

Royal Canadian Legion

Ontario Command Newsletter



December

2019

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Garry Pond, President Ontario Command

Provincial Track and Field Meet Brampton, ON July 2019

It was an honour to present medals at the Ontario Provincial Track and Field Meet in Brampton, Ontario this July. I had never been to a provincial meet and was excited to see firsthand how the Legion can pull off such an extraordinary event.

Through heroic support from Provincial Headquarters staff and volunteers at these provincial games, it showcased the steppingstones for future athletes.

The Legion Track & Field Program provides the only local, district, provincial and national stepping stones for 17 and 18 year old athletes. One thought: how do we get more families of these young people to become Legion members?



Assistant Executive Director Juanita Kemp and Provincial Executive Director of Ontario Command, Pamela Sweeny.

They look after recording the medal winners, calling the athletes to the podium and making sure the SEO's that are handing out the medals, giving the right ones to the right athlete



District F BBQ, Brighton ON July 2019

The music, food and comradeship was non-stop at the 2019 version of the District F BBQ

Every year District F puts on a BBQ, complete with washer toss, live band and pot luck supper. Linda & I enjoyed the competition this year, and unfortunately for her, there is only one winner. Campers abounded as the revelers occupied the back yard of Greg Kobold and Pam Sweeny. If you can, finagle an invitation in 2020.



Dominion Track and Field Meet, Cape Breton University, Sydney, NS Aug 2019

Cape Breton University, Sydney Nova Scotia was the backdrop for the Royal Canadian Legion's Dominion Track & Field meet for 2020. The hospitality was exceptional, and the athletes all looked like they were having a ball.



PAC/Warriors Day Weekend Aug 2019



The rain stopped just as we formed up for the parade



P.A.C is always a time for good Legion business, and good Legion camaraderie. The spouses who follow us around have a lot to do with our level of enjoyment at all our Legion outings. We are thankful for all the spouses who support us. Here we are, off the bus from our outing at the CNE and the Warriors Day Parade.

Ruck March: Road to Recovery 2019



Mid September saw 4 days of dedicated rucking (going from A to B with only a rucksack) by 5 men and one woman as they made their way from Legion Branches in Port Credit, to Georgetown, to Guelph, to Lynden and the final stop, Burlington.

Ruckers get ready for the road, heading from Guelph to Lynden ON, 40 km away

Linda and I made Milton our camping home base, and journeyed to the different branches as the ruckers arrived. All branches along the way provided a roof for their heads, hot food for their belly, and warm comradeship for their hearts. The goal was to raise money and awareness for

Veterans living on the street. All funds - \$50,000 - were directed towards Ontario Command's program, Leave the Streets Behind.

Friends and family members were invited to join in at the last kilometer. Lending support are Past President Sharon McKeown, President Garry Pond, and Ist Vice President Derek Moore.



Veterans House Ribbon Cutting, Ottawa, Sept 16, 2019



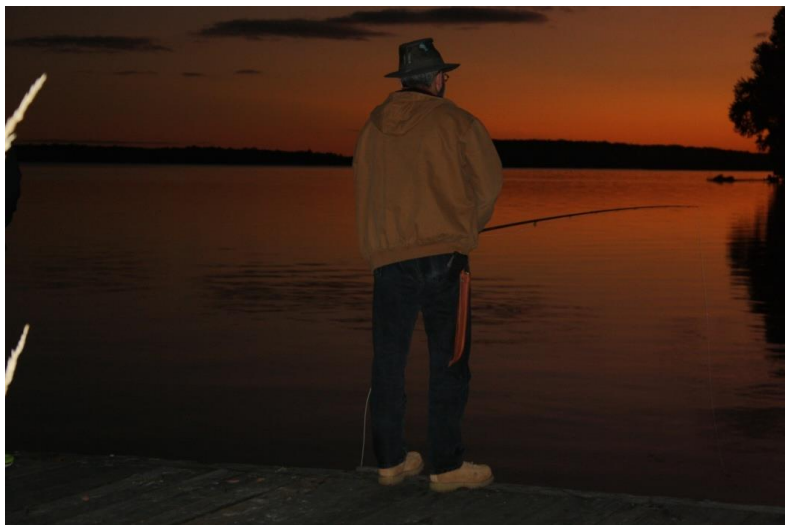
Provincial Command and District G were excited to attend the cornerstone laying ceremony for Veteran's House, Ottawa, ON. Long in the planning and with many sponsors - the Legion being a main supporter - construction finally began on one solution to getting Veterans off the street.

Garry Pond and Dave Gordon slip a lucky loonie into the cornerstone for the new Veteran's House

Buckhorn Lake Oct 4-6, 2019 - Veteran and First Responders OSI Couples Retreat

The purpose of our visit to Buckhorn Lake, was to observe and participate in the weekend event sponsored by Heroes Mending on the Fly - an organization who received funding from Ontario Command. Linda and I were just one of 30 other couples and volunteers who attended this retreat for Operational Stress Injury Veterans and their spouses.

The goal of Heroes Mending on the Fly is to provide a soft landing for Veterans - an escape from the everyday stresses of living with an OSI injury, "and forget about life for a while" (Billy Joel).



The weekend was filled with lessons on fly fishing, tying flies, boat tours, foraging lessons, and even playing the drums. All fishing boats, fishing gear, accommodations, food, refreshments, presentations, wood for the campfire, were all provided at no cost to the Veterans and their spouses. Through the extraordinary generosity of those who support this event - i.e. provided their goodwill, goods and services for free - our money is well spent. From what we observed, both Linda and I agree that the couples retreats for injured Veterans and their spouses, sponsored by Heroes Mending on the Fly, is worthy of the support from Ontario Command.

Sunnybrook Veterans Hospital, First Poppy Oct 22, 2019



Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Elizabeth Dowdeswell received the First Poppy from Comrade Richard Radcliff

Remembrance Parade, Acton, Nov 2019



The Acton Branch hosted the Remembrance Day Veterans Dinner, and invited Ontario Command to lay a wreath. Comrades Loesje Kutasienski and Kati Legge accompanied me in the parade. Their tradition is to carry the wreaths while you march, creating a colourful photo opportunity.

Remembrance Day Sunnybrook, Nov. 2019

It was a snowy day on Nov 11th, but that did not thwart the 50,000 flags planted by volunteers for the Veterans to see when they woke up. Shown with Deputy District B Commander Jack Gemmell





The spouses at PEC enjoyed an outing to the local brewery. The opportunities to socialize with all the PEC participants abounded all weekend.

Enjoying the brew: Sharon Crown, Sue McKittrick, Linda Barton, Barb Goebel, Trish Moore

SEO's & Ladies Auxiliary Joint Meeting and Christmas Party, Aurora/Newmarket

After dining out at the Newmarket Legion, SEOs and Ladies Auxiliary SEOs and their spouses congregated in the hospitality room at the Newmarket Best Western for Christmas festivities.

The first 6 months of my role has been busy and very fulfilling. Working with all the SEO's, District Commanders, Zone Commanders, Provincial HQ staff and Provincial Chairmen, we strived to improve our chain of command communications and make the work done by our volunteers have meaning for our Veterans.



Looking forward to making a difference with you in 2020.

In comradeship
Garry

Derek Moore, 1st Vice-President

Comrades All.

Again, I would like to thank you all for electing me as your 1st. VP Ontario Command. It fills me with great pride in being able to serve this command and all its members in this capacity.

Six months in and what a whirlwind it has been so far. At the very beginning, I asked newly elected President Garry to keep me informed, I wanted to know what he knew. Well, that was a mistake, emails constantly, the only thing I am kept in the dark about are pending Article 111s for obvious reasons as I may be called upon to Chair an Appeals Committee at some time. As for the rest, comrades we have a lot of work to do. At the top of the to do list is TRAINING, especially at the branch level.

I appreciate the help and the sincerity when a comrade, during a Branch Election volunteers his/her name to fill a vacant spot either as a Senior Elected Branch Officer or on the Executive Committee. A very noble gesture indeed but one that has very little immediate effect on the future of the Branch involved, unless that comrade is prepared to buckle down and learn the ways of the Legion, learn the responsibilities of the position taken, read the manuals, attend seminars, workshops and conventions, no small undertaking for possibly someone that has never done it before.

Comrades, for those of us who have been around for a while and possess that knowledge, it is our responsibility to step-up and share that knowledge with those that are willing to learn and are prepared to make that commitment to move up the ladder of succession when required.

Comrades I don't want to scare anyone who is considering moving up, if you take into consideration that in the year 2000, I became President of my home Branch, Br.#134 Mount Forest. It has taken me 19 years to reach the position I am in now, learning something new every day.



Here are a few of the things I've been up to since our Provincial Convention at Niagara Falls in May:

May 15th. Dedication of Vimy Oak at Victoria Cross Public School, Mount Forest.

May 29th. Br.#573 Donnybrook, awards for Emma Cervinka, Dominion Winner Senior Colour Poster.

May 29th. Wing #895 Air Cadet Squadron Annual Inspection & Awards.

May.31st. - June 2nd. ZC's & DC's Workshops, Aurora.

June 7th. OFSAA Meet, Guelph, Legion Information Booth.

June 21-22nd. Prov. Chairman's Meetings, Aurora.

June 22nd. CF Sub-Committee Meeting, Aurora.

July 12-13th. Prov. T & F Meet, Brampton.

July 27th. Cadet League and Sponsor Appreciation Day, Blackdown Camp, Borden.
 July 31st.-Aug.1st. Meetings at Prov. HQ.
 Aug. 16-18th. Finance Meeting/Warriors Day/Admin. Meeting.
 Sept. 13-15th. Ruck March, Guelph & Burlington.
 Sept. 17-18th. Provincial Convention 2021 Site Inspection, North Bay.
 Sept. 20-21st. 85th. Anniversary. Br#261 Tecumseh.
 Sept. 27-28th. VSS & Sports Meetings, Aurora.
 Oct. 5-6th. 90th. Anniversary Br.# 161 Bracebridge & 75th. Anniversary LA.
 Oct. 20th. Dist. C Convention, Br.#183 Kincardine.
 Oct. 23rd. 7pm. Zoom Meeting, T & F.
 Wellington County Museum Remembrance Dedication.
 Nov. 8-11th. Remembrance Dinner, Church, two Remembrance Services in two locations.
 Nov. 15-17th. PEC Aurora/Zone Commanders Workshop.
 Nov. 18th. Sponsor Appreciation, Charitable Foundation, Meaford Hospital.
 Nov. 22nd. Patron's Reception, Queens Park, Toronto. Lieutenant Governor, Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell.
 Nov. 29-30th. SEO/LA Meeting, Aurora.

Some of the gaps were filled in with local Zone and District Council and Conventions, and unofficial visits and presentations which I am always glad to accept.

Derek Moore
 1st. VP Ontario Command

Derek Moore, Provincial Cadet Liaison Officer's Report

I considered myself very fortunate to be the next Prov. Cadet Liaison Officer for Ontario Command. To me it was a natural follow-on from my 4 years as Prov. Youth Education Chairman, still involved with our youth.

I also took on the roll at my own branch as the Branch Cadet Liaison Officer to our Wing #895 Air Cadet Squadron in Mount Forest to keep me involved at a different level.





In the past I had attended many of the League & Sponsor Appreciation Days at Blackdown Camp in Camp Borden so I was quite familiar with what the camp had to offer for the cadets and had the opportunity to see them on parade many times. This year my invite to Blackdown was a little more personal, I was there to speak and represent our Command. This year's event took place on July 27th. 2019, a very pleasant day, a little cloud, not too hot but quite comfortable. I took my seat in the centre of the viewing area with the other guests from the Navy League, Army and Air Cadets and the camp CO's. There wasn't quite as many cadets on parade as usual on account about 500 had been on the square the night before and were given the day off, plus a bus load were stranded at another training facility because the bus broke down. Nevertheless, the 900 on parade did not disappoint, as always, very sharp, precise, and clean. This year though as part of my responsibilities I had the honour of inspecting a corps of cadets on the parade square, a little nerve wracking as all of them looked so sharp and every move they made was done with precision. When finished, I was up next at the podium to present my short speech, all went rather well.

The camp changed things up a little this year after a short visit and a video presentation which was new, we broke for lunch, which was served in the cadet mess, so we got to eat at the same time as the cadets. They did have a separate dining area but we shared that table with a select group of young cadet officers who sat the opposite side of the table, this made for a very interesting lunch, a one on one conversation with some of their finest. After lunch we continued on our tour of the camp most of which I had seen many times before but never tire of it, always something a little different each time. All in all a very nice day, they are all to be congratulated again for being exemplary hosts.

With my newfound cadet contacts, I have been able to answer 2-3 different questions regarding cadets hopefully to everyone's satisfaction. It is hoped I will be able to use those same contacts next September to drum up some cadet support for the 2020 Ruck March.

I did receive an invite to this year's Air Cadet League AGM and Conference, held at the Sheraton Parkway, Toronto North, but alas I had to graciously decline as it fell on the weekend of PEC in Aurora. Generally it is not the same weekend so here's hoping next year I will be able to go.

In comradeship
Derek Moore
Prov. Cadet Liaison Officer

Brian Harris, Provincial Vice-President, Provincial Poppy Trust Chairman

Greetings Comrades, I would like to start by thanking you all once again for your support this past May and having confidence in me to be one of your three Vice-Presidents, I am truly honoured. I also want to thank President Garry Pond for appointing me Provincial Poppy Chair. As well I also sit on the Provincial Property Committee, so it is very busy, and I am loving it! I honestly believe the work we do is so important and equally rewarding.

Since May I have had the opportunity to make one official visit, to District D and enjoyed their meetings as well as their hospitality. I was also lucky enough to spend a half day at my own convention in District A and it was a great pleasure to see my comrades from the A-Team even though it was all too short. Also, I attended Warriors Day in Toronto along with the many meetings as required by my position and committees.

The duties and responsibilities of the Provincial Poppy Chair far exceed what some may think is a short window of activity prior to and following the Poppy campaign, it is most definitely a yearlong effort. To date we have processed over 1100 Special Use Forms, this takes considerable time to review and approve, and I am happy to announce the approval rate is just over 85% on the first submission. Those that don't get approved on the first attempt usually get approved on the second or third submission bringing the average up to approximately 95%. The reason for denials is usually trying to donate Poppy Trust Funds to organizations or projects that are not allowed within the Poppy Manual. Great job by all branches raising funds and getting them distributed to our Veterans and their dependents as well as the community or health care facilities and projects that are permitted. At the writing of this report I do not have Poppy Campaign dollar figures, but from initial reports I would have to say most branches reported another successful campaign, thanks to the generosity of the public.

This year something that has me very concerned was the unauthorized reproduction of our Poppy image. Whether at a home shop, commercial endeavor or even large international companies, our protected Poppy image is being reproduced without permission and the monies are not going to Royal Canadian Legion Poppy Trust Funds. We must all take a stand and help to report and stop this practice. Do not support these companies and report them, please. Any reproduction of the Poppy image must be approved by Dominion Command in advance, no exceptions. These companies are even so bold as to reproduce our Legion crest and market it on golf, dart shirts and other products. Again, do not support these companies.

This Remembrance Day was a cold and snowy affair in London, I had the honour to lay the first Legion wreath of the ceremony escorted by Zone A6 Commander Randy Warden. Later in the day, we held another



ceremony at Parkwood Institute for our Veteran residents in the warmth and comfort of the main auditorium; it was and always is a special ceremony.



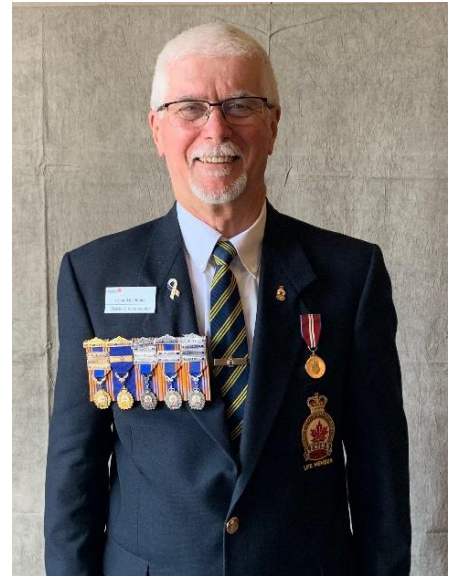
Living in London and having Parkwood Institute literally in my back yard (I can walk there in 15 minutes) I have had several meetings with the staff to find out how we can improve our attention and care for our Veterans who reside within, provide more comfort, especially in the area of visitations as well as participating in the many programs they provide. One of the special moments every year is our Christmas morning visit. Every year since 1945 Legionnaires and friends have visited the Veteran residents of Parkwood to make sure every single one receives a Christmas gift chosen by them, some goodies, and some joy. Cadet Corps, Navy League, 31 Service Battalion, Santa Claus of course and Legionnaires from all over SW Ontario attend, many of us have made this a family tradition bringing our families with us before we go back home to celebrate the day.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Ontario Command staff that perform such a fantastic job and are dedicated way past their assigned duties. Special nod to Lisa Dinsmore and Hailey Pacitto who are so vital to my Poppy Trust Chair duties, thank you ladies. I want to thank the thousands of Legion Volunteers who carry out our mission. A very special thank you to our Ladies' Auxiliary who are the heart and soul of our organization. As we are all volunteers and from time to time our duties can become very intense and try our patience and resolve, remember our responsibilities are for the men and women who never quit. Our responsibilities are important, vital and very much required. There is help when you require help, we have an outstanding organization, filled with dedicated volunteers and staff. As one of my personal mentors always told me when I was feeling frustrated, "Legionnaires don't quit, we don't give up, we have a job to complete, so let's get the job done". Comrades let's continue, to get the job done.

Wishing you good health and happiness.
Brian Harris

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

Comrades, I can't begin to tell you how much I am enjoying this new position as Provincial Vice-President along with chairing the Provincial Youth Education committee. We are already six months into this term and the time is flying by. Our first meeting of the Youth Ed. Committee took place in June and it was very productive. We are privileged to have a great group of District chairmen, Zone chairmen, and particularly Branch chairmen on board and I look forward to the successful completion of this years literary and poster competitions soon. Our public speaking competitions will take place in the new year. I would also once again thank committee secretary Aida Kostuck and immediate past chairman Derek Moore for their assistance and guidance in learning this new position. What a challenge indeed.



As a Vice-President, I must say that the experience so far has been an education. Sitting on the Provincial Property committee is interesting to say the least. Being asked to be a member of Appeal committees dealing with Article III's is also very challenging although I wish there wasn't a need for them in the first place. The review process of the annual Branch inspection forms continues to be the current focus as we (Provincial Officers, District and Zone Commanders) assist Branches who are struggling either financially or administratively in hopes that they will be successful in their operations.

I have also enjoyed all of the travelling and the comradeship that I have received during the year whether it be Provincial meetings, Warrior's Day parade, honours and awards presentations or attending various District conventions. Thank you to all who have made Darlene and I feel so welcome.

Finally, let me just say what a thrill it is to serve this organization. It's a daily learning experience and I can't think of a better way to honour our veterans than to be involved in this capacity. There are so many programs that the Legion provides to our veterans and our communities and I am so proud to be a small part of it. Thank you to all of you, our Command staff and my fellow SEOs for making this experience so memorable.

On behalf of my wife Darlene and our family may I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a safe, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

Lynn McClellan

Pam Davidson, Vice-President, Provincial Bursary Chairman

Fellow Comrades,

I wish to take this opportunity to thank District A Commander Mark Rogers, District B Commander Dianne Condon and the districts for their hospitality, and friendship at their Districts Fall Conventions. It's nice to see old friends and meet new ones.

At the District A Convention I was honoured to assist District A Commander Mark Rogers, Petrolia Br. 216 President Dennis Laker and Vice-President Dominion Command Brian Weaver as we presented Zone A4 Commander Laura Nicholls with her MSM



I was then honoured to help present Vice-President Dominion Command Brian Weaver with his Palm Leaf.

Pictured: Zone A2 Commander Dan Gray, Provincial Vice-President Pam Davidson, Vice-President Dominion Command Brian Weaver receiving his Palm Leaf, District A Commander Mark Rogers, Immediate Past Zone A2 Commander Gayle Brown.

Congratulations to each of the recipients on all their hard work in the Royal Canadian Legion.

In comradeship
Pam Davidson

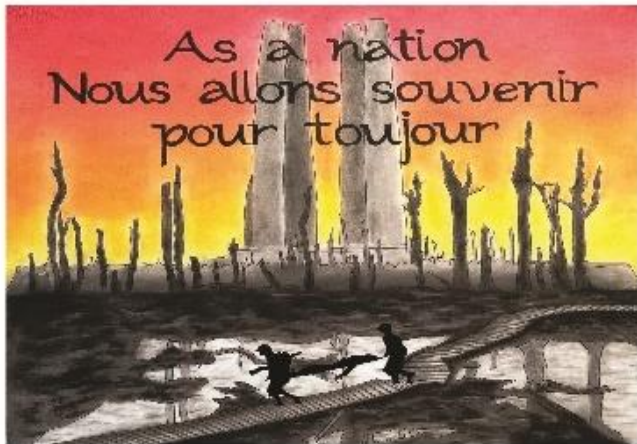


Ron Goebel, Chairman Ontario Command, Chairman of our Ontario Command Military Service Recognition Book program

Comrades.

I trust that everyone enjoyed their summer and no doubt on some of the cold snowy days we have had so far, you were wishing that summer was still here. For my wife Barb and I, it still is as by the time you receive this bulletin from our Editor of our Provincial Command Newsletter, Roy Eaton, we will be enjoying winter in sunny Florida.

Since I am also the Chairman of our Ontario Command Military Service Recognition Book program, I will combine my activities with this program along with my duties as your Provincial Chairman. In fact, a lot of my time since the beginning of June, has been taken up with our MSRB program. This of course included finalizing our Volume VI for publication and distribution in mid-October to our Branches and the introduction of year #7 of our program.



The image on the front cover of the book is from a poster that was shown in the Ontario Command Youth Council Library Room, Foster and Duke Campbell. The poster was the 3rd place winner in the 1944-45 Ontario Provincial Exhibition. It was painted by a young man, a member of the Ontario Command Youth Council, who was a member of the Ontario Command Youth Council at the time.

Military Service Recognition Book

The Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Command

We are pleased to be in releasing our seventh annual publication that will help identify and recognize many of Ontario's Veterans who have served their country so well during times of war and peace.

- Our seventh book will be available at all Legion Branches by October 2020.
- Books are gifted to schools, libraries and community centres.
- We invite you to submit stories of Veterans and Military Service Personnel who have touched your life. Submission forms and guidelines are available from your local Legion Branch for those wishing to submit a story and photo of one of our Veterans.
- A provincial telephone appeal is underway to private citizens and businesses requesting support to publish this book each year and to support our Veterans.



Remember, share, donate today.

For more information:
www.on.lejion.ca
Phone: 1-888-648-8387 (VETS)

We unfortunately encountered a few more distribution problems this year than in previous years, and most of the problems were due to having incorrect delivery addresses for Branches. This resulted in District Commanders and Zone Commanders to become involved to ensure that all Branches received their supply of our books. This problem hopefully will be rectified for next year as we plan on sending out our distribution listing to our District Commanders prior to sending the list on to our publisher for verification of all addresses through their Zone Commanders.

We also still continue to receive emails and telephone calls into our Provincial Headquarters regarding the authenticity of the sales efforts of our publisher, Fenety Marketing. In most cases, the problem stems from Branches either not being aware of our program, or the Branch not informing their members, staff and Executive members about our program and the sales calls that are made by our publisher.

Despite the problems we have encountered, our Remembrance MSRB program has been a huge success. To date, we have published a total of 4323 submissions in the first six volumes of our books. And as of the writing of this report, we have 376 submissions for publication in Volume #7. There is a need though to continually promote our program within our Branches and for them to recognize

Veterans within their communities through submissions for publication in our books of Remembrance. Please remember that submissions are published in our books on a first come, first served basis. So, the sooner a Branch sends their submissions to our Coordinators, the sooner they will be published.

Since June, I have also been involved in several other events which included several at my own Branch in Carleton Place. On July 6th, my wife Barb and I attended the annual District F BBQ at the home of Greg Kobold and Pam Sweeny in Brighton and as always, had a great time. So did our Provincial President Garry as he ended up winning the annual washer toss tournament.

In August, we were off to Newmarket and Aurora for our annual Provincial Finance Committee meeting Friday evening August 16th, Warriors Day Parade at the C.N.E. on Saturday, and our P.A.C. meeting on Sunday, August 18th. Although the Warriors Day Parade was held up somewhat due to rain and the chance of thunder and lightning, we did manage to start on time, but due to the rain, the forming up for the parade unfortunately became a bit disorganized. But it was still a great parade and always proud to be involved in it.

The following weekend, I spent the day in Almonte, Ont. attending the Provincial Washer Toss Tournament as the Provincial Representative.

This year, in the Singles event final, it was Brandon Wheeler of the Brigadier O.M. Martin Branch 345 in Scarborough in District D who was the winner. In the Doubles Phil Pyne and Greg Dicario from Hespeler Branch 272 in District C emerged as the winners.



Fred Ryan

Brandon Wheeler

Fred Quigg, Phil Pyne, Greg Dicario, Ron Goebel

In October, my wife Barb and I were off to the “jewel in the wilderness”, Elliott Lake where I had been invited to attend the District H Fall Council Meeting as the Provincial Representative. The meeting was well conducted and there was much discussion and debate that took place throughout the meeting when various Committee Reports were being given. The Council Meeting broke just before lunch for a brief and solemn wreath laying ceremony at their Cenotaph just a short block away from the Branch. The Council Meeting adjourned just before 3 p.m. and after freshening up it was back to the Branch for the evening banquet where I gave my Provincial presentation.



Like most of you, Barb and I were involved with our annual Poppy Campaign at my home Branch in Carleton Place. As Chairman of our Annual Remembrance Day Parade and Ceremony, I was also kept busy for our annual November 11th events. I trust that everyone had a most successful Poppy Campaign.

On the 15th of November, we were off to attend our annual P.E.C. meeting in Aurora and the annual President's dinner. Once again, it was a busy weekend, but also an enjoyable weekend.

Two weeks later, on November 30th, we were back to Aurora once again for our annual combined S.E.O. meeting and Finance Meeting. This though is always a fun type weekend as we not only attend meetings but have a bit of cheer celebrating Christmas with our L.A. counterparts and our partners. Once again, it was a real fun weekend. Early Sunday morning, Barb and I were off to winter in Florida.



Barb and I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and nothing but the best in 2020. May you enjoy safe travels and good health, and may you continue to work in the best interests of our Veterans, their families and your Branch. Comrades, we will Remember them.

In comradeship
Ron Goebel

Ron Crown, Vice-Chairman, Ontario Command.

I would like to thank my fellow comrades for electing me to once again act as your Vice-Chairman. I also extend my thanks to President Garry Pond for reappointing me to be the Chairman of the Resolutions Committee.

In August, I attended the Finance meeting and was honoured to parade in the Warriors Day Parade and the next day attended the Administration Committee meeting.

In early October I was asked by District "E" Commander, Crystal Cook, to present a Fundraising Seminar to the Branch Presidents in District "E" at their convention. It was well received, and I have had feedback from several attendees.

I reviewed 17 resolutions for presentation at the PEC meeting in November and helped Chair the PEC meeting along with Chairman Comrade Ron Goebel.



I attended the Finance meeting, the joint SEO meeting with the Ladies Auxiliary and the SEO meeting in December.

I would like to thank the office staff at Ontario Command for all the assistance they so freely give to me. Sharon and I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and all the Best in 2020!

In sincere comradeship,

Ron Crown



Sharon McKeown, Immediate Past President, Provincial Property Committee Chairman

Greetings comrades,

A reminder to branches when anticipating **ANY** property related expense in excess of \$10,000, or a contract, such as a lease, to first review pages 92 to 96 of the Ontario Command Officers' Manual 2012.

If you have questions, speak to your Zone Commander, who in turn, would take their questions to the District Commander. If the District Commander has questions, they are to contact the Provincial Committee Chairman. Branch members should use their Branch President as first resource. This process, as the Chain of Command, is the same for all committees. Your co-operation in following it would be appreciated.

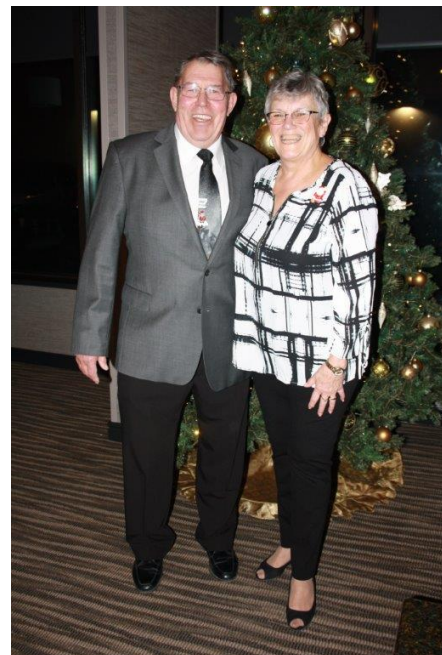
Some people question what exactly is property? Briefly, property includes but is not limited to a Legion building and the ground it sits on. Changes of any kind, permanent or temporary, in or about, inside or outside the building, on grounds adjacent or offsite, anything on any property belonging to the branch, that will cost in excess of \$10,000, must have the approval of the Provincial Property Committee **BEFORE** a letter of intent, a memorandum of understanding, a contract of one form or another is signed!

Our Committee is fortunate to have on our team, Comrades Dave Gordon, with his years of experience as Executive Director and Dave MacDonald, our consultant from Charlottetown, both with their excellent memories, to advise and guide.

The Provincial Property Committee has met with several developers over the past few years, some more credible than others. If branches are approached by property developers, presenting visions of grandeur, you might want to know if Ontario Command has had exposure to the developer, prior to discussions or negotiations of any sort. Branches are autonomous, should the membership choose Joe Blow to shingle a wind damaged roof, to install new HVAC systems, or replace their floors, as long as, procedure has been followed, though we might warn or caution, we won't prevent moving forward.

Another reminder, insurance brokers each Spring and Fall remind us to have the branch roof checked for signs of wear and tear. If it looks bad to you, from the ground, it's worse up close! Please have a professional inspect! A quick thaw or good rain can do extensive and costly interior damage. Keep an eye on the ceiling. It can't be stressed enough Insurance is NOT a maintenance contract.

In closing, from my Family to Yours, a very **MERRY CHRISTMAS** and a Happy, Healthy, Prosperous 2020!



Pamela Sweeney, Executive Director

As Christmas is fast approaching, staff at Provincial Headquarters are like busy elves making certain the loose ends are being tied up before the holidays begin. Our offices will be closed at end of day Friday, December 20, 2019 and reopen on January 2, 2020.

The staff at Provincial Headquarters have enjoyed working with all of you this year as you embarked on new ventures as newly elected Zone Commanders, District Commanders, Senior Elected Officers and Standing Committee Chairman. Staff have undertaken to assist you with Bursary Applications, Charitable Foundation Applications, Track & Field, Remembrance Activities, Youth Education, Veterans' License Plates, Poppy Special Use Forms, Expenses, Article III's, Regulations, Meeting Minutes, Zone and District Commander Workshops, Public Relations, Membership, Pensions, Benevolent Applications, Homeless Assistance, Operation Service Dog, Legion Supplies, amongst other programs and services.



Please take this time of year to share moments with friends and family that have been there for you all year! To those service men and women who are away from home and family – please keep them in your thoughts and prayers as they protect the freedoms we enjoy. To all a very Merry Christmas! May the New Year, 2020 have wonderful health, happiness and prosperity in store for you and yours.

Cheers,
Pamela Sweeney

Juanita Kemp, Assistant Director

I wish to thank everyone for the memorable experiences over the past year. I have been fortunate to attend many events including the Lieutenant Governor's Patron's Reception Nov. 22 with 1st Vice-President Derek Moore and his wife Trish



The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding and presentation to Wounded Warriors Canada with a cheque for \$300,000 for Operation Service Dog. Pictured: National Program Director Philip Ralph, President Garry Pond and Executive Director Pamela Sweeney.



Always enjoy the great fellowship at PEC, especially greeting far away friends. Pamela Sweeney and I with Roy Eaton, Editor of this newsletter.

Bringing some Christmas magic to a veteran's family who need a little assistance during the holidays. Thank you Ladies' Auxiliary for being "Santa's Helpers" again this year.



However best of all was having my daughter, Samantha Kemp, home for a visit from B.C. and my best friend Linda Klassen able to attend the Apsley Br. 381 Remembrance Day Service.

From my family to yours, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. All the best for 2020.

Juanita Kemp



Ontario Command Ladies' Auxiliary Report



Ladies' Auxiliary Senior Elected Officers at Branch # 426, New Market celebrating a joyous Christmas party. Officers left to right: 3rd Vice-President Kathey Putman, Chairman Brenda Deacon, 1st Vice-President Kathy Moggy, Immediate Past President Kim Adams, 2nd Vice-President Sharon Crown, President Debbie Olmstead.

Presently we have 233 Auxiliaries and 8241 members. We have donated over \$170,000.00 to the Charitable Foundation which includes the Provincial Bursary Program, as well as \$36,000.00 to other Bursary programs.

We have also donated over \$160,000.00 to Veterans Programs and over \$420,000.00 to other community donations. We are pleased to announce that we have donated \$1,766,000 to our Branches in Ontario Command to help with their expenses.

The Senior Elected Officers are pleased to share these numbers and we are very proud of the members of the Ladies' Auxiliaries in Ontario.

We will continue to always support Veterans, Youth and our Branches.



*Christmas is a perfect time,
To wish friends far and near,
A very happy Christmas,
And a wonderful New Year,
May your festive day be brighter,
Merrier than the past,
And may the joy you feel this day,
In your heart will always last.
Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year*

*On behalf of the Senior Elected Officers,
Our Past Presidents and Zone Commanders
of the
Ladies' Auxiliary Ontario Provincial Command*

*President
Debbie Olmstead*

*Imm. Past President
Kim Adams*

*1st Vice President
Kathy Moggy*

*2nd Vice President
Sharon Crown*

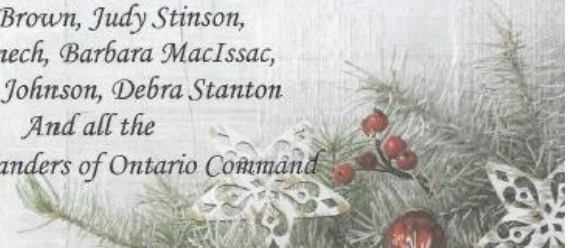
*3rd Vice President
Kathey Putman*

*Chairman
Brenda Deacon*

*Prov. Sports Chairman
Kelly Scott*

*Secretary/Treasurer
Gloria Orland*

*Past Provincial Presidents '
Maxine Gowdey, Jean Hadlow,
Barb Brown, Judy Stinson,
Joan Fenech, Barbara MacIssac,
Lorraine Johnson, Debra Stanton
And all the
Zone Commanders of Ontario Command*



Pam Davidson, Provincial Bursary Chairman's Report

From our meeting in June, we believed that we would see an increase in Bursary applications this year due to OSAP funding changes. As of December, we have received 85 complete applications. Every district has submitted applications.

We are accepting 2019/2020 academic year applications. Provincial Headquarters has received a few outdated applications – 2018, 2010 and even one from 1999. Branches are asked to **please destroy all applications that are not dated January 2019.**

District E organized three open houses to promote the Bursary program. On October 30, at the Aurora High School, November 16, at Georgian College in Barrie and November 19, 2019 the Keswick High School. We have attended the open house in Keswick in previous years and were happily asked to return. Thank you,



Pictured: District E Bursary Chairman Betty Smith and District E Commander Crystal Cook at the Keswick High

Deputy District E Commander Rick Preston and his wife Sue Preston assisted with the Bursary program at Aurora High School

A few Branch Bursary applications have been sent into Provincial Headquarters unfortunately, some of these applications had no Branch name or address attached so they cannot be returned to the correct Branch. Please let Provincial Command know if your Branch gives out Bursary awards. This will help us to keep track of who is applying, and we will be able to contact the correct Branch if needed.



Please allow me to thank our dedicated Provincial Bursary team members: Charitable Foundation President Marg Emery, 3rd Vice President Ladies Auxiliary Kathey Putman, District A Cathy Lanman, District B Jackie Ralston, District C Don Young, District D John Dufort, District E Betty Smith, District F Sandra Beattie, District G Sharron Murray, District H Alex Lammle, District K Dianne Denault,

Finally, to the Provincial Headquarters staff, and the Bursary secretary Jen Leclair Thank You for the work you do on these programs.

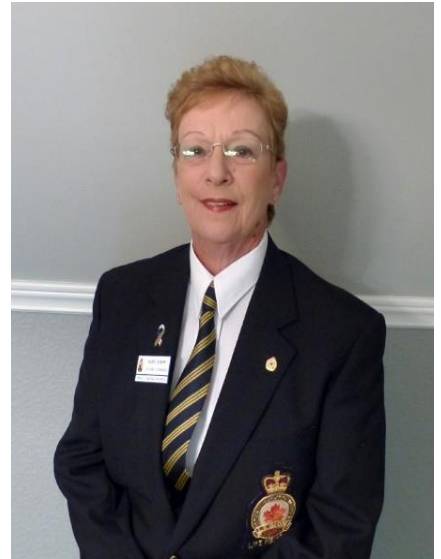
In comradeship
Pam Davidson

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

Comrades,

Well this is our second newsletter of this term so I will jump right into what our committee has been doing. First item of business for this term was to create a Welcome Letter for new Directors of the CF committee to help them define their duties and responsibilities. The letter includes everything from where to find information to how and why we meet, when we meet and what meetings they are expected to attend. The letter also explains the importance of this committee and how to get brochures and more information. It explains how important our Committee feels about transparency and confidentiality. New Directors are asked to contact me or the Committee Secretary Aida Kostuck with any questions.

As you may know, there has been an issue regarding limitations on the use of poppy funds as they relate to a Hospice. The Charitable Foundation receives some applications from hospices every year. While some hospitals have their own "hospice" facilities or palliative care, many hospices are independent non-profit care facilities. The Foundation has always been treating these hospices as regular hospitals and awarding them funds for medical equipment. For the fiscal year 2018-2019, the total donations received were \$874,874.36. 66% of the donations for the Charitable Foundation and Bursary came from the Branch Poppy Funds, 23% came from the LA's and 11% came from corporations and individuals. With this information you can see that 34% of donations come from other than poppy funds, so donations from CF to hospices are well within the "other" funds and therefore in compliance with the poppy manual so please donate. An important reminder that when branches make the cheque presentations on behalf of the Charitable Foundation please ensure that you always include the Ladies' Auxiliary and be sure to mention that the donations go to help Veterans and the community at large.



The Legion is supporting so many more areas where branches and Ladies' Auxiliaries can donate and there is only so much money to go around so we understand decisions can be hard. CF only asks that you think of the help CF can be to the community and donate when you can. The donations below are all under the CF umbrella but are kept separate and apart within the Foundation. For the 2018-2019 fiscal year, the Veterans Comfort Fund received total donations of \$120,223.00 and interest of \$16,867.69 and the Joe Sweeney Fund (a.k.a. Leave the Streets Behind / Homeless Veterans Program) received total donations of \$48,274.30 plus interest of \$5,005.00. Ontario Command is also receiving donations from the LA and Branches for the "Operation Service Dogs for Veterans" program which is now a partnership with Wounded Warriors Canada (WWC) which totalled \$10,353.69. I mention all these programs to you as under our CF umbrella, registered receipts can be issued for donations received from the public or corporations to any of these programs. I am so very excited to be a part of this exceptional program. It is one more reason why the Royal Canadian Legion is such a remarkable organization and community benefactor.

Special thanks to the Ladies' Auxiliaries not only for their donations but for their leadership at committee level and being great partners. As always thanks to the branches, zones and districts for their donations. Without all of you there would be no Charitable Foundation. Thanks to all our staff at Provincial Headquarters.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year with sincere best wishes for an enjoyable and healthy holiday season filled with family, fun and faith and a wonderful year ahead.

Respectfully submitted,
Marg Emery

Jack Porter, Provincial Honours and Awards Chairman

Your Honours and Awards Committee has been quite busy over the past months that commenced in May 2019. As of writing this report in early December the committee has processed a total of 79 applications.

Life Membership – 61 applications with 40 being approved.

Meritorious Service Medal - 7 applications with 4 being approved by this committee.

Palm Leaf to the Meritorious Service Medal – 2 with 1 being approved.

Meritorious Service Award to the Ladies Auxiliary-1 and was approved.

Media Award – 1 and was approved.

Friendship Awards -7 with all being approved.

Comrades, this committee would like to explain the majority of reasons as to why some applications received are rejected. Please note that in almost all cases your committee has no personal knowledge of applicants. Therefore, the applications and citations received must be received with the standards laid out by Royal Canadian Legion by-laws.



Lack of date span on citations and or lack of outstanding service is the majority of rejections of applications. Branches, Zones or Districts, should carefully review all the required information prior to submitting applications to Ontario Command. To find the required information go to the Ontario Command website, Forms & Manuals – Honours and Awards – Guidelines for Honours and Awards – Sample of a citation. Please do your homework and hopefully more awards will succeed?

Yours in comradeship,
Jack Porter

Robyn Zettler, Provincial Leadership Development Chairman

Greetings comrades from your Leadership Development team. It has been a productive six months into the term. Seminars/workshops have already been presented either by your District or Zone LD Chairmen on various topics and from comments, they were well received. Always working on ways to improve on attendance.

We still need input from you, the member, as to what areas of training that you feel you could most benefit from. Each branch is unique in their strengths/weaknesses so, where possible, we would like to tailor a program for you. Would you like it held at your branch or your zone? All you need to do is contact your Zone LD Chairman who in turn will share your ideas/suggestions with the District.



One of our winter projects is to explore other options for creating workshops/seminars and bringing them to the branches. The committee is planning a video conference for the New Year to discuss our future plans for going forward.

On behalf of my husband Ken, we wish you a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and safe/healthy winter.

Yours in comradeship,
Robyn Zettler

Provincial Membership Chairman's Report

Provincial Membership stands, as of Dec. 11th, 2019, at 95,002 paid-up members at 95.81%. down 4,151 from last year's total at this time of 99,153. This gives Ontario Command 3rd place in the 10 team Dominion Membership League, with PEI leading the way followed by BC/Yukon right behind, then Ontario.

Next year, I predict we will have 100% or better, we can do this. 1 new member for every 22 we have now, yes that's all. We have the tools we have the strategies, now all we need is the implementation, unfortunately that appears to be the stumbling block between failure and success. We can talk the talk but if we can't walk the walk it all becomes quite pointless.....but I have faith, I firmly believe we have turned the corner. Our losses are getting smaller and smaller each year and I think we will start to show an increase, no matter how small but an increase. As I said earlier, I think we will achieve in this Province a 100% by Dec. 31st. 2020.



Some figures as of Dec. 11th, 2019:

Dist. A	12,496 [12,910] 96.79%	18 branches @100% or better.
Dist. B	17,308 [18,317] 94.49%	7 branches @100% or better.
Dist. C	12,697 [13,052] 97.28%	17 branches @100% or better.
Dist. D	5,133 [5,466] 93.91%	3 branches @100% or better.
Dist. E	9,575 [9,924] 96.48%	10 branches @100% or better.
Dist. F	16,373 [17,075] 95.89%	14 branches @100% or better.
Dist. G	14,135 [14,778] 95.65%	1 branches 1@100% or better.
Dist. H	5,173 [5,339] 96.89%	12 branches @100% or better.
Dist. K	2,059 [2,158] 95.41%	9 branches @100% or better

You will have noticed I said “we” a number of times that's because, “membership is every members responsibility”.

Good luck, and good hunting.

A Very Merry Xmas and a Happy and Prosperous 2020 to ALL.

Derek & Trish Moore

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

Hello Comrades

One matter I am going to comment on is the Branch Survey....I hope that all branches are faithfully using the "Recording Chart of Information for Answers to Future Branch Survey Questions 2019-2020" (information required from June 1, 2019 to May 31, 2020). The use of this chart makes it easier to answer the questions on the next Branch Survey form that will be sent to all Branches in the new year approximately end of March or first of April. The deadline for the upcoming Branch Survey will be June 30, 2020. With the change of dates to have the survey completed we are hoping that the current Branch executive will do the completion of the survey form with their own information that is required. If you are using the above mentioned recording chart, then it will be extremely easy to complete the next Branch survey; you just need to total the columns and then fill the information into the appropriate questions on the survey form. . Remember that the information gathered from the Branch Survey is used to update our Fact Sheet. Comrades, I hope that you can help us with this task, so that we can continue to promote Ontario Command's Branches and member's hard work that you do in support of our many programs.



At our PEC meeting in November last month two presentations were received by our Provincial President Comrade Garry Pond. The first being by Programmed Insurance Brokers; each year PIB donates to Ontario Command's Track and Field program and this year \$24,100 was presented by Bruce Burham (PIB Insurance owner).

The second was by Road to Recovery with the event Ruck 2 Remember. This year the Ruck was held in District's B and C over their four day journey. Phil Owen (left) and Lino Di Julio (right) presented President Garry with a cheque for and \$51,524.16 the group raised for our Homeless Veterans program "Operation: Leave the Streets Behind". Thank you to both PIB and R2R for their continued support of our Veterans and Youth.



Comrades, I am not going to bore you with the many ways that we all can do to promote this great organization of ours; but only to say...**please keep the Communication lines open and please keep it positive!**

From John and I, we wish everyone a Merry Christmas, a very special time with your families and friends. All the best to you for a healthy and prosperous New Year; and please have Safe Travels!

Yours in comradeship,

Carolyn McCaul

Walter Stevens, Provincial Sports Chairman

The new 2020 Provincial Sports year starts in March, please see the Ontario Command site for the new Sports calendar and the new Sports Manual (November 2019).

The Provincial Sports meeting was held on September 28th, 2019 and all 9 District Sports Chairmen were in attendance along with a number of Deputies. This term, we have 4 new Chairmen from Districts A,D,G & K and I wish them well in their future term.

We had a full agenda for discussion and it was nice to have everyone including our new Chairmen voice their opinions with the issues at hand, we had a very productive meeting.

No Shows were an issue this year at events which in a number of cases turned out to be miscommunication with Players, Branch's, Zones & Districts. Hopefully this will not be an issue in the new year.

Darts, Senior Darts, Mixed Darts, Cribbage and Euchre are going strong. Washer Toss and Youth Darts seem to have a growing interest each year. Horseshoes and Shuffleboard are up and down as they always seem to draw the same core group. 8 Ball and Golf remain steady and Snooker seems to be lagging.

On May 1st- 4th 2020 Br.60 Burlington (Dist. B) will be hosting the Dominion Darts. I wish them success and hope all runs smoothly for them.

I wish everyone all the best in the year ahead.

Sincerely

Walter Stevens



John Crook, Track & Field Committee Chairman

Comrades all

I would like to Thank Comrade Garry for asking me to stay on as your Track & Field Chair and to thank again The Headquarters Staff Comrades Pam Sweeny and Juanita Kemp for their assistance this year.

T&F Activities 2019

Summer Meet Brampton July 2019

On 12th & 13th July District B Hosted the Provincial meet in Brampton, hosted by Brampton Track & Field Club. We had approx. 370 athletes attend and competed in 794 events on a beautiful sunny weekend, and from that number we select 40 athletes to attend Nationals as Team Ontario. I would like to thank Comrade Kiryn Crook again for hosting the meet. The meet ran well right up until the end of the last event when the heavens opened up and soaked all who were still there.

In the committee meeting after we selected the team to represent Team O in Cape Breton, we decided to change the selection criteria to be selective but inclusive at the same time to automatically look at 2nd place winners as well. This proved to work well for the first attempt at this new procedure and at a conference call in Oct., we amended it a little more too provide a stronger Team O for the future.



National Championships Cape Breton Aug 6th -12th 2019



The National meet this year was held in Cape Breton NS. This year, our chaperones Comrades Caroline Mayo (District A) Comrade Dianne Hodges (District B) Comrade Rich Gelder (District B) and Dr Chad Carter (Physio therapist) District D all did a great job helping, supporting, and encouraging the athletes. We had great results in Brandon winning 49 medals. A few National and Meet records were broken, and many athletes accomplished a personal best



Our coaches L-R Dian Hodges, Dr Chad Carter, Head Coach Laura Sivers, Coach Randy Mcdougall, Coach Ese Omene, Head Chaperone Caroline Mayo and finally Rich Gelder. They all did great jobs with the athletes even though individual coaches sometimes made this difficult for them. All Chaperones and Coaches except coach Laura have confirmed for next year already.

The meet in Cape Breton was outstanding for the athletes. It will be hard for other venues to lay something this good on for the athletes in the future. However, from an organizational approach, I feel that Dominion Command is handing too much of our program over to Athletics Canada. This feeling is felt by other Provincial Reps as well and has been communicated to them.

Examples are: Hiding all the Legion members that were there from the audience on Opening Ceremonies, Allowing Open athletes to lead in the Legion Parade not the legion Teams and a few other areas of concern again communicated to Dominion Command via comrade President Garry.

Ladies' Auxiliary Executive meeting Sept 28th 2019

I received over the summer an invitation to speak to the Ladies' Auxiliary Executive about the Track & Field Program and answer any questions they had. I prepared myself to explain the program from Zone level up to Nationals and how each level is funded and what the challenges we were having at this time.

At the end of my overview, I had very few questions from the ladies so I guess I must have covered everything they wanted to hear. I was presented with an additional cheque for \$2500.00 for the Track and Field Program. Ladies, we cannot thank you enough for what you do for us both here and at the local level for this program **THANK YOU.**

Conference Call Oct 23rd

This was a brief call to get everyone ramped up for the new year and to get ahead of the planning for District meets and to welcome 2 new members to the team, Comrade Paul Glass District E and Comrade Steve Bell District F

Future Track Meets

Summer Track meet Hamilton July 3rd & 4th. Hosted by Hamilton Olympic Club

Nationals 2020 Sydney, NS 6th – 12th Aug.

Cape Breton University, 1250 Grand Lake Rd., Sydney, Nova Scotia

My committee members are.

District A – Mark Rogers, District B – Kiryn Jcrook, District C – Crystal Taylor, District D – Dan Burri, District E – Paul Glass, District F – Steve Bell, District G – Laura Sivers, District H – Chris Peters, District K – Bobbi-Jean Dacosta

In closing, the athletes of the province and I would like to thank Comrades Juanita and Pam, the Ladies' Auxiliary for their kind donations, PIB/Home Hardware and you the legion members for the support given to them throughout the Provincial and National Track & Field meets.



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

John Crook

Dave Gordon, Veterans Services Chairman and Seniors, Homeless Veterans Committee Chairman

Veteran ID cards are now available and can be applied for by going to the VAC website. We have welcomed Comrade Darren Reid to the VSS Committee. Darren is the Ontario Rep for the BSO/OSI Section.

Treat our Veterans with respect and THANK them for their Service to our country.

Operation: Leave the Streets Behind

The Homeless Veterans program continues to grow and as of November 30, 2019, we have assisted 820 Homeless Veterans in 161 towns and cities, and I note of those assisted 87 were female Veterans. With the generous donations from our Branches, Ladies' Auxiliary and outside donors we have disbursed over \$ 2.4 million dollars. Your donations have allowed for the purchase of Apartment Kits, provided first and last month's rent, Dental work, furniture and gift cards for food, to name only a few items.



Affordable Housing is in demand throughout the province and this is an item we need to be conscious of as we seek accommodation for our Homeless Veterans. Rents are high in all areas thus the need to put forward the Homeless program to the public.

I am also the OC rep for Sunnybrook Hospital and recently attended the Residents Council meeting November 18. The President of the Council reported that 35 Veterans assisted in the Poppy Campaign manning locations throughout Sunnybrook doing 1.5 hour shifts. The youngest was 78 years of age and the oldest 102, years of age and they hoped to raise over \$ 10,000.

Dawn and I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

In comradeship
Dave Gordon

Erl Kish Provincial Vice-Chairman, Veteran Services Seniors Homeless Veterans Committee

Comrades all.

As I have reported to the VSSHVC, all information received in relation to available seniors' programs and benefits has been distributed either by committee or all branch email. This allows the branches to decide which path to follow to fulfill the requirement in their particular area. Our focus should be on ensuring all seniors are receiving the care they so rightly deserve in their declining years, so we should direct our focus on improving the Long Term Care system within our Province which has a direct impact on the welfare of our veterans waiting in the wings for beds. This suggestion was accepted.



We are all aware that the current system does not include priority for our newer veterans serving after July 27th, 1953 or those with "Canada Service Only" during war time. We have attempted to rectify this problem through the resolution process, started with our convention in May. This resolution preceded a series of letters to the Minister of Health, the premier of Ontario and Veteran Affairs Canada, all of whom to some degree acknowledged receiving our concerns.

VAC acknowledgment resulted in a meeting at command office with two ADMs and a Director General. The meeting was cordial and informative, they listened attentively to our presentation, but my feeling is little will happen. When the term PAB was used during my presentation the ADM admitted that it was not a familiar term with him and that contract beds was his terminology. This was easily understood as the ADM had only been in the job five years, so the original term PAB would be unfamiliar. To date this subject meeting has not produced results as even the follow up by me to the the ADM s assistant has not received acknowledgment.

We are now concentrating on the Provincial Ministers who hold varying degrees of responsibilities for the health of our veterans and all seniors with letters being sent October 18th to the following Ministers, detailing our concerns, requesting action and a meeting. These letters were copied to the VSSHV committee.

Hon. Christine Elliot MPP Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
Hon. Dr Merrilee Fullerton MPP Minister for Long Term Care and
Hon. Raymond Cho MPP. Minister for Seniors

Acknowledgment received from all with a meeting being accepted from the Minister of Long Term Care. Date yet to be confirmed

I will also bring to your attention that a letter to the editor of "Sit Rep" the Journal of the Royal Canadian Military Institute, was submitted on your behalf stating our belief that a veteran is a veteran regardless of where or when they served. It is hoped this article which should receive wide reading, will bring attention to our request. "One Veteran"

Finally, I would like to wish all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous new year.

Erl Kish

District A Commander Mark Rogers

Comrades:

On behalf of the 57 branches of District A and my deputy Caroline Mayo and Ladies' Auxiliaries, I bring greetings and warm wishes to everyone. It has been a fruitful and busy 7 months since our convention in Niagara Falls. A lot of hard work has happened and continues on a daily basis in District A. Building relationships with the other district commanders has proven to be an excellent tool and learning experience.

This term, we are putting a greater effort on branch and officer training. The District Leadership chairman has been tasked with several topics to create training and has involved her zone counterparts as well as the zone and deputy zone commanders.

Br 255 Riverside in Zone A-1 recently started an "Operation Vet Build" program and we hope they have set the standard for our district and are able to engage and encourage veterans who would like to participate.

My motto for this term is "Working together". I have encouraged all the branches and zones to work together amongst themselves and to co-ordinate with our wonderful partner, the Ladies' Auxiliary. We can all succeed if we work together and continue to support our veterans and their dependents.

All the best in 2020 from District A

Yours in comradeship,

Mark Rogers

About Mark

He was the 1st grandchild approved for associate membership in Br 185 Blenheim in 1992. Is currently a life member of Br 243 Ridgetown. Was elected Zone A-3 chairman in 2003, deputy zone commander in 2005 and zone commander in 2007. He was appointed District A treasurer in 2009 and was reappointed 3 more terms until being elected deputy district commander in 2017.

Was appointed District A track and field chairman in 2017 and continues to serve that rewarding chair.



District B Commander Diane Condon.

I was born in England and emigrated to Canada when I was 6 years old. I have always considered myself a Canadian and took out my citizenship in 1963.

For most of my life, I lived in the Hamilton, Stoney Creek area, where I met and married my husband. We had two boys, both of whom have given me 4 grandchildren. All of them are doing well in life. Both my sons played hockey for the Legion Ladies in Stoney Creek and I was the House League convenor. Well, they knew that I had 8 years service in the Navy prior to my marriage, and nothing would do but I had to join the local Legion. I can honestly say I have never regretted doing that.

My Legion life now spans 34 years, and during that time I can honestly say that I have done just about everything one can do for the Legion. After moving to Niagara Falls, I transferred to Branch 51 and then to Branch 4789, where I have been a member ever since. I have served on the executive for over 10 years, and for 10 years I was the Branch President. From there onto Zone as Deputy for two years, Commander for two years, District B Deputy for two years and now District Commander. What more could one ask for?



I was honoured to receive my Life Membership and SM from Branch 479, and recently was doubly honoured to be presented with the Sovereigns Medal.

With what little time I have left over, I like to read, socialize with friends, and relax in general.

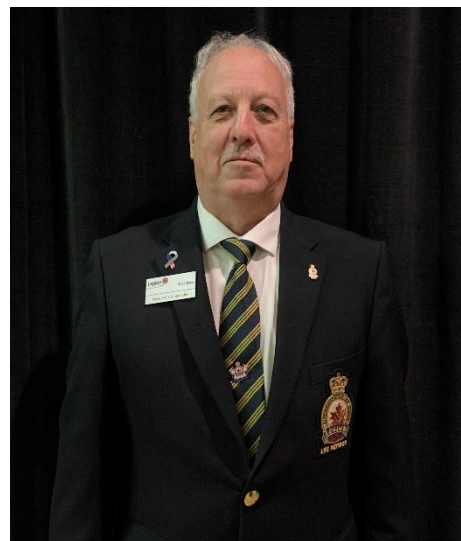
In comradeship and service
Diane Condon

District C Commander Eric Ross

From the tip of the Bruce Peninsula at Tobermory, down to Exeter the home of the white squirrel. Through the KW/ Cambridge area over to Guelph the birthplace of John McCrae, and up to the military base in Meaford.

The 50 Branches and their membership, the District and Zone officers, would like to wish the rest of our Ontario Comrades and their families a very Merry Christmas, and healthy and prosperous New Year as we welcome in 2020.

Yours in Comradeship
Eric Ross



District D Commander Gerry Morgan

Greetings comrades, on behalf of the District D Council and our 20 Branches, we would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday Season, along with a Prosperous New Year. We have been involved with so much within our District D Branches, in Toronto there is about 15 Remembrance services, that our Legion Branches participate in, and they are all within a 7 day time span. All of our Branches are roughly 45 minutes or so apart, if traffic is co-operating, and many have regular events and entertainment available to all.

The District D "Bill Tanner" fund is a project where we ensure that every Veteran in Sunnybrook, Tony Stacey, and Finchurst Homes, receives a gift from Santa. It is an absolute honour and a joy, to participate and see all the happy faces, engaging in the Christmas spirit. District D has taken a fresh approach, by embracing some new members to the District Council, with the hopes of inspiring our members to assume responsibilities at all levels of our great organization. As we all belong to a volunteer organization, we need to promote that assistance is always required and that a little or a lot of help goes a long way. We, like others have our problems and challenges, and discovering the solutions is all that we of those, who have stood for the roles of responsibility, can attempt to achieve. I would like to express how great that this experience as District Commander has been thus far, working with everyone has created so many new friendships, thank you all for your Comradeship.

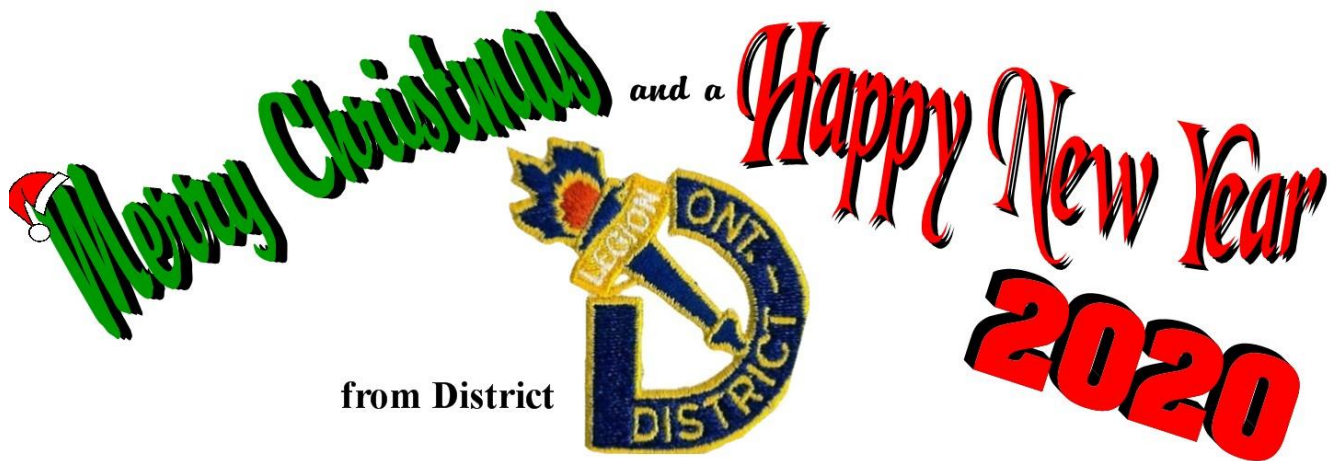


As a professional volunteer, starting at 9 years old delivering our neighborhood news bi-weekly, to becoming a Boy Scout Leader, and a Hockey referee at a non profit hockey organization, and then through Genealogy I discovered the Royal Canadian Legion, I was born and raised in Toronto, and have been with Kelly, my wife for 28 years. We have 4 children, Gerica, Jamie, Jenna, and Justin. What I discovered through genealogy was that my Grandfather a BESL member, and Canadian WWII Vet, loved the Legion for the comradeship that came with it, and the opportunity to be with those who had lived similar lives as he. Immigrating from Northern Ireland, and

serving the countries which he loved, it introduced and promoted me to start my Legion membership at Br 1/42 Baron Byng Beaches. It began by assisting the branch with the expertise that my employment with the Toronto District School Board has provided me for the past 25 years, as an industrial Millwright Mechanic.

After volunteering my skills and serving on a Board of Management, as it once was called, as a Branch member, and then as an elected Executive and serving as the Ways and Means Chair, the following year I was elected President, a position I held for 8 years, along with Sports, and Leadership at the branch Level. I am currently the longest consecutive sitting executive member of our Branch. I have served as the Zone D3 Walkathon Chair, and 2 years ago was elected to Zone D3 Commander. During that time, I had also assumed the Zone Poppy, and Zone Sports positions, due to resignations. Last term, I was elected as District Chairman and appointed as District Policies and Procedures Chair. Sadly with the passing of Comrade Walter, one of our Deputy District Commanders, I was then appointed to Deputy District Commander, and now proud and humbled to have been elected and to be currently serving as the District D Commander. Thank you to Deputies Wayne and John, Treasurer Denis, and Secretary Lily for their hard work and dedication, and without those on our District Council we could not accomplish all that we have, and all that we will. Thank you to all. Best wishes to all of the Ontario Command Branches and their members, please check out regularly what we are up to at our District D website, www.rcldistrictd.com.

Yours in comradeship,
Gerry Morgan,



District Commander: *Gerry Morgan*
Deputy Commanders: *Wayne Powell & John Dufort*
Immediate Past Commander: *Shelley Sing*
Secretary: *Lily Phillips* **Treasurer:** *Denis Cayer*
the District Council and our Branches;



<u>Zone D1</u>	
Zone Commander:	<i>Kelly Jackson</i>
Deputy Commander:	<i>Ron Gregory</i>
Secretary:	<i>Sue Gregory</i>
Treasurer:	<i>Denis Cayer</i>
Branch	President
31 Mount Dennis	Doug MacNeil
101 Long Branch	Jeff Ankersman
266/46 Maple Leaf / Swansea	Mike Choma
286 Coronation	Ron Gregory
645 Flight Lieutenant David Hornell VC	Doreen Sampson

<u>Zone D3</u>	
Zone Commander:	<i>Craig Oliver</i>
Deputy Commander:	<i>Lily Phillips</i>
Secretary:	<i>Helen Pearce</i>
Treasurer:	<i>Alison Smith</i>
Branch	President
1/42 Baron Byng Beaches	Shelley Lyons
10 Tedmorden	P.J. O'Neil
11 East Toronto	Jeff Pully
22 Woodbine Heights	Brenda Heath
66 North York Township	Steve Davis
75 Fairbank	John Holoway
344 Queen's Own Rifles	Mary Kenna
527 Wilton	Randy Plevin
621 General W. Anders	Robert Zaverucha

<u>Zone D5</u>	
Zone Commander:	<i>Joyce Geddes</i>
Deputy Commander:	<i>Richard Viles</i>
Secretary:	<i>Linda Simone</i>
Treasurer:	<i>Patti Kennedy</i>
Branch	President
13 Southton	Dan Burri
73 Oakridge	Nelda Turner
165 Fort York	George Chaboval
258 Highland Creek	Richard Viles
345 Brigadier O. M. Martin	Linda Simone
614 Scarborough Centennial	Virginia East
617 Danburton	Stephen Graham

District E Commander Crystal Cook

Comrades,

On behalf of my Deputy Rick Preston, 4 Zone Commanders and their deputies and the 39 branches that make up District E I bring you greetings and Best Wishes. It is a great honour to represent my District and I am looking forward to the months ahead. Hopefully everyone enjoyed a successful Early Bird and the Poppy campaign and is now enjoying some rest before the busy time begins again.

Like many of the Districts in Ontario, we have days that are some times are filled with challenges but with the hard work and dedication of the members of this great organization we are able to accomplish many great things.

District E is proud to be able to host Operation Vet Build at Br. 516 New Lowell and have appointed a Special Projects Chair who will be working with the branches to come up with activities to help engage out Veteran Community. This appointment has received an endorsement from the Legion OSI Special Section and they will be looking to see how successful this endeavour will be.

We were also honoured for the first time in many years to be able to participate at Base Borden's Welcome to Borden Day. The event was well attended and we were able to help promote many of the great programs that the Legion has to offer. It is our hope that we will be able to make this an annual event.

In closing, I would like to thank the branches in District E for their tireless work to keep their branches going. Their hard work and dedication often go unnoticed but they are a true example of who Legionnaires really are.



Deputy Rick Preston, myself, Special projects Chair Sheila Clayton, Zone E3 Commander Judi Giovanetti, Special Projects Co-Chair Maggie Van Tassell and Zone E3 Deputy Commander Paul Glass

About Me

I am a Life Member of Br. 426 Newmarket, and although I joined when I turned 19, I am by all accounts a “Legion Brat” My Granddad was a 51 year Member and my mom worked at the Legion for over 20 years so by all account I have grown up within the walls of my branch.

I joined the executive 2 months after I was initiated and have served every year but one on the executive, having held almost every chair including 2 terms as President. I continued through the ranks of Deputy Zone and Zone Commander again having held many chairs I was honoured to be elected District E Commander in April 2019.

I was elected the National Chair of the Royal Canadian Legion OSI Special Section in August 2019. The OSI special Section was officially formed at the Dominion Convention in St. John's Newfoundland in 2016. The section was formed in response to the growing need to support and advocate for Veteran's suffering from Operational Stress Injuries.

I have been able to continue this journey thanks to the support of my husband James and 2 children Emma and Jacob.

District F Commander Lynn Dearing

Comrades:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to represent The Royal Canadian Legion as the District F Commander, it is an honour to do so.

It has been a very busy time in District F starting out with having to appoint due to retirement eight District Chairman. In July we held our very successful 8th annual District BBQ open to all members including our Ladies Auxiliary, since then it has been non stop. I have had the pleasure of attending PAC, the Warriors Day Parade, PEC as well as attending Branch dinners to honour our Veterans, presenting Anniversary certificates, Life Memberships and being in attendance to present cheques to Cobourg and Campbellford Hospitals for medical equipment from the Hospital Trust Foundation. I had the pleasure of attending District A Zone Commander Mark Roger's convention and am looking forward to hosting our spring convention in April.



District F has held seminars in August to update members on changes within the Legion, member responsibilities as well as educating members on the new updated harassment policy. In September we held our Veteran Service Officer/Poppy seminars and attendance appears to be improving at all seminars as more individuals realize that the Legion is changing rapidly and in order to be successful, we must change as well. As inspection reports are coming in and with the new electronic banking being implemented, we

have held separate financial seminars in each Zone to address the electronic banking as well as areas within the financial reporting that needed to be addressed.

District F is very proud of our Ladies' Auxiliary and their contributions and support to their Branches and the Legion.

I would like to express a sincere thank you to the Ontario Command Staff, District F Council, Branches Executives and the members of District F, and the Ladies' Auxiliary. Your contributions, dedication, support, and hard work to benefit our Veterans, seniors, youth and community speak highly of the Royal Canadian Legion and our mandates and I look forward to continuing to work with you for the remainder of my term.

On behalf of my Deputy Dave, myself, District F Council and all its members I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a successful term in office, and all the best in the New Year.

Respectfully

Lynn Deering

Biography

I am the daughter of a WWII Veteran and have been a Legion member for 32 years serving Branch 237 Marmora as an Associate member volunteering when help was needed.

Joined the Executive in 2006 and served as Secretary, Membership, Youth Education, Veterans Service Officer, Ladies Auxiliary Liaison and held several Vice president's positions. On Zone I was Secretary, Treasurer, Youth Education, Ways & Means, Leadership Development as well Deputy Zone Commander and then Zone Commander. On District I was Leadership Development, Ways and Means, appointed to the Tri District Hospital Trust for the past three years, Deputy District Commander and now District Commander. I was fortunate enough to be chosen as Head Chaperone at both the District for three years and Provincial for two and then as a chaperone for one year.

Community: I have coached both boys and girl's hockey, girl's baseball, was a Girl Guide, Pathfinder Leader and then District Commander. I have volunteered with the Marmora Fair Board the past few years.

Attended the University of Guelph taking Biological Science of Human Kinetics and then worked with young offenders for many years, took time off to travel and then took a job at Brown Shoe Company where I worked my way up to be a foreman and then worked with developmentally handicapped children under the age of 6.

I was born and raised in Marmora, leaving to travel and lived briefly in Nova Scotia and several other cities as my job demanded and continue too reside in Marmora to date. My family consists of 7 bothers and sisters, 17 nieces and nephews and 32 great nieces and nephews all whom are very important in my life.

District G Commander Joel VanSnick

January 2019 started the same way as we left 2018, **BUSY**. Winter 2019 saw District G preparing for an Election year and the change of the Guard, tidying up loose ends recruiting new members and building new teams.

At the spring convention, we saw Comrade Dave Cormier accept his new role as Immediate Past Commander and Comrade Joel accepting his new role as District Commander. Upon completion of the dreaded Council shuffle. District G adopted its new moto, "Lead, Follow or get out of the way", District G chose to lead by example, concentrating on communications, being transparent and holding everyone in the District leadership teams accountable to Command, a tall order but doable. No one could imagine that holding members accountable came at a price.

Comrade's Ken and George, both Deputy District Commanders, are inundated with emails and continually find themselves at the pointy end of to many issues. The District G Council Team is extremely busy as we get ready to jump into 2020. District G has sent Santa their wish list for 2020 and topping that list is increased energy for our Branches, a fresh order of transparency that will not shatter the budget, and at the fore front more generated funds in support of our Veterans and less Carbon Tax.

Comrades, District G would like to wish all members of Ontario Command a very Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year. Comrades, from our homes to yours, we wish you all Prosperity, Health and Happiness for 2020.

In comradeship
Joel VanSnick



District H Commander Tom Hywarren

Comrades:

It has been an enjoyable, enriching but very busy year here in the north. There were many highlights to the year but three in particular stand out.

In June, our district held another outstanding Legion School at Br. 336 Falconbridge. This is the third year Br. 336 Falconbridge has hosted the affair and we thank them for their excellent hospitality.



On October 19th, we had our Fall Council meeting in Elliot Lake. Our out of town guests included Provincial Chairman Comrade Ron Goebel and his lovely wife Barb, District E Commander Comrade Crystal Cook, and L.A Provincial 1st Vice Comrade Kathy Moggy and her husband Comrade Doug. We had a long and hard day with many very informative reports from all District Chairs, as well as reports from our distinguished guests.



Also in October, we received the exciting news that President Comrade Garry Pond announced that the 2021 Provincial Convention has been awarded to the City of North Bay. The bid process included the City of Cornwall and London. Comrade Sherry Culling, our District Service Officer, prepared the presentation to Ontario Command and did an excellent job to secure the convention for District H and the City of North Bay. The convention is slated for May 15-May 18, 2021 with Sherry as our Local Arrangement Chair (LAC).



As 2019 is quickly comes to an end, I wish to thank Deputy Commanders Ken Faubert and Flora Wilson Chartrand for their superb assistance with the multitude of tasks involved in this job. I also thank all the officers and volunteers at district, zone and branch level who work tireless on behalf of veterans and their communities.

In closing, if any of our Comrades feel like volunteering, I have an extra shovel outside my front door...right now it is a blizzard outside, not that you snowbirds care.



Ginny & I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy of New Year. To those who are planning on driving this holiday season, PLEASE be careful on the highways.

Yours in Comradeship

Tom Hywarren

Roy Wilde, District K Commander

Comrades All

I am honoured and proud to have been elected as District Commander of District "K" and of the organization that I represent. This is a large district to cover, so with the aid of 2 Zone Commanders and 4 Deputy District Commanders the task is made easier. The district is comprised of 20 branches, some small, others larger, but they all persevere and continue to forge ahead with success, and they are proud of their Legions.

Since my elections, I have attended many meetings, had to put out some fires, at branch level but as we all know personalities can clash. This year the District held a successful track and field event and sent several participants to Provincial. I also attended the P.A.C. held in Aurora in August and took part in the Warriors day parade, then attended the Provincial Service Officer seminar held in Sault Ste. Marie in September.



The District has also held 4 seminars of its own and held our fall Council Meeting. In November I attended the P.E.C.

About Roy

I joined the Legion Branch 293 in 2000, in 2002 became an Executive member, served as Service Officer from 2005 until I became President in 2010, served as President until 2018 then became Treasurer of the Branch. In 2013, I became Deputy Zone Commander Zone 2 District K until 2015 when I was elected Zone Commander. In 2017, I was elected as Deputy District K Commander and in 2019 was proud to be elected District Commander K. I joined to be able to give back and was proud to do so because I believe we are doing good work and are making a difference.

Yours in comradeship
Roy Wilde



Annual opportunity for a Legionnaire to participate in the Nijmegen Marches

Do you want to represent The Royal Canadian Legion at the International Four Day Nijmegen Marches?

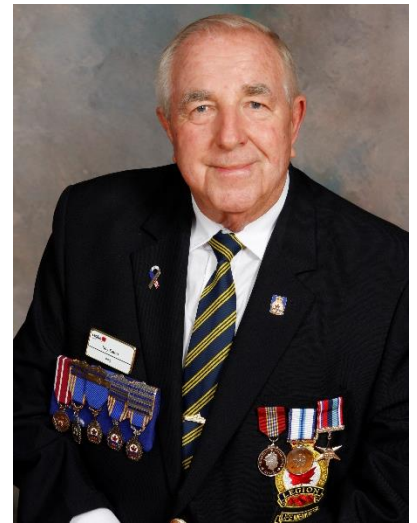
Every year, Dominion Command invites Legion Members across Canada to apply to participate in the world's largest walking and marching event held mid-July near Nijmegen, Holland. If you are interested in participating, learn more about the eligibility requirements at the Dominion website. **Applications are due January 11, 2020.**

Roy Eaton, Editor

Comrades,

I thank all the officers and chairmen who have submitted these excellent reports to help you, the members of the Royal Canadian Legion, Ontario Command, learn about the work done across our province by these dedicated individuals. Once again, it has been a privilege to work with such a dedicated group.

One of the highlights of these past six months was attending PEC in November. The yearly meeting of Ontario Command officers, District and Zone Commanders and special guests was once again extremely well attended with members traveling across this province to be there. Br. 385 is to be congratulated for their warm hospitality and excellent facilities



Juanita Kemp, Assis. Director, Pamela Sweeny, Ex. Director, Derek Moore, 1st Vice-President, Garry Pond, President



Ron Goebel, Chairman, Ron Crown, Vice Chairman, Sharon McKeown, Immediate Past President



Terry Jacobs, Treasurer, Vice Presidents: Brian Harris, Pam Davidson, Lynn McLennan



After a long day of meetings, everyone relaxed and enjoyed an excellent dinner hosted by Br. 385, Aurora. Ontario Command President, Garry Pond thanked and gave RCL Provincial Command pins to each of the hardworking volunteers from 140 Aurora Squadron Air Cadets. Great job cadets, truly appreciated by all.

In closing, my wife Margaret and I wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May 2020 be a year complete with memorable and enriching times.

Respectfully and sincerely

Roy

North Fort Myers, FL

