

# Royal Canadian Legion

## Ontario Command Newsletter

Winter



2022

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### Derek Moore, Provincial President

Comrades All.

We are now 7 months into this 3 year Covid term and to say it has been without incident would be a lie but I do believe we did the best we could and we are not in too bad of shape taking all into consideration. “**Working Together**” for the most part has actually worked and I have to thank all of you for your cooperation and assistance in making that happen. We still have a couple of standout areas that need a little work but we’ll get there eventually. Change doesn’t happen overnight but with a little patience and perseverance, we will reach our goal.



I am still promoting change as I still truly believe the survival of the Royal Canadian Legion is going to depend on it. As much as we introduce new technologies to the organization, we are still going to have to rely heavily on the human element to make it happen. For me, I still prefer in-person meetings but I do appreciate the cost saving advantage and the speed which with we can expedite business using the Zoom method and the need to keep using it. But you can’t beat sitting in a room full of your Comrades and having that face-to-face discussion.

Unfortunately, back in early November, our entire Provincial Constitution and Laws Committee resigned. I personally would like to thank them all for their many years of dedicated service to this organization, Comrades Bruce McKittrick, Aubrey Callan and Janice Morris, I wish you all the very best in the future. Sadly though it did leave me with a huge hole to fill, and in a hurry to boot! Thankfully Immediate Past President, Comrade Garry Pond volunteered to take over as Chair and Comrade Ron Goebel offered to sit on the committee. Thank you Comrades, this is one particular Chair that cannot be left vacant for any great length of time but it still does leave Comrade Lynn McClellan with the task of finding suitable permanent replacements before his term in office begins in 2025. This will not be an easy position to fill as experience

and training will be required so keep on sending in those resumes Comrades. It has been pointed out to me several times now this particular position of C & L Chair has had only two Chairs in the last 35 years. This is one job where experience and continuity will be extremely valuable going forward. As I mentioned earlier, changes will be coming and the C & L Committee will have to play a huge part to enable that to happen smoothly.

We are starting to pass more responsibilities down to our District and Zone Commanders in the area of forming committees to handle the overseeing of the re-certification of Branch Regulations to take some of the load off Comrade Lisa Dinsmore in the office who will soon have a haircut like mine if we can't reduce her workload a little more very soon. The end game is to hopefully make it easier for branches to make changes when needed because I know it's not happening. Branches are just doing things differently without changing their regulations to reflect those changes which in doing so actually can make certain meetings and motions null and void legally. Not good! In looking over this year's Branch Inspections many, many branches had not had their Branch Regs. certified since 2012, 2013 2014, this has to change Comrades. The hope is to make it as painless as possible. Comrades Garry Pond, Ron Goebel. and Lynn McLellan will be moving forward with this project in the new year so keep your ears and eyes open for updates.

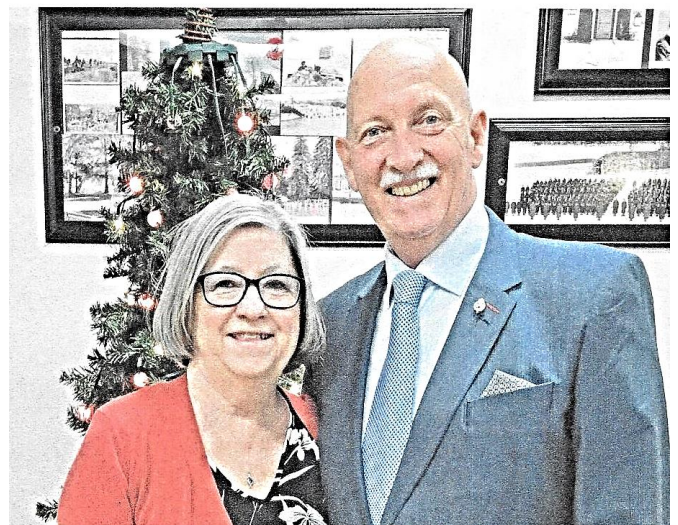
Veterans Program. More details will be forthcoming very soon. Comrade Garry is currently working on a plan to expand our contacts across the Command, and maybe further. The hope is to have at the very least one contact "go to" person in every district, if not every zone, to help speed up the process when a homeless Veteran is identified. The Ontario Command Service Officers and staff pride themselves on the fact that once receiving the required info on a homeless Veteran they can have that Veteran placed in either a temporary or permanent shelter within 72 hours, which I think is quite remarkable. This 72 hour window is very important for the fact that they have found that in a lot of cases, they will lose contact with that Veteran if it takes over 72 hours to respond. Hopefully with more contacts available this will produce fewer failures.

At our last SEO/LA Meeting, Comrade Lynn was tasked, or should I say there were suggested, many different ideas and topics for training and workshops. Already suggested were sessions on Branch Inspections and Branch Regulations. We need to improve our communication with each other, yes, at all levels. We all tend to slip up once in a while we just need to keep it to a minimum. While on this subject, I would like to thank Comrade Roy Eaton for taking the time to put these very useful newsletters together which certainly help with the communication part of our work. Thank you Roy.

In closing, Trish and I would like to wish everyone in Ontario Command, and beyond, a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and certainly all the best for 2023, and let's keep, **"Working Together"**.

In Comradeship

Derek Moore



## **Garry Pond, Immediate Past Provincial President, Homeless Veterans Chair, Property Chair**

Hello Comrades. Wow! It is hard to believe but Christmas is already here! It seems to me like yesterday we were doing all that Legion business on the floor of the Provincial Convention and having fun in beautiful North Bay.

I would like to give you a small update on a few very important programs that I am sure are of the greatest interest to Veterans and all Legion members. Before I get into that however I would like to thank the many volunteers at Branches, Zones, Districts, our Ladies Auxiliaries - and of course many, many thanks to our fantastic staff at Provincial HQ and locations around the province, for helping with this important work! Without all of you, our work just could not continue. Thank you again!



### **Leave The Streets Behind**

The Mission Statement of the Leave the Streets Behind program is to *ensure that every Veteran who is homeless or near homeless finds the help they need to leave the streets behind.*

Through the generosity of our Legion Branches and Ladies Auxiliaries, throughout our Command, money has been raised through various events to support the Homeless Veterans Program. To date, approximately 3 million dollars has been dispersed from the Ontario Command Homeless Veterans Fund and over 100,000 dollars from our Ladies Auxiliary. There has been no financial support from any level of government. More than 1056 Homeless Veterans have been identified, in 190 communities of which 119 are female Veterans since the beginning of the program. (Note figures shown are as of 01 December 2022).

### **Property Committee**

At the PEC meeting in November, a motion to amend the amount requiring approval for renovation from \$10,000 to \$25,000 was approved. This was felt necessary for several reasons but mostly because of inflation and the need to keep the workload of the committee to a reasonable level.

I would like to note that Property Committee issues are governed in Ontario by the Legion Act and federally by the Act to Incorporate. Ontario Command Officer's Manual page A45 to A52 has the policies and procedures. Please become familiar with this section of our manual. I would also like to thank everyone for the get well wishes



and the wonderful words of encouragement to me during my recent health issues. You cannot know how much this means to me during this difficult time.

On behalf of Linda and myself, I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season. We are hoping 2023 will be a great year for The Royal Canadian Legion, all its members and our many wonderful friends!

In Comradeship

Garry Pond



## **Lynn McClellan, Provincial First Vice President, Leadership Development Chair**

Comrades, as we near the end of another year our thoughts need to focus on those who are less fortunate, those who suffer from physical and mental issues, those who are homeless, and all those around us who are vulnerable and need our assistance. It's the time of year for reflection and hope for the future as we turn the calendar over and look ahead to another new year, satisfied that we have done as much as we can for those in need, and at the same time be able to maintain the balance required of us for our duties at home.



As members of The Royal Canadian Legion, we have the means to provide that assistance to others. Through the many programs that are supported by so many branches across the province, we can and do make a difference in people's lives. When I look at every Legion magazine, I feel so proud of the various donations made by our branches throughout the year to so many deserving recipients. I also remind myself that those are only the ones that are submitted to the magazine as there are countless others that were not.

I also reflect on the success of our Homeless Veterans Program where we have improved the quality of life for many of our Veterans who are destitute and in despair. What a joy to hear heartwarming stories from those who have received our help. I also reflect on the many other programs in which the Legion is involved. Operation Service Dog, the Charitable Foundation's assistance in providing better medical equipment to hospitals and fire departments across the Province of Ontario, and there are many others. Once again, we are making a difference in people's lives.

It is the time of year Comrades, to say thank you to my fellow SEOs, all of our branches, our members, and our Ladies Auxiliaries across the Province of Ontario. Thank you for all that you do to make a difference in someone's life. It is satisfying and rewarding, and I am so proud to associate myself with all of you.



Soon the Christmas season will be upon us. Please pause and take time with family and friends. Be thankful for what you have and also for what you have provided to others. On behalf of Darlene and my family, I wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a safe, healthy, and happy New Year. I look forward to 2023.

In comradeship

Lynn McClellan

## Crystal Cook, Provincial Vice President Provincial Youth Education Chair

Comrades.

It's hard to believe it has been 6 months since the election in North Bay, the time is flying by. I have had the pleasure of attending the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Br. 445 Callander and the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Br. 232 Huntsville. I congratulate both branches on these milestone anniversaries.

With the COVID restrictions lifted it has been so nice to finally be able to once again gather in person and see everyone. Zoom served its purpose to keep us connected when we couldn't gather but nothing compares to human contact.



District E Commander Ken Faubert,  
Provincial Vice President Crystal Cook  
and Br. 445 President Ron Devost

At this time of year, the Youth Education Competition is in full swing, I am looking forward to seeing the entries that make it to the provincial level. I would like to say thank you to all the Youth Education chairs at every level but especially at the branch level. Without the work that you put in, we would have no competition at Zone, District and Provincial to judge.

I am excited to announce that the Provincial Public Speaking will be happening on May 6, 2023 at Br. 459 Stouffville.

I also had the extreme pleasure of representing Ontario Command at the Remembrance Day Service at Sunnybrook Hospital. Being in the company of all the Veterans on this important day really renewed my passion for the Legion and why we do what we do.

Although still new to the position it is a pleasure to serve as one of your Vice Presidents, I have learned so much already and continue to learn every day

On behalf of my husband Jr and myself, we wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

In Comradeship

Crystal Cook



### **Diane Condon Provincial Vice President, Bursary Chair, Honours and Awards Chair,**

Since taking office in May of this year, I must say that I have been busy. At some points, one could say challenged as well as busy. Learning my new portfolios and continuing with my positions at the district level tends to keep one on their toes!

**Bursary Chair** is the most challenging position. In this, we are dependent on unknown outside forces for our success. With the help of good district chairs and the best secretary ever, Jen, the message is getting out here. Hopefully, the students will take advantage of the “Free Money” we offer and apply. To date, it has been slow, but we are ever hopeful that the applications will roll in January.

**Honors and Awards** Chair has been interesting. I am amazed at the number of Legion members who seem to have devoted a great deal of time to the Legion movement. They certainly have been deserving of the Life Memberships and Meritorious Service Medals we have approved. Those awards along with Media Awards and the Friendship Awards help us to cover the Legion and its community supporters. Well done all.





As an immediate past District Commander, my district still engages me to help them. In my case, it is Homeless Veterans and Finance. Of the two, Homeless Veterans takes quite a bit of my time. Thankfully, we here in Niagara, have a good group of people to work with and have been successful in housing approximately 8 veterans, with 3 or 4 more waiting. Housing is such an issue throughout the province, but we persevere and continue searching for any and all possible housing units. It is very rewarding work.

Comrades, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, prosperous and healthy New Year. Until we meet again, stay safe and enjoy your time with your families.

Yours in comradeship and service,

Diane Condon

### **Mark Rogers, Provincial Vice President , Provincial Membership Chair**

2022 has been an exceptional year for The Royal Canadian Legion and myself and my family personally. Finishing my term as District A Commander brought a sense of relief that our branches were able to make it through the pandemic with only a few bumps and bruises. With the hard work of members and volunteers, our branches were able to come through the rough times with a renewed sense of purpose and the realization that life within the Legion has changed and must continue to adapt in order to reach our full potential as the most important Veterans Organization in Canada.

So far, this term has been a wonderful learning experience with being exposed to different areas of our organization and helping branches throughout the Command and not just in my own district. Having been appointed the Provincial Membership Chair has been rewarding as it was when I was Branch/Zone/District Membership Chair.



All of the branches in Ontario Command should be so proud of their hard work this year in recruiting and retaining members. As a Command, we have an 89.47% renewal rate, and 11,177 new/reinstated members for a total membership of 88,825. This is 102.34% of our 2021 final membership total. This can only be achieved through the hard work of the branch membership chair/committee and the activities and outreach of the branches. I congratulate all of the branches for a hugely successful 2022. We still have a couple of more weeks to bump our numbers even higher. Good luck to all of the branches for an even more successful 2023 membership year.

On behalf of myself and my partner Gabriele Janka, I wish everyone a happy and safe Holiday Season and a rewarding and successful 2023.

Mark Rogers

## Ed Pigeau, Provincial Treasurer

We begin this term, post Covid, struggling to get back to some form of normal. Collectively we are now in a new struggle which sees our dollar worth less while costs increase. Ontario Command continues to work to ensure our officers and staff have the financial resources to complete their various duties.

This term we will focus on changes to the processes we use to produce our annual budgets and to reduce costs. As an example, budget 2023-24 will be completed and tabled at the March 2023 PAC for approval, rather than beginning in July 2023 with approval at the August 2023 PAC. This will mean that for the first time in many years the budget will be approved before we start the term. We will also be adding a projected budget for the 2024-2025 term. Hopefully, these changes will help to streamline the command budgeting process and save important staff time.

We are also pursuing other cost saving initiatives with several external service providers in a further effort to reduce costs. I am pleased to relay that there will be no per capita increase for 2023. I close this message by sending to each of you, Best wishes for a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Yours in Comradeship  
Ed Pigeau



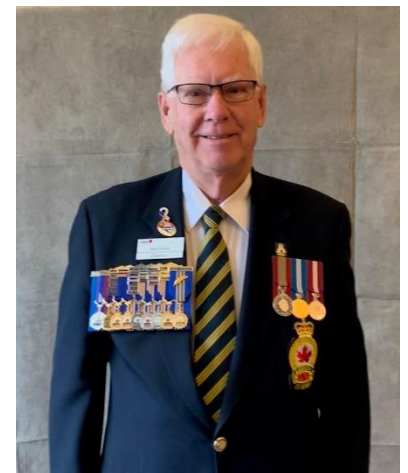
## Provincial Chair Ron Goebel

Hello Comrades.

Wow how time flies when you're having fun! It's hard to believe that it was in June when our last Provincial Newsletter was distributed this year. I guess keeping busy makes the time just fly by.

It certainly has been most comforting that we have been able to hold most meetings and Conventions in person this year rather than by Zoom. Branches, Zones and Districts now have newly elected executive members in place, and I congratulate all of the newly elected officers at all three levels.

Since our Provincial Convention in North Bay in May and our last Provincial Newsletter in June, Legion business continued as usual for me. On a sad note, my wife Barb and I attended a celebration of life for District G Past District Commander Bert Diamond at the Gananoque Branch 92 on July 3rd. Bert was Deputy District G Commander at the time that I was District G Commander and he and Sharon were great friends as well. It was enlightening to see so many past





District G Commanders and past and present District G Council members in attendance. I am sure that Bert would have been very pleased to see so many in attendance. Rest in peace Bert.

Friday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, we held our first annual August Finance Committee meeting with the newly elected officers at our Provincial Headquarters in Aurora. It was a most productive meeting with our newly elected Provincial Treasurer introducing a few positive changes to the way in which we do business, especially in the preparation of our budgets.



The following day was a day that all of us have waited for since the beginning of Covid as we participated in the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the CNE Warriors Day Parade. It was another great parade and once again was very heartwarming to see the number of spectators in attendance who applauded our Ontario Command contingent from the time we entered through the Princess Street gates right through the CNE grounds. It was quite emotional yet very impressive. The only thing that was missing was my wife Barb who stayed at home to attend a wedding for very close friends. These Comrades gathered after the Warriors Day Parade.

Pictured: Steven Clark, Executive Director of Dominion Command, Bruce Julian Dominion President, Derek Moore Provincial President, Ontario Command, Lynn McLennan 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Ontario Command, Ron Goebel, Chair, Ontario Command. (Photo by Marilyn Lawson-Dickinson, District D PRO)

On Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, it was back to business as we held our first August P.A.C. meeting with all the S.E.O.'s and newly elected District Commanders. It was a most productive meeting with many administrative matters being discussed and motions approved.

On September 9<sup>th</sup>, I had the privilege of representing Ontario Command at the renaming of parkland in the City of Ottawa to Wrens Way. And although the organizing committee had chosen the name Wrens Way, the renaming of this park was to honour all WW11 women's divisions. This included the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service, the Royal Canadian Air Force Women's Division and the Canadian Women's Army Corps.

My wife Barb and a WW11 female Veteran joined me at this special ceremony. The organizing committee had extended an invitation to WWII Veteran, Joan Bray who lives in Carleton Place and served as a medic in the Canadian Women's Army Corps during WWII caring for injured Veterans here in Canada. It was our distinct honour and pleasure to take her to this event, She was the only WWII female Veteran in attendance. Needless to say, she was the centre of attention as the Mayor of Ottawa and students from a local high school who were in attendance wanted to talk to her and take pictures with her.





The L.A. Convention was held in Kingston in September as well and both my wife Barb and I had the privilege of attending their Opening Ceremonies and elections. I also participated in their parade prior to their Opening Ceremonies. I congratulate all of the newly elected officers and wish them a most successful term of office.

Although we were able to meet in person throughout the year, we still found it necessary to hold Zoom Meetings to conduct business matters in between regular scheduled in-person meetings. On September 20<sup>th</sup> we held a P.E.C. Zoom meeting to have two financial matters dealt with and approved. Two more Zoom meetings were held on November 1<sup>st</sup>, which were Finance Committee and P.A.C. meetings to again deal with a financial matter.

The first weekend in October my wife and I had the privilege of attending the District B Fall Convention at Branch 60 in Burlington. It was a most successful convention with business being carried out in a most professional manner. It was also great to see so many of our friends in District B once again and to meet new ones. The hospitality Barb and I received was exceptional.



Two weeks later, I was to be the Provincial guest at the District A Convention being held in Branch 261 in Tecumseh. However, both my wife and I contracted that nasty Covid virus and were unfortunately unable to attend. I want to thank Provincial Vice-President Mark Rogers for taking my place on very short notice.

November is always a busy month for all of us and it was no different for Barb and me. On November 6<sup>th</sup>, we attended a Veterans dinner at our own branch in Carleton Place. We were privileged to have the Dominion President Bruce Julian and his wife Darlene attend our dinner. Barb and I had the distinct pleasure of sitting with Bruce and Darlene along with our female WW11 Veteran Joan Bray and our Immediate Past Provincial President Garry Pond and his wife Linda.



Both Barb and I were involved in our local branch Poppy Campaign and were kept busy distributing Poppy boxes to businesses within our community and taking our turn doing Poppy duty the first weekend of the Poppy Campaign distributing Poppies at larger businesses in our community. I was again very honoured to be the Master of Ceremonies for our annual Remembrance Day Ceremony in Carleton Place. We couldn't have asked for better weather and we had a very large crowd attend our Ceremony and parade.

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, a committee from our local branch that I chair made a presentation to our local Town Council to have our local Memorial Park where our Cenotaph is located, renamed to Veterans Memorial Park. Following the presentation, Council unanimously approved a motion to have the park renamed and I made this announcement at our local Remembrance Day Ceremony which was received with thundering applause.

On November 18<sup>th</sup>, Barb and I attended a retirement party for Tamy Shearer at the Aurora Branch to share Tamy's more than 20 years of service as a dedicated employee of Ontario Command.

On behalf of my wife Barb and myself, we wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and safe travels and good health in the New Year.

In Comradeship

Ron Goebel



## **Ron Crown, Provincial Vice-Chair. Provincial Resolutions Chair**

Most of the Branches returned to operations in 2022, although since the pandemic many have had to make major changes to their previous normal operations. Many changes will have to be made and accepted by the members to keep their branches viable.

A new policy and procedure for resolutions was passed at the Provincial Executive Council meeting in November and this new method must be followed to allow the concerned committees to deal with them in a timely manner.

I am sure we will have challenges in 2023 and hopefully they can be considered with Comradeship.

Merry Christmas from our house to your house from the Crown Family.

Ron Crown.



## **Pamela Sweeney, Provincial Executive Director**

As we wind down to the last few weeks of 2022, Staff at Provincial Headquarters and the Provincial Service Offices are looking forward to the Christmas break and the opportunity to spend time with friends and family.

I commend the Senior Elected Officers, Provincial Chairs, and all levels of Leadership and Volunteers within The Royal Canadian Legion, Ontario Command Branches on navigating their way and creating a new normal for the return of social activities in 2022.

Some programs have been cancelled but others have been created.

Veterans still need assistance with Poppy Funds, housing, benevolent funds, rent payments, furniture, groceries, etc. Veterans still need advocacy for pensions, disability awards, and VIP services. Provincial Service Officers continue to assist Veterans and branch service officers in a timely manner.

Students still need Bursary funds even though classes are happening in person and on-line. Staff continue to assist every day to open the mail, process the mail, deal with Veterans plates, SUFS, cheques, and of course getting that correspondence/cheques and letters out.

Hospitals, nursing homes, and firefighters still require Charitable Foundation GRANTS more than ever!





Thank you to those that took a moment to say a kind word to Staff that have assisted this year by doing everything in their power to accommodate, including evenings and weekends while we navigated the waters “working together”.

Thank you, Staff at Provincial Headquarters and Satellite Offices that are always willing to lend a hand and to all those volunteers who were called upon to assist us.

Every year the staff purchases toys for all ages and makes a cash donation to York Regional Police's Toy Drive. There were also donations of food for the food bank and hotel soaps and shampoos.

Pictured: Pam, Carrie from York Regional Police Toy Drive Coordinator, Jen, Hailey and Kelly

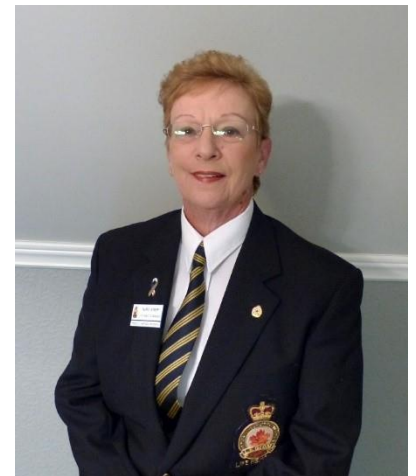
***MERRY CHRISTMAS, WISHING YOU A HEALTHY, HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!***

Pamela

**Marg Emery, President, of The Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Command Branches and Ladies' Auxiliaries Charitable Foundation**

First, my thanks to Comrade President Derek Moore for re-appointing me to this position. It is an honour to be a part of the Charitable Foundation and serve with our dedicated committee members both Legionnaires and Ladies Auxiliary.

The following programs fall under the financial umbrella of the Charitable Foundation so the Legion can issue tax receipts. The Veterans Comfort Fund received total donations of \$124,125.00, donations for VCF were up 11.4% from last year. (JSF) - the Joe Sweeney Fund (Leave the Streets Behind) received total donations of \$75,345.65, donations for the JSF Fund were up 5.2% from last year. (SDP) - The Service Dogs Program received total donations of \$3,071.25 from the public. Donations from Legion levels for the SDP go to the Provincial Poppy Fund to be kept there until needed which is why this figure seems low.



I never cease to be amazed by the fact that CF and Bursary puts \$1 million into the economy in Ontario annually. Add to that the programs mentioned above, as well as others, means **the Legion and its Ladies Auxiliary put \$3 million dollars into the economy of Ontario every year**. That is absolutely amazing!

Just recently I was invited to be the guest speaker at the Ladies Auxiliary 59<sup>th</sup> Biennial Provincial Convention in Kingston. This was my first L.A. Provincial Convention and it was so exciting to learn so much more about the LA. I am happy to say it was a great experience for all of us. I was thrilled to have the opportunity to explain the workings of the Charitable Foundation. Special thanks to the Provincial Command Ladies for the \$10,000 cheque and the many Ladies Auxiliaries of the Ontario branches for another \$10,000 making the total donations from the Convention of \$20,000. Thank you Ladies!

By the way, I have heard the comment “don’t” donate to the CF, it has too much money; actually I have heard it from my own District so I need to do better. Yes there is a considerable amount of funds in the bank account but that money is there in perpetuity so the program will always be there for those who come after us. That is how it was set up. You see we take all the donations we receive each year plus the interest earned and any grants approved but not awarded then minus the expenses and that is what we have to donate for that year. So if you withhold donations it will affect our program immediately that year. So please do not let anyone tell you we have lots of money so you should not donate. Those persons do not know all the facts and I would be happy to talk with you anytime.

We have updated our by-laws and documents to ensure we are gender neutral. This was an item from last year’s Committee of the Whole meeting and was confirmed that last night on the Friday night of PEC weekend. The Committee considered 91 applications and **approved \$621,302.00 in grants**. We are looking at the possibility of accepting on line applications within the next two years.

I would like to welcome Hailey Gobin to our committee as our new Committee Secretary and I can already see that she is going to fit in very well. Aida Kostuck who worked for Ontario Command for nearly 30 years, many of those years as CF Secretary, retired this summer. Aida was exceptionally passionate about CF and was always in some applicant’s corner trying to get the committee to approve an application that may have been borderline. Aida was my advisor, my memory (those of you my age will understand that), my guide especially in the early days and my friend. She is and will be missed.

Special thanks to the Ladies Auxiliaries as always for their support and another big thank you to the branches, zones and districts for their donations, without all of you there would be no Charitable Foundation. A big thank you to our committee members who are enthusiastic about the work they for the Charitable Foundation.

Finally thank you to the staff at Ontario Command. They all do a great job.

Wishing you all very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year with sincere best wishes for an enjoyable and healthy holiday season filled with family, fun and faith and a better year ahead. Take care, God bless, stay safe and please be kind to one another.

In Comradeship

Marg Emery, President



## Ron Goebel, Military Service Recognition Book Program Chair

Volume #9 of the Military Service Recognition Book has been distributed and we are now well into year #10 of our program. With this being the tenth year of our program, we are hoping that Volume #10 will be somewhat of a special edition.

However, there is a lot of work to be done in the recruitment of Veteran submissions for our Volume #10. As of the time of writing this report in November, we had only received a total of 46 Veteran submissions for our special tenth edition.

Hopefully now that our annual Poppy Campaign and Remembrance Day activities are completed, branches will place more attention in doing what they can to recruit Veteran submissions for our important Remembrance program. Branch Veteran Service Officers and PRO's can also be a big help with accomplishing this.

Our program should also be talked about and promoted at branch general meetings and all branch functions. As mentioned, we just recently distributed our Volume #9 book to all branches. This is a great tool to use in promoting our program with the membership and especially with Veterans and family members of Veterans. Many communities also had Veteran Banners lining their streets during our Remembrance period. Another great source for having these Veterans included in our books.

Comrades, we should be doing what we can to make our Volume #10 a special edition and ask for everyone's assistance and cooperation in doing what they can to make this happen. All Veterans deserve to be recognized and with the number that we have in the Province of Ontario, we have a long way to go before we have included them all in our special books of Remembrance.



Keep in mind Comrades that through our publisher, we have raised a lot of money for our Command through this program. And these funds are being utilized to give back to our Veterans through various Veteran transition programs that we at Ontario Command support.

In his acceptance speech at our Provincial Convention held in North Bay, our Provincial President stated that he would be using the theme **Working Together** for his term of office. By doing so with our MSRB Program, I am sure that we will be successful.

The delivery of our Volume #9 books went relatively smoothly this time around with a few exceptions. Most of those problems were with us not being supplied with correct addresses for branches. In this regard, I ask that all branches take the time to check our Command website and the addresses that are listed for your branch. We can only deliver our books to the addresses that we have on file at our Command Headquarters.

Financially, our program has been most successful over the past nine years thanks to the efforts of our publisher, Fenety Marketing. As of the end of October, we had received a total net income in the amount of \$1,701,214.38. Our total expenses during this time amount to \$446,73.58 which includes \$267,620.00 donated to 9 various Veteran Transition programs that we at Ontario Command support. Through these donations, it has assisted us in fulfilling our mandate of funding such Veteran programs.

The success of our program is also dependent on each branch having a Branch MSRB Coordinator who is continually promoting our program and actively involved in recruiting Veteran submissions. What has been somewhat disappointing is to see that there are still several of our branches who have not submitted as much as one Veteran submission over this nine-year period. I put out the challenge to any branch that has yet to submit any Veteran submission to recruit submissions and have them submitted for publication in our Volume #10 book. Of course, we also ask that all branches do the same. And please do not hold onto submissions until the last minute. Please submit them to your Provincial Coordinator as soon as you have received them.

A memorandum had been sent out to all branches recently regarding the change in format of our books on our provincial website. The change is for us to go to a new “flip book” format. This makes for a much easier read in being able to flip through the pages rather than scrolling up and down to read the pages in a PDF format. I am happy to report that all of our volumes have now been converted to the ‘flip book’ format on our command website. To view our books in this new flip book format, just click onto our website at [www.on.legion.ca](http://www.on.legion.ca) and on the left-hand side under Remembrance, click on Military Service Recognition Book and follow the prompts.

I do want to thank all of you who have been involved in our program to date to make it the success that it has been. Your support and dedication is truly appreciated. I ask that you continue to promote the program through a concentrated effort during year #10 of our program.

Comrades, on behalf of Barb and myself, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and all the very best in 2023. May you continue to stay safe and healthy and work in the best interests of our Veterans, their families and your Branches. Comrades. We will Remember them.

In Comradeship

Ron Goebel



## Brian Harris, Provincial Poppy Chair

I wish to start off this report by thanking President Derek Moore for reappointing me to this chair. With all the changes in the Poppy manual as well as the new Poppy reporting year, it was important to have continuity for this term.

Having just concluded this year's campaign we do not have the numbers yet, but by the reports we have heard so far, it appears we at least held our own or even improved on last year's campaign. Congratulations to all branch Poppy Chairs and their committees.

Our program continues to grow, change and reflect today's requirements, carefully maintaining the most important and recognizable traditions and adding or improving the areas where we can widen our reach and focus on education in regard to Remembrance. With all our efforts we must continue to emphasize Remembrance should occur all year long, not just during the Poppy Campaign period. This can be achieved by actively promoting within our communities the Poppy image and the importance of Remembrance.

Our two main provincial programs, Leave the Streets Behind and Operation Service Dogs grow more successful each and every year. Both these programs make real changes in Veterans' lives, and quite frankly, can be partially responsible for saving those lives. Please continue to support these through education and financial support.

I urge all branch Poppy Chairs to do the best possible to get the Poppy Status reports to your Zone Poppy chairs in time. For this transition year, the time frame is extremely tight, all we can ask is do your very best, just as you always have.

I also ask that branches not hold back Poppy Trust Funds, spend it properly in accordance with the Poppy Manual, as well as wisely and fairly. Remember any request for support should always be with focus on direct Veteran support as well as those programs that are allowed in the Poppy manual.

We are working on a spreadsheet that mirrors the Poppy Status report which should make it easier for Branches to maintain their finances through the year. Your District and Zone Poppy chairs have a PowerPoint presentation, and it is available on the provincial website. All Poppy materials are available on the website. We will also work on more education and training when required, especially as changes happen.

In closing, I want to thank our extremely hard working and talented Command staff that are at the core of our organization. We owe each and every one our support and thanks.

Comrades, the last three years were a challenge, which we met, thanks to all our talented volunteers and staff from Branch to Command levels. Not only did we make it through, we have actually grown and improved, how did that happen, by **"Working Together"**. That is the theme of this term and I ask





all to embrace it. Put petty and personality differences aside and let us continue to be the largest and the most effective Veterans support organization in Canada.

From our house to yours, from Brenda and myself, have a happy holiday season, however you choose celebrate it. Stay healthy, stay safe and let's make 2023 a truly great new year.

In Comradeship

Brian Harris

**Carolyn McCaul, Provincial Public Relations Chair, Military Service Recognition Book Coordinator (Districts A,D,G,H,K)**

Hello Comrades

The following I reported to PEC last month regarding the next Branch Survey...the next one will begin next June 2023. Our Fact Sheet requires major updating and the only way we can do that is through all branches completing the Branch Survey. Whether your branch is large or small, we still need your participation. If a branch does not hold many activities, please still complete the survey with the information they are able to do. In doing so, the Fact Sheet will have more accurate information. Last time we had 92% participation, let's try for that 100%. Please note that only one person gets to see the individual branch's information, the only information I receive is the total figures, and that is what's passed on.



In saying all this, I hope that all branches are using the **“Recording Chart of Information for Answers to Future Branch Survey Questions 2022-2023”**. The information we are looking for is from June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023. If the branches are recording their information as the events or presentations are taking place, then when the Branch Survey is sent to the branches at the end of May 2023, all the branches have to do is total the columns and enter the figures under the appropriate questions on the survey. To the Zone Commanders, there are only 6 months to go for the branches to collect their information, so please check in on your branches to make sure that they are using this Recording Chart of Information. If for some reason they do not have it, please let me know and I will send one to them.

On a cheery note, District A Commander Comrade Caroline Mayo shared a “Good News Story” with me that I would like to share. Nash Guest is 6 years old and last June he wanted to sell his toys to be able to donate money to Service Dogs for Veterans. He attended a General Meeting at Branch 410 Port Stanley and asked them if he could use their hall for a yard sale for his fund-raising efforts. He held a yard sale in September and a Veteran found out what Nash was doing and went to the Legion

with his service dog to meet him. To say the least, Nash was thrilled to meet him. Nash went out and got donations from friends and family and had an on-line auction. Nash raised \$3145.30 and presented a cheque at the District A Convention. One thing I can say is that this little boy has one big heart!



Bill Chafe District A Service Officer and Nash.



Andrew Gougham, his dog Riggs and Nash

In closing, during this special season please take time to remember what Christmas is about. It's a time of caring, sharing and spending special moments with your families and friends. John and I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year!.

Comrades, please have safe travels wherever your paths may lead, stay safe and stay healthy!

Yours in Comradeship,

Carolyn McCaul

At PEC in November, Ron Goebel, Mary Ann Goheen and Carolyn McCaul were honoured and thanked by President Derek Moore for their outstanding dedication and work each has contributed to making the Military Service Recognition Booklet such a success.



## Sharon McKeown, Seniors/LTC Chair

Comrades All,

There is a wealth of easily accessible information on everything pertaining to Seniors available free of charge to anyone interested, simply by striking a key! That said, a word of caution to all, there are those eager to 'steal' our dollars. Check out seminars on cyber security, a common and growing problem.

Seniors today are healthier and better informed, with more time and disposable income than generations past, though we may joke a dollar saved is a government oversight! Seniors comprise the greatest percentage of our membership and are too vital to our organization to lose them for lack of attention.

We introduced the **Seniors' Literary Competition** in 2019. This is an activity without expense for those Seniors not interested in sports. The program starts at branch, with competition at zone, then district levels. It is not a 'Provincial' Program. Last year, District E took over the program from Branch 270, which grew from 20 to over 100 submissions, with entries from across the country and beyond, during a pandemic and with minimal promotion! It can work. The program saved the sanity of several Seniors in the cottage country community of Coldwater, during the isolation of Covid. There are Seniors and aging Veterans in every community with a story to tell and need mental stimulation. Adding a category for art and photography, as suggested by a couple of Veterans, is on the agenda.

Please contact me with any ideas for programs/activities to attract more Seniors into our ranks. Our goal nationally is to achieve a membership of 300,000 by 2026. It is within reach! Just as we reach out to Veterans, reach out to this largest segment of our population, who generally, have the time to volunteer, the experience to offer, and money to spend!

In the words of Jonathan Swift, there comes a time when "everything old is new again", age can be an excuse and a stigma, let's rejuvenate our Seniors, bring them into the fold and find a way to keep them.

A brief in the past Long-Term Care concentrated on issues facing our aging Veterans. Today, long term care, its availability and necessity concerns all. We know long term care for the general population is in high demand and short supply. Anyone not aware of the situation is ignoring it! We are in a health care crisis in Ontario, not getting better fast! It was a given that baby boomers would grow into Seniors, going from Pampers to Depends, over their lifetime. Who was going to look after all these 'old' people? The lack of planning for this natural evolution concerns each of us, one way or another going forward.

The pandemic revealed the catastrophic shortcomings of our LTC institutions. The lack of government watchdogs, and monitoring practices in long-term care facilities, was realized! The Ontario government responded with \$20 million to the long-term care sector and the launch of a proactive inspection program, with the hiring of 193 inspectors by fall. To date, 58 of 627 homes have been inspected and 104 inspectors hired. Perhaps, too little too late.





New legislation passed in the Fall permitted 'temporary' relocation of hospital patients designated for long-term care, into homes not of their choosing. Bill #7, sped through the legislature, without answers to basic questions, such as how long is 'temporary'? What if a patient refuses? How much is that refusal going to cost? Though temporary is still undefined, we know that as of Nov. 20, patients who don't consent to a move can be [charged a \\$400 daily fee](#). These new rules are an effort to free up hospital beds for acute care patients and create space for the backlog of surgeries driven by the pandemic.

Appreciating 'dire straits require desperate measures. This decision directly affects our most vulnerable. It does not take their interests into consideration. Moving elderly people away from family, friends and their community increases the likelihood of isolation and detrimental impacts. Decisions intended to improve, enhance, or better the lives of Ontario Seniors should not be made without our input!

Legionnaires can take pride in the accomplishments of our organization to improving the quality of life for Veterans in general. The wheels of progress turn slowly. Our organization has challenged the government and continues to do so, for defaulting on the promises made to Veterans, for benefits and future care and comfort. Below, is an update on the status of beds at the three designated Veterans Health facilities in Ontario: **Sunnybrook Veterans' Centre** reports that Veterans Affairs approved an increase in preferred beds from 80 to 100, of which 84 were occupied at that time. Occupancy continues to decline and is currently at 72%. **Parkwood Institute** in London reports an increase to 50 preferred beds a year ago, 40 are occupied, 92 of 141 beds are occupied, by 52 WWII Veterans, 11 Korea Veterans, 13 Peacekeepers and 16 Other Qualified Veterans (OQV). Any Veteran coming to them and needing to be hospitalized is accepted. Ages in contract beds range from 84 to 102, and in preferred from 62 to 102. **Perley Health** encompasses 3 Veteran units Rideau, Ottawa, and Gatineau. Some Veterans are assigned to rooms in the Gatineau secure wing due to their condition. All Veterans accepted into the facility are or will be housed in the 'Rideau Veterans Residence' unless their conditions dictate a more secure accommodation. To date, 159 beds are available for qualified veterans (WWII and Korea) and other qualified veterans (OQVs, Peacekeepers). There is no wait list for QV. There are 72 OQVs occupying beds with 19 on the waiting list. Perley Health is continuing to negotiate with Veterans Affairs Canada and the Government for an additional 70 beds to accommodate more OQVs and veterans. Perley Health is also responsible for Seniors Village, a LTC which has agreed to accommodate, although not mandated, 25-28% Veterans and their spouses who qualify for LTC. A program managed by the City of Ottawa Long Term Care department. I thank Comrade Aubrey Callan for the info update on Perley Health.

In closing, from my family to yours, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year, travel safe, stay well, keep smiling, and living the dream.

Yours in Comradeship,

Sharon McKeown

## **John Crook, Track and Field Chair**

I hope all comrades and their families are well and safe and were able to finally get away for a vacation.

First, I would like to thank Comrade Derek for appointing me as your Provincial Track & Field chair for the next term and I look forward to catching up with the Program and making some new relationships to help us move forward in the future.

### **T&F Activities 2022**

Summer Meet 2022 - Cancelled

National Championships Sherbrook Aug 2022

Sherbrook, QC 2<sup>nd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> Aug.



Although we did not send a Team from Ontario this year, I did attend as the provincial rep to oversee and give feedback to the event as we had a new Meet Coordinator from Dominion Command, From what I had heard we felt I should be there to observe and help where necessary.

With that said the 2022 Royal Canadian Legion National Track and Field Championships were a great success considering the lower numbers of Legion and Open athletes (Covid-19 related).

Upon arrival, we were informed that Comrade Brian Weaver had contracted Covid-19 and was not going to be attending and that Comrade Norm Shelton was to be his replacement. Thank you, Norm, for stepping up and doing a great job. Kudos should also go to Steve Van Muyen for his co-ordination and control of the Track Meet. Considering this was his first Legion Nationals and that he had little guidance, he did a great job and throughout the whole time had both the Legion and the athletes in mind with any decisions made. Any decisions Steve made with Comrade Norm's input were made in a very timely manner and this was commented on by coaches from Ontario clubs and chaperones from other provinces.

A few items of concern were the agenda of activities, accommodations, food and the resale of Legion merchandise for the event.

I am planning a conference call with my committee before Christmas to get next year planned.

### **Future Track Meets 2023**

We are still trying to locate a track to host next year's provincial meet, we did originally have St Catharines, but the city has decided not to open the facilities for 2023 because of budget restraints. We are still looking and are hopeful for a venue on July 7-8, 2023.

**Provincial Summer Track meet 2023** - Hamilton July 7/8<sup>th</sup>, Hosted TBC

**Nationals Championships 2023** - Sherbrook, QC 9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> Aug.

Dominion Command is looking at resolving the accommodation & food issues identified by moving to a different university as a solution. We plan on sending a full team quota of 40 athletes, 4 chaperones and 4 coaches along with me.

In closing, the Track & Field Committee and I would like to thank Comrades Juanita and Pam for their background support and guidance. Finally, I must also say a **BIG THANK YOU** to the Ladies Auxiliary for their continued support.

Comrades from my family to you and yours we hope you stay safe and comfortable, and we wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous safe new year.

In Comradeship

John Crook

### **Mary Ann Goheen Web Site Coordinator, Ontario Correspondent, MSRB Coordinator B,C,E,F**

Comrades All

The Pandemic killed many of our events which generated photos for our website, such as our district conventions, our youth programs--the public speaking competition, track and field, members sports and the Dominion Convention—so naturally, those specific ‘albums’ within the photo gallery are lacking pictorial display. Since our May Convention, I have refreshed the photo gallery with over 120 new photos throughout various ‘albums’. Our website firm--Deximius Consulting Inc. maintains the website in accordance to contractual obligations and are available for assisting us as needed. Command staff, Lisa Dinsmore continually updates the slider window and keeps our forms and manuals current.



I can only say that in spite of Covid, Ontario was able to maintain a very visible presence in the Legion Magazine with submissions from the branches and Ladies Auxiliaries. The magazine guidelines for photo submissions are available in both French and English on the Magazine website. It is in PDF format and can be downloaded for reference. There has been a change in the H&A pages—50 year medal recipients are now shown in the head shots although we still publicize a photo showing the actual presentation of this medal. I can't stress enough that submitting a photo within days of the event is critical in the submission process, as we work on approximately a 3 ½ month layout advance before the magazine is received by the member.

The magazine will publish a photo of a member who is celebrating his/her 100th birthday or more in the magazine. Usually, they are surrounded by the branch president or others. Should you have members who have a milestone celebration, please provide me with the address of the Birthday individual so I can forward that information to the Dominion President and the Provincial President for appropriate recognition of the occasion.



I thank President Derek for this appointment for the next three years. He will be the 7th President for whom I have served. I believe in succession and feel that we have many people within our districts who should have an opportunity to serve at a higher level. We all serve on the committee at the discretion and desire of the President of the Term. Shortly after the May convention, I informed 1st Vice Lynn McClellan that he should start looking for a replacement for this position as I feel it is my time to move forward and step aside for a fresh face to take on not only the position of Correspondent but Website coordinator and as coordinator with the MSRB program that I currently hold.

In Comradeship

Mary Ann Goheen

### **Rick Preston, Commander District E**

On behalf of District E council and the 38 Branches of District E, I bring best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We have had a busy start to the term with many events, anniversaries, and celebrations. In July, we had the Ruck 2 Remember crew visit 5 of our Branches, Beaver Valley, Collingwood, Creemore, Shelburne and Alton. They did a great job and I thank them for opening their doors to these guys, making sure they were fed and had a place to sleep, a job well done.

The fall has been busy with seminars, Zone conventions and our District convention. Br 270 Coldwater did a great job hosting this convention weekend. The branches of District E made donations of over \$225,910.00. We have so much to be proud of in District E, with all that our branches do for our Veterans, youth and communities. We also have a great Veterans initiative program, and they have been very busy this summer with many events, whether it's fishing off the pier in Orillia, show and shine in New Lowell, Buddy check coffee at Peace Keeper Park, and partnering with Heroes Mending on the Fly at Franklin Pond Mt Albert. These Veterans programs have proven to be a great way for our Veterans to come together.

My deputy, comrade Betty Smith has been a great help as we deal with issues that come our way, and we have been able to have positive outcomes. I must also thank our Zone commanders, as they have dealt with any issues that I have brought to them. All in all, I believe we have a strong and committed team that is working well together for the betterment of the Royal Canadian Legion and District E.

On behalf of my wife Sue and I, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous new year.

Rick Preston



## Kathy Moggy, President Ontario Command Ladies Auxiliary

I begin by bringing greetings from the Officers of the Ladies Auxiliary Ontario Command. As you know, we held our Provincial Convention in Kingston in September. Our new slate of Officers is as follows:



**Sitting:** Debbie Olmstead, Immediate Past President, Kathy Moggy, President, Sharon Crown, 1st Vice .

**Standing:** Brenda Deacon, Chair, Kathey Putman, 2nd Vice, Yolande McKinnon, 3rd Vice President, Kim Adams, Secretary/Treasurer. Helene Hahn. Sgt At Arms.

I am sad to announce that we recently lost one of our Past Presidents – Judy Stinson.

Since it has only been four months since our convention, I don't have a lengthy report. However, I would like to correct a misconception and rumour that is out there. Our SEOs', after a lengthy discussion, decided we would not to attend the District Conventions being held in October. This does not mean that we won't be attending future District Conventions, and it is certainly NOT because we can't afford it.

We are also looking at moving our Provincial Convention from being held in September to being held in May. Since our Convention is held on the even years, it will not conflict with the Branch Conventions held on the odd years. It will also follow our fiscal year of June 1 – May 31.

We currently have 220 Ladies Auxiliaries, in the province. I have included a full Financial Statement with this report for the fiscal year 2021 – 2022.

<b>MONEY RAISED</b>	<b>Lottery</b>	<b>General</b>	<b>Total</b>
Dues & Initiations		102,802.50	<b>102,802.50</b>
Sports		28,568.38	<b>28,568.38</b>
All Other Sources of Income *(Nevada, Bingo, etc.)	128,002.45	1,830,180.65	<b>1,958,183.10</b>
<b>TOTAL MONEY RAISED</b>	<b>128,002.45</b>	<b>1,961,551.53</b>	<b>2,089,553.98</b>

<b>MONEY SPENT</b>	<b>Lottery</b>	<b>General</b>	<b>Total</b>
Per Capita Paid		83,892.00	<b>83,892.00</b>
Charitable Foundation	4,950.00	29,839.00	<b>34,789.00</b>
Ontario Provincial Bursary	9,450.00	41,348.15	<b>50,798.15</b>
Other Bursaries (list)	10,914.40	19,175.00	<b>30,089.40</b>
Donations to Branch (cash, equip., etc.)	15,234.00	485,688.25	<b>500,922.25</b>
Donations to Veterans Welfare	7,654.94	54,632.22	<b>62,287.16</b>
Other Donations (list)	53,973.35	98,955.09	<b>152,928.44</b>
Sports		5,635.90	<b>5,635.90</b>
Other Expenses	39,532.57	937,672.82	<b>977,205.39</b>
<b>TOTAL MONEY SPENT</b>	<b>141,709.26</b>	<b>1,756,838.43</b>	<b>1,898,547.69</b>

Impressive figures for the Ladies Auxiliaries, considering, like the branches they are just starting to recover after Covid.

Comrades, we are still getting reports of problems between branches and their Ladies Auxiliaries. If you know of any problems and want/need our help, please contact our Secretary/Treasurer – Kim Adams. We need our auxiliaries as much as you need your branches, and I truly believe those who have both need each other.

In closing, my officers and I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May you all have a very successful term of office.

In Comradeship

Kathy Moggy



**Ontario Command Senior Elected Officers and Ladies Auxiliary Senior Elected Officers at the 2022 Christmas Celebration.**



My wife Margaret and I wish all of you reading this Winter 2022 edition of the RCL Ontario Command Newsletter a Merry Christmas and a year to come complete with good health and many memorable and enriching adventures.

*Roy Eaton*  
*Editor*