

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BR. 148



30 Raglan Street South. Renfrew, Ontario
K7V 1P7
Office: (613) 432-6450
Clubroom: (613) 432-2582

<http://www.renfrewlegionbr148.ca>

E-mail rcIrenfrew@cogeco.net

LEST WE FORGET



MARCH / APRIL 2021 BRANCH BULLETIN



Legion Mission Statement

Our mission is to serve Veterans, including serving Military and RCMP members and their families, to promote Remembrance, and to serve our communities and our country.

MEETINGS:

Branch 148 Executive Meeting	2nd Monday of each Month	7:00 p.m.
Ladies Auxiliary Br 148 Meeting	SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE	
Branch General Meeting	SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE	

The Branch does not have General Meetings during the months of July, August and December.

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT GREG WALBECK: Hello Comrades – I hope this newsletter finds you well and staying safe during this on-going pandemic. The Branch is holding its own, and we have reopened since mid-February. As the County is now under “Yellow Protect” level, we have maintained all of our social distancing rules, and have received good reports from the Renfrew County & District Health Unit for all of our hard work in keeping our Branch safe for everyone. Thank you to Fran Godin, Sheila Riopelle, Laura Warren, and Diane Seeley for the donations of food and time for the Saturday meals during entertainment and thank you to everyone who donated to our successful bake sale fundraiser. I would also like to thank our bar stewards – Tim Megrath, Brian Brown & Kim Visinski – for volunteering to keep our Lounge open so that we can have some income coming into the Branch. A huge thank you to our Secretary/Treasurer, Jessica Thompson, who has been keeping the Branch running smoothly while volunteering since last July. Once again, there are no Executive elections to be held this year, and we are unable to hold any General Meetings until this pandemic is over. Our current Executive have agreed to stay in their positions for another year, and the Branch will continue to be operated under the Executive. I would like to thank our Executive for all of their dedication and hard work. I hope everyone continues to work together until this is finally over, and we hope to see you back at the Branch soon. We are hoping to have more barbecues this summer, and we will let you know when these will be held. I hope everyone has a good Easter, and we can all look forward to spring and nicer weather. Stay safe, and hopefully soon things will get back to normal.

Greg Walbeck

FROM THE OFFICE: The office is now open on a part-time basis, from 8am to noon Monday to Wednesday and Friday. The phones, email and regular mail are still being checked regularly. Please leave a message and someone will get in touch with you. There is now a locked mailbox by the auditorium doors that is checked daily. Please contact the office if you are thinking on booking our hall for an event in 2021. The Branch is set up for e-transfers for donations, hall rentals and membership renewals. If you wish to receive your Bulletin by email, please contact the office to be added to the list. If you have recently moved, please notify the office so that your information can be updated.

UPCOMING DATES: Mondays – ladies’ darts, 7pm
Tuesdays – Foot Care clinic – March 30, April 13 & 27, May 4 & 18
Saturdays – weekly entertainment and meal – please check our Facebook page or our website, or call the Branch for more information

LAST POST: Our Deepest sympathy is expressed to the families of Veteran Isabella Taylor, Veteran & Past-President Mel Scobie, and Veteran Josephine “Jo” Prentice. If you hear of a member passing away, please contact the office and let the Secretary know so that we can be sure to include them in the next bulletin.

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will Remember Them."

GREETINGS TO OUR HOUSEBOUND MEMBERS: A warm hello to all of our members who are unable to visit the Branch:

Bonnechere Manor	Dan Deslaurier, Louise Snow, Elwood Stafford
Mirimichi Lodge	Cecil Code
Groves Park Lodge	Norman Warren
Quail Creek	Ann Hisko, Olga Llewellyn
At home	Bernadette Lacourse, Ruth Purdie, Frank Ring, and Pat Currie

If you know of someone who should be included, please contact the office and let the Secretary know so that we can be sure to include them in the next bulletin.

PROPERTY: All is in good shape at this time. Some repairs have been done to the heating for all rooms, and some small work in the main hall still has to be done. We are also looking into repairing the front entrance beside the office. ***Richard Fitzsimmons, Property Co-Chair***

WAYS & MEANS: Friday and Saturday draws are doing well. Thank you to all volunteers. ***Richard Fitzsimmons, Ways & Means***

YOUTH EDUCATION: Results from G7 Competition

Colour Posters	Primary - 2nd Bethany Brown (St Joseph’s Calabogie) Junior - 2nd Stone Shannon (Queen Elizabeth) Intermediate - 1st Samantha Parsons (Our Lady of Fatima) Senior - 1st Isabelle Dick (Renfrew Collegiate Institute)
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Black & White Posters	Primary - 1st Caydence Armstrong (Central) Junior - 1st Mia St Michael (St Joseph's Calabogie) Intermediate - 2nd Abigail Miller (Our Lady of Fatima)
Literary	
Essays	Junior - 1st Lyric McIntyre (Central) Senior - 2nd Hannah Pratt (Renfrew Collegiate Institute)
Poems	Junior - 1st Mia St Michael (St Joseph's Calabogie) Senior - 1st Nikki Purvis (Renfrew Collegiate Institute)

Congratulations to all our students!

Jo-anne Caldwell, Youth Education Chair

CHAPLAIN: Dear Comrades, Easter is the Christian holiday celebrating the Resurrection, or bringing back to life, of Jesus Christ three days after his crucifixion. In Christian tradition, the Resurrection represents Christ's victory over death and the promise of eternal life for those who follow him. Some Christians refer to Easter as Resurrection Day or Resurrection Sunday. Easter always falls on a Sunday. Many churches will offer worship services on Good Friday (the Friday just before Easter) along with one or more services on Easter Sunday itself. Easter Sunday marks the end of the 46-day preparatory season of Lent, which is significant in cultures around the world. The exact date of Easter varies from year to year, but it typically falls during the month of April or sometimes late March. This seasonal timing gives the holiday its strong associations with springtime and rebirth in the natural world. Easter icons such as eggs, baby chick, bunnies and tulips symbolize new life and renewed hope. Those are powerful ideas to embrace whether you celebrate Easter for religious reasons or simply because you enjoy the vibrant traditions that go along with the holiday.

May the message of Easter motivate all of us to seek ways to make peace, not war. May we be stimulated to accept others who may seem different from us, rather than sit and complain about those strangers. May in initiate a smile toward one another, and not a frown. May we do this every day in 2021. A warm greeting to you and your family. Let His joy, peace and love ascend into your home this Easter and through the years. Truly, He is risen! ***Padre Bruce Ferguson***

RENFREW SILVER SENIORS: We have not yet been able to meet, but we are looking forward to being able to get together again soon. Please stay safe. ***Irene Rosebrugh, President***

FINANCE: I would like to start by wishing everyone a very Happy Easter and remember to stay safe and follow the Health Units rules. Right now the Legion is doing OK. Thanks to our members, community and the town we are holding our own. A big thank you to our employees for donating their time for the past year. This is a big reason why we are able to stay open and offer our patrons a place to gather. We received a loan from the Federal Government and also have applied for a grant from the town. There is another grant application from the Provincial Government we are looking at applying for. ***Tena Miller, Finance Chair***

MEMBERSHIP: I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of our new members to Branch 148. We are hoping to see you at our next General meeting when we are allowed to hold one. We will contact you when we are able to hold a meeting. I want to also like to take this opportunity to remind our members you can now pay your dues for 2021, Monday to Wednesday from 9 to 12 at the office and Friday 9 to noon at the office, or you can also pay at the Lounge – the Lounge opens at noon Monday to Saturday.

Robert Marsh, Sergeant at Arms and Membership Chair

SCOUTS: At this time we are not having any groups participating. Hoping with Scouts Canada advertising for new registration we get to start up the fall again.

Yours in Scouting, Susan Fleming

LADIES AUXILIARY: The Auxiliary has been unable to meet to hold a meeting due to Covid protocols, however, we are waiting on confirmation from our Zone Commander. The ladies' Monday night dart league is meeting weekly. In December the LA gave a donation to the Branch of \$5,000.00. All Zone, District and Provincial sports are cancelled until further notice.

Rose LaFont, President

NEVADA: The Nevada tickets are going slow. Hopefully by the summer things will pick up.

Sheila Riopelle, Nevada Chair

ENTERTAINMENT: Our entertainment and Saturday meals are going well, and many thanks to everyone who has volunteered food or their time, and thank you to everyone who has come to the Branch on a Saturday evening for a homemade dinner and to enjoy great entertainment. At the moment, we are limited to 50 people in the Hall ("Yellow" level for COVID) and there is no dancing or singing permitted. Please watch our Facebook page or our website for upcoming events.

Fran Godin, Entertainment Chair

BURSARY: Applications for Renfrew Branch Bursaries will be available online through the local High School Guidance Office. Branch 148 of the Royal Canadian Legion grants bursaries of \$500.00 to qualifying students graduating from Grade 12 who NEED financial support. Applications MUST be completed in full to be considered. To be eligible for a bursary a student must:

1. be accepted in an institution offering post-secondary training (University, community college or an accredited private school)
2. be the son or daughter of any of:
 - a) a Veteran (service number required)
 - b) an Ordinary member of Branch 148 (service number required/member in good standing)
 - c) an Associate member of Branch 148 (member in good standing)
 - d) a Ladies' Auxiliary member to Branch 148
 - e) currently serving member of the Canadian Armed Forces (service number required)
3. be the Grandchild or Great Grandchild of:
 - a) a Veteran (copy of discharge paper required)
 - b) an Ordinary member of the Legion (copy of discharge paper required)

Deadline for applications – June 4th, 2021 - submit to the Legion Office. ***Ella Box, Bursary Chair***

MILITARY SERVICE RECOGNITION BOOK: Reminder: Ontario Command is accepting submissions for Volume 8. Forms may be picked up at the Legion Office or refer to the Ontario Command Website for a submission form. All submissions must be returned to Renfrew Branch to be checked for correctness.

Ella Box

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE POPPY: This year marks 100 years of the Remembrance Poppy in Canada. Inspired by John McCrae's "In Flanders Fields", Madame Anna Guérin, later christened "The Poppy Lady from France", campaigned tirelessly in the early 1920s for her Inter-Allied Poppy Day idea: to adopt the distribution of the Poppy on Armistice Day as a way to raise money for Veterans' needs and to remember those who had given their lives during the First World War. On July 1921 the Great War Veterans Association (which in 1925 would unify with other Veteran

groups to form the Canadian Legion) adopted the Poppy as the flower of Remembrance. Since then, the Legion and its members have upheld this tradition of Remembrance.

Please contact the office if you would like to purchase a pin.



LEADERSHIP & DEVELOPMENT: The Ritual, Awards and Protocol Manual has been amended to reflect a change in Legion Informal Dress, as follows:

Legion Informal Dress will consist of a Legion short sleeve shirt in French Blue. This type of Dress will/can be worn at the following:

- a. Convention business sessions, excluding the opening ceremonies.
- b. Various Legion meetings, i.e. Executive, General and Special.
- c. Informal Branch events.
- d. Hospital visitations to Veterans.
- e. Legion Informal Dress also includes, black shoes, gray trousers for males and black shoes, dark grey hose, grey knee length skirts or slacks for females.
- f. Where appropriate.

CONSTITUTION & LAWS & RESOLUTIONS: On February 23, 2021 Ontario Provincial President Garry Pond issued Declaration Nos. 8 & 9 - All Branch elections and transitions to a new Executive, and the General By-Laws of Command and Branch Regulations pertaining to Branch Elections, will be suspended pending a return to full Branch operations. At present the Branch continues to operate under the Executive Committee. **Ella Box**

ZONE G 7 NEWS: Zone Council meeting was held on March 14, 2021 at Branch 72 Pembroke. Branch Presidents presented reports of all the innovated ways/events their Branch has managed to stay open following Pandemic Protocol. Some Zone Officers gave updated reports of their activities since our last meeting. Provincial PRO Comrade Carolyn McCaul provided an update report on Legion Veteran House that opened in January 2021. Legion Week is September 19th to 25th. Scrapbook contest is cancelled for this year. Zone Commander Comrade Wayne Bennett reported that Joel VanSnick has stepped down, and Ken Heagle is now District G Commander. **Ella Box**

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Please review the latest information from Dominion Command. **Debbie McDermid, PRO**

a) **WHAT MEMBERSHIP MEANS:** Dominion Command has released some wonderful stories from other Legion Members, about what it means to them to be a member:

- <https://legion.ca/news/articles/2021/03/11/on-being-a-legion-member>
- <https://legion.ca/fr/les-nouvelles/articles/2021/03/11/etre-membre-de-la-legion>

This article has been posted to the bulletin board in the Lounge.

b) **MEMBERPERKS:** Did you know? As a Legion Member, you can take advantage of some great savings! Your Membership can help you save - Save on your spring shopping with MemberPerks®, the Legion's member benefit program. With MemberPerks®, you can save \$1000s at stores, restaurants and services online and in-store. It's a great way to support the Legion, local businesses, and your wallet. **MemberPerks® saved Legion members almost \$150,000 last year alone.** Sign up today to see what you can save – it's free with your membership.

c) **NEWS FROM DOMINION COMMAND:** As part of the Legion's efforts to combat homelessness, the Legion's Ontario Command provided \$200,000 to the Multifaith Housing Initiative to build apartments for homeless Veterans in Ottawa, as well as kits filled with apartment essentials like mattresses, pots and pans and small appliances. The Legion has also helped identify Veterans to move in and offers on-site supports to residents who need them. Veterans' House will provide living space to 40 Veterans in need by the end of March 2021. Veterans' House is specifically designed for Veterans in the Ottawa region. The building opened its doors in early February to its first excited residents. The rent will be aligned with income. Legion Branches in Ontario and other organizations across the province provided additional individual donations. Peer support projects will remain a fundamental part of the Legion's assistance. A Legion committee will be formed to help residents with any needs. During regular business hours, peer support staff will be in the building to help residents navigate their new lives – whether it be directing them to the nearest grocery store, teaching them to cook, or helping them find an accredited mental or physical health program. They will get help filling out benefit application forms for assistance from Veterans Affairs Canada, and job recruiters will share employment opportunities.

d) **VETERANS AND SERVICE DOGS: LEGION COMMITS SIGNIFICANT FUNDS:** The Legion's Ontario Command, its Branches, and Ladies' Auxiliaries have made a crucial donation to Wounded Warriors Canada (WWC) to help continue its work to pair more Veterans with life-changing service dogs. These exceptional dogs are trained to help reduce Veteran anxiety in public settings, redirect attention to more positive activities, help with nightmare interruption and in stabilizing sleep patterns. Garry Pond, Ontario Command President recently presented a \$350,000 donation to Phil Ralph, the Director of Health Services at WWC. The funding supports the WWC PTSD Service Dog program which includes everything from training to placement. Since the initial donation by Ontario Command, WWC has facilitated the placement of 11 PTSD Service Dogs to Ontario Veterans, with approximately 30 others currently in training. Ontario Command and Wounded Warriors Canada began their partnership in 2018 with a view to pairing as many injured Veterans with trained dogs as feasible. Other Legion Provincial Commands such as Nova Scotia/Nunavut and British Columbia/Yukon are also partnering with various organizations to provide Service Dogs to Veterans in their communities. Nationally, The Royal Canadian Legion has been pushing the federal government for National Standards for Service Dogs for years. While a commitment to create such standards has been made, nothing has been released to date. In the interim, Wounded Warriors Canada has established a set of standards required of all Service Dog providers it works with. To learn more about the WWC program please visit: <https://woundedwarriors.ca/our-programs/ptsd-service-dogs/>.