

Royal Canadian Legion

Ontario Command Newsletter

Summer



2021

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Ontario Command President Garry Pond

Hello Comrades! The last edition of our newsletter was Christmas 2020, our first Christmas with COVID-19. We do still have travel restrictions in place, but we are getting on with Zoom!

Linda and I received our second dose of the Moderna vaccine on 28 June and are excited for our province and country to re-open. More normal (or new-normal) ways of doing Legion business are almost here.

First remarks must be to thank and commend our Provincial HQ staff for doing such a fantastic job! All of the staff, including leading 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. I also wish to thank all members of Provincial Executive Council (PEC) for the incredible progress done during this most difficult time! Well done!

A long standing challenge within the Legion, even before COVID, was the personality conflicts that arose when Branch members had different points of view, and could not or would not compromise. COVID-19 certainly exasperated these situations - mostly because members could not face each other to resolve the differences. Patience has helped.



COVID-19 has also put a positive spin on branches, for they were forced to pivot and innovate to new ideas. From take-out food orders to member fundraisers, to Branch and community-wide Catch the Ace lotteries, COVID-19 has actually led to economic betterment of some of our branches. All in all, our Legion branches and their executives are to be congratulated on the fantastic work which continued at local levels and in spite of this horrible pandemic.

Dominion Convention is almost upon us and all delegates should now be registered to take part in this historical first ever virtual event! We have a number of Ontario Command members seeking office including Comrades Bruce Julian for Dominion President, Brian Weaver for 1st Vice President, Bill Chafe for Chairman and our Immediate Past President Sharon McKeown for Vice President. Good luck to all!

COVID-19 has also given us time to reflect on the small but very important things. For example, our Veterans who achieve a 100th birthday receive a personalized birthday card from the Ontario President. When allowed, branches are commemorating the Veterans' achievements, as happened with the 100th birthday of Gord Standing, an RCAF Veteran of World War II, the Cold War and peacetime. The Carleton Place branch had a cake, pipers, and the centurion was honoured by an appropriate number of birthday outdoor partiers. Pipers led us in a rendition of the song, Happy Birthday. That was a first for me and I have to say B flat is a horrible key! Ron Goebel and I - both members of Carleton Place branch - the executive of Branch 192 and the local newspaper all showed up to toast to Gord.



Gord Standing, centre, Veteran of World War II, celebrates his 100th birthday in the back yard of the Captain A. Roy Brown Carleton Place Legion. Celebrating with Gord are Branch 192 Immediate Past President Brian Comeau, President Peter Schafer, as well as Provincial Command representatives (and Branch 192 members) Chair Ron Goebel and President Garry Pond. Also shown are members of Branch 240 Almonte Pipe Band Iain Slingerland and Neil MacLeod

COVID-19 did not stop us at Ontario Command from honouring its economic commitment to **Operation Service Dog**. A cheque for \$350,000 was presented in March 2021 to Phil Ralph of Wounded Warriors Canada, our partners with the Service Dog Program,. Thank you branches of Ontario Command for your generous support of this program!



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!

Sharon McKeown, Immediate Past Provincial President, Provincial Property Chair

Comrades All,

Comrades, through this Covid crisis, the resiliency of our branches has come shining through, YOU are amazing. Cudos to Executives and Members everywhere who have continued to provide help and assistance to our Veterans, Seniors, Youth and Community during this Covid pandemic. Congratulations to those receiving recognition for their efforts through their local news.



The entire organization coast to coast benefits from positive publicity, keep it up! Thank you All for all you do.

Last newsletter, I included a photo and comments of Comrade Rosalie Pratt, a member of Branch 270 and advocate for the Seniors' Literary Pilot Program. Sadly, though Comrade Rosalie has passed on, her influence was in place for this year's competition. The submissions **tripled** in numbers from the previous year! The entries cover a variety of topics, in each category, be it poem, essay, short story or memoir, all outstanding creative works. As with our Public Speaking Competition, we don't envy the judges, we praise them! From my perspective, every participant is a winner! Its tough enough writing reports, with others providing the content, never mind, writing a poem, essay, short story, or memoir! CUDOS to those seniors who entered and to the members who offered them the challenge. Please keep it up! Given seniors comprise the majority of our membership, undoubtably, there are more creative writers out there!



An update, some may recall the story of paint accumulating in our front entrance, as noted in the photo with the paint cans, on the left, shared in the summer 2019 newsletter. My goal had been to finish the painting before Dominion Convention, to be able to stand for Vice-President at Convention in Saskatoon. Who ever thought the modern world would experience a pandemic! However, with the extra time available between Provincial and Dominion Conventions,

not only did we get the painting done, but, note the before and after pics below of the entrance. In addition, a job not on that 'honey do' list, but a 'one of these days' projects, with branches closed and more funds available, new hardwood was installed throughout the main floor of our 'money pit'. Our home really was Milton's first train. It is unique, with character, other than Bill, who has now turned in a 'Jack' of all trades, amazing himself with his handyman skills.



I expect many of you had similar projects that you have been able to complete during the 'stay at home' downtime. Now as restrictions are easing, those 'get round tuit' tasks are done, with a clear conscience let's get back to Legion, promoting Comradeship and Membership, helping our Branches recover and move forward into the future.

With Dominion Convention, a virtual event, I know Bill 'Mr. Hospitality' will miss the mix and mingle tradition, the comradeship, the enjoyable aspect to any convention. I will miss the opportunity to listen to you share your concerns, thoughts and ideas, or suggestions and challenges, outside the sessions, in the hall or at the social gatherings. This convention will be a challenge, different from any other. Ignore the naysayers. We are making history. The virtual format is required to accommodate the pandemic, we know, looking forward practically and logistically, it may be the format of the future. Keep an open mind, remain patient and co-operative, all integral to making it work. Myself, still not comfortable, but, now familiar with the format, I acknowledge the positives, though, prefer the hugs and handshakes of face to face. Adding, not the least techie, I have a niggling fear the gremlins in my computer will decide to take a playday, at some point during the process!

Comrades, I shared at Convention in Niagara Falls, with the painting done, I would accept the nomination for a Vice-President of Dominion Command. Nominations close the end of business July 16th.

To members attending their first Dominion Convention, and I hope there are many, this is an opportunity to listen and learn. YOU as Delegates, at a Dominion Convention when in session, are part of the supreme body of our organization, YOU are a decision maker. Try not to miss a moment, your Branch Members have faith in you representing them well.

You may not know the Dominion election process varies from the Provincial. The election for the three Dominion Vice-Presidents is conducted on a first past the post basis, simply those with the most votes are elected. This is different from Ontario Command's process of dropping names. At Dominion, there is one shot to being elected!

Comrades, to be elected **I NEED your support and humbly seek YOUR VOTE.** Once possible, we hope to see you, visit branches, and enjoy the comradeship of summer 2021, until then,

Stay Safe and Well...KEEP SMILING!

Sharon

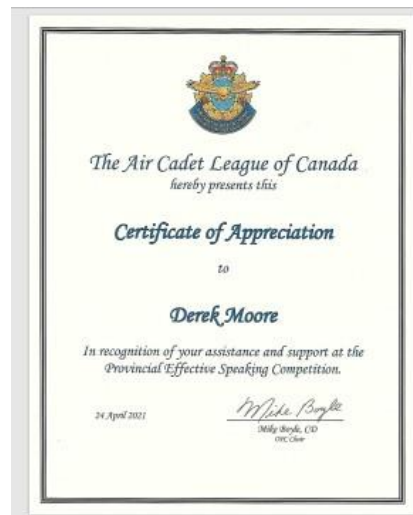
**Derek Moore, 1st Vice President Ontario Command
Prov. Membership Chair, Prov. Cadet Liaison Officer**

Hello Comrades.

I trust everyone is staying Covid free and have by now received their second, or most certainly their first, dose of vaccine, I received my second on June 29th. I received Pfizer for my first dose and tried to speed up the second dose by opting to switch and take Moderna, but as luck would have it when I attended the clinic, they had a few Pfizer doses available, so I grabbed one of those rather than roll the dice, all is well.



It has been a real struggle for the last 16 months or so but I'm glad to say I am so very proud of all of our Legion branches in Ontario. Most stepped-up to the plate and faced the challenges put before them, even with doors closed they continued the business of the Legion the best they could, I thank you all for doing that under such difficult circumstances, you are to be commended. Trust me when I tell you, this has played on 'everyone's' nerves and patience, it's a wonder we are not *all* in the looney bin by now. One good thing though we have all become Zoom experts, a piece of technology that will stick around even after Covid has long gone. Certainly, for those small meetings, rather than costly and time-consuming travel a Zoom Meeting will be the way to go in the future. Of course, you can never replace face to face meetings, but I feel Zoom will speed up our business big time...quick and easy to use. Regardless of the current situation.



I have managed to stay busy, reading and responding to the numerous emails I receive 24/7. Managed to take part in a couple of cheque presentations which is always nice. I had the opportunity to volunteer my services as a judge for this year's Air Cadet Provincial Public Speaking Contest which was accomplished through You Tube and links. Not 100% perfect,

had to rely on the honesty of the speakers that took part but nevertheless it was interesting, some very good speakers and I was glad I could help out. Also, as mentioned earlier, lots of Zoom Meetings. One item I should mention I was able to participate in a couple of Zoom Meetings with my British Legion Branch, Darlington Branch #1264. Quite interesting, nice to be able to converse in my own dialect again, only joking of course!! Believe it or not I was even able to help out. They were looking for a list of responsibilities for a Branch Cadet Liaison Officer. Well low and behold as luck would have it, I'm the Provincial Cadet Liaison Officer. That's where the luck ends as we don't possess a list of responsibilities for a Cadet Liaison Officer either. So, the nice comrade that I am I offered to share my experience with them and made up a list of responsibilities that I sent over via email which they were glad to receive and which is now recorded in their Branch Minutes.

Under more normal circumstances I would have also submitted a Prov. Membership Report but having held our June Meeting just a couple of weeks ago there really isn't an awful lot to report on. Membership is obviously down but not nearly as bad as I would have expected under the current predicament we are in. I feel once branches are allowed open in full again, I think we will see a marked increase in renewals from those who are holding out. So better days ahead comrades. Still a few minor issues with the National Membership Portal, anyone having issues please call direct, we are one of a few that can do that; 1-855-330-3344. They have a great staff who are more than happy to help you solve any problem or issue.

Fingers crossed that by the end of July we will again be able to meet in person even if just a few at a time and certainly by the fall maybe attend an actual real time in person convention. I would be remiss if I didn't thank all of our wonderful staff at Provincial Headquarters. They continue to do a remarkable job, always there to assist almost anytime day or night, thank you for all you do.

In the meantime comrades continue to take care and stay safe.

Derek Moore



We would like to extend a special thank you to our area service clubs, community groups and volunteer organizations. This year, the LMH Foundation was the grateful recipient of gifts of support from the Mount Forest Lions Club and the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 134, as well as a number of other groups, who found new and creative ways to hold events and raise funds in spite of the many challenges faced by these organizations due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In photo from left: Ken Thompson, President, RCL Branch 134; Derek Moore, RCL Ontario Command 1st Vice President; Ed White, Director, LMH Foundation; Terry Ellison, Director, LMH Foundation.



Donation to Groves – Groves Memorial Community Hospital recently received a donation of \$5,000 from Ontario Command of the Royal Canadian Legion to assist in the purchase of patient transport gurneys for the new facility. From left: vice-president of Ontario Command Lynn McClellan, president of Branch 275 Fergus Randy Graham, executive director of Groves Hospital Foundation Lori Arsenault, president of Branch 275 Ladies Auxiliary Frances Hurd, and first vice president of Ontario Command Derek Moore.

Submitted photo

Brian Harris, Ontario Command Vice-President and Provincial Poppy Chair

Greetings Comrades, we are almost out of this health crisis, we can see brighter days ahead and the warm days of summer are upon us...

From the perspective as to how this COVIC outbreak affected The Poppy Campaign, I think we can draw on many positives. Many branches reported increases in dollars donated. Ontarians realized the importance of the work The Royal Canadian Legion provides, and they responded with great generosity.



Branches found new and ingenious ways to generate activity and campaign donations. The Boot drives and drive thru donation lanes at branches proved very successful ideas. Our comrades at other Veteran Organizations also pitched in and we are very grateful for their help. This crisis

brought out the best in our volunteers and our many sponsors. We will take all the positive we have experienced this past year plus and incorporate it into our future campaigns. We will be better, stronger and more successful.

Our Service Officers at all levels never stood down and continued to provide support and advocacy for Veterans, spouses and dependents. We have had more requests for Special Use than ever before. Our staff at Ontario Command worked well above and beyond the call of duty to make sure that every request is answered and turned around as quickly as possible. All the staff at Ontario Command deserve our sincere thanks and appreciation. Kindly remember to contact your Provincial Service Officers for benevolent requests. All levels of Poppy Chairs should be working hand in hand with their Service Officers to insure we deliver the maximum allowable support according to our General By-Laws and the Poppy Manual.

In conclusion, Comrades better days are ahead. As with any crisis, we must take what we have learned and apply that new knowledge. Let's remember our oath and pledge to our veterans and organization. Let's remember the pride that comes with the statement "I belong to The Royal Canadian Legion". And above all let's remember to be kind, every day, to everyone.

"Use your voice for kindness, your ears for compassion, your hands for charity, your mind for truth, and your heart for love"

In comradeship,

Brian Harris

Lynn McClellan, Ontario Command Vice-President, Provincial Youth Education Chairman

Comrades,

As you are aware, we all have been experiencing some very strange times over the last couple of years but there does seem as if there is a light at the end of the tunnel. On behalf of the Provincial Youth Education committee, I wish all of you the very best this summer and hope that you are enjoying the great weather with family and friends. (Observing all protocols, of course!)

Our committee held its annual meeting on Saturday June 26th with good constructive dialogue and planning for this years' Poster, Poem, and Essay competitions. We will also be anxious to promote our Public Speaking competition which had to be cancelled during this Covid period. More information will be sent out to all branches as it becomes available.



By now most of us have received at least one vaccination and should be feeling better about the imminent containment of this deadly virus that has handcuffed us all. I am so hopeful that by the fall I will be able to get out and visit with you and enjoy the comradeship that we all have missed.

I was asked to include a happy story with this submission and here it is. Correcting some false information somehow posted on Facebook last February, my wife Darlene and I will be celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary this coming August 14th. There is nothing that can ever make me feel happier than that. She has been the most gracious and supportive partner anyone could ever ask for and without her, I would not be the person I am today. I look forward to celebrating this occasion with Dar and our two kids with a small intimate dinner and a belated European holiday next year.

Once again comrades enjoy the summer, stay safe, and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Lynn McClellan

Terry Jacobs, Ontario Command Honorary Treasurer

Comrades.

With the reduction of COVID-19 cases and the rate in which Canadians are getting their vaccinations my hope is that we will return to normal operations this fall.

The support that has been received by branches from the Federal and Provincial governments along with Ontario and Dominion Commands has left most of our branches in a much better position than I would have thought possible after experiencing an over sixteen months close down of normal operations.



At the provincial command level, we have experienced the expected loss of revenue in some areas but we have had a less than expected reduction in membership and an increase in our income from the Military Service Recognition Book. The reduction in expense which resulted from the closure of normal operations coupled with the gain in valuation of our investments has left us in a healthy financial position at the close of our fiscal year.

On a personal note, I know that I have missed many activities that I took for granted in the past and I am looking forward to returning to a normal life with COVID-19 in the past. I wish everyone a healthy and happy two shot summer.

In comradeship

Terry Jacobs

Ron Goebel, Provincial Chair

Hello Comrades.

Well, six months have now passed since our last Provincial Newsletter was published by our excellent editor Roy Eaton, and we are still coping with various Provincial restrictions with the COVID-19 pandemic. These of course have included lockdowns that have restricted all of us from Legion activities or personal traveling and visits.

However, with the daily case counts being reduced and the availability of vaccination clinics, at the time of this writing we have moved into stage two and the move into stage three is on the horizon. Hopefully we keep heading in the right direction and that we can get back to some sort of normalcy real soon.



Since my last report in December, we at Ontario Provincial Command have continued to deal with administrative matters through several virtual Zoom meetings. In fact, since December, we have held three S.E.O. information sessions, two Finance Committee meetings, seven P.A.C. meetings and three P.E.C. meetings. A bit fewer than in 2020, but they still kept us all busy.

We are now looking forward to holding our annual Finance Committee and P.A.C. meetings in August and hopefully, we will finally be able to meet in person in Aurora. These annual meetings are when we review the various budgets, and they are much easier to deal with when they are held in person rather than virtually. So, we will just keep our fingers crossed as it will be so great to see everyone again and enjoy some camaraderie with all our fellow Comrades. Unfortunately, the C.N.E. this year has been cancelled which of course includes the annual Warriors Day Parade and we all will certainly miss this great event that pays tribute to our Veterans.

The weekend prior to our annual August meetings, we will be attending our virtual Dominion Convention being held from August 13th through to August 15th. I trust that branches have sent in their credentials and will be represented at this Convention. And what is important for all registered voting delegates is that they do attend the Convention especially when there is any voting to take place.

Comrades, as delegates of Ontario Command, you continue to have the right to a free vote, and as such, you are entitled to vote as you please for each of the various motions that will be made and for the election positions. Remember as well that the election process is 1st past the post.

This is your Convention, and we know that some of you may have concerns regarding a report or resolution. But hopefully, you will address any concerns you may have had through the Convention procedures sent to you. Hopefully, each of you will read the Convention reports.

Although branches have been closed with the Provincial lockdown that has been in place, we are now able to gradually open up with the loosening of our COVID-19 restrictions. So hopefully all branches will be able to enjoy a lucrative summer and camaraderie amongst their members.

In June, I had the distinct honour of attending a birthday celebration on behalf of Ontario Command in my own community of Carleton Place which was for WW11 R.C.A.F. Veteran, Fred Dunlop, who celebrated his 101st birthday. Again, due to COVID-19 restrictions, only 10 were allowed to attend. That was made up of 8 members of the Almonte Legion Branch 240 Pipe Band along with myself and a member of the Branch Executive of the Carleton Place Legion Captain A. Roy



Brown Branch 192. It was a most fitting tribute and since President Garry was unable to attend. He had previously presented him with a card and Provincial pin on behalf of Ontario Provincial Command.



One week later, I attended another milestone birthday when WW11 R.C.A.F. Veteran, Gord Standing, and member of the Carleton Place Legion Captain A. Roy Brown Branch 192 celebrated his 100th birthday. Both President Garry and I represented Ontario Provincial Command at this celebration in the patio area of our local Branch along with two members of the Almonte Legion Branch 240 Pipe Band. Once again, the Veteran appreciated the medley of tunes played by the Pipers and especially the playing of Happy Birthday.

The world and the way we have had to live over these past 16 months has certainly been different. Social distancing and self-isolation has been the norm for all of us. So too has the way in which we have conducted our business within the Legion. Hopefully, we are now through the worst of it and we can take a real positive step forward.

Our most sincere sympathies go out to those who have lost loved ones during this pandemic. And our most sincere thanks and appreciation to all our front-line workers, especially our health care workers who have put in many long tireless hours. We thank all of you for your dedication and commitment in your area of responsibility. It has certainly not gone unnoticed and has been well appreciated.

For all of us who have persevered, all in the best interests of our branches, our zones, our districts and our Provincial Command. I congratulate and thank you for doing that. I know that it has not been easy as there have been so many uncertainties that all of us have had to adapt to accordingly over these past months. Through the assistance received from our governments at all levels, our Dominion Command and Ontario Command, I believe it made things just a bit easier to adapt to the various changes we encountered.

I commend our branches and their volunteers for continuing to fulfill our mandate of assisting our Veterans and their families even through the closures and various restrictions that had been imposed. I also commend those branches who came up with innovative ways of assisting their communities throughout the pandemic i.e., the delivering of meals, supplying take-out meals, allowing branches to be drop-off centres for bottle returns etc.

I would however be most remiss if I did not mention and thank the incredible work that our Executive Director, Pamela Sweeny, our Assistant Executive Director Juanita Kemp and all of the staff at our Provincial Command Headquarters have done for all of us throughout this pandemic. Their commitment and dedication to the work they do for our branches, zones, districts, Ontario Command and our Veterans has been next to none. Thank you all for your perseverance through these rough past 16 months.

Comrades, from both my wife Barb and I, we wish you a very enjoyable summer and hopefully we will be able to see each other once again real soon.

We will Remember Them!

Ron Crown, Provincial Vice Chair

Comrades, we all should first and foremost thank President Garry Pond, 1st Vice President Derek Moore, the staff at Ontario Command and the entire Admin Committee for the extra time spent for us during this COVID-19 pandemic. The extra time required to prepare for the Virtual Dominion Convention upcoming in August has been and still is ongoing.

We are now in Stage 2 of the shut down and soon will be advancing to Stage 3 and hopefully we will be able to resume normal Branch operations soon after. Many branches are operating patios and doing take out meals to raise funds, however, not all have that opportunity.

There have been many varied fundraising activities to help branches pay the bills and the Ladies Auxiliaries are doing the best they can to also support their branches.

I am sure we are all looking forward to gathering at our Fall District Conventions, I know I am. 😊

Wishing everyone a safe happy summer.

Ron Crown.



Pamela Sweeny, Executive Director

Although Provincial Headquarters is still not open to the public, the hard work of the organization is continuing as Staff diligently work from home and in the office, keeping in mind all COVID-19 protocols of social distancing and masking in common areas.

I continue to express my gratitude to the Senior Elected Officers, Provincial Executive Council members and all Legionnaires for their dedication to the operational changes to keep us all safe. The next couple of months are paramount in understanding if we can keep this pandemic/outbreak at bay with most people having been fully vaccinated or their first jab.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone very soon, face to face, albeit with a mask on.

Until then, sit back, relax and listen to the words of the Jimmy Buffet tune “Breathe In, Breath Out, Move On” to help you thru difficulties in life.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fo9jAOx6Pdw>

Pamela



Summertime and all its' splendor have arrived. Flowers from our garden and a rainbow over Brighton Bay just after a storm.

District A Commander Mark Rogers

As of the date of this writing, the province of Ontario is still under stage 2 restrictions. This has made life challenging for the branches of District A. Many branches do not have patios and with indoor seating restricted, these branches are not open. The branches that have opened their patios, have had to face the challenge of bad weather and seating restrictions based on their patio size.

Some branches continue to work hard and generate revenue through takeout meals, or BBQs on their patios. Even with stage 3 mere days away, it will be a challenge to bring members back into the branches for months to come. It is unfortunate but due to the long restrictions due to the pandemic, we may have lost members, and most importantly, the volunteer hours they provide.

Br. 12 and Br. 143 in Windsor continue to work on their amalgamation. It is not a quick or easy journey, but I am working with them, trying to keep them on the straight and narrow. Plans are made to conduct zone commander training at the end of July. Hopefully, we can continue positive progress on branch inspections.

Plans are continuing to be made on our Fall Convention. Hopefully things continue to improve and District A can receive our guests and after 2 years finally meet as a group and continue our work in person rather than via Zoom.

I wish everyone the best of health and that the branches in the other 8 districts can keep moving forward and recover some of what we have all lost due to the pandemic.

Yours In Comradeship,

Mark Rogers

District A Commander



District B Commander Diane Condon

Greetings to everyone from District B! We trust you are enjoying the heat and humidity on your favorite patio and indulging in comradeship with a cold one on the side.

We have had a great response from members and the public alike with the reopening of our patios in every zone. In one particular case, with the help of several members and some donations from the public, the branch was able to triple the size of their patio and had the town's approval to do so. One member donated services and materials to the extent that they saved over \$14,000 on a new concrete base. The branch is following through with the erection of a small building which will allow them to cook outside with their BBQ and fryers. This has given them a boost in their revenue, and the area is being enjoyed by all. It has even brought in new members.



In another zone, the Lions Club will be assisting the Poppy Campaign this fall by selling lawn Poppies. I understand that this will also be happening in District A. It's great to see this community involvement in our campaign. Let's hope it extends to other areas of the province.

Anticipating Stage 3, we are well underway in scheduling seminars, zone commanders' meetings, annual inspections, district council meetings and our fall convention. Only the resurgence of the dreaded COVID-19 bug will stop us from proceeding. Let's hope that doesn't happen and that everyone will be fully vaccinated soon.

The annual Ruck will take place in September, with the start being at Branch 582 in Cooksville (Mississauga). With the full participation of branches in and around Branch 582, we can expect a good turnout, and hopefully, sizable donations.

With the resourcefulness of our branches and the dedication of the membership, we have survived and will go forward, reinventing ourselves if necessary, but always with the Legion, our Veterans and our members as our top priority.

As I have been telling our membership from the start of the pandemic, **KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON**. We are survivors.

Yours in comradeship and service

Diane Condon

District B Commander

District C Commander Eric Ross

Greetings comrades of Ontario from District “C”, our 50 branches, our officers and membership. District C for the most part has weathered the past Covid issues very well. There is no doubt that the financial support from Dominion, the Federal government and our own Ontario command had made a big difference in the position of our branches. I want to thank those who have worked to make these funds available.

District C has also made contributions to each branch, but it has been the branches themselves that were prepared for a rainy (year) that has propelled them to stability. Ladies Auxiliaries have also been able to assist where possible and I thank them in difficult times of being unable to raise funds. Financial responsibility has been an ongoing portion of our advisory teams. It appears to be working and I must thank Pat Smith for the work in contributing to our advisory success’s.

Our in-branch training for officers and interested members has also been ongoing with some held in the branch before Covid and many branches completed via zoom with follow up e-coaching sessions. We have a couple more zones with a few branches to complete at this time.

We have some branches requesting elections but I believe overall many will stay in office until the spring time. My thanks to the executives of the branches for weathering the storm and to the Zone Commanders and their officers for staying the course. To my District officers, I thank you for all you have done in maintaining the high level of quality in your positions that we are accustomed too in the Royal Canadian Legion and District “C”.

We are gearing up for Zone Conventions this fall. Plans for our fall convention, a 1 day event are nearing completion. Not sure how it will unfold as we are out of practice having missed 3 of them. But I am looking forward to gathering with comrades, our new chairman Jack Frost and invited guests.

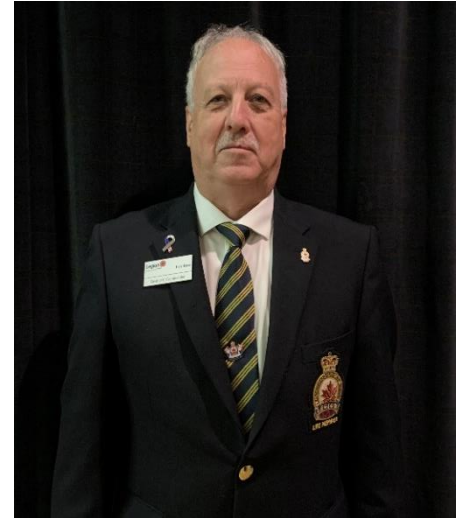
Hopefully, we will have a sports program in place for the fall and another successful poppy campaign.

Thank you to the other District Commanders for their support, the SEO’S of the command for the guidance and the staff who have worked exceptionally hard over these past months. Zoom has definitely been the word, patience and understanding a requirement and positive reinforcement as we return to a semblance of normality. Wishing all comrades in Ontario a enjoyable summer with family and friends something that has been missing for a while.

Yours in Comradeship

Eric Ross

District C Commander



District D Commander Gerry Morgan

District D is excited that the good weather has arrived, with restrictions being eased, we now have branches opening their established and temporary patios, members are slowly coming out to visit and engage after waiting so long. We have had a few branches celebrate Canada day with hamburgers and hotdog BBQ's, which have included visits from local politicians and fellow dignitaries.

We have been working hard on a new initiative. We are planning to apply a Veterans Banner Program, to showcase the great men and women who have participated in Canada's military, and who have resided within Toronto, we have been given permission to use the light standards at High Park. High Park has a no advertisement policy, and normally will not allow for any paraphernalia to be displayed but have indeed given the green light to this program as currently presented. The City of Toronto is fully supporting our initiative, with the hopes that we can expand the program to several parks within the North, South, East and West quadrants.

On July 6th Mayor, John Tory proclaimed the Year of the Poppy in the City of Toronto, we appreciate the continued support that is offered by Mayor Tory and the City of Toronto staff, who work well with the Royal Canadian Legion District D ensuring that our Veterans and organization are respected and assisted.

District D's Bill Tanner fund program offers us the opportunity to provide our Sunnybrook Veterans with Christmas gifts. Often small items of personal effects are delivered to each of those who reside in the Veterans wing. Due to the pandemic, we were not able to participate in the past Christmas gifting. We have decided that we will be conducting a Summer Santa in July. Our Veterans will be receiving tokens of sun hats, beach ball, water bottles, sunglasses, and stationary. We are so pleased we can once again participate with our Sunnybrook Comrades, and are very excited to look forward to the future,

Yours in Comradeship

Gerry Morgan
District D Commander



District E Commander Crystal Cook

Comrades;

On behalf of the 39 Branches in District E, my Deputy Rick Preston and our Ladies Auxiliaries I bring greetings and warm wishes. The last 14 months have been like no other that we have seen and fingers crossed it looks like brighter days are on the horizon.

The branches in District E have weathered the COVID-19 storm and are anxious to get open and welcome their comrades back into the branch. With the constant opening and closing, branches have been forced to think outside the box and have done a wonderful job. Bottle Drives, take out meals, drive by celebrations are only a small snapshot of what has occurred.

The Dominion and Provincial allotment of monies along with the CEBA have kept our branches with minimal losses.

Zoom meetings and Virtual ceremonies have become the norm for communicating and recognizing special occasions and have been a great way to stay in contact. The Zone Commanders have been a great asset in reaching out to the branches to offer advice and support and even provide a sounding board when needed and I cannot thank them enough.

As we are now in Stage 2 and many branches have opened patios with reduced hours and most seem to be doing quite well. We are starting to plan for our Fall Convention and are hopeful that the numbers will allow us all to get back to some “normalcy”.

District E has also started planning for our Special Projects which is starting with a Fishing Day on July 24 for Veterans and their spouses in Orillia and our Annual Buddy Check Coffee at Peacekeepers Park in Angus at the end of August.

As the District Commander I have tremendous pride in the commitment of the branches and council throughout the past 18 months. It hasn't been easy but everyone has dug deep and when they thought they had nothing left to give still managed to find the strength to keep pushing forward and got the job done. **THANK YOU** does not seem like enough; your Veterans thank you and the community thanks you. Until we can meet in again in person please stay well and stay safe.

Yours in Comradeship

Crystal Cook

District E Commander



District F Commander Lynn Dearing

Comrades:

On behalf of District F, Deputy District Commander Dave Hamden our 5 Zone Commanders and their Deputies our Ladies Auxiliary and their Senior Elected Officers and all members of the 53 branches in District F, I bring you greetings and best wishes.

It has been and continues to be an honour to serve as District Commander. I am very proud of the branches in this district as this term has been one of many challenges with the on again off again shutdowns during this pandemic. Financially many branches have applied for and received grants that along with Ontario Command returning branch portions of per capita and both district and zones forgoing their assessments these funds have allowed branches to remain financially viable now and planning for when they re-open.



Branches continue to make themselves present in their communities with bottle drives, take-out meals, and very importantly opening the doors for vaccination clinics. Branches are continuing to support the allowed donations through the Poppy Funds as well as continuing to support community programs.

**World War II Veteran, Sir Harold Rowden honoured for his role on D-Day at Juno Beach at the Haliburton Legion to commemorate the 77th Anniversary of D-Day
June 6, 2021**



Posted with the permission of Fred Pyziak

Branches continue to support our Veterans with some going above and beyond to acknowledge our more senior Veterans on their birthdays as well as reaching out to those who are alone or in Nursing Homes to make sure they are not forgotten or may need assistance in some way. It was a great pleasure to share the amazing outpouring of love and respect given to this WWII Veteran Sir Harold Rowden by branch 129 Haliburton and the community honouring him on his 97th birthday which fell on D Day. Comrade Harold was deeply touched by the many who

came out to honour him it was a day he will never forget. [77th Anniversary of D-Day | haliburton-legion \(haliburtonlegion.com\)](https://www.haliburtonlegion.com)

There have been some branches that have needed direction from the district, and at times from Ontario Command and through the guidance of both have managed to obtain a solution. Although we have had some Senior Elected Officers resign within some branches and zones, they have managed to fill these vacant positions until elections can be held. We thank all who have stepped up to the plate and those who chose to continue to remain in their current positions as they are a valuable asset to the Legion and what we do.

District F is in the process of organizing our upcoming seminars, planning for the Poppy Campaign. We are all looking forward to being able to meet in person, partake in conventions and branch activities and enjoy the comradeship of one another.

All members of District F wish everyone an enjoyable safe summer with comrades, family and friends.

Yours in Comradeship

Lynn Deering

District F Commander

District G Commander Ken Heagle

Good day Comrades, here is a short note on District G Ontario command

I have only had a short time in my position but learning fast. Ontario command office is very helpful as are the district commanders. District G Deputies have also been a great help.

Zone commanders and deputies are also working well and I am thankful for their co-operation in moving forward.

District G has 7 zones with 62 branches from Napanee to Petawawa, to the Quebec border. As most branches in our great organization, we are all trying to survive, thanks to Dominion and Ontario command along with the Federal and Provincial governments we have not lost any branches in the district and, are hopeful that with the lifting of restriction we will start to move forward again. Going forward we will be able to continue helping our veterans.

A new 40 unit veteran's housing facility has opened in District G at the former Canadian Forces Base Rockcliffe in Ottawa.



The Royal Canadian Legion's Ontario Command & District G of Ontario Command have each donated \$1000,000.00 to the project. Ontario legion branches and other organizations across the province provided additional support. The Legion National Foundation has pledged \$200,000.00 to the facility.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to let the members know about District G Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Command.

" THEY SERVED TILL DEATH WHY NOT WE "

Yours in Comradeship

Ken Heagle

District G Commander

District K Commander Roy Wilde

I am very pleased to note the type of activity that can still be carried out during these times. Here is a great example how to carry on the job we are here to do and for whom we are doing it. Cudos to Branch 87 and the members aligned with the other branches that took part.

The 3rd Annual Motorcycle "**Ride for Veterans**" was held Saturday, July 3rd, with excellent riding weather all day long. There were. 63 riders and 16 passengers. The poker run took a route that went from Branch 87 (1st poker card) to Virginiatown, Branch 384 (2nd poker card), down the Quebec side to Notre Dam du Nord, across to New Liskeard, and on to Haileybury, Branch 54, (3rd poker card), north west to Elk Lake, Branch 310, (4th poker card) and finishing up in Kirkland Lake (5th poker card).



The 1st place winner was Christian McLean, 2nd place Bill Hatchey, 3rd place went to Danny Barrette. The winning poker hand was won by Marianne Widdifield.

In Comradeship

Roy Wilde

District K Commander

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

Comrades,

I am thrilled to report that donations for this year were up 62% for the Charitable Foundation over last year. This shows you that our branches and Ladies Auxiliaries are still thinking of others even in these trying times. Well done Ontario Command Branches and Ladies Auxiliaries. This gave the CF Sub-Committee a balance of over \$470,000.00 when reviewing the 81 applications. The recommendations made at this meeting will now go to our full Board of Directors in November when the final decisions will be made. Thank you all for your generosity.



A note to branches please remember that when a cheque is sent to the branch for presentation, on behalf of the Charitable Foundation to an applicant, that the branch should ensure that a member of the Ladies Auxiliary along with a CF District Director, if one is available, are part of your presentation committee. Please be in uniform. Please remember that the donation you are presenting is not only from your branch. The donation is on behalf of the Charitable Foundation because the funds come from all levels of the Legion and the Ladies Auxiliaries. Kindly ensure that you note to the press that the donation is not just from the branch presenting the cheque but from the CF. Thanks for your kind cooperation.

Sadly, as many of you know, our committee lost an excellent Director, Comrade Wayne Powell. Comrade Wayne was dedicated to the Charitable Foundation as a director but also an integral part of our Sub-Committee. His passing was a great loss, and we will miss his attention to detail and experience. His overall involvement with Legion matters was always professional and caring. We are also disappointed to see Comrade Paul Howe, District E Director leave our committee. Comrade Paul resigned his positions with Ontario Legion and is moving to Nova Scotia. Comrade Paul's dedication and passion for our committee work was evident from when we first met. Safe travels Comrade Paul, we wish you well. In a very short time, our committee welcomed two new members, Comrade Richard Viles as the Director for District D and Comrade Frank Beasley as the District E Director. We look forward to working with both these comrades who bring new faces and more expertise to our CF committee. Comrade Marianne Sowinski, long time committee director for District K, has moved to the Sub-committee in Wayne's place. Comrade Marianne has been a committee member for several years and will be an experienced member of the Sub. I look forward to working with our new committee members and know they are welcomed by the committee who eagerly look forward to helping them learn about Charitable Foundation as they take on the roles and responsibilities of CF.

Finally thank you to the staff at Ontario Command in particular, Pamela Sweeny, Juanita Kemp, Sue Kaiser and especially Aida Kostuck, they all do a terrific job.

I wish you all a summer ahead that will get better every day. Look how far we have come dealing with this pandemic. We live in the best country in the world. Stay safe, stay strong, be kind and we will all get through this together.

Respectfully submitted,

Marg Emery, President, Charitable Foundation

Jack Porter, Provincial Honours and Awards Chair

Your Honours and Awards Committee would like to thank all the Ontario Command Legion Branches for all the effort put forward in these Covid times. Knowing Branches have been closed and in some cases committee members have been performing their duties from home, it is so much appreciated to see the dedication to members being put forward for well deserved Provincial Honours and Awards.



The following are the results of applications forwarded to your committee for review so far this term.

Life Membership – 157 applications with 125 approvals.

Meritorious Service Medal – 35 applications with 29 being recommended to the Dominion Command for its decision-making process.

Palm Leaf to the Meritorious Service Medal – 8 applications with 5 being recommended to Dominion Command again for its decision-making efforts.

Meritorious Service Award to the Ladies Auxiliary – 2 applications with both being recommended by the Honours and Awards Committee to Dominion Command.

Media Awards – 3 applications and all were approved.

Lastly the Friendship Awards – 23 applications with all being approved.

The Honours and Awards Committee is very much looking forward to Ontario Branches fully reopening and again taking care of its members, Veterans and communities.

Comrades, please stay safe and well.

Yours in Comradeship,

Jack Porter

Robyn Zettler, Provincial Leadership Development Chair

Comrades all;

Isn't it wonderful that we are all experiencing such beautiful weather? It has certainly helped us to come out of our imposed "hibernation"; we are once again enjoying walks, visits with the families and in some cases having a beverage with our comrades on branch patios!

In the not too distant future that we will be "open for business" and slowly our branch day to day operations will be greatly improving.

With that in mind, we need to keep up with the training of our branch executive members to ensure succession when branch elections are allowed to take place. Your Zones and Districts have handled the challenge of remote training very well. Please, don't hesitate to utilize these resources, your committee chairs at all levels are there to assist you!



I hope you have taken the opportunity to review the 2021 Dominion Convention Committee Reports and Resolutions book that is on their website. It is disappointing that we are not able to gather in one place for the convention, but I am looking forward to it and at the very least sitting in a "comfortable" chair!!

Perhaps we will meet up somewhere on the road this summer! Enjoy your time, stay safe and healthy until then.

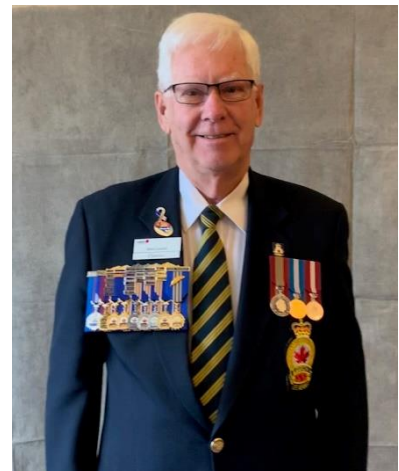
Yours in Comradeship,

Robyn Zettler

**MILITARY SERVICE RECOGNITION BOOK PROGRAM REPORT
CHAIR RON GOEBEL**

Well, we have now completed year #8 of our Military Service Recognition Book Program and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for all of your support and dedication that you have given in making year #8 of our Remembrance Program the success that it has been. Even through our COVID-19 pandemic with branch closures, wearing of face masks and social distancing, we were still able to maintain a relatively steady stream of submissions for our Volume V111.

Plans are nearing completion for us to publish our eighth book of Remembrance in late September or early October this year. To date, we have published a total of 5173 biographies of Veterans



within the Province of Ontario in the first seven volumes. With the publication of Volume VIII, we will be closing in on 6,000 Veteran bio publications that will have been published. So well done by everyone involved in sharing the memories of our Veterans in our books of Remembrance.

During this time, our Command has also received a total of \$1,384,211.72 through the sales efforts of our publisher, Fenety Marketing despite the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds have allowed us to assist our branches through various programs and have also allowed us to assist Veterans and their spouses through various Veteran Transition programs that we support at Ontario Command.

Again, thank you to all those who have been involved in our program to make it the success that it has been to date. Your support and dedication have been truly appreciated and we ask that you continue to keep up the good work.

Barb and I trust that you stay safe and healthy and wish you nothing but the very best for a most enjoyable summer. Hopefully, you will be able to travel and be able to enjoy visiting with your family, friends and fellow Legion members. May you continue to work in the best interests of our Veterans, their families and your Branches. Comrades, we will Remember them.



Mary Ann Goheen, Ontario Correspondent, Website Coordinator

Ontario Correspondent Report: I have been pleased with the number of photos Ontario branches have been able to submit for the Legion Magazine in spite of the erratic operation of branches under the government’s Covid 19 lockdown restrictions. Legion Magazine has undergone some employee changes since the end of January with the retirement of news editor Tom MacGregor whom I dealt with on occasions and was the final approval on photo submissions. Having said that, one replacement lasted just five weeks which resulted in Tom MacGregor having to return from his retirement until a replacement was found by May. So, change is all around us and we have to adapt. Perhaps as we open up the province our branches will be able to get back to their fundraising activities for charities and youth programs. Would you please advise branches that when they are donating to hospital etc. within the community and the funds come from the branch poppy fund they please state this in the information provided to me.



Website Report: The website is a fluid information site for branches, LA’s, members and the public. Lisa Dinsmore, our command staff, keeps information as it relates to bylaws, sports, poppy etc. current and my role is to maintain the photo gallery. The photo gallery is updated regularly and I am pleased to have more charitable foundation photos in that particular album for viewing. It is important that should a Branch change their email address or a website address that they inform either Lisa or myself so the provincial site can be updated.

In comradeship

Mary Ann Goheen

Sharon McKeown, Immediate Past Provincial President, Provincial Property Chair

Comrades All,

Property is booming!!

Thanks to our diligent Zone Commanders sharing information, the Provincial Property Committee, aka PPC, has been kept busy, busy, as more Branches are following procedures, contacting with questions, when considering the sale, purchasing, leasing, updating, renovating, repairing, replacing, repaving, the list goes on, prior to doing the work. Since March, PPC has reviewed more than 50 property issues, some more complex than others.



Speaking of Zone Commanders, it was a pleasure to be invited by Comrade Derek to provide a mini seminar on Property Matters to the recent Workshop. The questions were good, hopefully, the answers helpful.

Members are encouraged to refer to the Property Section of the Legion Officers' Manual 2020 for guidance on Property. There are a few 'shortfalls' in the manual directions, which will be addressed, if something isn't clear, please let us know. However, review the info, then follow up with your Zone Commander for further queries. As shared, several times, it is pursuant to the Legion Act 1990 and our By-Laws, that Branches require the approval of the Provincial Command on property related matters. Though as we move into Step 3 of the Provincial Reopening, during the pandemic, the PPC has been overseer for expenses requiring approval of the General Membership 'normally' obtained at meetings.

Branches do NOT require PPC approval to apply for GRANTS. However, you do need approval to spend the funds awarded, should the application be successful, as SO many have been, with a few receiving grants, in excess, of \$100,000.00. In one submission, a comma placed incorrectly resulted in immediate clarification, you know the song....'if I had a million dollars', well they didn't!

To those who received CEBA funds, these were not grants, but loans! Provincial approval was required, though not requested by many. Yes, there is a forgivable portion. Branches were cautioned on use of the funds and expectations, permission was not given nor denied, thoughts as to potential complications were shared. Several saw CEBA as easy money from which to reap a benefit, invest the funds, earn interest, and payback when due, we don't know how this will come down in the end, but it could be nasty for some! From my experience, nothing is ever free when a bank is involved!

Another instance, not requiring PPC approval is with a property claim, overseen by the insurer. Only if the Executive would like input would PPC need be involved. Occasionally, a branch chooses to accept a cash settlement for the damage over the work being completed by the insurer, in which case, it might be recommended as a precaution, to seek PPC input.

Mentioning insurance, with summer's torrential downpours, it is wise to check your roofs, eaves, drainage, to avoid damage from leaking and flooding. Also, inspect your parking lots for areas which may be hazardous for pedestrian traffic.

As things return to a new 'normal', property developers will again be approaching branches. In fact, have already started! **Remind Everyone**, when proposals sound too good to be true, generally they are! Branch Executives weary from the extended term, suffering Coviditis, worried about the future, may be receptive to listening, and before you know it, the visions of grandeur become realities. Some members will be in favour, some against, and some will move forward, without thought of consequence, without checking history, or any manual, and soon have their membership

convinced this proposal is the only way to go, best for survival, for the future of their branch, etc. and once the membership is sold on the idea, it's hard to reel them in, get them focused and back on track. PPC knows from experience, of contractors claiming to be property developers, and financial groups wanting to buy cheap, more interested in land acquisition for their investors, than Legion. It can't be stressed enough, don't get ahead and end up worse off. Please, make inquiries through the Provincial Property Committee.

In closing, thank you all for the desire to improve your branch, making it a better place, and following procedures, often challenging, wondering why in the process, your patience and co-operation is always appreciated. Moving soon into Step 3 of our Provincial re-opening, enjoy a little real comradeship and what remains of summer. Wear a mask and stay safe.

Regards,

Sharon

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

Hello Comrades. It has been 6 months since our last Provincial Newsletter and COVID-19 is still playing havoc with our lives and we are being dictated to with restrictions that have made it impossible for our branches to open properly or not at all. What we can hope for, with so many receiving their vaccinations, that our branches can get back to some sort of normal to start holding events again.

Saying that, Legion Week this year is once again taking place during the week of September 19-25, 2021. We have hopes that branches will be allowed to open, 'think outside the box' and hold their special events during this special week.

It has been decided that the Branch Survey will continue to be on hold until at some point branches will be opened and have a good year of service under their belts before recording information for our Fact Sheet to be updated.

Our Public Relations committee has decided to cancel the 2021-2022 Scrapbook/Bulletin Contest due to lack of branch activity during Covid-19.

We ask that if your branch has "Good News Stories" to please share with us as 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. Please get the media involved and let the public know how you are continuing your support.



Monthly Public Relations PRO Updates continue to be released from Dominion Command through emails. The report contains many media links that cover events and issues throughout Canada. When you receive these reports, I ask that you please share.

Comrades, please have safe travels on wherever your paths may lead and have an awesome summer! Until we meet again in person, please stay safe and stay healthy!

Yours in Comradeship,

Carolyn McCaul

Dave Gordon, Chair Veterans Services and Seniors/Homeless Veterans

We continue to monitor the Transition of Military personnel from serving to civilian life and DND and VAC are moving slowly to establish teams to ensure there is a smooth change. One area of concern is Health Care, as many transitioning out of the Military are having difficulty in finding a doctor.

Recently, CAF has introduced a new award CAF Wound Stripe Pin and DEC passed the approval of the pin to be worn on Legion Dress, last May.

Work is underway with Sunnybrook to establish a Mental Health program for Veterans and an update will be provided once additional information is made available.



The Ottawa Veterans Task force is taking shape and working on all aspects for Veterans, Homelessness, Transition and Housing to name a few topics. Further information will be forthcoming.

Homeless Veterans: “Operation Leave the Streets Behind”

The Homeless Veterans program continues and growing in support on a regular basis. 947 clients have been assisted, of which 96 are female, in 181 towns as of July 1, 2021. I note for you clients are identified in many smaller towns throughout the province and not just large cities. To date there has been over \$ 2.5 million dollars disbursed from the Homeless and Joe Sweeney Funds. Apartment Kits are still being provided as well as back packs for both male and female, as well as furniture for the new apartments.

The Andy Carswell Building (Veterans House) in Ottawa has opened and 25 of the 40 units are occupied. Ontario Command purchased mattresses for the units at a cost of \$ 23,999.99. Apartment kits were also donated for each unit and delivered by Comrades Lynn McLellan and Derek Moore. The truck was loaded up in Aurora by staff members and unloaded in Ottawa by members of Zone G-5, Many thanks to all who contributed their time. Dominion Command has just provided Poppy

Hoodies at no cost for the Homeless program and staff are in the process of placing an order. Plans are underway for the annual Ruck March and updates can be found on the website.

We have been working with Canadian Association to End Homelessness and they have been expanding across Canada and especially in Ontario. Ontario Command has been working with them and are addressing the Homeless Veterans program throughout the province. London, Toronto, Kingston, Niagara Region, Ottawa are some of the areas noted.

Many thanks are extended to the VSS Committee members and of course the Ontario Command staff who have worked tirelessly throughout the Covid pandemic.

Have a safe summer, **Super Heroes Wear a Mask. Stay Safe, get vaccinated.**

Dave Gordon,

Sharon Crown, Vice Ontario Command Ladies Auxiliary

During these trying pandemic times the Ladies Auxiliaries are doing their very best to support their branches and the Veterans in their various communities.

The Ladies have been trying various fundraising ideas, take out roast beef, turkey and ham dinners, baking pies, raffles, online auctions and even online home parties such as Tupperware, Epicure and Pampered Chef with proceeds going to Auxiliary.

Also, many Auxiliary members have been spending time, socially distancing at their branches helping with renovations and cleaning for the time the branches can reopen.

Auxiliaries are remembering their elderly members with regular phone calls to be sure they are keeping well and with offers of help to pick groceries or medications. Also being sure they have transportation to appointments or vaccination clinics.

Provincial Officers have been keeping in touch via Zoom meetings with each other and the Zone Commanders and Deputy Zone Commanders when needed.

Officers are looking forward to attending Legion Fall District Conventions when invited and Ladies Auxiliary Zone Conventions next Spring and the Provincial Ladies Auxiliary Convention in Kingston in September of 2022.

Wishing everyone a safe, happy summer!

Ladies Auxiliary Ontario Command, PRO.

Sharon Crown, Vice President





RUCK to REMEMBER MARCH Sept. 16-19th. 2021.

For the 8th consecutive year, the Ruck 2 Remember team of Lino DiJulio and his crew will be executing the Road to Recovery ruck march in support of **Operation: Leave The Streets Behind**, a charity managed and maintained by the Royal Canadian Legion with the express purpose of helping veterans that are facing or experiencing homelessness. The Road to Recovery event is the flagship annual event that Ruck 2 Remember hosts each year, covering 2km for every veteran, police officer, firefighter and paramedic that died the year prior. Typically, this means the event will cover between 130 and 160km. The event takes place over 4 consecutive days in different areas of the province and each day the ruckers traverse a route that takes them from one legion branch to another, staying the night at the hosting branch before stepping off again the next day.

This year the Road to Recovery ruck march will be taking place around and through the GTA starting in Mississauga at Branch 582 and heading into Toronto at Branch 001/042, from there day 2 will progress to Branch 606 in Pickering, day 3 will take the team to Branch 66 in North York and the final day will take the ruckers to Branch 375 in Richmond Hill for lunch before having ENDEX in Aurora at Branch 385.

To date this event has raised well over \$213,532 and we're looking to add another \$60,000 this year! If you wish to donate (Tax deductible) you can do so online at:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/road-to-recovery-8>

If you wish to participate in the 4 day ruck march please email admin@ruck2remember.com and they'll help get you involved.

Jen Leclair

Ontario Command Office