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■ **COMMEMORATIVE COIN:** Afghanistan Repatriation Memorial Fund, Military Families Fun benefit

Highway of Heroes coin sales support two military causes

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TRENTON — On a cold April day Wednesday, just outside the gates of CFB Trenton, members of the Royal Canadian Mint announced the sale of Highway of Heroes coins raised \$200,000 for two causes.

The money will be divided equally between the Afghanistan Repatriation Memorial Fund and the Military Families Fund.

The Highway of Heroes silver commem-

orative coin was unveiled in Trenton on Oct. 31, 2011.

It featured an overpass along the Highway of Heroes as viewed from the perspective of the families passing in the procession, along with the Memorial Cross commissioned after the First World War by King George V for the presentation to the loved ones of fallen soldiers.

The coin was for sale until Dec. 31, 2012. Twenty dollars from the sale of each coin was split between the two organizations.

James Love, chair of the Mint's board of

directors, said after the ceremony the Mint made 50,000 Highway of Heroes coins and are virtually sold out. Previously, the Mint has always stated 25,000 coins were produced for sale.

"It's basically sold out," said Love.

"If somebody really needed one we might take one out of our archives because we keep a couple, but they're basically sold out. That's why we had the ceremony today, now that it's all done."

The Mint's website as of April 3 stated \$200,280 had been raised, which would



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(From left) Commodore Mark Watson, director general, personnel family support services, Royal Canadian Mint board of directors chair James Love, Northumberland - Quinte West MP Rick Norlock and Quinte West Mayor John Williams pose by the Afghanistan Repatriation Memorial in Bain Park just outside CFB Trenton on Wednesday after announcing \$200,000 was raised for two deserving causes through the sale of Highway of Heroes silver commemorative coins.

mean there were 10,019 coins sold, far from being sold out.

"Thousands of ordinary Canadians became extraordinary Canadians by lining the route of the Highway of Heroes, from Trenton to Toronto to voluntarily salute our fallen soldiers coming home from the war in Afghanistan," Quinte West Mayor John Williams said Wednesday.

"We are delighted that the Royal Canadian Mint has joined the many donors to the Afghanistan Repatriation Memorial

Fund so that the communities surrounding the starting point of the Highway of Heroes could build a permanent and exceptional memorial."

The presentation was made at the Afghanistan Repatriation Memorial which was unveiled on Nov. 10, 2012 and honours the men and women who have sacrificed their lives in the Afghanistan mission.

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