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# Honouring Col James Riley Stone



— And His Many Accomplishments —

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# Who was Big Jim Stone?

Col. James Riley Stone CM, DSO, MC, CD (Ret'd)

Big Jim was born in Winterbourne, Gloucestershire, on August 2, 1908. He lived in Blueberry Mountain Alberta from 1928 to 1939, working in forestry. In 1939, answered the call to go to war.

Jim never returned to Blueberry Mountain but he left a legacy there just like he did in the battalions he fought in and lead.

He also left a legacy as a father, when he started the Military Police Blind Fund for Children.

**See reference to Jim living in Blueberry Mountain:**

**“Ortona: Canada's Epic World War II Battle”** By Mark Zuehlke

# Why a tribute in Blueberry Mountain?

In 1928 Jim Stone moved to Blueberry Mountain at age 20.

A bachelor, he was an active participant in all social activities and loved baseball. He was one of the driving forces behind the first community hall being built and in 1934 he helped build the first nurse's residence.

Jim joined the Loyal Edmonton Regiment in 1939 and rapidly gained a reputation as a soldier and human being and worked his way through the ranks quickly.

Jim led the 2nd Battalion PPCLI during the Battle of Kapyong.

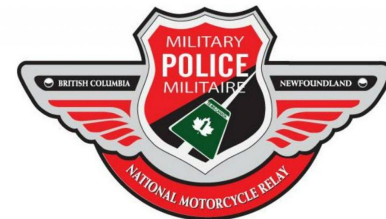
He went on to become the Provost Marshal of the Military Police.

Jim's daughter Moira had eye cancer and in 1957 he started the Military Police Fund for Blind Children in direct response to the need he saw from other parents and their children.

One of the very notable aspects of the MP Fund for Blind Children is that it is run and managed totally by Military Police volunteers. The MP Fund for Blind Children is unique in Canada, as it is the only official authorized 'military' charity in the country.

***Colonel James Riley Stone, CM, OMM, DSO, CD is a man worth honouring.***

***Saddle Hills County needs tourism and the connection is there and strong!***



# What kind of tribute should be built?

There are many ideas on the table at the moment.

The one liked best so far is the idea of a cabin, not unlike the nurses residence that he helped build in 1934.

One wall of the cabin would be dedicated to his story in Blueberry Mountain.

Another to his time in the Loyal Edmonton Regiment, the next with his time leading the 2 PPCLI in Korea another of his time as Provost Marshal and the MP Fund for Blind Children that he founded.

The last wall will tie the Canadian Motorcycle Tourism Association into the fray with a wall/display dedicated to the Military Police National Motorcycle Relay Ride for Blind Children that we have sponsored over the years.

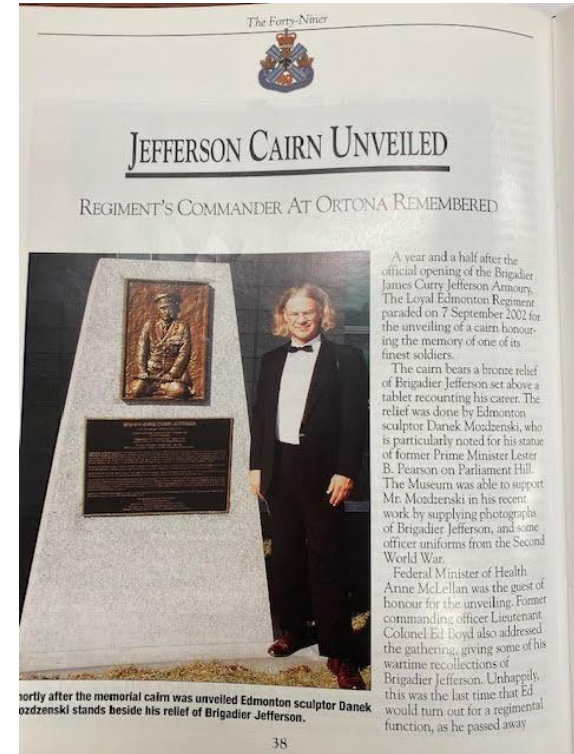
This cabin could serve as a regional Visitor Information Centre and as an interpretational museum.

At Veterans Memorial Gardens & Interpretive Centre in Grande Prairie we can place information panels or a miniature of a cairn depending again on what is ultimately landed on by the partners.

# Tributes

We could build a Cairn similar to the one dedicated to his predecessor (bottom right) or a sculpture. We could build a walkway filled with story panels of his accomplishments. We could also turn any excess property into a campground and parking. Done well, the MPNRR for Blind Children has said that they would make their way to Grande Cache, Grande Prairie, Blueberry Mountain - Cold Lake instead of Jasper - Cold Lake

Photos- **Bottom Left:** PA142233 Library and Archives **Centre:** DND **Bottom Right:** Forty Niner



# Partnerships + Ideas

The Blueberry Mountain Goodwill Society is very interested in somehow partnering with us on this project. Depending on what is finally landed on for a “memorial” to Col Jim Stone, they may be willing to mow the grass and maintain a watchful eye over the property for us once completed.

This project could potentially generate a summer job for a student acting as ambassador for the “Col Jim Stone Memorial Museum” and tourism information centre.

The Loyal Edmonton Regiment Military Museum is ready to offer us everything they can on Col. Stone.

Once it is determined that the County of Saddle Hills is on board and willing to support this project with funds for creating sponsorship proposals and grant writing for the project, then I will begin meeting with people in the organizations on the next screen to ensure their engagement and support.



A small cabin, similar to the nurses residence that he helped to build as a potential museum to honour the man and his life of service.

# Potential Partnerships/Sponsors

- Loyal Edmonton Regiment Military Museum
- Loyal Edmonton Regiment - LERAC
- PPCLI Foundation
- Korean War Veterans Association of Canada
- Military Police
- Provost Marshall
- Military Police Fund for Blind Children
- Military Police National Relay Ride for Blind Children
- Blueberry Mountain Goodwill Society
- Saddle Hills County
- Province
- Veterans Affairs
- Jim Stone Family (Shelley Bouska, Victoria Patricia Shimmons + Michael Stone)
- Canadian Motorcycle Tourism Association
- History Check App