



Public Relations Officer Update February 2023

In the news

BC/Yukon Command launches new Veterans Village

An amazing new complex opened in Surrey, BC in early February. The partnership project serves Veterans and acts as a location for a new local Legion Branch. Read all the details on the facility website below. This story received a lot of media attention, and a few examples are also linked further below.

<https://legionveteransvillage.com/>

<https://vancouver.sun.com/news/local-news/new-legion-veterans-village-surrey-affordable-rental-veterans-first-responders>

https://www.westernstandard.news/news/royal-canadian-legion-opens-veterans-village-in-bc/article_9531ff9a-a8a2-11ed-8eeb-1bd35891c96d.html

From Global TV BC:

Instant Play Link:

<http://my.tvey.es/Fx2s5>

(Note: Available until March 9, 2023. Cannot be shared widely due to monitoring agreement.)

From CKNW 980 radio Vancouver:

Instant Play Link:

<http://my.tvey.es/n2Y4K>

(Note: Available until March 8, 2023. Cannot be shared widely due to monitoring agreement.)

From AM 900 radio Hamilton, ON:

Instant Play Link:

<http://my.tvey.es/g5FBm>

(Note: Available until March 8, 2023. Cannot be shared widely due to monitoring agreement.)

From CTV Terrace:

Instant Play Link:

<http://my.tvey.es/a6ZQd>

(Note: Available until March 9, 2023. Cannot be shared widely due to monitoring agreement.)

BC housing issues highlighted by citizen

Early Legion advocacy points to decades of housing challenges. Excerpt from a coincidental Letter to the Editor in the Times Colonist online.

Region's housing issue is nothing new

"On 26 January 1946, thirty veterans led by a Canadian Legion sergeant-at-arms occupied the old Hotel Vancouver to protest against the acute housing problem in Vancouver." So wrote historian Jill Wade in 1986.

It would seem that plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose continues to reflect the state of housing in Vancouver and Victoria.

Perhaps we today could learn from the actions of our forebears.

Robert Pellow Parksville

Dominion President questions backlog funds

(French) Last month, Bruce Julian was quoted in several media articles after revelations that Veterans Affairs Canada did not spend 1 billion of its funding, an amount the Legion believes could have been used to help support Veterans. (*English articles were shared last month but this version is in French*).

<https://www.ledevoir.com/depeches/779998/anciens-combattants-canada-et-son-enorme-arriere-ont-laisse-1-g-sur-la-table>

Former Command president supports free parking

Ronn Anderson of MB offers thoughts at a recent meeting in Winnipeg.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2023/02/07/council-committee-to-debate-free-parking-for-vet-plates>

Legion mentioned in the context of modernization

This story points out the Legion's online donation option.

<https://www.gananoquereporter.com/news/local-news/the-times-are-a-changin-cornwall-service-club-council-quest-speaker>

Worries about losing Country Hall of Fame in Branch

A general call-in show with a caller who complained about plans not to include a Hall of Fame in its building in Hepworth. This story has been of interest to media over the past few weeks.

From 560 CFOS radio in Owen Sound, ON:

Instant Play Link:

<http://my.tvey.es/o6D7G>

(Note: Available until Feb. 3, 2023, cannot be widely shared due to monitoring agreement).

Branch review: Durham ON

An example of a good overview of Branch activities. These Branch-led articles appear occasionally in local papers across the country and they're a great idea.

Durham legion happenings
Hanover Post (Print Edition)
CA|February 02, 2023-05:30am

You don't have to be a veteran to support a veteran. Any Canadian or citizen of an allied nation 18 years of age or older is welcome to join and help the Legion help Canada's veterans. You can join/renew membership online at legion.ca/join-us or stop by (Thursdays and Fridays) and pick up your application form.

Your membership can help you save with MemberPerks, you can shop online or in store at local and national stores and service providers and save thousands of dollars every year. It's a great way to support the Legion, local businesses and your wallet.

The Clubroom is open Thursdays and Fridays at 4 p.m. Please help maintain COVID-19 safety guidelines as posted at the door upon entry. UP COMING EVENTS Legion Community Indoor Walking Club: Every Wednesday from 9:30-11 a.m. Admission by donation. Everyone is welcome.

Darts: Every Thursday at 7 p.m., only \$2 admission. It has to be one of the cheapest enjoyable nights out around, everyone is welcome - members and non-members - whether you're a pro or just a beginner. Euchre: Every Friday at 2 p.m. on the hall side. Cost to play is \$2. Everyone is welcome.

Pool Table: Every Friday at 6:30 p.m. Tables take loonies to play. Everyone is welcome. Buddy Check Coffee Break: Every third Monday of the month from 10-11 a.m. The Legion invites all veterans, first responders and RCMP to the Buddy Check Coffee Break. You do not need to be a Legion member to join this coffee break. If you are in need of a ride, contact Brian at briancarr8807@gmail.com or 519-369-4846. Valentine's Day Dance: Friday, Feb. 10, doors open at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$15 per person. Music from 8 p.m. to midnight by the Twist Tops. Light lunch. Grace2, Tragically Hip Tribute Band: March 4. Tickets are \$30 per person, available online at [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com). St. Patrick's Dance: March 17, doors open at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$15 per person. Music by Carolyn (DJ). Reminder: Pay your dues - \$55 can be paid online or come into the branch Thursdays or Fridays. If those aren't options that suit, you can mail to Royal Canadian Legion, Br. 308, Box 448, Durham, NOG 1R0, Attn.: Laurie Paylor. Valentines for Vets: Help a veteran feel a little less lonely this Valentine's Day. Veterans Affairs Canada will once again be distributing Valentine's Day cards to veterans in long-term care facilities across the country on Feb. 14. Learn more at www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/classroom/valentines-for-veterans.

Hall Rentals: The hall is booking up fast. If you are wanting to book the hall for an event, contact the Durham Legion and leave a message at 519-369-2239.

Volunteers are needed: The people that take care of the Durham Legion, the people behind the bar, the people in the kitchen, are all Durham Legion members and volunteers. In order to be able to open the doors, more volunteers are needed. Volunteers with Smart Serve are needed for behind the bar. Still looking for volunteers to help with bingo. If you would like to help call Sarah at 519-377-6779 or Angela at 519-477-3377. Facebook page: Durham Legion's Facebook page is kept up to date. Please continue to check the page for the latest events. Don't forget: Everyone 18+ is invited and welcome to become a Legion member. Join today.

Veteran happy to receive new scooter

A branch in Ontario helps out.

Wyoming Legion gives scooter to veteran
Canadian Press (Print Edition)-Blake Ellis
CA|February 23, 2023-09:43pm

Navy veteran Dave Willis received a mobility scooter from the Wyoming branch of the Royal Canadian Legion on Wednesday, Jan. 4. President Connor Weed said one of the mandates of the Legion is provide for veterans who are in need. The scooter was purchased out of the poppy fund. Willis is appreciative of receiving the scooter. At one time, he was taking his dog for a walk three times a day, now he can barely take his dog for a walk once a day. The new scooter will increase his independence.

Willis served with the Canadian Navy from 1963 to 1966. His most memorable experience happened when he was aboard the HMCS Kootenay and chased a Soviet submarine across the Atlantic Ocean in the midst of the Cold War.

Legion President Connor Weed, Membership Chair Jim Turnball, Vice-President Trevor Boersma and Keith Watson from Green County Ebike and Mobility Scooters surround Willis.

Blake Ellis, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, The Independent

Poppy usage was not approved

Here's a story (2 related stories were published originally) about a person in ON using the Poppy image without approval for a business logo. Note that national HQ had to reach out to the outlet to provide full context and facts, and have an addition made to the story – to the credit of

the outlet, they did make the change - this is an example of following up to help ensure accuracy.

<https://www.baytoday.ca/local-news/barrie-area-business-at-odds-with-legion-over-poppy-copyright-6562716>

(Note that a previous version used a more inflammatory headline which was later changed by the media outlet on its own): <https://www.newmarkettoday.ca/local-news/slap-in-the-face-business-at-odds-with-legion-over-poppy-copyright-6564068>

Legion Service Officer: lauded for good work

Read more about this officer's good work being honoured in Alberta.

<https://www.mayerthorpefreelancer.com/news/local-news/district-service-officer-saluted-with-platinum-legion-honours>

(French) **Quebec branch thanks mayor**

A Quebec mayor played an important role related to the 2022 Poppy Campaign.

<https://www.lecourriersud.com/communaute/coquelicots-2022-les-veterans-souignent-le-travail-de-leur-presidente-dhonneur/>

Petawawa Legion Branch to help seniors

A new grant will allow a Branch in Ontario to do needed outreach.

<https://www.pembrokeobserver.com/news/local-news/petawawa-legion-receives-grant-to-launch-seniors-outreach-initiative>

Poppy funds help local youth

Read more about the support provided to an Air Cadets squadron.

<https://whitecourtpress.com/supporting-youth-programming-with-locally-raised-poppy-funds/>

Branch and Command milestones and unique ideas

Notable events and updates about Branches.

Jubilee medals presented – ongoing examples

<https://www.airdrietoday.com/local-news/more-local-residents-presented-with-platinum-jubilee-medals-6458745>

<https://www.okotoksonline.com/articles/community-futures-highwood-presents-four-queens-jubilee-medals->

Montague Branch: 90 years of service

https://www.peicanada.com/eastern_graphic/montague-legion-marks-90-years-of-community-service/article_b5765fe0-a176-11ed-9147-37e1f157cd5b.html

Sacred space project

<https://www.trailtimes.ca/community/poppy-campaign-in-trail-supports-sacred-space/>

Musical fundraiser

<https://www.leducprep.com/news/local-news/legion-fundraiser-brings-in-15000>

Duelling pianos fundraiser

Legion fundraiser brings in \$15,000

Beaumont News (Print Edition)-Dillon Giancola

CA|February 10, 2023·10:15am

The local legion started its campaign for a new physical location with a bang, at its duelling pianos fundraiser, January 28, at Blackjacks Roadhouse. The Royal Canadian Legion Leduc Branch 108 raised \$15,200 at the event. "This was our first big capital fundraiser for a new place, as there is no physical Legion in Leduc right now. We are happy with how this one went, and are hoping to hold another one at Blackjacks in September," said Branch 108 board member Cindy Miller. This year's event raised money through admission, a live auction, a silent auction, and two 50-50 raffles. Duelling piano performers were brought in from Edmonton, and were a huge hit. Though the auctions were successful, Miller is hopeful that with a longer runway to plan, the next event will feature even more items, and raise even more funds. The event was sold out. Stay tuned to Blackjacks Roadhouse, and the Legion Branch 108, for announcements on the next Legion fundraiser.

Buddy Check coffee

<https://www.summerlandreview.com/community/summerland-legion-offers-buddy-check-coffee-initiative/>

Maple syrup branch festival

<https://www.myalgoma.ca/2023/02/21/maple-syrup-festival-offers-all-you-can-eat-pancakes/>

Accolades for Legion branch in ON

<https://www.newmarkettoday.ca/local-news/invisible-heroes-newmarket-aurora-mpp-honours-non-profits-6572709>

Ice fishing derby to raise funds

<https://northernontario.ctvnews.ca/ice-fishing-derby-raises-funds-for-local-legion-in-honour-of-former-member-1.6279810>

Legion branch to celebrate 70 years

<https://canadatoday.news/ca/kahnawake-legion-will-celebrate-70-years-with-a-gala-next-month-273123/>

Ontario Command Public speaking competition

<https://www.napaneeguide.com/news/students-speak-up-and-speak-out-at-legion-public-speaking-competition>

Mobility aid for Veteran provided by Branch

<https://steinbachonline.com/articles/veteran-in-vita-gets-valuable-mobility-aids-to-improve-quality-of-life>

The “community” in Legion support activities

The Legion’s Branches regularly supports communities across the country, here are a few of the latest examples.

(French) <https://www.lechodelatouque.com/actualites/don-de-1000-a-lescadron-646/>

<https://www.countylive.ca/smart-rest-at-the-hospital-thanks-to-the-royal-canadian-legion/>

<https://www.cornwallseawaynews.com/news/alexandria-royal-canadian-legion-423-donates-5k-to-hgmh-foundation/>

<https://thereview.ca/2023/02/17/legion-ladies-auxiliaries-donate-to-hgh-foundation/>

<https://thereview.ca/2023/02/21/alexandria-legion-hospital-fire-department/>

Legion branch assists after explosive device scare

<https://www.cfnrfm.ca/2023/02/15/reports-of-an-explosive-device-at-a-quesnel-school-yesterday-deemed-false-by-rcmp/>

Donation to help with sleep

<https://www.saultstar.com/news/legion-donation-will-help-cassellholme-residents-sleep-better>

Community support for the Legion and its work

Often local communities or governments donate significant funds or help promote Legion Branches and their work, or help them operate. Here are some of the latest instances.

<https://porthawkesburyreporter.com/community-groups-receive-funding-for-generators/>

<https://www.wellingtonadvertiser.com/greg-blagdon-makes-generous-pop-tab-donation-to-harriston-legion/>

<https://www.mountainviewtoday.ca/innisfail-news/innisfail-and-stars-exchange-beneficial-goodwill-6465746>

<https://www.petawawapostlive.ca/articles/2023/february2023/16february/legion-receives-24k-grant-for-series-of-senior-activities.html>

<https://www.niagarafallsreview.ca/local-welland/news/2023/02/17/fonthill-legion-receives-25k-donation-for-new-freezer-unit-from-farm-credit-canada.html>

<https://fftimes.com/news/local-news/provincial-funding-allows-full-revamp-of-legion-park/>

Remembrance events throughout the year

Examples of some of the activities that support the Legion's focus on Remembrance.

<https://www.ladysmithchronicle.com/news/ladysmith-pays-respects-on-cenotaphs-100th-anniversary/>

<https://wawa-news.com/index.php/2023/02/01/ecole-saint-joseph-students-shine-in-royal-canadian-legion-contest/>

(French) <https://www.myalgoma.ca/2023/02/01/ecole-saint-joseph-students-shine-in-royal-canadian-legion-contest/>

<https://www.merrittherald.com/mss-students-win-the-canadian-legions-regional-remembrance-day-competition/>

<https://www.thefreepress.ca/community/fernien-legion-remembrance-day-poster-and-literary-contest/>

<https://www.wellandtribune.ca/local-fort-erie/news/2023/02/16/memorabilia-from-veterans-to-be-displayed-with-honour-at-fort-erie-legion.html>

Nova Scotia seniors' action club poppy project

From CBC Nova Scotia:

Instant Play Link:

<http://my.tvey.es/m7P8R>

(Note: Available until March 24, 2023. Cannot be shared widely due to monitoring agreement.)

<https://www.saltwire.com/nova-scotia/news/berwick-ns-legion-members-working-to-solve-memorial-cross-medal-mystery-100827652/>

National Headquarters

National Legion Week: September 2023

For the first time, the Legion will help promote a national Legion Week in 2023. It's an effort to help publicize and promote the Legion and its Branches across the country at the same time. There is promotional strength in numbers!

A recent question revolved around whether there is any financial support for the week; no funding has been approved by Dominion Command and would be determined regionally and locally.

That said, national promotional efforts will help everyone and related tools will be available to tailor locally. Stay tuned!

Legion Veterans Village/ Centre of Excellence

Learn more about the opening of the excellent new development to help support Veterans, led by BC Command. The official opening took place on February 8. Regional and national releases were shared.

<https://legion.ca/news/articles/2023/02/08/legion-s-bc-yukon-command-celebrates-grand-opening-of-new-veterans-village>

(French) <https://legion.ca/fr/les-nouvelles/articles/2023/02/08/la-direction-provinciale-de-la-c-b-yn-de-la-legion-celebre-la-grande-ouverture-du-village-des-veterans>

Canada's Veterans Ombudsman speaks with Veterans

The Ombudsman made some stops in BC during the month of February.

<https://www.castanet.net/news/Vernon/409345/Veterans-ombud-to-embark-on-BC-tour-with-stops-in-Vernon-and-Armstrong>

Follow Legion national social media

Check out all the chatter when you can!

[Legion.ca](https://legion.ca)

Facebook.com/CanadianLegion

Twitter.com/RoyalCdnLegion

Instagram.com/royalcanadianlegion

youtube.com/user/RCLDominionCommand

vimeo.com/royalcanadianlegion

Linkedin.com/company/royalcanadianlegion

Feedback

Research participants requested: RAND

The RAND group is conducting a study about the experiences of non-UK Veterans with their Office of Veterans Affairs (OVA). It is for those who served with the UK military but were not US citizens. They'd like to know if the needs of these Veterans are being met. For more information:

Who can I contact for more information about this project?

If you have a query or concern about any aspect of this study, please contact the project team at veteransresearch@randeurope.org or by phone on: +44 1223 353 329 (www.rand.org/randeurope), and state the project number 22088.



Events of note

Events of note (March-April)

- **March** – Pre-planning notice to hoist Command and Branch flags at half-mast for Vimy Ridge Day on Sunday, April 9 this year.
- **March** – Federal budget expected, Legion will provide a reaction
- **April 27-29** – Final week/weekend, DEC/PED meetings in Ottawa