate attention and could not stay.

As well, five door prizes were given out:

1. Print by Taq Kim (Korean Painter) (Brother & sister)
Grant Bulford
2. Print by Taq Kim (Buffalo)
Becky Yang Liu
3. Edson Trail Belt Buckle
Laura LaValley
4. Teepee Creek Stampede weekend pass for two, hats & swag bag
Tyler LaValley
5. Ocean Pacific Pen & Key Chain
Peter (Adam Ranch)



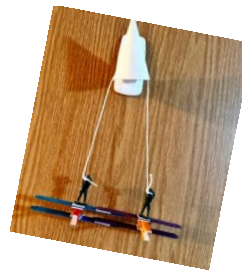
Hosted by Veterans Memorial Gardens

One corner of the skating rink was dedicated to the **Normandy Campaign and the 80th Anniversary of D-Day. Sergeant Charles Dorscheid & Private Donald Rooney** were both KIA during the push towards Caen & closing the Falaise Pocket (red background). **Private William Adams** has a blue background and he served with the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion and landed behind enemy lines late on the night of June 5th or early morning on the 6th to clear the area of enemy snipers. The fellow with the yellow highlighted area is **Lance Corporal David Burrows** who landed on Juno beach on June 6th, 1944. The pictures below the heroes are photos & information of the area known as “Operation Overlord” as it exists now. On the tables were pictures of Canadians on D-Day and during the Battle of Normandy.



The kids had fun coloring and making crafts. One actually said “thank you for your service”.

It was a special day for kids as they each received a goodie bag, Military Police bracelet & a chance to win a gift basket worth at least \$50.



Two soldiers with their parachute in place ready to jump off of their plane. Very cute.

Following the “Bezanson Stop”, the Ride continued on to Veterans Memorial Gardens in Grande Prairie for the ceremony portion of the day to honour 45 KIA’s from D-Day and the Battle of Normandy followed by a “Meet & Greet” at the Sandman Hotel. The “Dine & Dance” which featured a French-themed dinner (supper for us country folks) was held at D-Coy Armories which was the training centre during WWII. The following day, the “Commemoration Ceremony and BBQ were held at the Blueberry Mountain Community Hall. The family of Colonel Stone, who had originated the Military Police Fund, was in attendance. **Special guests included the South Korean Consul General Yuen and Consul of Veterans Affairs Kim**, along with high-ranking members of the Canadian Armed Forces, the Military Police and various dignitaries including representation from all levels of government.

South Korean Consul General Yuen and Garland Bishop’s daughter, Shirley Bishop-Hayden. Garland was awarded the prestigious Ambassador for Peace Medal for his service during the Korean War.



“Ride for Vision & Valour” Tour then continued on to the Slave Lake and High Prairie Legions where they were warmly welcomed.



MISSION STATEMENT
To honor, dedicate & interpret the military history of Northwestern Alberta.

Veterans Memorial Gardens & Interpretive Centre
10121-93 St, Grande Prairie, AB
www.veteransmemorialgardens.com
Phone: 780-933-0192

VISION STATEMENT
A Commemorative Garden Connecting Community