

# Royal Canadian Legion

## Ontario Command Newsletter

Summer



2022

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### Derek Moore, Provincial President

Comrades All.

I would like to begin by thanking comrade Sherry Culling and her volunteer staff, Br. #23 North Bay, Br. #445 Callander and Br. #599 West Ferris, for a job well done in organizing and being very gracious hosts for the latest Provincial Convention in North Bay, you are all to be commended and a huge pat on the back goes out to each and everyone of you. Sadly though it was one I was unable to attend in person but I was most certainly there in spirit and followed along as best I could. Glad to say I'm now on the mend and should be good for another 25 years at least.



Basically comrades, we are all easing our way out of a 3 year Covid lockdown and brighter days are once again on the horizon. Taking everything into consideration, the 393 branches in Ontario faired reasonably well during that period and I'm glad to say we never did lose a branch to the Covid pandemic. A couple did close but they were planned closers which were going to happen anyway. That being said we now enter into another 3 year term which I had mentioned earlier I see as a blessing in disguise. It will allow us the extra time we need to accomplish some of the tasks I have planned for this term in office.

As I mentioned during my convention speech, training will be the main focus over the next three years. For us to succession plan we need to have knowledgeable members ready to move up. I commend those members who step forward to fill those vacant slots on occasion during elections but they need to understand that a certain amount of training will be involved and that they are not just filling a vacant slot. As you know I have been involved with Legion for many years and I have seen this

happen far too many times. I'd sooner leave the slot vacant rather than have someone just tag along for the ride. That is why training is so important, make that member a useful part of the organization allowing them the opportunity to move up the ladder if they wish but at the very least to be a useful part of a committee or executive, being able to provide suggestions and useful ideas that will benefit the organization today and into the future. Yes, comrades, times are changing and the sooner we expect and embrace that concept the better-off we will be as an organization.

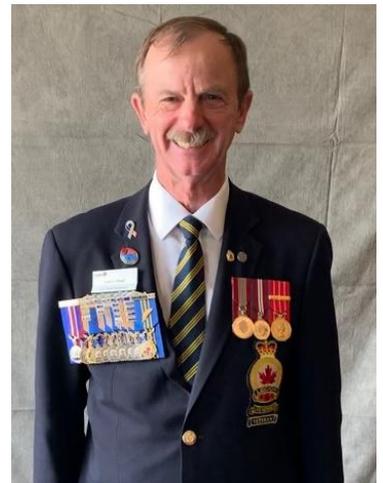
**“WORKING TOGETHER”** was the theme for the convention and is the theme for the next three years. A simple phrase but one that has proven itself over the years to be very, very, effective in achieving goals and results. Comrades lets *work together*, the in-house fighting and bickering has got to stop, what a waste of time and energy. Let's “Work Together” and achieve some positive results!

I thank all of those comrades who let their names stand for election and I congratulate all who were successful. Comrades Lynn McClellan, Diane Condon, Crystal Cook, Mark Rogers, Ed Pigeau, Ron Goebel and Ron Crown, well done and I look forward to working with you and the other appointed officers and chairs for the next three years. We will make a great team, one that is more than capable of achieving the results we need to keep Ontario Command #1.

In Comradeship  
Derek Moore

### **Garry Pond, Immediate Past Provincial President**

The 2021 convention was finally held in the Robert Surtees Athletic Centre at Nipissing University in North Bay from 14 to 17 May 2022. Our 52nd Biennial Provincial Convention was an outstanding success and many thanks to District H and Local Arrangements Chair Sherry Culling and all members of the committee. The theme of the convention was **“Working Together”** and the organizing team certainly complied with our theme. Comrade Derek Moore was acclaimed as Provincial President and Comrade Lynn McClellan was elected 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President. The three Vice Presidents elected were Comrades Diane Condon, Crystal Cook and Mark Rogers. Comrade Ed Pigeau was elected to the position of Treasurer, Comrade Ron Goebel was acclaimed as Chair and Comrade Ron Crown was elected to the position of Vice-Chair.



As many of you were not in attendance at our Convention, I wish to repeat here my thank you for giving me the opportunity to be your Provincial President and to represent our great Command during the past term. It was an honour and a pleasure to serve in this role and I will never forget the kindness you have shown to Linda and I in our many travels.

Thanks and commendation to our Provincial HQ staff for doing such a fantastic job during the last most difficult 3 year term! All of the staff, lead by Comrades Pamela Sweeny and Juanita Kemp, have the absolute best interests of the Command, the Districts, the Zones and of course our Branches at heart.

It was my greatest pleasure to work with the Senior Elected Officers you elected during our 2019 Convention. These friendships have grown and will continue long into the future! Thank you

*L to R Rear Terry Jacobs, Ron Crown, Pam Davidson, Lynn McLellan and Brian Harris. Sitting Sharon McKeown, Garry Pond, Derek Moore and Ron Goebel*



I also wish to thank all members of both the Provincial Admin Committee (PAC) and the Provincial Executive Council (PEC) for the incredible progress made during this most difficult time! Well done and thank you for the support! Standing Committee Chairs have been superb in their leadership and again many thanks!

Comrade Derek has appointed me to my new position as Property Committee Chair. The role of this committee is to review and decide on all real property transactions exceeding \$10,000. Branches are reminded that they must follow the Legion Act 1990, the Act to Incorporate and all policies contained in the current Officer's Manual pages A45 to A52. This is available on our website [https://www.on.legion.ca/docs/defaultsource/pdf/manuals/legionofficersmanual.pdf?sfvrsn=d819a3f\\_8](https://www.on.legion.ca/docs/defaultsource/pdf/manuals/legionofficersmanual.pdf?sfvrsn=d819a3f_8)

I have also been appointed as Chair of the Homeless Veterans Program and I look forward to this challenge. This program has been a great success assisting Homeless Veterans with rent payments and finding new apartments, providing dental work, clothing, and assisting with education requirements. Congratulations to all newly elected and appointed officers at all levels of our Command. The work we do at each level is extremely important and life changing to the Veterans we assist.

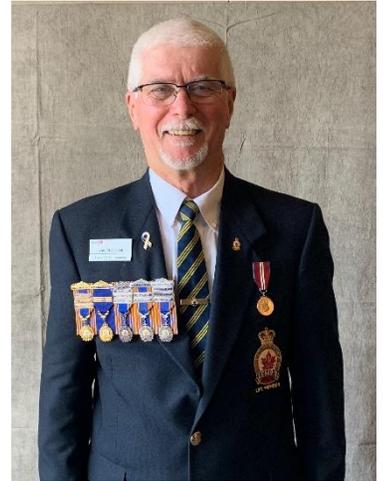
Linda and I wish Legion members everywhere a safe and wonderful summer and we look forward to our time together real soon - and this time face to face and in person!

Lest we forget!

Garry

## Lynn McClellan, Provincial First Vice-President

Comrades, I am absolutely humbled and thrilled to write a report for our Provincial newsletter as your newly elected 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. Thank you to all who voted for me at the recent convention in North Bay. You have my word that I will work hard and do my best over the next three years to justify your decision. To my running mates, Comrades Brian Harris and Pamela Davidson, I owe you a great deal of gratitude. You are both fine Legionnaires and I have great respect for you both. It has been a pleasure working beside you during this past term of office.



Looking ahead I can see that my days will be full. My eyes are starting to get blurry from the number of emails per day that need to be read and sometimes responded to. I guess it didn't register that I would chair a Provincial committee, be appointed the Provincial Cadet Liaison, and sit on six other committees. I am so excited to have this opportunity and can't thank you all enough. I will be leaning on my fellow SEOs for guidance, our Headquarters staff, and you, so that we can all achieve the very best for our Veterans and all branches in Ontario Command.

Our President Comrade Derek has chosen the theme **“Working Together”** for us this term. This is so important at all levels. I support Derek and promise to work together with him and all members of this great organization. We can achieve success comrades if we all work together.

As we approach the summer, I encourage all of you to enjoy your surroundings. Take a breath, spend quality time with your family and friends, and most importantly stay healthy. Your role at Branch, Zone, or District level is truly appreciated but you must not forget that your family should come first. Darlene and I are looking forward to our long awaited trip to Europe this July. After three Covid cancellations, it will be nice to get away and relax for a couple of weeks. Upon our return I look forward to our annual PAC meeting and a much anticipated Warriors Day parade at the CNE in August.

Until next time, keep up the good work and have a great summer.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn McClellan



## Crystal Cook, Provincial Vice-President

I want to begin by offering my thanks to everyone who supported me in North Bay, I am honoured and humbled to have been elected to be a Vice President of Ontario Command.

Thank you to Comrade Derek for appointing me to be the Provincial Youth Education chair, I am excited to be given this chair and give the members my commitment to work hard. I have some big shoes to fill following in the footsteps of Comrade Lynn and Comrade Derek before him.

I am a 30-year member of the Royal Canadian Legion and live in Keswick, with my husband of 25 years Jr and our 2 adult children Emma and Jacob. Ensuring our Veterans are taken care of is one of my passions it started with my Grandad a WW2 Veteran and continues today with my brother who is currently stationed in Gagetown

Being the District E Commander for the past term was both an honour and a challenge, navigating the Covid pandemic while difficult at times brought out the best in branches and reminded us what it means to be a Legionnaire. It was truly inspiring to see the various ways that branches reached out to their Veterans to remind them that although we can't be together, they weren't forgotten.

With Covid hopefully in the rear-view mirror, I am excited to get to work, the next term will be filled with challenges as branches find ways to bring their members back into the branch. Communication and succession training need to be our focus over the next few years if we are to remain a healthy, viable organization. With hard work and working together I have every confidence that we can overcome the challenges and look forward to a bright future in the Royal Canadian Legion.

I wish everyone a healthy and safe summer and a successful term of office

Yours in Comradeship,

Crystal Cook



## Diane Condon Provincial Vice-President

Comrades.

First, I must thank all of those comrades who supported me at our past Provincial Convention in North Bay, May 14-17, 2022. It is a great honour and privilege to represent all the members and branches in our Province. To everyone who was elected, I offer my congratulations and look forward to working with a great team. Thank you to Comrade Derek Moore for having the faith in my abilities and giving me Bursary, and Honours and Awards to chair. I look forward to working with those diligent members who make up the committees for both.

I live in Niagara Falls and am retired. Retirement has given me more time to work on various opportunities with the Legion, and I welcome those challenges and opportunities.

As a veteran, with 37 years in my Legion Life, I have held many chairs in the Legion and was a Branch President for 10 years. I have received a number of awards from my peers, receiving my Life Membership in 2012, followed by my MSM in 2017. In 2019, I received the Queen's Volunteer Service Medal from the Office of the Governor General.

There have been many memorable moments through the years, not the least of which were two Provincial Conventions (2015 and 2019). In 2017, with the help of many volunteers, and working with various community groups, I was the Legion representative to build the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Niagara Falls. This was a long overdue project which saw the revitalization of our war cemetery and gave a higher visibility to those who had passed on. We will remember them. In 2020, I was chosen to head up the Built for Zero Homeless Veterans initiative in my Region. It's a task that is close to my heart and which I still work on today.

My family is a great source of support. My two sons and four grandchildren understand my passion for Legion and Veterans and support my involvement thoroughly.

Comrades, I look forward to the next three years and serving the branches and members of this great Province.

Yours in Comradeship and Service  
Diane Condon



## Mark Rogers, Provincial Vice-President

I would like to thank all the delegates for supporting me and electing me at the Provincial Convention in North Bay. It is truly an honour to represent the members and branches of Ontario Command as one of your Vice Presidents.

I look forward to working with all my fellow comrades at the Provincial level and with the members of the Provincial Membership Committee. I thank Comrade Derek for the appointment as the Provincial Membership Chair. I have been doing membership on and off since 1996. At branch, zone, and district I have had the opportunity to work on the various aspects of membership and I look forward to the challenges of my new appointment.

So far this term I have communicated several times with my committee and have tried to provide them with the most up to date information that is available as well as items such as the veteran and family welcome program. I asked them to share this with the branches in their district as I believe this is one of the best membership recruitment tools we have. I encourage everyone reading this to help share this across their community.

One of the things that was communicated to me from my visits to other districts was that the branches want to be heard and to have things explained in clear and honest language. On more than one occasion I heard "we aren't accountants" or "we aren't lawyers". Comrades, I have heard and listened to you and as I mentioned in North Bay, I am willing to work with your District and Zone Commanders as well as Provincial officers to help communicate more effectively.

I look forward to the next 3 years of meeting as many comrades across the province as possible and especially to meet our Veterans. Helping our Veterans and their dependents is and should be our focus as we do our day to day activities with our branches. If we can have strong and successful branches, we will continue to have the ability to provide the help and programs for all our veterans.

I wish everyone a safe and prosperous 2022 and beyond

Yours In Comradeship,

*Mark Rogers*



## Ed Pigeau, Provincial Treasurer

Hello Comrades,

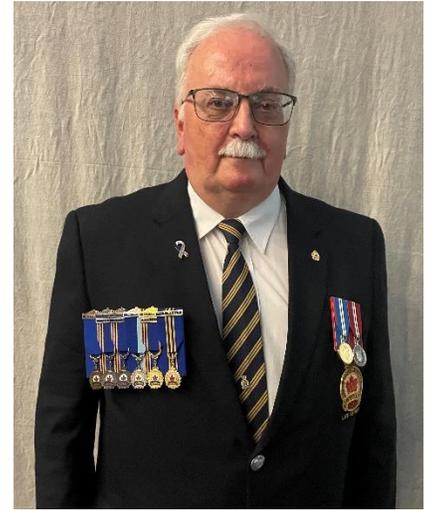
It is a tremendous honour to have been elected as your Provincial Treasurer, in North Bay. Thank you so much to all who provided support.

I also want to again offer a sincere Thank You to everyone for your best wishes, memories, stories and antidotes offered following Jude's passing and during convention. Special thanks to those who offered personal stories on the loss of their loved one. Your kind words and sincerity provided much needed support during this difficult time.

I look forward to working with my fellow Command Officers and Staff, District and Zone Officers and Councils and especially all Branch Officers and Members. It will be an exciting 3 year term.

Be safe and stay well.

Ed



## Provincial Chair Ron Goebel

Hello Comrades.

This is the first Provincial Newsletter since our 52<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Ontario Command Provincial Convention was held in North Bay May 15<sup>th</sup> to May 17<sup>th</sup> where we finally were able to get together once again in person. It was so nice to be able to see and talk to so many of our fellow comrades once again without communicating virtually.

Our last Provincial Newsletter was distributed in December and since that time, we held our annual March Finance Committee and P.A.C. Meetings in Aurora which were the first meetings that we were able to hold in person for quite some time. The main discussions at our P.A.C. meeting were centered around the final preparations for our Provincial Convention.



As the Chair of Ontario Command, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the L.A.C. Chair, Sherry Culling and all of her team of volunteers who worked so tirelessly to ensure that we had a successful Convention. With the timeframe that was given to the L.A.C. members due to our COVID pandemic, in my estimation, they did a superb job and I feel that our convention was most successful.

I would like to take this opportunity of to congratulate all of the new Senior Elected Officers who will serve you in their various capacities for the next three-year term. Although we missed having our incoming President Derek Moore attend our convention, we are happy to hear that he has had a most

successful recovery from his recent surgery and is now raring to go in his new position. To our newly elected 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President Lynn McLellan, Vice-Presidents Diane Condon, Mark Rogers and Crystal Cook, Treasurer Ed Pigeau and Vice-Chair Ron Crown, congratulations. I wish you nothing but the very best in your new term of office in working together as a provincial team.

I would also like to take this opportunity of thanking our Immediate Past Provincial President Comrade Garry Pond for his leadership over the past three-year term. It certainly was not an easy term of office being faced with our pandemic and all the various health guidelines and restrictions that were imposed during this time. This of course also resulted in our term of office being extended to a three-year term rather than the normal two-year term which has now resulted in our next term of office also being a three-year term before we get back to our normal two-year term once again.

Having been acclaimed as Chair of Ontario Command for the next term of office, I would like to take the opportunity of thanking our membership for the support and trust that they have entrusted in me in this role. I assure you that I will do my very best in upholding the principles of our great organization over these next three years and ensuring that the care and welfare of our veterans and their families are our top priority.

On behalf of my wife Barb and myself, we wish you and yours a most enjoyable and safe summer. Until we meet again, may you stay safe and healthy.

In comradeship

Ron

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

I would like to congratulate Comrade Roy Eaton for his reappointment as Editor of the Provincial Command Newsletter, it has been a pleasure working with Comrade Roy these last few years.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the delegates who attended our recent Provincial Convention in North Bay for re-electing me as your Provincial Vice Chair once again. It is a chair I truly enjoy. I have also been reappointed as Ontario Command Resolutions Chair and I am looking forward to considering your future resolutions when presented.

Special thanks to the members of District "H" on a job well done in pulling the Provincial Convention in North Bay together in a very short time.

Sharon and I are looking forward to a restful summer with only a few meetings and presentations to attend at this point.

I am looking forward to serving with all the newly elected Senior Officers and Headquarters Staff.

I have been an active Legion member for 50 years and my wife Sharon for 45 years and we have supported each other for many years and will continue to do so.

We have a blended family with 3 children and 6 grandchildren and recently a new great granddaughter Oaklyn Marie. Family time is very important to us.



I am looking forward to being able to travel to the other Districts in Ontario Command since Covid stopped our travels for 2 years.

In comradeship.

Ron Crown.

### **Pamela Sweeny, Provincial Executive Director**

What more can possibly be said about the last 3 years? Perhaps I should speak to the, behind the scenes work of the organization that Staff accomplished while juggling working from home and alternating days in office. As most of you are aware, Provincial Headquarters, in Aurora, had to be closed to the public however, we remained an essential service.

I commend Past Provincial President, Garry Pond, the Senior Elected Officers, Standing Committee Chairs, many members of The Royal Canadian Legion as well as provincial headquarters staff which includes the Provincial Service Bureau offices in London, Kanata, Aurora and North Bay for their professionalism and going the extra mile these last years

Although some programs were cancelled – others were created. When the pandemic was declared – homeless Veterans no longer had a place to grab a coffee, wash their hands and face, go to the bathroom, have a prepared meal, recharge their cell phones or use Wi-Fi to stay connected or ask for assistance.

We set up a Veterans Hotline – which was pretty much manned by Juanita Kemp 24/7, evenings, weekends, etc. That was one of the only lifelines available to them. Even Veterans Affairs Canada offices were shut down – what a challenge that was trying to get service verification. Perhaps it took 3 or 4 extra phone calls and emails – but we worked together for the good of the veteran.

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

Students still needed Bursary funds even though their classes were happening on-line. Staff continued assisting. In fact, we made certain there were people in the office every day to open the mail, process the mail, Veterans plates, SUFS, cheques, and of course getting that correspondence/cheques and letters, out.

Hospitals, nursing homes, firefighters still needed Charitable Foundation grants more than ever! Those continued to be vetted and processed.

Getting much needed funds to the branches in Ontario was an achievement – not only with the return of the per capita – two years in a row thanks to the Provincial Treasurer, Terry Jacobs and the Finance Committee but also the vetting of applications and subsequent distribution of \$14 million worth of federal funding to 393 branches in a really tight timeline. That involved a huge amount of extra hours by Staff.



It seems every week we were faced with new challenges, the drafting of a new declaration, another meeting of finance committee, SEO's, PAC, PEC involving staff. Constantly reading the daily protocols of the different health units and provincial protocols. It seemed the moment we got something to print... the province or Theresa Tam changed the protocol.

Some of those declarations involved the executive of a branch. They were literally handcuffed to make decisions due to the by-laws requiring approval by the general membership for expenditures over \$500 or \$1000. Branches didn't need to be in a holding pattern or crippled making financial decisions or the inability to do much needed renovations while they were shut down to the public. Hence a declaration was created by Constitution & Laws Committee to work around that by seeking approval from the Provincial Property Committee.

I don't think any of the Provincial Property Committee members or the Provincial Property Secretary (me) had any idea how resourceful branches would be in fundraising for new roofs, furnaces, applying for Trillium grants, small business grants, New Horizon grants, renovations to kitchens, bathrooms, accessible doors and entrances. Congratulations to all that put in the effort to welcome back your members and creating spaces to accommodate new members.

And here we are – a huge thanks to Sherry Culling the LAC Chair (who is an employee of Provincial Headquarters) and her committee for planning a convention that was on again, off again, required a change of venue, a change of convention year, off again, another change of venue and quite frankly it wasn't until the end of February and beginning of March that we had to put together an entire convention in 3-4 months instead of a full year.

And if life didn't have enough fun with us ... your President Elect, Derek Moore got the call to undergo an operation! We are so pleased he's doing exceptionally well and are looking forward to the next 3 years under his leadership!

Thank you to those that took a moment over the last couple of years to say a kind word to staff who were doing everything in their power to accommodate or assist including evenings and weekends while we all navigated the waters.

Thank you to those that spent hours with Juanita Kemp, the Assistant Executive Director for undergoing training on "Zoom", "Teams" and various other platforms.

Thank you to those who spent hours working on a solution rather than exacerbating the "unknowns" and "problems" we were all faced with.

Thank you Garry Pond, for your hands on, at least 3x a day phone calls and the friendship you and Linda have shown me.

To the newly elected SEO's, members of PEC, the staff look forward to working with you all over the next 3 years.

Finally, a huge thank you to the incredible staff at provincial headquarters and satellite offices who are always willing to lend a hand – and to my partner, Greg...who's support and understanding remains paramount. **THANK YOU!**

In comradeship

Pamela Sweeny

**Juanita Kemp, Provincial Assistant Executive Director**

The number and the amount of donations presented at the Provincial Convention was outstanding. Wounded Warriors Canada show cased Veterans and their service dogs as part of the Operation Service Dog Partnership Ontario Command is engaged in. President, Garry Pond presented a cheque for \$400,000.00 to ensure our continued support from branches in assisting Veterans being paired with the service dogs program through the WWC partnership.



A bucket was passed and \$3,094.55 was collected in cash from the floor. Another \$6.05 was added to that total from the “election” buckets for total of \$3,100.60. The following is an overview of the generosity of Ontario Command branches for the following programs – collected on the floor of the convention.

|                       |               |                             |                         |
|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Homeless Veterans     | \$ 274,814.75 | Camp Maple Leaf             | \$ 4,425.00             |
| Operation Service Dog | \$ 96,500.60  | Veterans Adaptive Sports    | \$ 4,000.00             |
| Charitable Foundation | \$ 95,000.00  | Youth Education             | \$ 3,000.00             |
| RCEL                  | \$ 33,753.70  | Sunnybrook                  | \$ 3,000.00             |
| Poppy                 | \$ 21,000.00  | Parkwood                    | \$ 2,500.00             |
| Bursary               | \$ 20,550.00  | Veterans Transition Network | \$ 2,000.00             |
| Ruck 2 Remember       | \$ 19,000.00  | Heroes Mending on the Fly   | \$ 2,000.00             |
| Track & Field         | \$ 10,000.00  | <b>TOTAL DONATIONS</b>      | <b>\$598,044.05 !!!</b> |
| Multifaith            | \$ 6,500.00   |                             |                         |

In comradeship

Juanita Kemp

## **Diane Condon, Provincial Bursary Chair**

Comrades.

I must thank Comrade Derek Moore for appointing me to be the Bursary Chair. It will be a very interesting and challenging three years.

Our first Bursary meeting will take place on June 25<sup>th</sup>, at which time all things relevant to the bursary procedure will be evaluated for the coming year. At the same time any problems from last year will also be discussed fully.

Your bursary committee is made up some long term and very knowledgeable District Chairs. I have spoken to a few of them and they have been more than willing to share their knowledge with me. For that I am most grateful.

Last year, and probably due to Covid in part, the applications were down. We only processed 289. Pre-Covid and during a really good year, we process over 500. So, you can see that we have some work to do to get back to “normal”.

Comrades, if you know of a Veteran, their spouse, child, grandchild or great grandchild who is contemplating attending university or college, see that they get the information necessary to apply. Every student can use \$1,000. Tuition, food, accommodations and books all cost money and the dollar doesn't go far these days.

I am looking forward to the challenges this chair holds, and I also look forward to working with a great team who bring credit to the Legion.

Yours in comradeship and service

Diane Condon  
Vice-President, Ontario Provincial Command  
Bursary Chair



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

First, thank you to Comrade Garry Pond, Immediate Past President for appointing me as President of the Charitable Foundation for the last three years and special thanks to our new Provincial President Comrade Derek Moore for re-appointing me to this position for the next term and I look forward with eager anticipation. It is an honour to be a part of the Charitable Foundation and serve with our dedicated committee members both Legionnaires and Ladies Auxiliary.

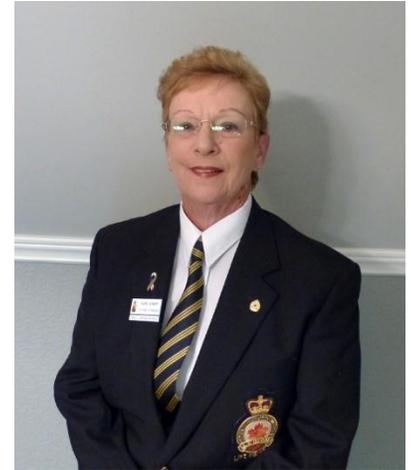
As always, a reminder that the CF's full title is The Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Command Branches and Ladies' Auxiliaries Charitable Foundation so we both work together as partners for this Foundation.

**Together between the medical equipment and bursaries, this arm of Ontario Command awards almost \$1 million dollars each year to organizations and students across the province.** I never cease to be amazed by this fact and share it whenever I can!

It was a goal at the beginning of my first term to ensure that we did our very best to make all levels of Ontario Command totally informed as to how the Charitable Foundation works. I have continued on this path so each time the opportunity to communicate through newsletters, reports, annual reports, there is always a component of the report to continue to inform. I hope that these communications helped our members and LA members better understand the Foundation and how it works.

The committee continued to update and revise our documents and procedures during this three year term. The following are some of the updates that were undertaken.

- First order of business for this term was to create a Welcome Letter for new directors of the CF committee to help them define their duties and responsibilities. The letter includes everything from where to find information to how and why we meet, when we meet and what meetings they are expected to attend. The letter also explains the importance of this committee and how to get brochures and more information. It explains how important our committee feels about transparency and confidentiality. The package also includes by-laws, finance and investment policies
- We updated our CF brochure and "In Memorium" cards to help encourage applications and donations to the Foundation
- As you may know there was an issue regarding limitations on the use of poppy funds as they related to a hospice. The Charitable Foundation receives some applications from hospices every year. The Foundation has always treated hospices as regular hospitals (i.e. palliative care) and awarded grants for medical equipment. On average 70% of the donations for the Charitable Foundation and Bursary come from the branch poppy funds, 30% comes from the LA's and corporations and individuals so donations from CF to hospices are well within the regulations in the poppy manual anyway.
- We encouraged and supported the increase in bursary awards to \$1000.00 while still maintaining a budget for bursary of \$400,000. Our hope is more students will now apply.



Information relative to the Guidelines for Applicants can be found on the RCL Ontario Command website – [www.on.legion.ca](http://www.on.legion.ca). The Charitable Foundation tab is located under the menu item “Who we are” on the home page. Under that tab you will find everything you need to know about CF and how to apply. You will also find grant approvals for the last five years. This section is especially important as prospective applicants can see what we have approved in the past and get an idea on what they should make applications for. The website is always your best information source when it comes to CF so please become familiar with this educational tool.

Once approvals have been decided by committee in November, the applicants are notified and advised to submit their purchase order. They have until the end of May in the following year to do so. Once the purchase order is received and approved, the cheque is sent to the local legion branch with a covering letter. A letter is also sent to the main contact for the applicant, with a copy to the Foundation President, District Director, and District Commander to advise them of the approval. Please remember that when your branch makes arrangements for the cheque presentation on behalf of the Charitable Foundation that you always include a Ladies Auxiliary representative and try to have a CF representative also and that you all wear legion dress. Please make sure the media understands that the grant is from CF and not just the branch. Try to secure a photo with the local newspaper and be sure to send a copy of that photo to our Ontario Correspondent Mary Ann Goheen for publishing in the Legion Magazine.

As always thanks to the branches, zones and districts for their generous donations. Special thanks to the Ladies Auxiliaries. They are the just the best partners. Without ALL of you, branch and LA, there would be no Charitable Foundation.

Finally, thanks to our command staff, Pam, Juanita, Aida and Sue, they all do a great job.

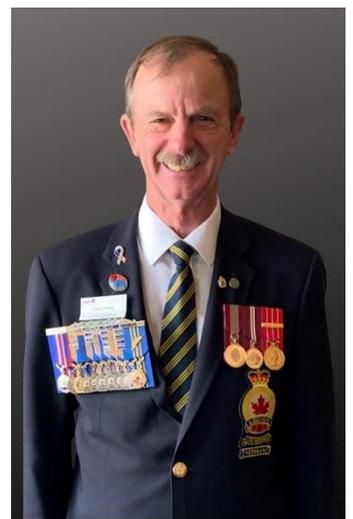
I am blessed to be a part of this amazing organization and so very proud to be a legionnaire. Best wishes for a wonderful, enjoyable and healthy summer filled with family and fun. Take care and God bless.

Marg Emery

### **Garry Pond, Provincial Homeless Veterans Chair**

Operation: Leave the Streets Behind, in place since October, 2009, has grown from no funding to a multimillion dollar program. It has helped 1011 homeless Veterans, 112 being female, all identified in 186 towns and cities across Ontario. Included are veterans from Quebec and the USA. Leave the Streets Behind has disbursed \$2.8 million dollars.

The program Leave the Streets Behind has been endorsed by the Province of Ontario, Premier, Doug Ford, Veterans Affairs Canada, Ontario Provincial Police and the RCMP. The RCMP have advised they are taking the program to a national level. On March 1st, 2022, the Toronto Police Services, another supporter, established a training program for police officers, which has been introduced across the country. Our provincial colleagues from Manitoba/NWO Command are also on board.



Please note: when a Veteran begins the intake process, the Veteran MUST complete and sign the intake form, which gives consent for the Legion to help the veteran.

Homeless Veterans program pamphlets have been created, as well as a slide presentation. Both show the items available in the back packs and apartment kits and also give a brief history of the program. Please use the presentation and pamphlets to educate the municipalities and organizations dealing with homelessness.

Legion branches and Ladies Auxiliaries have been major contributors to the program. Also, individuals and organizations have donated money and items for the Homeless Veterans program, including Afghans, hats, sweaters, shirts, and toiletries. Groups such as the Goderich Angels, who make cold and wet-insulating mats out of milk bags for our homeless Veterans, are involved. Homeless committees have been established in some areas and we continue to work with new committees to ensure municipalities are educated with the program.

There are only three Homeless Dental Programs in Canada, and they are: Algonquin College/Ottawa, George Brown College/Toronto, St. Joseph's Health Care (Parkwood Hospital)/London. All are doing well.

Toronto Veterans Houses on Parliament and Bathurst Streets are doing well, with the peer support coming from Mainstay Housing. We also look after Veterans in the Pan Am building and Residenza Ortona in London.

Multifaith Housing in Ottawa opened the 40 unit Homeless Veterans home (Veterans House, Andy Carswell Building) in 2021. As of Feb 2022, there were 37 residents, with 3 vacancies. Comrades Lynn McClellan and Derek Moore, assisted by Aurora Command Staff and District G delivered the Ontario Command apartment kits. Peer support is provided to the residents of Veterans House using funds donated by District "G" and Ontario Command. Affordable housing is coming to the forefront and there are a few irons in the fire, we just need to figure out the funding for the projects.

Recognition goes to the staff of Ontario Command for ensuring our Veterans are given the assistance they deserve, including a 24/7 Veterans Hotline during COVID-19

The above summary was taken from 2022 Provincial Convention Homeless Veterans Chair report completed by Comrade Dave Gordon

**ONE HOMELESS VETERAN IS ONE TOO MANY**

Veterans Affairs  
Canada can  
help you, please  
contact us

**1-866-522-2122**

VETERANS.GC.CA

Canada

## **Diane Condon, Provincial Honours and Awards Chair**

Comrades.

I must thank Comrade Derek Moore for appointing me to be the Honours and Awards Chair. It will be an interesting and informative three years.

We are just beginning to settle into our new roles, so there haven't been too many applications to process. Currently, the committee and I are working on 10 submissions, which will be processed by Monday the 6<sup>th</sup>. I congratulate all those whose submissions are approved and hope they will appreciate the honor their peers and branches have given to them.

To all branches, please look around your branch at the many volunteers who make your life easier through their diligence and hard work. Too many times their work is overlooked, and they are not considered for an award. If you have a volunteer who has worked at a certain task for the past 10 years or more, and who knows his/her job inside out, and the work is significant to the branch, bring that name forward for a Life Membership. It must be voted on by the executive and general membership and the forms filled out and submitted for our review. Should the submission be approved, you will have a very grateful volunteer who will probably try to do even more for you. A show of gratitude goes a long way to keeping a happy member.

Comrades, I look forward to the next three years, and will do my very best to make this chair relevant.

Yours in comradeship and service

Diane Condon

## **Lynn McClellan, Provincial Leadership Development Chair**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Comrade Derek for appointing me chair of this very important committee. I look forward to learning as much as I can from our previous chair Comrade Robyn Zettler and all of the District Chairs who have agreed to sit on this committee as well.

Leadership Development is exactly what it says. Making sure that all of the members and potential leaders at all levels of our organization have access to whatever tools are available in order to become good responsible leaders. We have a lot of material available at our fingertips and every member needs to know where to find it.



It is my hope over the next three years that we can raise that awareness and take the proper steps to ensure that the Legion will always have done its best to teach and train as many members as possible. In the past it has been noted that seminars have not attracted many of those that we are trying to reach. We have repeatedly said “We are preaching to the choir”. Newer and better ideas need to be implemented at all levels. We cannot sit back and look at things the same old way and say, “this is the way we have done it for years”. We need to change with the times.

Without proper training and education at branch level, it is more difficult to find willing members to step up at Zone and District levels. Let’s do as Comrade Derek has suggested in his theme for this term **WORKING TOGETHER**. By doing this we can achieve our goals and ensure that the Legion will be in good hands for many years to come.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn McClellan

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

I would like to thank Comrade Derek for the appointment of Provincial Membership Chair. Membership is one of the top issues within the Legion. Member retention and recruitment work hand in hand with each other and success in both areas can solidify and strengthen a branch.

As mentioned in Comrade Derek Moore’s report to the Provincial Convention, the National Membership Committee has a goal of reaching 300,000 members by the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Winnipeg in 2026. The end of 2021 saw us with 235,343 members and as of the writing of this report we are at 217,454.

Ontario Command sits at 80,800 members with 6,536 of them new members. This is a testament to the hardworking branch membership chairs that continue to work hard.

Coming out of the pandemic it is especially important to reach out to unpaid members and ask them to come back to the Legion. We have so many wonderful and fulfilling programs for members and our Veterans.

I encourage branch membership chairs to use social media to attract new members and work with other branch committees like Public Relations to put the Royal Canadian Legion out in front of the community. Another great idea used by branches has been to set up a Legion table at local farm markets or community gatherings.

For those communities that have regular or reserve forces stationed nearby, reach out to them and let them know about our programs including the Veteran and family welcome programs. It is a great way to attract new members and have them experience the Royal Canadian Legion. This is also a good way to find out what kind of activities veterans and their families would like to see in branches.



I have heard that branches are still having trouble with receiving cards and stickers from Dominion Command. I have been told the turnaround is in the 2-3 week range but if it has been longer than that, I ask branches to compile their information and contact Dominion Command membership as soon as possible and make the corrections needed. Using the membership portal can be a way to speed up the processing also.

I wish every branch membership chair good luck and if they have any problems to reach out to their zone membership chairs for help and move up the chain of command if needed.

Yours In Comradeship,

Mark Rogers

### **Ron Goebel, Military Service Recognition Book Program Chair**

Hello Comrades.

At our Provincial Convention held in North Bay in May of this year, I presented a detailed Military Service Recognition Book report in the Convention Book. However, it was somewhat outdated since the report was written in February in time to get into our Convention Book. So I gave a verbal update as an addendum at the Convention.

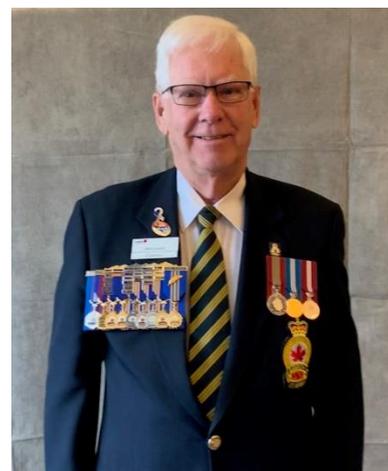
Since we have now finalized submissions to be published into our Volume 1X that will be published in late September or early October of this year, I will give you a further update from what I gave at our convention.

As of the end of April, we had only received a total of 242 Veteran submissions for publication in Volume IX. However, through the efforts of some of our branches, and extending the deadline to the end of May, we received an additional 180 submissions during the month of May. That along with an additional 12 submissions left as carry-overs from year number eight of our program, we now have a grand total of 434 submissions that will be published in our Volume IX book. Well done and congratulations to those Branches who sent us submissions during the month of May as well as throughout year #9 of our program.

Regarding proceeds that we have received through this program, we have received a total of \$187,173.81 for year #9 of our program which gives us a grand total of \$1,591,179.37 that we have received at Ontario Command over our nine years of being with this program.

It is our mandate to donate funds we receive through this program towards Veteran Transition Programs, and we will continue to do so. At the end of April, we had donated a total of \$204,910.00 towards 9 various Veteran Transition Programs. And through these various programs, we have assisted many of our Veterans in transitioning from their military life into a civilian life.

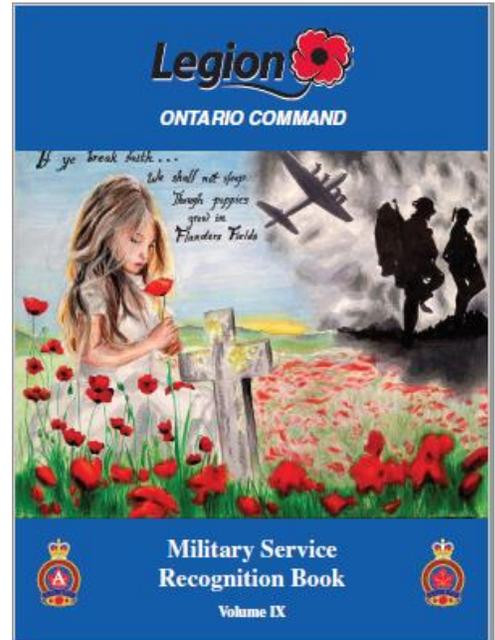
Those nine programs include: Ad Astra Stables; Project Trauma Support; Project Healing Waters; Operational Stress Injury Spouses Retreat; County of Grey Frontline Family Wellness Day; Heroes



Mending On The Fly; Warrior Adventures Canada; Veterans Transition Network and Writers Collective of Canada.

Each year, our MSRB Committee of 7 reviews the top three winning Black and White and Colour posters in our Provincial Youth Education Literary Competition. We do this to select a poster to be utilized for the front cover of our next MSRB and then the second choice is the introductory poster used in our introductory package to introduce each year of our program.

The winner this year for the image that will be on the front cover of our Volume IX is from a young girl who attends the West Carleton Secondary School in District G. Her entry was the 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner in the Intermediate Colour Poster Competition, and she originally competed in the Kanata Legion Branch #638 competitions.



The winner this year for the image that will be on our Introductory Poster to introduce year #10 of our program is another young girl who attends the Pierre Elliott Trudeau High School in Scarborough in District D. Her entry was the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner in the Senior Black and White Poster Competition, and she originally competed in the Scarborough Centennial Legion Branch #614 competitions.

Comrades, just to make you aware, since the number of Veteran submissions for our Volume #9 is down a bit this year, we will be publishing other student poems, posters and essays in this book. It was felt that since our Provincial Youth Education Literary Competition is centered around Veterans and Remembrance, we would showcase these amazing entries by our students by publishing the top three winners in our Provincial poems, posters and essay competitions.

Comrades, now that we are open for business again, we ask that branches actively promote our program year round. With branch elections now completed, I urge members of branch executives to ensure that each branch has an MSRB Coordinator to actively promote our program for Veteran submissions. And the Terms of Reference for a Branch Coordinator may be found on our Provincial website.

Comrades, a big thank you to everyone who has been involved in this very important Remembrance program over not only these past three years, but the past nine years as well. Our program would not be the success that it is without all of your assistance.

In comradeship

Ron

### **Mary Ann Goheen Ontario Correspondent**

My report is a summary of the past three year term. Although branches were subjected to closures and capacity restrictions when permitted to be open, we managed to still hold strong to a healthy presence in Legion Magazine. During the issues July 2019-March 2022 inclusive, Ontario had 491 photos published in the Community involvement pages, 32 News items, 55 special awards in Honours and Awards section and 74 names of recipients of the Life membership award. I commend all branches and Auxiliaries that were able to promote events, youth, charitable organizations, and our veterans over these difficult pandemic years through this medium.



The retirement of the Legion Magazine news editor Tom MacGregor and receptionist Doris Williams have resulted in the hiring of replacements. No doubt you have noticed various items in the magazine that have been produced by the staff for resale. Mugs, special commemorative posters or artwork, puzzles and Special Edition periodicals are quality items and make nice gifts for youth awards, special guest speakers or for yourself. Thank you everyone for your support—branches, auxiliaries and my colleagues on PEC. You are the front-line responders who make Ontario front and centre in our National Legion Magazine.

In Comradeship

Mary Ann

### **SPECIAL NOTE**

As Editor, I am very pleased to add this update to Mary Ann's submission

Mary Ann was honoured with the Town of Gravenhurst Senior of the Year 2022 award from Ontario Government. Mayor Paul Kelly read the nomination to over 100 in attendance before calling Mary Ann Goheen to the stage to accept the framed certificate signed by the Lt. Governor of Ontario Elizabeth Dowdsweil and the Minister for Seniors and Accessibility the Honourable Raymond Cho. The Mayor also presented a Certificate of Congratulations on behalf of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Gravenhurst



**Excerpts from nomination:** She is absolutely an outstanding local senior who continues to enrich the social, cultural and civic life of the community of the Town of Gravenhurst. Mary Ann is an active member of The Royal Canadian Legion and she is the Ontario Correspondent for the Ontario Provincial

Command. This is for the RCL National magazine which is published 6 times a year, she is the website co-ordinator and she is one of two coordinators of the Military Service Recognition book on Veterans. They have completed 8 books and are currently working on their 9<sup>th</sup> capturing the history of Canadian service people. All of this is on her own time as a volunteer!

She is an active member of the St. Paul's Roman Catholic parish in Gravenhurst as the secretary for the executive of the Catholic Women's League.

Last year there were multiple fires in the community that caused vulnerable and at risk individuals to experience homelessness. She provided supplies for kitchen and bathroom for two families. Mary Ann also provided three full families with Christmas gifts so that they would not go without.

In November 2021, Ms. Goheen bought food, clothing, shoes and collected used clothing filling four large boxes and shipped them to the Philippines to be distributed by a retired former Priest who had served at the parish in Gravenhurst.

For the last 5 years, she has been making dinner two to four times a week and delivers it for a disabled 90 year old resident who lives in his own home alone just down the street. Above and beyond all of this, she is an active member of her immediate and extended family and friends providing support and friendship while maintaining an active and adventurous lifestyle. Mary Ann continues to be an integral part of the fabric of the community that is the Town of Gravenhurst.”

### **Brian Harris, Provincial Poppy Chair**

I would like to start this report by thanking Garry Pond for appointing me last term as your Provincial Poppy Chair and for the reappointment by new Provincial President Derek Moore, it is an honour to serve Ontario Command and all our members, and most importantly our Veterans and their families, thank you Comrades.

The outbreak of Covid-19 certainly tried to knock us down, but we are a tough and resilient bunch and instead, we learned, adapted, and invented new ways to raise funds and spread our message. Our message of course is that we appreciate the donations we received and promise to spend them correctly and wisely according to the Poppy Manual and our By-Laws.

I urge all Poppy Chairs to read the new Poppy Manual and become familiar with the do's and don'ts. Additionally, I ask when submitting an SUF, you provide as much information and documentation as available so we may have a quick approval process. I remind all Poppy Chairs that a submission is always returned *denied as submitted*, giving you the opportunity to resubmit as long as it falls with the “do's” of our Poppy Manual.

Congratulations to those District Poppy Chairs returning for another term and welcome to the new Chairs. I share your District Commander's faith and confidence in you to administer our Provincial Committee fairly and impartially. Congratulations to all Zone Poppy Chairs, I consider your appointment



one of the most important, you are the pivots of all of the flow of information from and to the branch Poppy Chairs. We will succeed if we provide you as much information to share with your branches.

To our Branch Poppy Chairs, returning and new, your work, your efforts, the Poppy campaign you conduct is the cornerstone of all our collective efforts. During Covid, you showed amazing ingenuity to appeal to your communities to continue to donate so we may continue our most important work. I again request you read our manual and follow its requirements. When in doubt please consult your Zone Poppy Chair.

We will be holding our Provincial Poppy meeting June 25<sup>th</sup> and it is our intention to have the Poppy kits out to all Poppy Chairs by mid-July. Please read all the information. Zone Poppy Chairs should follow up with all your branches to ensure the kits have been received.

In closing I have attached section 103, page 5 from our Poppy manual. Please make it our guiding verse for the task ahead of us. The work we all do may be the most important work within the Royal Canadian Legion. *“Consider the importance of the Poppy Campaign to our nation. The Legion and its members are the Guardians of Remembrance, and the lines from John McCrae’s poem “if ye break faith with us who die we shall not sleep, though poppies grow in Flanders Fields.” are as true today as when they were first written.”*

Let us all enjoy Summer 2022, thank you once again for your hard work. Let’s **Work Together**, do good work, honour our Veterans and their families. Remember to thank our volunteers and staff. Embrace change, hold on to our traditions. Be safe, be healthy, be happy.

Brian Harris

### **Garry Pond, Property Committee Chair**

The role and purpose of the Property Committee and the procedures required to obtain approval for property projects may not be clear to all. However, as members and officers become more informed, and used the Legion Officer's Manual (LOM), more requests were submitted. Files were created if more than a few phone calls were initiated. At the time of this report, 175 new files were created. Grants, loans, mortgages, legal and insurance issues made up the majority of questions.

Many of our branches are property rich and cash poor. Aged buildings, declining membership, and no funds for repairs, updating or upgrading have been a struggle for some branches. Discussions ensued about what to do to remain viable. The obvious option is selling - downsizing to a more manageable, smaller facility. Amalgamation or Co-locating are viable solutions. Surrendering a charter should be the last resort. Some Property Developers, once they hear of the branch's plight, may try to take advantage of the situation. Be cautious, don't speak to



any of them without doing your due diligence. Use the resource of the Provincial Property Committee, after consulting the manual. Remember, if the offer is too good to be true, it generally is.

The Property Committee has seen requests for approval for things such as roof repairs, HVAC/equipment replacements, and general renovations. A few of the more involved projects presented by branches were the building of a Retirement/Long Term Care Facility in a popular cottage community; the construction by Veterans of affordable housing for Seniors and Veterans in a northern city; the sale of part of a property to build a smaller branch on the remaining land; and a unique proposal for fundraising to build a new clubhouse. In addition, we were involved in talks with a non-profit group about stackable housing as an option in the big city; with government officials about partnering with branches to create affordable housing in towns and cities across the country; and several discussions with developers and realtors about buying branch property of any sort in the larger areas.

When the pandemic hit, we expected that with lockdowns and no General Meetings, activity in property would be curtailed. On the contrary, branch Executives, seeing the downtime as an opportunity, sought approval to complete needed repairs and renovations around their building, using whatever funds were available in their bank accounts.

However, the Property Committee, bound to Rules and By-Laws that allow for normal operating expenses not deemed an emergency, was forced to deny requests because the branch did not have membership approval, leaving Branch Property Committees and Executives frustrated.

The Constitution and Laws Committee provided a process to accommodate the situation, which gave us the means to carry on, though doubling the workload of the Property Committee. CEBA prompted PEC and the Property Committee to review the financial situation of each branch applying for this 'grant pseudo loan'. The result, there was no slowdown for Property during Covid, it was busier than EVER, making our down time pass quicker!

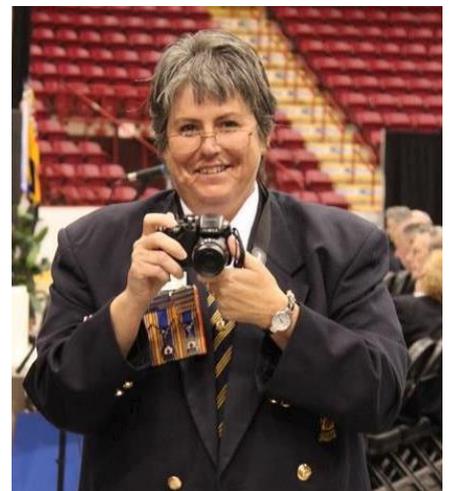
The above summary was taken from 2022 Provincial Convention Property Chair Report completed by Comrade Sharon McKeown

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

Wow, now that our world has opened up again, it was awesome seeing everyone in North Bay at our 2022 Provincial Convention last month, very over whelming. It was a great convention and thanks to the Local Arrangement Committee we had great media coverage. Please see the following links:

<https://www.baytoday.ca/local-news/legion-members-coming-soon-to-north-bay-for-provincial-convention-5352152>

<https://www.nugget.ca/news/legion-raises-flag-to-open-convention>



<https://www.nugget.ca/news/sacrifices-recognized-as-legion-opens-convention?fbclid=IwAR0GGxGwGbirDTFMND7m-skGKR1MmiAdRVNm-On4HuN58X1SVdBF7e53td4>

[https://www.baytoday.ca/local-news/legion-delegates-roll-up-their-sleeves-to-theme-working-together-5370882?utm\\_source=Email\\_Share&utm\\_medium=Email\\_Share&utm\\_campaign=Email\\_Share](https://www.baytoday.ca/local-news/legion-delegates-roll-up-their-sleeves-to-theme-working-together-5370882?utm_source=Email_Share&utm_medium=Email_Share&utm_campaign=Email_Share)

Legion Week this year is taking place during the week of September 18-24, 2022. Now that branches have opened up again, you can get back to celebrating this special week to best way you know how. Show everyone we have weathered the storm and have and will continue to support our Veterans, seniors, youth and communities. I wish all a very successful Legion Week!

If branches happen to have some media coverage (“Good News Stories”) from Legion week activities (and other times of the year), please share with us; we would love to share them with the rest of Ontario Command and also with the rest of the country. There are many branches thinking of special ways to continue support for their Veterans and communities. Get the media involved and let the public know how you are continuing your support.

The Branch Survey, yes Comrades, it is back on our plate, but will not take place until June 2023, but we are helping you prepare for it. We have produced an Excel file on “Recording Chart of Information for Answers to Future Branch Survey Questions”. Use this chart to record your Branches donations, information and event volunteer hours for this current fiscal year June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023. Our next Branch Survey will be sent to branches next year in May 2023; this recording chart will give you the answers to the survey questions, that is, if you record information as you make your donations, information and hold your event(s) involving volunteer hours. At the end of May 2023, all you will have to do is total the columns and enter the figure into the appropriate questions on the Branch Survey. Comrades, the last Branch Survey in 2018 resulted in 92% participation with 32 branches not completing the survey. Comrades, please use this “Recording Chart” every time your branch makes a donation or holds an event involving volunteer hours and it will make life easier for the next Branch Survey.

Our Fact Sheet requires updating, and the information we receive from the Branch Survey is used to produce this Fact Sheet. Please help us update our Fact Sheet by participating in this task. The Fact Sheet is an important item that we use to promote the work that our branches and members of Ontario Command do to support the many programs we have. The Excel file has been sent out via the Zone Commanders, but if you have not received it yet, please send me an email (state Branch Survey in the subject area) and I will be happy to email you a personal copy ([carolyn.mccaul@sympatico.ca](mailto:carolyn.mccaul@sympatico.ca))

Comrades, that’s all for now. Please have safe travels, stay safe, stay healthy and have an awesome summer!

Yours in comradeship,

Carolyn McCaul

## Sharon McKeown, Provincial Seniors Chair

Comrades All,

First, Thank You to Comrade Derek for the appointment to Provincial Seniors Chair. **CUDOS** to the North Bay Convention LAC, under the capable leadership of Comrade Sherry Culling, with 'sidekick and right arm' Comrade Carol, organized a great team, and to all involved, job **WELL DONE!!**

Everything went so smoothly, with election stress done on schedule, I missed the opportunity under General to share if nominated in St John, I would be honored to stand for **Dominion 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President**.

To those who stood for office at all levels, whether elected or not, standing for a position takes courage, being prepared to take on the challenge of leadership, you have demonstrated your commitment and dedication to our great organization, without which we could not survive. Thank You! Be proud and stand again!

Congratulations, to the new and re-elected Senior Elected Officers of Ontario Command and to all newly and re-elected officers at all levels of our Command. I wish you well, and hope you enjoy your term of office. Be assured **we are all on the same team!** Regardless, of what level you serve, follow the Chain of Command, there is always help, guidance, direction, sounding boards or shoulders, only an email or phone call away. Don't hesitate to reach out, **you are never alone!**

As advocates of the **ONE VETERAN** philosophy, we accept a Veteran, is a Veteran, is a Veteran, young or old. Veterans' Service Officers are busy with issues related to Veterans. At the same time,

Seniors comprise more than 50% of our Membership, and a major portion of the general population. **It is important to our survival as an organization that we provide services and programs to attract and retain both our Veteran and Senior Members.**

**Thanks** to Jackie Walter, Fenelon Falls Branch 238, Betty Jean Murray, Coldwater Branch 270, and District E, the **Seniors' Literary** pilot introduced at Provincial Convention in Niagara Falls in 2019, got off the ground! The program provided many isolated seniors an opportunity to exercise their creativity, using their imagination and writing skills. The work submitted has been top notch with the winners recognized. Comrade Betty Jean has books with the winners available for purchase. Comrade President Derek would like all Districts introduce the program this term. Let's promote it in places where our Veterans and Seniors live. They all have stories to share.

We are looking for new and innovative programs for Seniors to introduce in our branches, to keep them in our ranks, to bring their friends to us, not have their friends lure them to the local Seniors Club. We



are a volunteer organization. Volunteering is proven to be healthy for the brain cells, keeping active mentally and physically should be a seniors' priority. It is overdue that we rise to the challenge of providing educational, entertaining, interesting, and exciting options to those who comprise the bulk of our general membership, our seniors!

Last year, I replaced all the windows in my house with those expensive double pane energy efficient kind. But this week, I got a call from the contractor complaining that his work had been completed a whole year and I had yet to pay for them. Boy, did we go round! Just because I'm older doesn't mean I'm stupid! I told him just what his fast-talking sales guy had told me last year. He said that 'in one year, the windows would pay for themselves'! There was silence on the other end of the line, so I hung up, he hasn't called back. Guess he was embarrassed.

Remember, no idea is silly, yet, each could be fun, worth a try, please share your ideas with your District Seniors' Chair. That's all for now, more to follow next time.

Have a great summer, stay well, travel safe and **KEEP SMILING, others will wonder what you're up to!**

Sharon McKeown

### **Walter Stevens, Provincial Sports Chair**

Hello Comrades,

I am happy for the appointment from our new President Derek Moore and to be back for another term as your Provincial Sports Chair. I look forward to working with our Sports Committee which has some new and returning District Sports Chairs.

It has been some time since there has been any good news to report with regards to our sports program.

Things look like they are finally going to get back to normal for Branch, Zone, District & Provincial Sports with many Members ready to get out and play as well as see people they have not seen in 2 plus years because of Covid.

The 2022 Horseshoes, Washer Toss & Golf are set and already being played at qualifying levels for Provincials. The 2023 sports year is already a go with Branches being confirmed for hosting at all sports levels & venues booked. In house sports in many Branches are also up and running which is a boost to their revenues.

I hope we can get all members back into the branch to renew their memberships with increased participation in sports as word gets out sports is back & needs your support.

Welcome back everyone and wishing you the best of luck as we move forward this term.

Regards,

Walter Stevens



## John Crook, Provincial Track and Field Chair

Comrades

I would like to thank Past President Garry Pond for giving me the opportunity to represent you as your Provincial Track and Field Chairman again it has been an even more challenging experience over the last 3 years. I thank President Derek Moore for asking me to stay on for another term.

Second, in importance, the athletes, the Track and Field Committee and I would like to express our extreme thanks and gratitude to the Ladies Auxiliary for still supporting us through the last few years with donations even though there haven't been any meets happening. *Thanks to you all.*

Only District A, B and H are holding track meets this year and have opened their doors to athletes from the other districts.

The Provincial Championships are cancelled because not all districts were able to commit to hosting a district meet or to send a team to provincials along with the additional cost that would be incurred by both the province and the districts. Therefore, the committee decided to move that the meet be cancelled which was carried.

National Championship Sherbrook QC Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>- 9<sup>th</sup> . At the same time the provincial meet was cancelled it was motioned that Ontario do not send a Team to Nationals and was carried. At the time of typing this report the National meet is still planned to commence on the above dates

### Track & Field committee 2022-2025

|                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| President            | Comrade Derek Moore    |
| First-Vice           | Comrade Lynn McClellan |
| District A           | Comrade Mark Rogers    |
| District B           | Comrade Kyrn Crook     |
| District C           | Comrade Crystal Taylor |
| District D           | Comrade Dan Burri      |
| District E           | Comrade Bruce Henn     |
| District F           | Comrade Steve Bell     |
| District G           | Comrades Laura Sivers  |
| District H           | Comrade Chris Peters   |
| District K           | Vacant                 |
| Committee Secretary: | Juanita Kemp           |
| In comradeship       |                        |

John Crook



## John Dailey, Provincial Veteran Services Chair

I was born in England and moved to Canada in May 1949 when my father transferred from the Royal Navy to the Royal Canadian Navy and brought his family to Canada.

We remained in Nova Scotia until dad retired from the RCN moved to the Montreal area. I joined the RCAF on 16 December 1963. I spent my final 8 years as an Auditor/Systems Reviewer retiring from the RCAF/CF on 06 August 1996. I joined Legion Branch 66, North York in 1995 and transferred to Arthur Branch 226 in 1999.



**Offices/Chairs:** **Branch:** President 2x. Second Vice-President. VSS and TOD(Leadership Development) Constitution and Laws. John continues to serve as a member on the following Committees, PRO, Membership, and Poppy. **Zone:** VSS, Deputy Commander, and Commander 2x. Currently Leadership Development Chair. **District:** Branch Advisory Committee Member.

## A section of the Veteran Services Report by Dave Gordon delivered at Provincial Convention

Let me again stress to you A VETERAN IS A VETERAN IS A VETERAN! It is extremely disappointing to hear that a Veteran has been advised that he does not qualify for benefits when they have worn the uniform of our Canadian Armed Forces. The paperwork must be completed and submitted and let the decisions be made by those qualified to do so.

VAC offices remain closed (at the time of writing) due to the Covid pandemic and the employees continue to work off site. Applications for Benefits is still running way behind schedule, even though additional staff have been hired to deal with the back log. As of writing this report contracts for some of the VAC employees hired to deal with the backlog, will be terminated as of the end of the fiscal year, March, 2022. An update will be given at convention.

Attention has turned to Mental Health issues and various programs have been initiated by VAC to assist Veterans. Female Veterans, have come to the forefront as well and additional programs are in place. Sexual abuse cases are being reviewed and DND are taking steps to bring the issue to the forefront as is rightfully needed.

Transitioning from the Military, has been a concern that has continued and even though some efforts have been made to make the move as easy and transparent as possible. Veterans are leaving the forces and some are not ready for the outside world, thus ending up with alcohol, drugs and mental health issues with many ending up on the street or committing suicide. The Ottawa Veterans Transition Committee are meeting with the Ontario Medical Association and stressing the need for Family Doctors for those transitioning from the Military.

Comrades, I must also tell you that with the VAC offices being closed it is difficult to keep up with who is doing what. Continually changing staff to various positions puts a delay in service.

Comrades I would like to extend a sincere thank you to all of the branches who make our Veterans welcome and make them feel at home. When they come into your branch extend a hand and thank them for their service.

Dave Gordon

### **Crystal Cook, Provincial Chair Youth Education**

Comrades,

As this is my first report as your Provincial Youth Education Chair, I would like to start by saying how excited I am to have been given this opportunity.

Youth Education is something that I enjoy, I have held this chair at the Branch and Zone level and recognize the importance of ensuring that we never forget the sacrifices that were and are made for the freedoms that we enjoy and that starts at the earliest age. The entries that the students submit every year are outstanding the creativity and imagination is amazing.



In reviewing Comrade Lynn McClellan's report to the convention, it was nice to see that even with all the changes and restrictions to schools that the Youth Education program received a total of 31, 985 entries in 2021. Although the number is higher than the year previous there is some work to be done to get the numbers back to pre-covid levels.

I am hopeful that if things continue on course that we will be able to hold our Provincial Public Speaking Competition once again. The location will be decided at the upcoming Youth Education meeting on June 25.

At the writing of this report the Dominion Winners were announced and I am happy to report that we received winners in the following categories

1<sup>st</sup> Place Senior B & W Poster

1<sup>st</sup> Place Primary B & W Poster

1<sup>st</sup> Place Junior Essay

1<sup>st</sup> Place Primary Colour Poster

3<sup>rd</sup> Place Intermediate B & W Poster

3<sup>rd</sup> Place Junior Colour Poster

Congratulations to all the winners!!

I am looking forward to working with the Provincial Youth Education Committee over the next 3 years many who have done this job for quite a few years and who bring with them experience and expertise.

Yours in Comradeship,

Crystal Cook

## **Carolyn Mayo, District A Commander**

I have been a Legion member for 20 years and have been volunteering since I became a member. I am a member of Branch 410 Port Stanley and have held many positions at branch level including recording secretary which I currently do. I also stay involved in our Zone as Bursary Chair. I have held a few District Chairs before moving on to Deputy and now District Commander. I also hold the position of Head Female Chaperone for Legion National Track and Field.

I thoroughly enjoy visiting our Veterans at Parkwood and listening to their stories and seeing the smiles when they recognize that we are from the Legion.



Our District has 6 Zones and 53 branches and 11,375 members. Two branches in our District are amalgamating, the process is going well and will soon be complete. Unfortunately, as like many other Districts, we have branches that are struggling to keep their doors open. We have provisions in place to help like our BFA team.

District A will be offering many seminars over the next 6 months including but not limited to Membership, Zone Commanders (zone inspections), Role of a President, Vice President, Secretary, and BFA's.

I am looking forward to the new challenges I will undoubtedly encounter as the District A Commander.

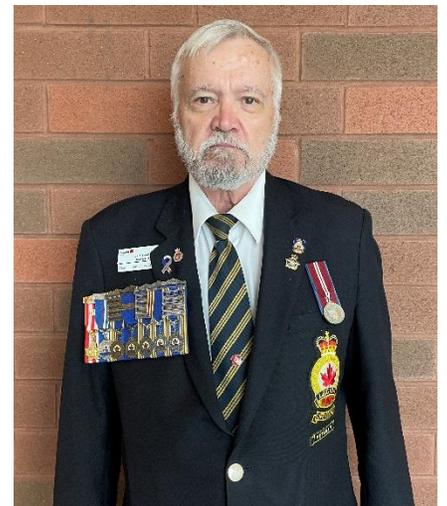
Yours in comradeship

Caroline Mayo

## **Jack Gemmell, District B Commander**

Comrades I would like to introduce myself. My name is Jack Gemmell and I am the District Commander of District B. I have been a proud member of the Royal Canadian Legion for 21 years and a Life Member of Branch 138 Merritton since 2015. I have held most of the major chairs at branch level as well as Deputy Zone (2 terms) and Zone Commander and Deputy District Commander for two terms. I also am the Vice Chair of the Tri District (ABC) Hospital Committee. I am also a proud Veteran having served five years in the Royal Canadian Air Force as a Military Policeman.

District B has 58 branches encompassing an area from Fort Erie in the east to Ingersoll in the west and from Port Dover on Lake Erie north to



Brampton and Bramalea. Our branches came through the recent pandemic in fairly good shape thanks to the various grants they received and for the most part are now fully operational. They are all looking forward to the summer months with their patios being open and working hard to bring back the members who have been absent the past two years.

For the past year Zone B5 has been working with the Niagara Regional Homeless committee to identify and help homeless Veterans in our area. At times it has been a struggle as we try to work our way through the various rules that the different shelters and regional committees have but we are starting to see some good results. We have found, through trial and error, that the best results were from the outreach people and the police who work the streets. They seem to have a rapport with the homeless and have steered potential clients our way. Branch Service Officers are working with us and have been a great help in getting the forms filled out. District B is now expanding the program to the Peel area and I wish them success in making the program work. One homeless Veteran is one too many.

### **Dean Weir, District C Commander**

I am a Legion Brat, 3<sup>rd</sup> generation legionnaire and my son is following in our footsteps, he is the 4<sup>th</sup>. We will have another generation in approximately 13-years. My father is a Veteran and also two of my uncles were Veterans, My grandfather went up Vimy Ridge, with the 4<sup>th</sup> Div of the CEF, that's how it all started.

My aunt, bless her soul was a 54 year member of the L.A., in Georgetown, Br.120, as was my mother.

In District "C", we have 50 Branches in 4 Zones. All are back open and functioning and taking care of business. The one exception is Branch 586, Hepworth-Shallowlake, which burnt to the ground earlier this year and was a total loss. They swear to rebuild and continue the tradition of serving their Veteran members and the community they serve. We wish them all the best! We are also looking forward to this year's Ruck to Remember. It is along the Bruce Trail from Tobermory to Niagara. We have stops at 6 of our branches in our district.

In comradeship

Dean



## **John Dufort, District D Commander**

Comrades, I am 72 years old and have been married for 52 years. I have two daughters and one granddaughter. I have been running my own business for the past 32 years as a Taxi Owner, specializing in transporting the elderly and disabled while under contract with Wheel-Trans which is run by the Toronto Transit Commission. I have had training in accessing the transportation needs for children and young adults that suffer with Autism. I designed training programs for the City of Toronto Municipal Licensing and Standards for Taxi drivers that were also doing the Wheel-Trans work and I taught this program on behalf of the city at Centennial College.



I served five years as a Reservist with the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada and did one tour to Germany for special training with the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry as part of Mobile Command. (1966-1971) I retired from the Reserves when I began my family.

I have been a member of the Legion for the past 15 years and have served in an Executive capacity for the past 14 years. At Branch 11, East Toronto, I was an executive member for four years, the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President for two years and the President for five years. I also served on Zone Council for seven years and District Council for five years. The past three years I have served as the District Deputy Commander. Between all three levels I have served as the following Chairs: Bursary, Poppy, Website, Policy and Procedures and Honours and Awards. I was awarded my Life Membership four years ago.

District D is comprised of twenty-one branches and is broken into three Zones. By far we are not the largest district and are compacted in a very small area compared to most of the districts, but we share some of the same challenges and we all have a common goal.

John N. Dufort

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

I bring greetings from the 39 Branches, district council and my deputy Betty Smith. Hopefully everyone has been able to enjoy your summer so far. District E has 4 Zones that encompass 5 regions, York, Peel, Simcoe, Grey and Muskoka. If you are in our district please look up one of our branches and enjoy the local hospitality.

District E sends a big thank you to the North Bay LAC for a job well done. To all the newly elected senior officers, District E congratulates you and wishes you much success for the next term of office.



Things are starting to move forward in District E. We held our washer toss and horseshoe tournaments and will also be doing golf. It is so nice to be able to get together and enjoy everyone's company at these sporting events. We look forward to a full slate of sports this fall if all goes well.

We also just held our annual Drumhead parade and service. The weather and the band were great and we had lots of banners and marchers on parade. Thanks to Creemore Br 397 for hosting this event, a job well done. As always, the Ladies Auxiliary is a large part of the success of events in our district, and we thank them for all they do for our branches and Veterans.

District E is proud of our Veterans Initiative Program and how well it has been received. We have 2 events in June, fishing off the pier in Orillia and our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual get together at Peace Keepers Park in Angust. In August it is a Veterans' Show and Shine at the New Lowell Branch and In September, we are scheduling a bonfire at Br. 232 Huntsville. Please check out our Facebook page for more details, dates and other events that may be added. These events are open to Veterans, serving members and silver cross families. Thanks to Sheila and Maggie for all their hard work to make these events come to life.



On more of a personal note, I want to thank the members of District E for allowing me to serve as your District Commander. I've been a proud member of Br 385, Aurora for 38 years and look forward to the next term of office. We have a great district, and I must thank them for all their support and dedication to the Royal Canadian Legion. My wife Sue and I are looking forward to traveling to the other district conventions over the next 3 years and enjoying the comradeship and see how other districts operate, and I'm sure I will pickup new ideas that I can bring back to District.E.

In Comradeship

Rick Preston

## **Dave Harnden, District F Commander**

Greetings from the members of District F. Since our term of office has basically just started, I have nothing to report on, but the newsletter editor suggested that the new commanders say a bit about ourselves. I am a 38 year associate member of Branch 580 in Grafton and the proud son of a WW11 veteran. I have held most of the chairs of the Legion at either, Branch, Zone or District levels and have served 3 terms as Zone Commander over the years.



District F is comprised of 53 hard working branches with our western boundary being Pickering, Brechin in the north and east to Belleville. District F is known as the fun district but when work has to be done the branches get it done as they have proved over the last two years by enduring the pandemic. I am proud to be able to serve them as the District Commander. This coming term I would like to concentrate on seminars other than the traditional ones, such as a Financial Review Committee workshop and Regulation amendments seminar. Our district BBQ will be held on July 9 this year. This is a chance for the members to get together where we try to park all the branch problems at the curb and get to know each other as members working for a common goal.

Yours in comradeship

David Harnden

## **District G Commander Ken Heagle**

Good day comrades

I have been a member of John McMartin Memorial Br. #297 for 31 years. I was an executive member, 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President and served two terms as President. I am currently the branch Veterans Service Officer.

I served as Zone G-4 Deputy Commander for 3 terms, Zone G-4 Commander also for 3 terms. In April 2022, I was elected District G Commander.



We have a large district with 7 zones and 61 branches in total. Here are just a few of the special activities in District G.

Cornwall Br. #297 is hosting a joint meeting with a Veteran's group from the USA and Canada in an effort to better serve Veterans on both sides of the border. Finch Br. # 357 is holding their annual BBQ to raise funds for future branch repairs and renovations. This is the first time in two years.

Lancaster Br. #544 hosts a monthly luncheon for seniors in the community. Kanata Br. #638 held bottle drives throughout the lockdown period and raised thousands of dollars to help pay the bills.

District G will hold it's first council meeting on June 18<sup>th</sup> and will start to prepare for training in the district. I'm pleased to say District G is moving forward in a very positive way.

Yours in comradeship

Ken Heagle

### **District H Commander Ken Faubert**

Comrades, District H was proud to host the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Provincial Convention. This most prestigious and demanding event in was an overwhelming success due to the hard work and diligence of local arrangements chair Sherry Culling, over 100 district volunteers and the dedicated work of Ontario Command staff.

On June 18, 2022, we were one of only 3 districts to host a District Track & Field meet. It was very successful and unfortunate that the athletes were unable to advance to provincials

On June 19, 2022, Zone H4 was the host Zone for a District Legion School at Br.336 Falconbridge. Topics included Legion protocol, how to get grants, duties of Secretary and how to fill out a year-end financial statement.



Zone H2 is doing well with a few branches trying to keep the doors open with new ideas and get membership back in their branches. There are some that have great ideas but lack of volunteers. There are a few branches after elections where many of their executive members are very green and need training with the help of legion school and the zone and district.

Zone H-3 is doing well with the branches sending Christmas greeting cards to Veterans who are serving. They also championed a program to send postcards to the troops for Canada day. 5,000 cards were printed and distributed to the 13 branches in the zone.

I would like to commend Zone H3 on initiating a special project. In the fall of 2021, the first Plasma Donation Center in Canada was opened to



Sudbury. To support the program and promote Legion participation in Zone H3, a plaque was awarded at the end of the year to the branch which had the most donations from its members and supporters. Four branches competed with the winning branch being Br. 553, Chelmsford with 55 donations, followed by Br. 564 Lockerby with 54. The need for Plasma donations is four times what is donated in Canada

Zone H-4 this Zone is doing very well with only one branch in turmoil because of a new executive that is very green and don't understand legion protocol with the help of Zone and District we hope to find the solution that will help this branch.

During the summer months, branches will be trying more to get more income into the branch with weddings and in house sports.

In comradeship

Ken Faubert



### District K Commander Roy Wilde

District K is now fully open for business and has been since last shut down, we have held our District convention in April and elections were held at that time. The District Commander and Deputy Commander were re-elected along with a new Sports Officer. The Zone Commanders held their spring meetings and held their elections and were re-elected.

Most branches have reopened although there are a few just finishing up with repairs and reconstruction. Branch 85 managed to raise just over two hundred thousand to put in a new elevator for its disabled members. We also have a branch that had closed due to building problems but are now in the throes of fundraising to repair and renew the building. They want to reopen as soon as possible all members are involved in this endeavor



There have been a few Celebrations of Life held at different Legions for past members, one in New Liskeard at the Cenotaph for a past District Commander of District K "Ron Scrivens" was held jointly with family and the Legion. Another was held at the same place for a lifetime member of Branch 33 "Bun" Eckensviller, a Veteran 96 years young and a well recognised member of the community. There will be a celebration of another Veteran's life, President and Bursary chair, Stephanie Leveille from Branch 87 Kirkland Land, to be held July 1<sup>st</sup>. On July 2<sup>nd</sup> there will be a motorcycle rally starting at

Branch 87 and will be traveling the roads of Zone 1 That includes Elk Lake, Haileybury and Virginiatown back to Branch 87. President Leveille started this ride two years ago .

The district is looking for much less stress on branches this year and more success for all.

We wish only the best for all the newly elected officers in District K: and for all districts, we look forward to working with the officers and members. Yours in comradeship

Roy Wilde



**Debbie Olmstead, President, Ladies' Auxiliary Ontario Command**

Due to Covid, aging of members and conflicts between branch and auxiliary we have lost 15 auxiliaries. Our Command has tried to help these auxiliaries in staying but too many closures are due to personality issues between the Branch and LA Executives. I would like to THANK President Garry for all his help whenever when I called or emailed him to help solve my concerns.

Through our Convention ticket sales, we can donate to Track & Field, Charitable Foundation, Ontario Provincial Bursary. At Christmas, we made up 125 Christmas cards with a \$25.00 Tim Horton gift card and a \$50.00 Walmart gift card for our Homeless Veterans. Comrade Jen Leclair sent us a beautiful thank you from one of our homeless veterans. It was very heartwarming receiving it and knowing we are helping in any way we can. Thank you, Jen.



I would like to introduce our new Secretary/Treasurer Comrade Kim Adams. She will officially take over at the end of the Ladies Auxiliary Provincial Convention in September. Comrade Kim has been and will be a great asset to our Command. We are working with the City of Kingston to make our provincial convention happen. We had to change our venue we are now at the Olympic Portsmouth Harbour on Lake Ontario. We have made amendments to our by-laws which will be presented at our provincial convention.

At this time I will highlight some of the Ladies Auxiliary financial statements and membership for the period June 1, 2020, to May 31, 2021.

|                       |             |  |
|-----------------------|-------------|--|
| Number of Auxiliaries | 223         | we have lost 15 auxiliaries as of 2018     |
| Prov Life Members     | 1020        | we have lost 234 life members as of 2018   |
| All Other Members     | <u>6027</u> | we have lost 1342 other members as of 2018 |

Total Membership            7047 total number of lost members 1576.

|            |                       |              |
|------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Donations: | Charitable Foundation | \$ 40,011.00 |
|            | Provincial Bursary    | \$ 60,020.00 |
|            | Other Bursaries       | \$ 23,200.00 |
|            | Donations to Branches | \$570,783.45 |
|            | Donations to Veterans | \$ 60,859.43 |
|            | Other Donations       | \$129,242.69 |

As this will be my last report, I would like to thank all of you for your comradeship and friendship. Also, I would like to thank Comrade Pam, Juanita and all staff at Ontario Headquarters in Aurora for their patience and guidance.

Respectfully submitted,  
Debbie Olmstead

### **Roy Eaton, Provincial Newspaper Editor**

First, I would like to thank President Derek Moore for reappointing me as Editor for my 4<sup>th</sup> term. It has been a memorable experience and a privilege to meet, correspond with and befriend so many people.

I am a 29 year member of Br. 177, Little Current. During these years I have served in several different positions including two terms as President. I am presently the Branch PRO. In 2017, I was honoured to receive Life Membership in the branch. I served 6 years as Zone H3 PRO currently serving my 9<sup>th</sup> year as District PRO.

In my professional life, I worked in education for 32 years, retiring in 2000 as Principal of Manitoulin Secondary School.



In addition to Legion work, my other passion is boating. On July 1<sup>st</sup>, I will start my 19<sup>th</sup> year of broadcasting the Little Current Cruisers Net on VHF Channel 71. I have received Life Membership in the Great Lakes Cruising Club, the Trailor/Sailors and the American Great Loop Cruising Association. In 2010, I received the Canadian Safe Boating Council Volunteer of the Year Award. In 2018, I received the Governor General Volunteer Medal for my work with both the Legion and the boating community. But my biggest claim to fame is that my wife Margaret has heroically stayed by my side for 54 years.

In comradeship

Roy