

**RCMP National Memorial Cemetery at Beechwood  
Phase 7 Project Update  
Veterans' Legacy Pathway**

**PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO REVIEW THIS BULLETIN AND THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE NOTED LINKS AS AN IMPORTANT VOTE WILL FOLLOW IN THE FUTURE.**

On the evening of March 14, 2023, there was a very special presentation made by members of the RCMP Veterans' Association, Ottawa Division (ODVA) RCMP National Memorial Cemetery (RNMC) at Beechwood Committee.

This presentation, which is being made available, provided for an overview and background of when the initiative commenced and where it is at presently. Certainly, as mentioned in their presentation,

“Over the last 22 years, ODVA members have led efforts to ensure that the RNMC at Beechwood and the many memorials now within its grounds maintain the legacy of the Mounted Police and are dedicated to recognize those who have contributed to the success of our young nation. A final major project developing a RCMP Veterans' Legacy Pathway is a natural progression in telling the story of the birth and growth of Canada and the RCMP.”

Of importance, this Phase 7 Project Update was to inform the ODVA Membership of issues in regard to:

1. Fundraising shortfall, and
2. Design Changes to the Project.

The Phase 7 concept was initially finalized in 2019 and named the “RCMP Veterans' Historical Wall” with an anticipated construction cost of \$1.6 million. Of note, in a 2017 Tripartite MOU between the RCMP, Veterans' Association, Ottawa Division and Beechwood Cemetery, set that this project was to be veteran led and funded. A three (3) year plan was put together by the Committee for fundraising in order to seek government, corporate and citizen donations. The Project was targeted, depending on funding, to commence in 2022 in time for its opening on May 23, 2023, the RCMP 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

In summary, during and post pandemic, donations and funding support dried up. This then resulted in a plan re-design in November of 2022 for what is now known as the “RCMP Veterans' Legacy Pathway” at a now projected cost of \$400,00.00. The referenced presentation document outlines the new design for the Pathway.

Status of Fundraising to meet new target:

- Recent donation of \$100,000 Canada Life (Great-West Life).
- Funding available to date approximately \$200,000.

- Continued outreach to corporate and government.

Of note, the presenters articulated that during some of their interactions with potential donors, they were asked "...what is the financial investment of the RCMP? What is the financial investment of the Veterans' Association to this project?"

Regarding the RCMP, correspondence has been sent to the Commissioners Office, asking that the Force reconsider their position on funding towards the initiative. These discussions are still ongoing with RCMP Public Affairs.

Where donations and the necessary funding is currently stalled, the Project Committee came to ODVA Division Executive Committee seeking a financial commitment on March 10, 2023.

The presentation was made by Kevin Mole, Roy Berlinquette with input from Michel Pelletier. Referenced where the same speaking points as are being made available to the ODVA Membership today. Also discussed was the financial implications to Ottawa Division including any financial responsibility surrounding the 2023 RCMP Veterans' Association AGM, hosted by ODVA.

**ODVA Finances in Brief:** ODVA has two bank accounts and are as follows.

1. Operating account: balance at February 28, 2023: ~\$132,000
2. Accommodations/Building: account balance at February 28, 2023: ~\$90,000
3. ODVA operations were examined and it's anticipated that a yearly operating cost would fall within the vicinity of \$40,000.00 to \$60,000.00. Therefore, donating up to \$50,000.00 from the Operations Account would leave a balance in the area of \$80,000.00. This amount is reasonable and diligent in regard to ODVA's operating activities and year end outcomes.

Based on the presentation and the financial status of ODVA the following motion was made and put to a vote of the Executive:

"That the RCMP Veterans' Association, Ottawa Division Executive Committee, support having the membership be consulted at the next Regular General Meeting in order to commit a financial donation of \$50,000. This financial commitment is for the completion of the construction of the RCMP Veterans' Legacy Pathway. This donation is to be conditional to The Beechwood Cemetery Foundation and the ODVA project committee, through reporting to the ODVA Division Executive Committee, ensuring that the remainder of the required funding to complete this project is in place before construction begins. The financial obligation would come from the Ottawa Divisions Operations Bank Account and would be the RCMP Veterans' Association, Ottawa Division contribution to the completion of Phase 7 of the Project at the RCMP National Memorial Cemetery at Beechwood."

This motion was carried, which resulted in the presentation made at the RGM on 2023-03-14.

## Next Steps

Due to the significant importance of this funding request of \$50,000.00 it was decided that the presentation would be made at the RGM and a motion would be sought from the floor. Once that was achieved, the Division Executive would make the presentation and other information available to the ODVA Membership for them to review, seek further info if desired and then eventually a vote would be sought by way of an electronic vote.

The motion which has been made and seconded at the RGM on March 14, 2023 is as follows;

### **Motion:**

That the RCMP Veterans' Association, Ottawa Division, commit a financial donation of up to \$50,000. This financial commitment is towards the completion of the construction of the RCMP Veterans' Legacy Pathway. This donation is to be conditional to The Beechwood Cemetery Foundation and the ODVA project committee, through reporting to the ODVA Division Executive Committee, ensuring that the remainder of the required funding to complete this project is in place before construction begins. The financial obligation would come from the Ottawa Divisions Operations Bank Account and would be the RCMP Veterans' Association, Ottawa Division contribution to the completion of Phase 7 of the Project at the RCMP National Memorial Cemetery at Beechwood.

**Moved:** Pierre Belanger

**Seconded:** Fred Lyle

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Prior to any vote being taken, the RCMP Veterans' Association, Ottawa Division Executive Committee is making this information known for the membership. We hope that those Ottawa Division members will review and make themselves aware of this important information.

The first step is for anyone having any questions or comments on the proposed motion to please send them to [ottawa.info@rcmpva.org](mailto:ottawa.info@rcmpva.org). Questions will be sent to the RCMP National Memorial Cemetery at Beechwood Committee for them to respond. Questions and responses will be posted either by bulletin or by way of the website.

If you would like to participate in a virtual Zoom meeting with members of the Division Executive and the Phase 7, Project Team, please let us know at [ottawa.info@rcmpva.org](mailto:ottawa.info@rcmpva.org). If there is sufficient interest, a meeting will be convened during the week of March 27, 2023.

An e-vote will be called for shortly thereafter. It is the plan to have the vote completed and tabulated prior to the next RGM that will be held on 2023-04-11.

**PLEASE CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE ODVA EMAIL BULLETINS FOR UPDATES**



## **Phase 7 project update Veterans' Legacy Pathway**

***RCMP National Memorial Cemetery  
at Beechwood***

# RCMP National Memorial Cemetery at Beechwood



The RCMP National Memorial Cemetery (RNMC) at Canada's National Cemetery in Beechwood, is situated on land that has been set aside for the RCMP community. It shares a special setting in Beechwood alongside its neighbours the National Military Cemetery of Canada, the CSIS National Memorial Cemetery and the Ottawa Police Services cemetery.

It is currently the final resting place for many RCMP veterans, members, employees and their families from across Canada. Additionally, the greater Beechwood cemetery site is of unique historical importance as it has been providing a home for the burials of NWMP, RNWMP and RCMP members since its inception 150 year ago.

The RNMC at Beechwood is as well one of only 5 RCMP-designated cemeteries along with Depot, Battleford and Maple Creek in Saskatchewan and Fort Saskatchewan in Alberta. Of those cemeteries, the RNMC at Beechwood is the only one currently open to all RCMPVA members, all categories of current and former RCMP employees, and to their families.

# RCMP National Memorial Cemetery at Beechwood



## Background:

- In 2001 the ODVA began working with Beechwood to secure land within Canada's National Cemetery to establish an RCMP National Memorial Cemetery (RNMC) as a final resting place dedicated to past, current and future RCMP employees and their families. The RNMC at Beechwood is now operated through a tri-partner agreement of ODVA, Beechwood and the RCMP. The RCMP incurs annual maintenance costs for the pathways that traverse the cemetery, while the ODVA, through its veterans volunteer committee represents the RCMP and helps to manage and organize activities, policies and plan for monuments/fixtures on the site.
- Over the last 22 years, ODVA members have led efforts to ensure that the RNMC at Beechwood and the many memorials now within its grounds maintain the legacy of the Mounted Police and are dedicated to recognize those who have contributed to the success of our young nation. A final major project developing a *RCMP Veterans' Legacy Pathway* is a natural progression in telling the story of the birth and growth of Canada and the RCMP.

# RCMP National Memorial Cemetery at Beechwood



## - Our appreciation -

In bringing forward this update today on the status of the Phase 7 project, we also want to take the opportunity to express our gratitude to ODVA members for their support to the Cemetery Committee over the past 22 years.

Many of you have participated in events at the site, attending services for our comrades and families, participating in annual vigils and commemorative events, standing with us on parade, and by providing ongoing moral, physical and monetary support throughout the journey. It has been most appreciated.

# RNMC at Beechwood Committee Roles

- The RCMP National Memorial Cemetery at Beechwood - ODVA Cemetery Committee reports directly to the President of the ODVA on matters of daily operations and maintenance of the cemetery subject to a Tri-Partite MOU.
- The RCMP Veterans' Legacy Pathway project committee has **separate responsibilities specific to that project** in the cemetery as approved by the ODVA DEC governance.

**NOTE:** Veteran volunteer committee members in recent years have included *Roy Berlinquette, Michel Pelletier, Suzanne Sarault, Louise Morel and Kevin Mole* (chair).





# Phase 7 project update:

*To inform the ODVA Membership  
on issues of:*

- 1. Fundraising shortfall**
- 2. Design Changes to project**





# Project Issues:

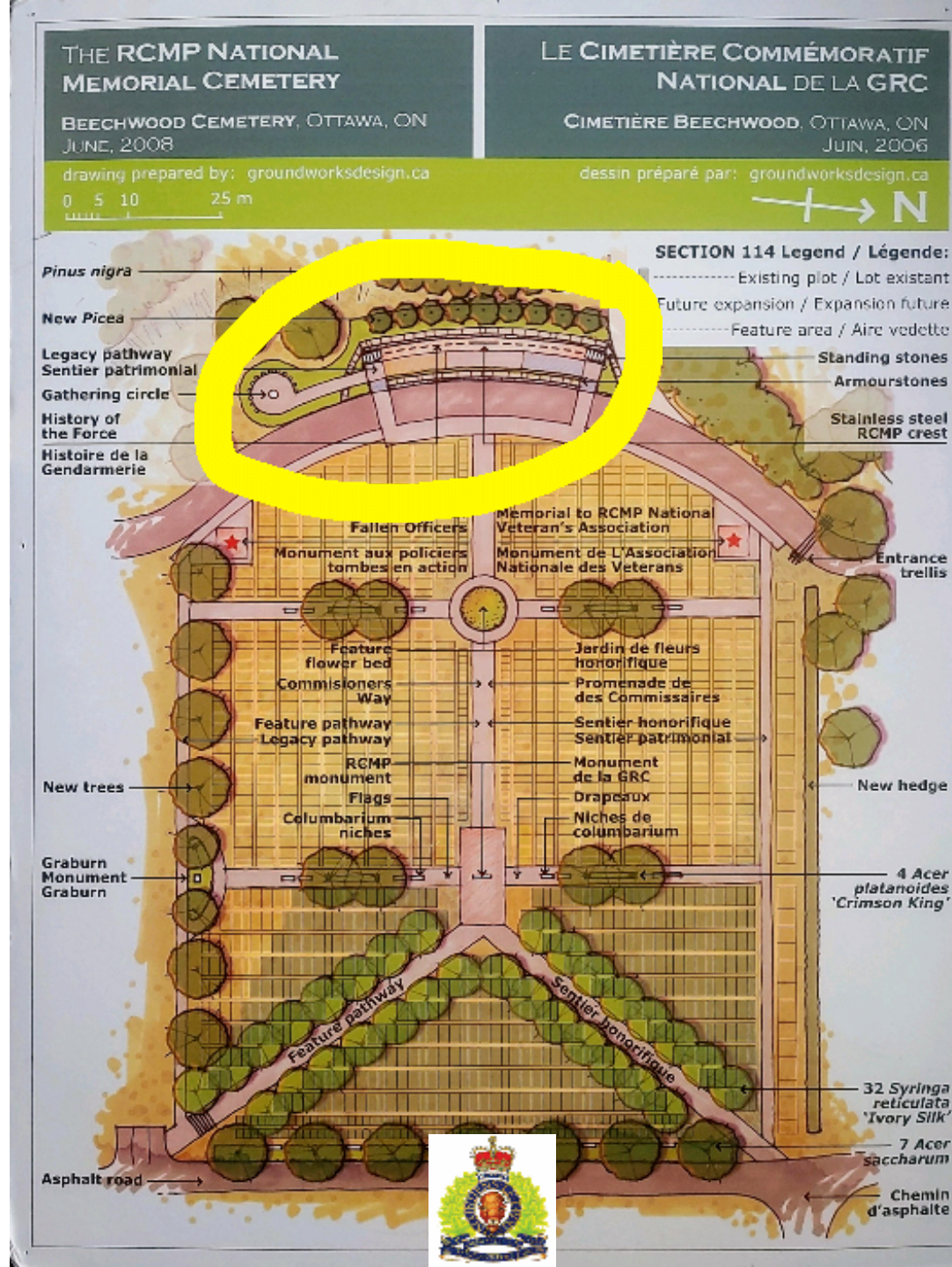
- The project design was finalized in 2019 and named the *RCMP Veterans' Historical Wall* with an anticipated construction cost of \$1.6 million.
- 2020 ODVA Cemetery Committee governance approved. Fundraising sub-committee 3 year plan (2019-2022) to seek government, corporate and citizen donations.
- Project named "*RCMP Veterans Historical Wall*"
- Construction (depending on funding available) to commence fall 2022 in time for opening on May 23, 2023 – the RCMP 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

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- In November 2022 plan design was revised with re-naming of project to "*RCMP Veterans' Legacy Pathway*" and projected cost reduced to \$400,000.

# Original design plan for a proposed 7 phase of projects (June 2008) including a “Legacy Pathway”

- As part of the original cemetery development process, a proposal for an RCMP Learning Pathway was incorporated in **2006** and in onward planning to accommodate the 100,000 visitors including 10,000 bus-in students
- 2017** Tri-partite MOU set out that this project was to be **veteran-led / funded**.
- 2018** Project plan – design called for all encompassing \$1.6 million budget.



# Phase 7 - project design (2018) *original site*



# Phase 7 – original project design (2018)



Original concept \$1.6 million

Approaching Wall to the west of the Fallen Member cenotaph

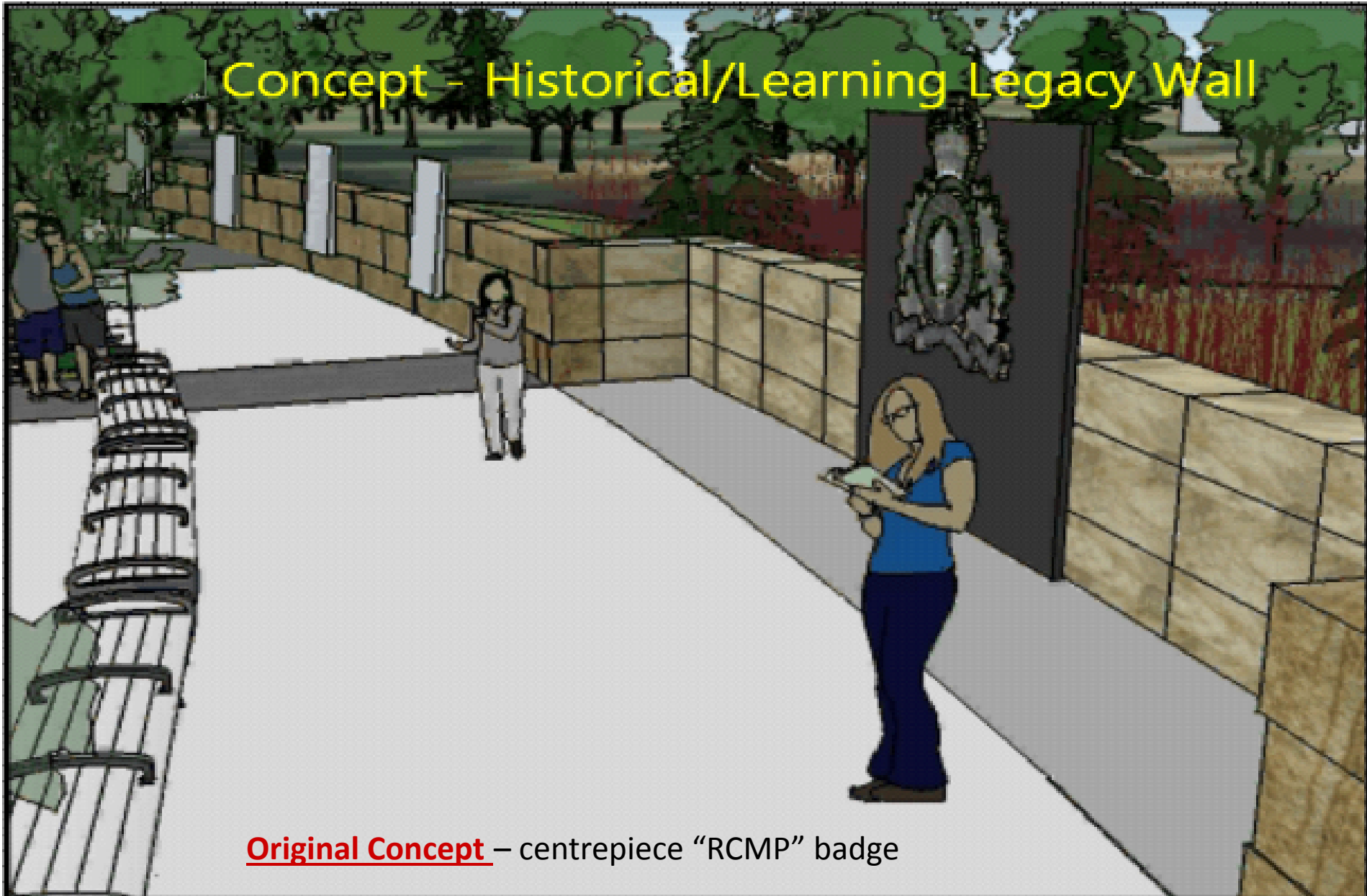
200 ft long raised platform with high wall, 10 historical panels



# Phase 7 - project design (2018)



Concept - Historical/Learning Legacy Wall



Original Concept – centrepiece “RCMP” badge

# Current Status of fundraising:



- Fundraising efforts over the 3 years (2019 / 2022) affected negatively by:
  - COVID-19 pandemic
  - Community feelings toward RCMP
  - Impact of inflation
  - Competition for donations, veterans related especially
  - Project Committee membership changes
- **Government:** Veterans Affairs Canada in 2020 contributed \$75,000 as part of multi year support – investing in historical text panels.
- **Corporate:** outreach negative results – unexpected slow uptake.
- **Citizen:** donations slow and minor / **Foundations:** good progress

# Impact of fundraising problems:

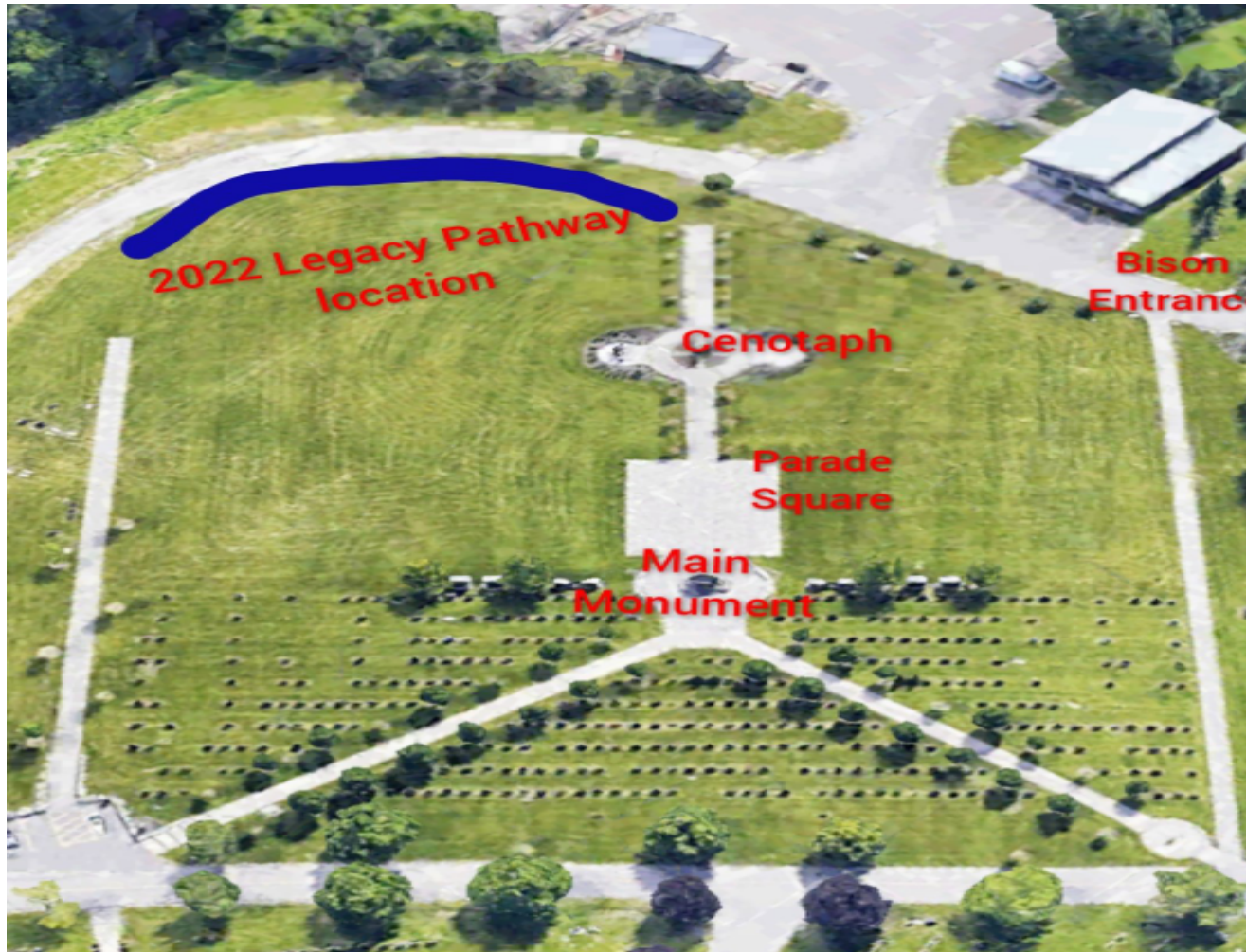


- In November 2022, design plan revised (both in scope and timeline):
  - No completion before May 2023 target
  - Re-named “*RCMP Veterans’ Legacy Pathway*”
  - Revised costs forecast down to \$400,000.
  - Use of 12 individual upright stones instead of “Wall”
  - Newer “green” approach
- Beechwood raised a number of concerns with the delay, including:
  - Inability to plan their worker schedule – need guarantees project can be finished before confirming their work plans
  - Beechwood now busy with own 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2023
  - Construction materials increasing in cost or not available
- New site of the pathway will be changed to the **interior** western edge of the cemetery **now facing west.**

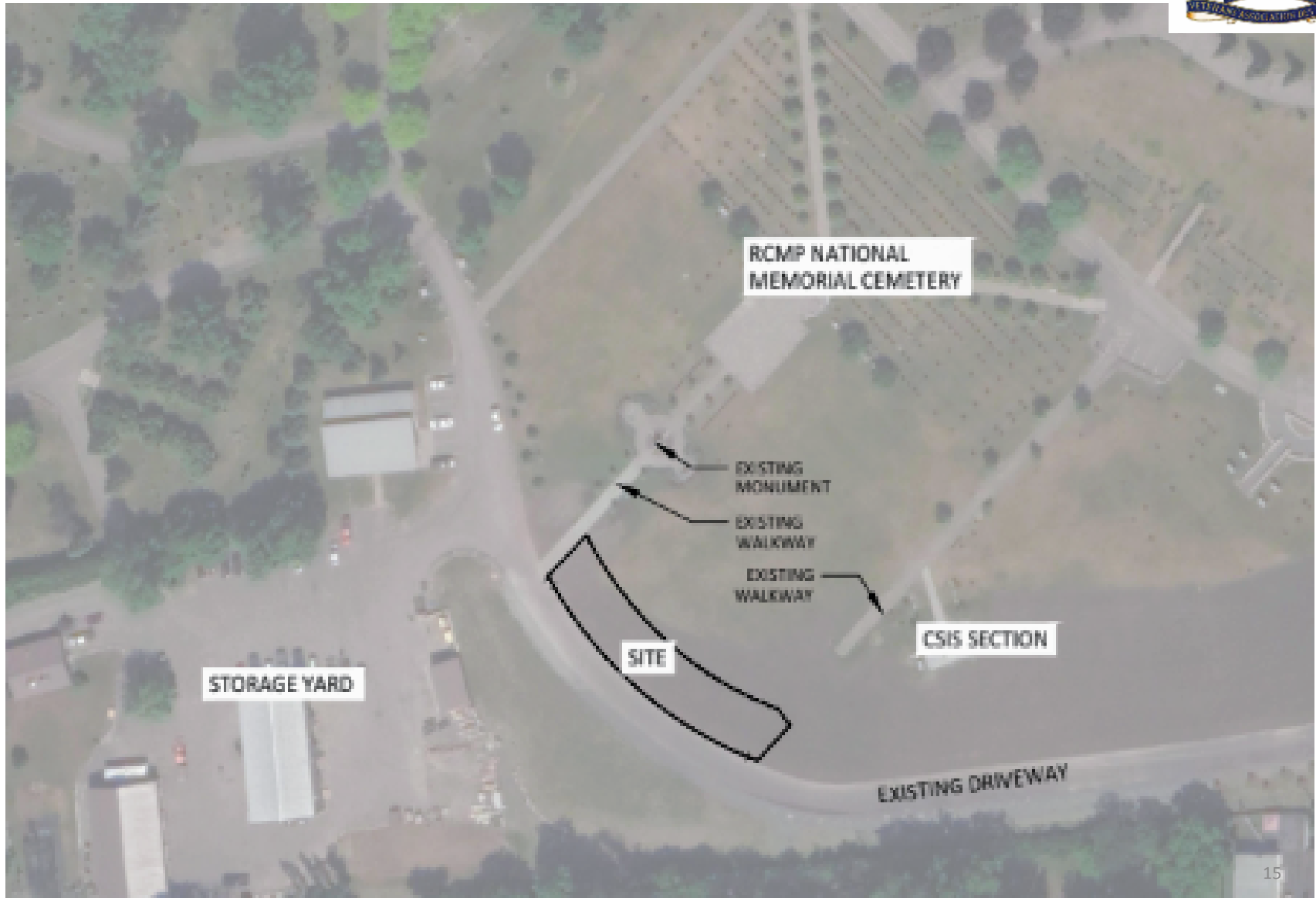




# Site of new design – (2022) RCMP Veterans' Legacy Pathway

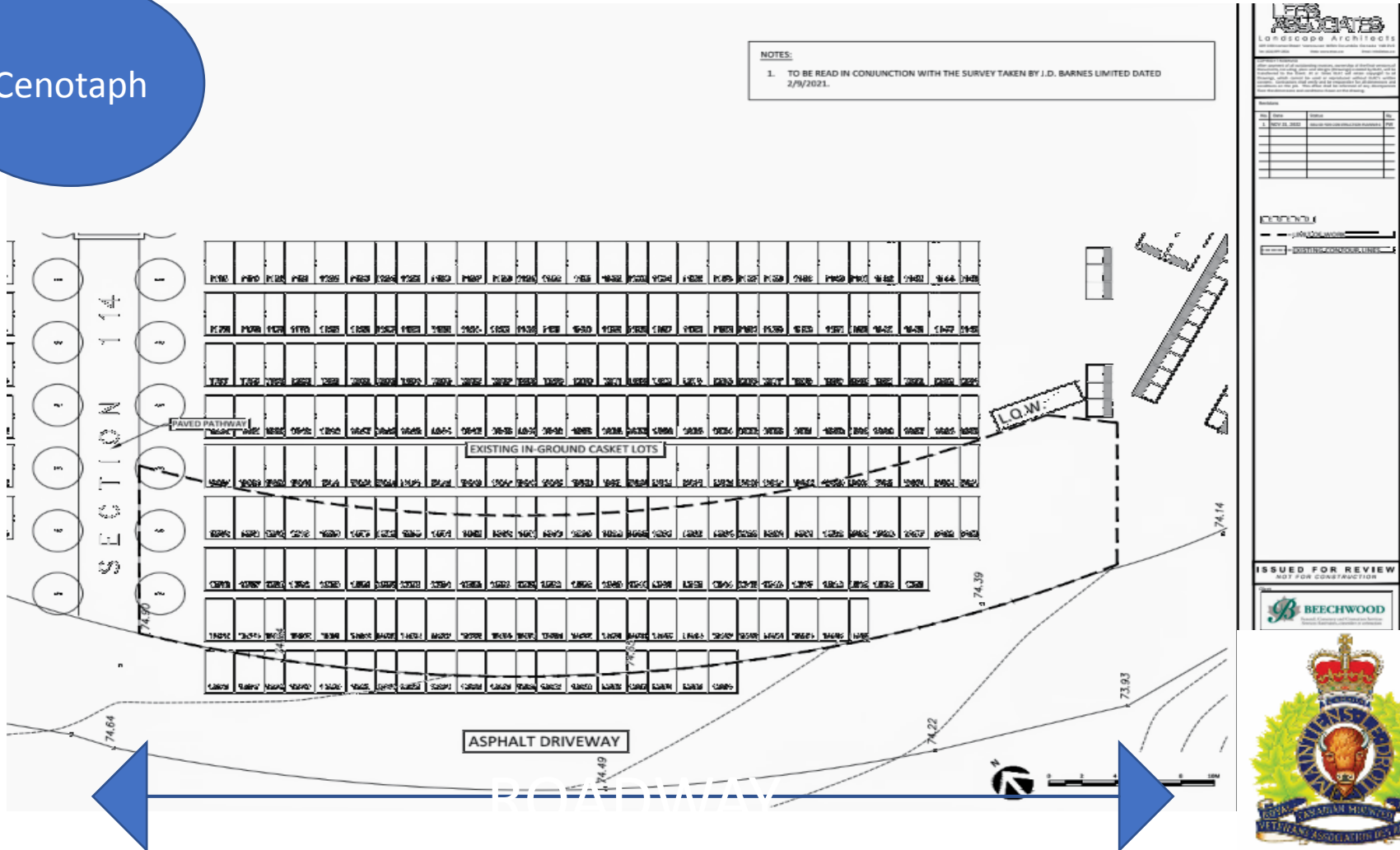


# Site of new design – (2022) RCMP Veterans' Legacy Pathway



# RCMP Veterans' Legacy Pathway (2022 design) Overhead view

Cenotaph



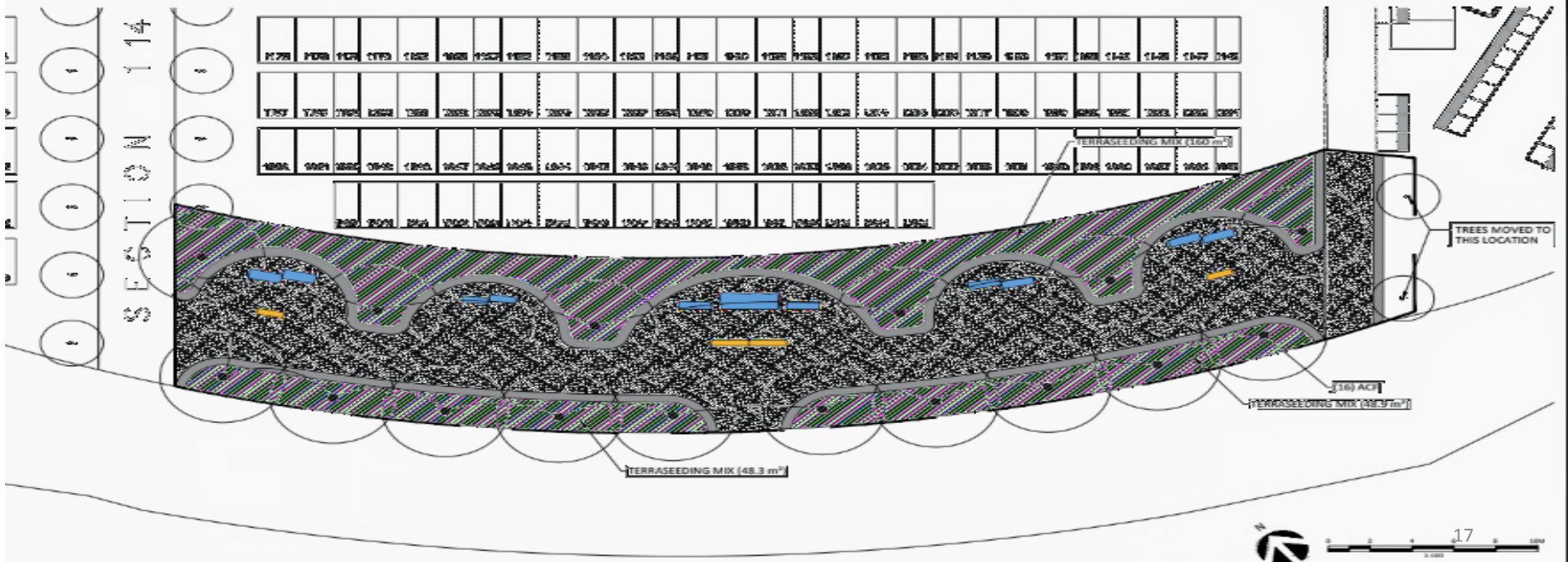
# RCMP Veterans' Legacy Pathway (2022 design) Overhead view



COMMON NAME	SIZE
AME / FREEMAN MAPLE	2M HT
COMMON NAME	SIZE
1 MIX	25% 25% 20% 20%
CEPHTOGA / TUTTED HAIR GRASS	
DENSIS / CANADA WILD RYE	
1/ POVAL BLUEGRASS	
M SCORPION / LITTLE BLUESTEM	

**PLANTING PLAN NOTES:**

- CONTRACTOR IS RESPONSIBLE TO PROVIDE AND INSTALL ADEQUATE PLANT MATERIAL TO ACHIEVE DESIGN INTENT AS INDICATED ON THE DRAWINGS.
- CONTRACTOR TO VERIFY ACTUAL QUANTITIES REQUIRED TO FILL DESIGNATED SPACES AT SPECIFIED SPACING/AREA. QUANTITIES SHOWN ON DRAWINGS ARE FOR CONVENIENCE ONLY.
- CONTRACTOR TO SOD ALL AREAS DISTURBED DURING CONSTRUCTION.
- SOD SHALL MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 8 (CANADIAN LANDSCAPE STANDARD FOR TURF-GRASS SOD, LATEST VERSION), INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO: TURFGRASS QUALITY GRADE: GRADE #1, CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS, HANDLING AND STORAGE, GRADE PREPARATION, CONDITIONS FOR ACCEPTANCE, MAINTENANCE, PRODUCTS, EXECUTION.
- TREES SHALL MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 9 (CANADIAN LANDSCAPE STANDARD FOR PLANTS AND PLANTING, LATEST VERSION), INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO: INSPECTION, HANDLING AND STORAGE, PLANT SELECTION, WATER AND IRRIGATION, PLANTING TIME, PROVISION OF WARRANTIES.
- GROWING MEDIUM SHALL MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 6 (CANADIAN LANDSCAPE STANDARD, LATEST VERSION) INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO: TESTING AND DOCUMENTATION, SELECTION, INSTALLATION, HANDLING.
- TERRASEEDING SHALL MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 7 (CANADIAN LANDSCAPE STANDARD FOR LAWN AND GRASS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO: SEED SELECTION, APPLICATION TIMING, CORRECT PREPARATION, PROTECTION, ESTABLISHMENT MAINTENANCE).
- GOOD INITIAL SITE PREPARATION, INVASIVE/WEED REMOVAL, AND MULCHING IS KEY TO LONG TERM SUCCESS AND MANAGEMENT OF THE SITE;
- NO SUBSTITUTIONS WITHOUT APPROVAL FROM OWNER;
- ALL PLANT MATERIAL TO BE SOURCED LOCALLY;
- ALL GROWING MEDIUM TO BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CITY OF OTTAWA STANDARD;
- SEE LB.0 FOR PLANTING DETAILS.



# New design of Legacy Pathway



- The revised plan now includes:
  - RCMPVA centerpiece badge and panels for historical text
  - Near Field Communication (NFC) devices allowing access to additional text narrative and historical footnotes.
  - Transportation and cutting of parliamentary stones
  - Foundation & setting in concrete stones
  - Retaining wall along cemetery grounds (rear)
  - New flagpole (for RCMPVA ensign) at Centerpiece
  - Flagstone/interlock pavers pathway (150 feet)
  - Stone benches
  - Trees, shrubs, bushes and gardens
  - Drainage, excavation, levelling, prep, monument bases

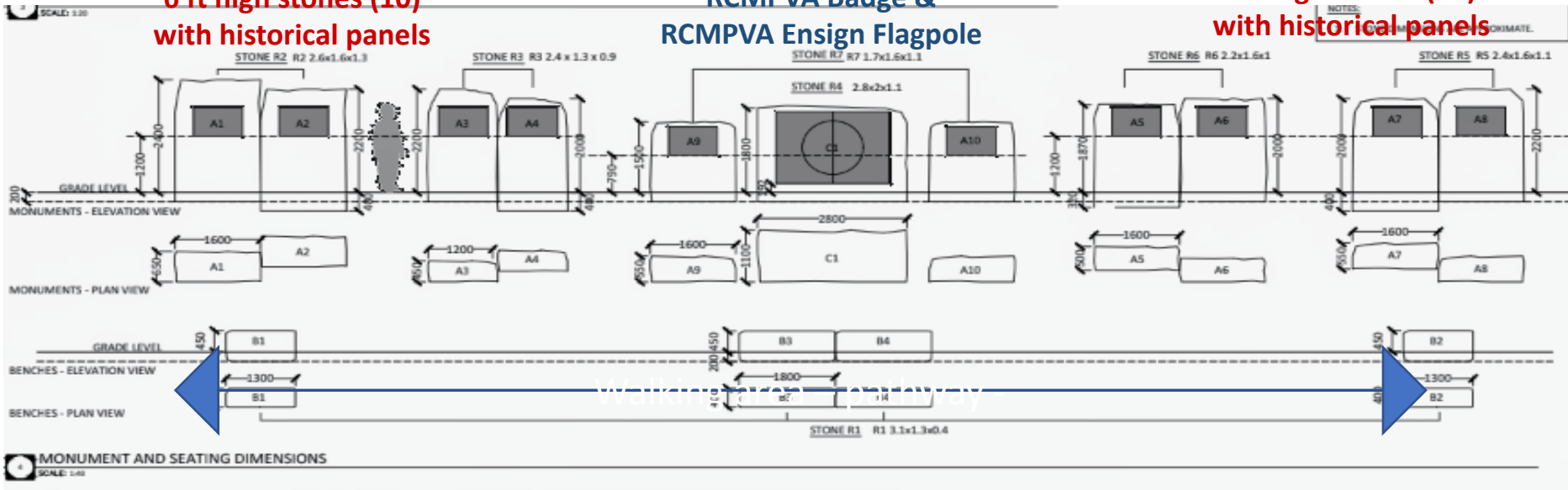
# RCMP Veterans' Legacy Pathway (2022 design) Front-facing



Pathway Center location of  
RCMPVA Badge &  
RCMPVA Ensign Flagpole

6 ft high stones (10)  
with historical panels

6 ft high stones (10)  
with historical panels



# Status of Fundraising to meet **new** target:

- The project account is a separate fund at Beechwood.
- Recent donation of \$100,000 Canada Life (Great-West Life).
- Funding available to date approximately \$200,000.
- Continued outreach to corporate and government

**NOTE:** The project fundraising committee has been asked on occasion by governments and prospective corporate donors, **what is the financial investment of the RCMP?**  
**What is the financial investment of the Veterans** to this project?

- Commissioner has been asked to reconsider position on funding - Discussions currently ongoing with RCMP Public Affairs.



# What to expect? What do we need?

- The project committee is under direction from DEC and the ODVA membership not to begin construction on the project until such time as the fundraising target of \$400,000 is met.
- It will be difficult to have funding in place to begin construction in 2023.
- **The construction of the RCMP Veterans' Legacy Pathway is an ODVA inspired and led project**
- The Project Committee is asking the ODVA membership to contribute \$50,000. to this project to cover some of the construction and fixtures costs of the Pathway's RCMP Veteran center-path area, including Veterans' Badge, flagpole, benches and plaques.
- If approved, the project would be a step closer to commencing construction of the Pathway in 2023.





# Why do we do this? Why is it important?



- It is important that when we talk about ***maintaining the legacy of the Force*** that our Veterans particularly, understand that as a group, having experienced the positives of being part of this legacy during our lives, now have an obligation to not only recognize the history of the Force, but also to promote the actions of the many who dedicated their careers to serving Canadians. This is a mantra that all RCMP Veterans across the country should understand and take up as one of our important responsibilities.
- The demographics (who) and the professional (how) function of the Force is changing continuously. The history and sense of family that had long been the RCMP that we Veterans have known in simpler times, is understandably no longer the priority it was. With the Force turning its attention increasingly to other pressures, it is our task of remembering the past as part of today's Force and promoting that by recalling properly our history, that we might continue to assist the RCMP to plan for and expect, a bright future as Canada's police service.
- At the RCMP National Memorial Cemetery at Beechwood, our Ottawa Division members will continue to highlight the lives and careers of RCMP employees and their families; seeking to promote their sacrifices and accomplishments as we also reach out to youth, seniors, new Canadians, visitors, proud Veterans and all others in the RCMP community.  
*Our goal is to ensure that the RCMP National Memorial Cemetery at Beechwood, is not viewed solely as “just” a cemetery but is in fact, a historical learning site, a library as such, where all can reflect on the positive impact that the NWMP , the RNWMP and the RCMP, has had, does have and will have in shaping Canada.*