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## The Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Command Information Update

*Please hang me on your bulletin board for all members to read*

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### Ontario Legion Announces New Homeless Veterans Program

On Friday, September 24, 2010, there was an official announcement made by Comrade Ed Pigeau, Provincial President and the Hon. Jean-Pierre Blackburn, Minister of Veterans Affairs Canada with regards to Operation Leave the Streets Behind. The media conference was held at Good Shepherd Ministries in Toronto and was well received. Since the announcements there have been many contacts and interviews with the media.

Ontario Command and VAC have partnered together to implement this program and the following is a brief report as to what has taken place. I want you to keep in mind that VAC determined that there were only 5 homeless veterans in Toronto in 2008.

Ontario Command has sent 16 letters to various facilities in Toronto and we had a response from four. One facility interviewed 669 clients and found 69 had a military background. Three other facilities indicated that they had additional clients and the number of homeless or near Homeless Veterans reported is now over 100. Since the media conference three new clients have come forward.

From the above you will see the need for the program. Ontario Command developed a one page document to be completed by the client and this is used to verify the service and then the process begins to identify the needs and assistance required. Thus far we have assisted in obtaining transitional housing, provided a computer for further education for a client who has completed a rehabilitation program, paid first and last month's rent to keep the client in their present location and purchased a bus ticket.

We have also submitted a Memorandum of Understanding, and as of writing this document is waiting a reply from VAC. VAC on the other hand has signed an MOU with Good Shepherd Ministries and we now have a Social Worker on the street based at Good Shepherd and in just 2 weeks has had 7 new clients come forward.

We also have a special advisor for the program, Mr. Joe Sweeney who has been through the system and has been a tremendous asset to the Command.

Recently at their Provincial Convention, the Ladies' Auxiliary to Ontario Command passed a motion to support this program and donations to the fund being held by the LA was over \$ 25,000.00. Thank you, Ladies. They will be using this money to develop a companion project to help these veterans; more will follow as we learn their plans.

There is still much work to be completed, however in the very near future we expect to open this program across the command and forward a working document to the other provincial Commands. Our goal is to ensure that every Veteran who is homeless or near homeless finds the help they need to leave the streets behind.

We would like to thank all those Branches and Auxiliaries who have generously donated to the program from Poppy Funds. Please note that the Special Use form is not required. Please forward all donations to Ontario Command in the name of the “Homeless Fund”. All Branches which have made or will make donations before the Provincial Convention in May 2011 will be recognized at the convention. Branches may wish to make their donations now, at the convention or both.

In the very near future we hope to see this program spread across all of Ontario Command. At this time we are working on the best method of servicing the Homeless in Ontario. In the meantime, should you know of, or come in contact with a homeless or near homeless Veterans who needs our help, please contact the command office at 905-841-7999.



Comrade Ed Pigeau, Provincial President; The Honourable Jean Pierre Blackburn, Minister of Veterans Affairs; and Brother David Lynch, Executive Director of the Good Shepherd Ministries “eye” the cake in anticipation.

From left to right: Pat Varga, Dominion President, Captain Nelson Fillier, Director (Ontario Central-East Division), Salvation Army, Ed Pigeau, President Ontario Command, The Honourable Jean Pierre Blackburn, Minister of Veterans Affairs, Brother David Lynch and an unidentified gentleman at the launch of “Operation Leave the Streets behind.



## **PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

*Comrade Ed Pigeau*

The past summer was a record breaker. We had one of those long hot summers, we have often begged for especially in the winter. I hope you had the opportunity to enjoy a part of it. I know from traveling across the province that many of the Branches had a very busy summer with various events planned.

Over the summer Ontario Command has also been busy. Of course we in Ontario were well represented in Winnipeg last June for the Dominion Convention. Ontario was successful in electing two of its members to Dominion Office. Comrade Gord Moore was elected 1st Vice President and Comrade George O'Dair was elected Vice President. Also elected were Comrade Pat Varga as Dominion President; Comrades Tom Eagles and Dave Flannigan as Vice Presidents; Comrade Mike Cook as Honourary Treasurer and Tom Irvine as Chairman. Comrade Larry Murray was appointed as Grand President.

Others in Ontario who will join the elected at Dominion Level are Comrade Ron Goebel, appointed as Chairman of Dominion Ritual and Awards, Comrade Andre Paquette appointed to the Dominion Membership Committee and myself appointed to the Dominion VSS Committee.

I know you will join me in congratulating all who have been elected and appointed to represent you at Dominion Level.

There are two important issues I would like to bring to your attention through this bulletin, one is **Operation: Leave the Streets Behind**, our Homeless veterans program and the other is a new fund that has been created at Ontario Command.

The Homeless program you will see well covered on the front page of this issue, I believe we have covered most of the details in that article and only ask at this time that you support the program. If you know of a homeless or near homeless veteran, please contact Ontario Command as soon as possible.

The other issue I mention is a new fund that has been created at Ontario Level. It is not associated with the homeless program although we have also started a new fund for that program. The fund I am referring to here is the GENERAL RESERVE FUND. This fund will be of interest to those Branches who have decided to wrap up operations as a Branch and wish to see their hard work over the years put to good use.

Ontario Bylaw Section 929 currently describes the process used to surrender and what will happen to the Branch assets. In a collaborative effort with various command officers and staff, including the Dominion Constitution and Bylaws Chairman, we have developed a new strategy we believe will make better use of the Branches assets. It will also provide an opportunity for the Branch to retain the building in the community should there be an ongoing need.

In short Branches which chose to surrendered their charter, who can find no further use for their Branch in the community, have the ability to turn the Branch assets over to Ontario Command for sale by command. Again I must tell you that the Branch will have the opportunity to retain the building if the membership wishes.

Should the Branch choose to have Ontario Command sell the building we will do so and ensure that all debts owed by the Branch will be paid following the sale. Any remaining funds will then be placed into the General Reserve Fund.

Now what will the fund be used for? To offset the annual general expenses of the Ontario Command. By doing so we are hoping to reduce our need to depend on collecting dues from members as our only source of revenue. To further explain I offer the following:

*Annually we will use 70% of the income from the investments within the fund to pay the debts of Ontario Command. As the fund builds we are hoping that we will be able to generate enough income on the investments to be able to reduce the per capita which is currently collected from you by your Branch. At present your Branch remits to Dominion Command a total of \$ 29.00 in total. Of that \$7.00 is for the magazine, \$11.00 is retained by Dominion Command for their use and 11.00 is forwarded to Ontario Command. It is our hope that within 20 years with the support of Ontario's Branches, Ontario Command will no longer need to collect the Ontario portion of the per capita tax. The more immediate affect of this fund is to eliminate the need for future per capita tax increases by Ontario Command.*

I know at this point it might seem confusing; we will be making a full presentation to the Ontario Provincial Convention next May. Any questions you may have will be answered then, before you are asked by motion to support this program. At the time of writing the program has been supported by the Ontario Administrative Committee and the Ontario Executive Committee approved of the fund by electronic vote. The present balance in the fund is \$500,000.00.

There is so much more I could tell you that has gone on in the past 6 months but I am running out of space. I would like to close by thanking all of the Comrades who have chosen to stand for and accept office in your Branch. I would also like to thank those who have attended the Branch Officer Training Seminars that have been conducted across the Command.

Finally Comrade Judy and I would like to thank all that we have met in our travels since last Spring. Your support and comradeship means a great deal to us. We would also like to offer to you and your families from our family, a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

## **PAST PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

*Comrade George O'Dair*

I attended the Dominion Command Executive Council meeting in February as usual and again was in the position where I could speak on issues but I couldn't vote as I'm there as a Chairman of a Dominion Committee rather than as an elected representative. That's a bit awkward. But, at dinner Saturday night, the President of New Brunswick Command, having to leave early Sunday morning because of a death in the family, said that he regretted not being represented on the Sunday and it was too late to get a replacement. Now, I knew that Command Presidents can name a replacement and that nowhere in the Bylaw does it say that the replacement has to come from the same Command although that would be the normal thing to do, so I offered to represent NB Command on Sunday. While we were giggling about it, Jim Rycroft, the DC C & L Chairman, who was also at the table, said, "You know, there's nothing preventing that from happening." So, the NB President said, "Why not?" There was one issue that his Command wanted to vote against and I felt the same way and on all other things, I would vote in the best interests of the Legion – as always. So, the Dominion Secretary was advised and on the Sunday, I took the NB seat at the table as a voting member of DEC. That certainly raised some eyebrows and I received sufficient cat-calls to know that I had the attention of the Council and it went well. It was a first, especially for an Ontario officer to represent another Province. I enjoyed the taking advantage of the anomaly and being across from the Chairman, with my own microphone, to be able to again fully participate in the DEC.

Having carefully considered the situation, I have advised our Admin Committee that I will run for VP of Dominion Command in Winnipeg. I know the people and the operation, having spent the past 10 years

associated with DEC in some form. I don't always agree with the operation but I have the skills to work with it or to effect change.

As District Commander, I served on the National Ceremonies Committee as well as the Committee that established the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. As an Ontario Officer, I've spent 8 years on DEC while, concurrently chairing the Dominion Ritual and Awards Committee and for the past 2 years, I've been on the Budget Committee as well as representing the President at various CF Sports Championships. So, I think I can hit the ground – running, as Vice President, if that's your wish.

The Property Committee remains very active with many Branch situations. Some are easy and well-planned. Others are a dogs breakfast – with little Branch planning. Comrades, if you don't do your homework or if the Branch really doesn't know what's happening or if the deal just doesn't make financial sense, we can't approve it. We have had to consult with a known, competent and expensive attorney in one case, to sort out a legal problem. Costs are the responsibility of the Branch.

One thing that keeps popping up is that the Branch property is controlled by Trustees. That's contrary to Ontario Command Bylaws. We find that when some Branches want to sell and downsize, they find that the Trustees are dead and there's no way for the Branch to sell without going through a legal procedure. My advice is that, if you have a Trustee arrangement, take the steps to get rid of it – now. Your Branch assets must be under the care and control of the membership – through the elected Executive.

## **We Will Remember Them**

# **VICE PRESIDENTS REPORTS**

## ***Comrade Andre Paquette, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President***

It seems we just did a Newsletter and here we are preparing for the Fall one. It has been a very busy time since spring. As the Zones and Districts are preparing for their Fall Conventions/Council Meetings, the invited guests are once again tasked with writing speeches as well as preparing for the Remembrance Day celebrations that will take place across the Province.

Once again I offer my congratulations to both Gord and George in attaining their goals at Dominion level. Good luck to you both.

It has been an experience to travel across the Province and provide the training that has taken place thus far. I am pleased that the Districts who received the Leadership Training package were happy and receptive. I am looking forward to finishing this part of the training and moving onto the next phase. In my mind, Phase 2 of the training will be even more interesting than the first part as there is much more interaction. You will get to do what a Branch needs to do in order to help resolve issues within your respective Branches. We are also seeing more and more members of the Ladies' Auxiliary taking part in our seminars. That is good and I am glad to see them there.

The **Homeless Veterans Program** is coming together quite well. Our Committee has met with several members of VAC in order to set down our guidelines as well as our respective responsibilities. A Terms of Reference has been drawn up and much of the paperwork that will be required for the missions is now in place. There will be a News Media Release on September 24<sup>th</sup> in order to officially start the program named "*Operation, Leave the Streets Behind*". The media release will take place from the *Good*

*Shepherd Mission* in downtown Toronto at 1430 hours. The program will start off in the GTA however we are anticipating that the program will reach across the Province in a short while thereafter.

Most Branches had elections last April or May and, in many cases, there may be many new faces on board. This is simply a gentle reminder that Zone Commanders will be starting, if they have not already, the Branch visitations. Please have all the required documentation ready for them. This will facilitate the task at hand.

Once again Comrades, on behalf of Jane and I, we sincerely thank you for the comradeship you have provided to both of us. I wish all of the Branches much success with all your endeavours. Best of luck to all! Have a wonderful festive season.

### ***Comrade Brian Smith, Vice President***

Comrades here we are again starting our fall and winter session. I trust your Branch participated in Legion Week (September 19<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>) as this is a great opportunity to showcase your Branch to the general public and hopefully generate some business through hall rentals, etc. Please keep in mind this would be a great time to pitch the fact that Legion membership is open to all Canadian citizens and Commonwealth subjects whether they have ties with a past or present member of the military. Bring out the promotional material and emphasize if they are interested in giving back to your community that the Legion is a great place to volunteer as we not only champion our veterans (Poppy Campaign) but also our youth, seniors, local hospitals and fire departments (Charitable Foundation).

Ontario Membership numbers as of August 2010 stands at 126,811 paid - this is down 6,776. Please remember that we have lost 2882 members and we offer our deepest condolences to the families and friends of these departed comrades.

Your Branch must keep active in your community and be seen not only during the Poppy Campaign and the week of Remembrance but also as you volunteer in your community. Let us all work together to halt the flow of members exiting our organization and encourage current members to participate in our Legion's many activities. We must also bring in new members to take the place of our departed comrades.

I am looking forward to attending the District "E" Convention in Orillia and the District "A" Convention in Windsor. I truly hope to meet socially with as many of my comrades as I can. I am very aware that conventions are where the Legion does its business and I hope to hear a lot of good ideas and resolutions coming forward from the Branches.

On Remembrance Day I will be attending the services in Kapuskasing which will be my first trip to District "K" as a Legion Officer.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to all the Branches that Marg and I have visited this past summer – your comradeship is very much appreciated.

In closing, please have good deliberations at your conventions, keep the good ideas flowing and as everyone should know, we are a "Grass Roots" organization and changes are made at conventions were the delegates debate and vote on resolutions with the majority making the decisions.

## ***Comrade Brian Weaver, Vice President***

What a busy spring and summer we had! The Dominion Convention in Winnipeg in June was a great success for Ontario. We had many delegates cast their ballots and elected Comrade Gord Moore to 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Comrade George O'Dair to Vice President of Dominion Command. Comrade Ron Goebel, our Provincial Vice Chairman, was appointed to Chair the Dominion Ritual and Awards Committee. I offer my heartiest congratulations to them all. We now have strong, well-schooled leadership at Dominion level that will safeguard our Aims and Objects and serve our veterans and their dependents, promote Remembrance and act in the Service of Canada and our communities.

With the 2010 Poppy Campaign getting ready to begin, I wish all of our Branches the very best with their respective campaigns.

The *Poppy Manual* will be reprinted and delivered to all Branches in the very near future. Amendments to the manual were highlighted in all-Branch mailings.

As well, there is another new *Poppy Trust Report* form that will be used in the upcoming Poppy Campaign. They are exactly like the "single sheet" forms used in last years' campaign. All Branch Poppy Chairmen will have to use the *Branch Status Report/Poppy Trust Fund* form dated June 2009 (#200837).

Dominion Command has issued these "new" forms with the old format using multi-coloured sheets (green, yellow, pink) Please use these new forms now and press hard enough to make suitable copies. It is no longer printed on the bottom of the report as to where these forms are to go. So, remember, white is the Command copy, green is your District copy, yellow is your Zone copy and the pink is your Branch copy.

Please adhere to the deadlines for submitting your reports. The Branch Status Report of the Poppy Trust Fund is due at Command Office by October 31<sup>st</sup> of the current Poppy year. We still had to chase down reports from Branches well after the 15<sup>th</sup> of February this year! Expenses are to be identified on a separate sheet and attached when the form is submitted. Please discard all old forms and use the new ones (June 2009 #200838) for the upcoming campaign. If you have any forms from last year (the single sheet forms), do not throw them out! We have been advised that we may use both; however, you must make the required number of copies to forward on.

This new form is available on-line at [www.legion.ca/PDF/Poppy/BranchStatusReport\\_Active.pdf](http://www.legion.ca/PDF/Poppy/BranchStatusReport_Active.pdf) - you can complete the form on-line then print it for submission in hard copy. IT CANNOT BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY.

I am pleased to report that last year donations collected at approximately 265 Home Hardware stores across Ontario totaled \$32,843.20 and at the 344 Brewers Retail outlets some \$101,578.43. The final tally for all Branches in Ontario Command read as follows:

- Opening Total Balance                   \$12,013,091.21 (\$4,317,827.46 + \$7,695,263.75)
- Campaign Expense                       \$ 2,487,114.52
- Disbursements                           \$ 4,750,415.65
- Total Expenses and Disbursements   \$ 7,237,530.17
- Closing Balance                         \$ 4,775,561.04

From all Branches across the Province grants to Ex. Service Personnel and Dependents totaled \$990,957.97; to Bursaries \$665,830.32; and other total donations \$3,093,609.00. Good job by all and I THANK YOU. I do expect another great year across the board with Poppy returns.

Again we have experienced a number of disturbing issues well into this term. There seems to be a lack of knowledge of the “*Do’s and Don’ts*” on the use of Poppy Funds. Branches have taken money out of their Poppy Accounts for a variety of “wrong” things. If you need clarification on how, when or where to use your Poppy Funds, seek out the correct information **Before** you end up repaying it back! Branches who have applied only once for “Special Use of Poppy Funds” and then forgot to reapply the next year have been ordered to repay the Poppy Fund from their General Accounts. Again, we have witnessed the growing problem of theft of Poppy Funds – there is a ZERO tolerance policy that is strictly adhered to and those caught will be and are dealt with severely. Zone Commanders making annual Branch inspections are urged to do a complete read over of the Poppy Account. Any great unsubstantiated discrepancies should sound alarms.

Since my last report Debbie and I have attended the District Conventions in Kincardine (District “C”), Sturgeon Falls (District “H”), and Simcoe (District “B”). Thanks to all those Branches who make us feel right at home. Your great hospitality was second to none. Also, we have traveled to Orangeville, Glencoe, and Amherstburg for their 75<sup>th</sup> and 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. Many thanks again to every Branch that had extended invitations to us; unfortunately it is very hard to be in two places at once. I was able to attend some Honours and Awards presentations in Aylmer, Byron-Springbank, and Blenheim. I look forward to seeing everyone at the PEC Meeting in Aurora this coming November, where we can rekindle old acquaintances and make new ones.

At the upcoming Provincial Convention in Sault Ste. Marie in May of 2011, I will be letting my name stand for the position of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Ontario Command if so nominated. I respectfully ask for your support.

### ***Comrade Bruce Julian, Vice President***

Comrades, where did the summer go? It only seems like yesterday that we were breaking out the “short pants” and “patio sets” and now we are getting ready for winter. Oh well, I hope everyone had a great time, got their “batteries recharged” and are looking forward to getting back in harness, all pulling together for the betterment of their own Branch and the Legion in general. (I did say **hope**).

The best part about being your Vice President is having the opportunity to travel across this Command meeting you, the dedicated members and volunteers, who keep this organization functioning and moving forward.

Along with visiting various Districts at their conventions since the last newsletter, it was my great pleasure to preside over the Provincial Public Speaking Competition held at Branch 87 Kirkland Lake. Comrade Wilf, you and your Organizing Committee did a great job and the competitors from across the Command were simply amazing.

At the Provincial Track and Field Meet held in Timmins in July I, along with Comrades Pigeau, Paquette and L.A. President Joan Fenech, were kept busy (and warm) presenting the athletes with their well deserved medals. Congratulations to them all and to the hard working District volunteers that organize, sponsor and support them.

Although it is my great privilege to sit on both the Sports and Track and Field Committees (with both having outstanding knowledgeable members), I have the great honour of Chairing the Provincial Youth Education Committee and the following are a sample of the issues that are before us.

First, let me thank all the Committee members for their expertise and dedication and also Aida Kostuck, our Committee Secretary, for her experience, hard work and deciphering skills.

Our submission to the Ministry of Education on enhancing the Legion's role within our school system was received and their report on curriculum changes should be ready this fall. The Legion has been invited to be part of the focus group providing feedback for any proposed changes, so keep your fingers crossed.

With District and Zone Youth Education Seminars now complete, all levels are gearing up for our annual Poster and Literary Contest. Ontario did very well nationally last contest, let's hope we do even better this year.

At the urging of many Branches and members, our Provincial Youth Education Committee, with the concurrence of PAC, has decided it is time to move into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Because of significantly falling participation, particularly in the senior grades, Ontario Command hopes to offer students, beginning with the senior level, the opportunity to compete in a class for "computer generated" artwork. This class will run in conjunction with our traditional Poster and Literary Contest **BUT** will go no further than the Provincial level. This new endeavour to reach out to our ever technically advancing student population still needs to be endorsed by the members of PEC in November and hopefully, with that endorsement, the Provincial Youth Education Committee will have the rules and guidelines in place for the following competition. There will undoubtedly be problems and growing pains but I am sure all these can be overcome.

Finally, I mentioned at the beginning of my report how the summer seemed to fly by. The same can be said for this whole term. It seems like only yesterday we met in Burlington and now Sault Ste. Marie is just over the horizon. With that knowledge, our every other year "crazy season" is now upon us and at the upcoming Provincial Convention I will be a candidate to be your 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President.

Good luck to all running at whatever level of Legion and good luck and best wishes to all who strive to promote the Aims and Objectives of veterans and this great organization.

## **VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** *Comrade Ron Goebel*

Well Comrades, here we are heading into yet another busy time within our Legion Branches - in particular, our annual Poppy Campaign and Remembrance banquets and ceremonies. I wish each of you all the success in the world with your campaigns and ceremonies. It's hard to believe that our beautiful warm summer is all over and that Fall is upon us.

Since our Spring 2010 *Update*, I was given the opportunity of being invited to my own Spring District "G" Convention at Branch #72 in Pembroke in April. My wife Barb and I were treated to some great District "G" hospitality and it was great to be amongst so many of our old friends. I want to thank District Commander Ron Goodwin for the kind invitation to attend the Convention as the Provincial guest.

At our Dominion Convention in Winnipeg I was very honoured to have been appointed to DEC as Chairman of the Dominion Ritual and Awards Committee by our newly elected President, Comrade Pat Varga. I know that I have some big shoes to fill in replacing Comrade George O'Dair in this position, but will endeavor to do my very best in doing so. It certainly was a real experience attending my first DEC meeting September 11<sup>th</sup> and giving my first DEC report.

Speaking about our Dominion Convention, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to Comrade Gord Moore who was elected as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President and Comrade George O'Dair elected as a Vice-President. So with Comrades Gord and George as elected officers of DEC, and President Ed also on DEC as a voting member, we are well represented at Dominion Command.

It was a good Convention with several resolutions being approved that will make some changes regarding the manner in which we operate. The weather certainly attributed to making it a successful Convention, particularly with our parade and memorial service.

Our Finance meeting and PAC meeting in August were both interesting meetings with a number of new initiatives being introduced. I will not elaborate on them in this update since others no doubt will in their reports. And if not, you will be informed at your upcoming District Conventions. I felt that our annual participation in the CNE Warriors Day parade during this same weekend was one of the better parades that I have been involved in. In particular, I was impressed with the number of red shirts that the hundreds of spectators were wearing as they lined the streets along the parade route in support of our Veterans.

In September my wife Barb and I had the distinct pleasure of representing The Royal Canadian Legion at the Canadian Forces Men and Women's Soccer National Championships games. We then attended their banquet to present the Legion awards to the two championship teams. The games and banquet were held on the very impressive grounds of College Militaire Royal Saint-Jean just south of Montreal. And I can tell you that these athletes from our forces appreciate the support given by the Royal Canadian Legion.

Immediately following the banquet in Montreal, we were off to Bay Ridges Branch #606 in Pickering where we were the Provincial guests for the District "F" Fall Council meeting and Drumhead parade and service. The parade and Drumhead Service were both very impressive under beautiful sunny skies. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking District Commander Jim Connell for the kind invitation to attend. I would also like to thank all of District "F" for the very kind hospitality that they afforded both my wife and myself over the terrific weekend.

I am looking forward to our PEC meeting in November and always look forward to our annual joint meeting between our Senior Elected Officers and the L.A. Senior Elected Officers in December. And of course we always look forward to the visit from Santa.

Although it is only September at the time of this writing, Christmas is not all that far away. So with that in mind, Barb and I wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a very happy and healthy New Year.

## **BURSARY CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

*Comrade Alex Lammler*

We are well into the final quarter of 2010 and the first semester of the 2010-2011 academic year. The Bursary applications for this term are expected to surface soon and some of those from the last term continue to surface with problematical situations. Comrade Aida Kostuck had to placate a World War 2 Veteran who strongly requested that his grandchild's Bursary application, which arrived well after the last Friday in March cut-off date, be reviewed and a Bursary be granted. Our date deadline must be firm and apathy/procrastination on the student's part cannot be allowed to affect needed policy.

The June meeting in Aurora brought to light that some LA Bursary Committee members felt that they were unwanted and their opinions in the Bursary selections not needed. A letter was sent to the LA Vice President reassuring her of their vital role and the need for LA input. All District Chairmen were advised to insure that their Bursary Committees include and use the LA in their selection process in a non-demeaning manner.

Apparently some Branches are signing the Application Form prior to Section C being fully completed with the member's name, membership category, relationship, etc. This places a greater burden on the Command staff and District Chairmen have been directed to have their Zone Chairmen advise their Branches to cease this action.

Correspondence and on-line courses do not meet our Bursary guidelines and our District Committees must be vigilant in detecting these prior to recommending that a Bursary be granted. Use of the internet to "google" the post-secondary institution is recommended to ensure actual physical attendance of the applicant.

I wish to thank Comrade Ed Pigeau for appointing me to this interesting Chair and for giving me the opportunity to serve our Legion in this capacity.

My wife Ina and I wish all the very best in the upcoming holiday season and indeed, the New Year. God bless and safe travels.

## **TRAINING & ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

*Comrade Brian Abrams*

The Branch Officers Training seminar has been given in all Districts save two. The phase 2 portion of this seminar series has been developed and once again District "A" stepped up and volunteered to host the trial seminar. Phase 2 deals with basic problem solving skills. In District "K" both Phases 1 and 2 were presented during the weekend. My thanks to District "K" for volunteering to host both seminars on the same weekend.

Comrades both of these seminars have been unqualified successes. This success was due primarily to the efforts of the presentation team. Comrades Ed Pigeau, Andre Paquette, Bill Misener, Debbie Crown and Doreen Chester gave of their time, effort, expertise and most of all their will to see Legion survive and become even more successful than we already are. Truly our organization is blessed with this kind of dedication.

At the writing of this report the Mentor pamphlet for both the New Member and the Mentor have been developed and will be a main item on the TOD agenda on Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>.

So, where do we go from here? It is my hope that at the PEC meeting in November the Mentor program will be approved and ready for distribution. District "H" has scheduled Phase 2 of the Branch Officers training program for February 2011. Another main topic on the TOD agenda will be Phases 3 and 4 of the Branch Officer Training series. These seminars will see the presentation teams consist of District and Zone Officers from the District which schedules these seminars. As the TOD Chairman I will of course be available to help set up, coach, present, and provide moral support or anything else that may be required to ensure a successful seminar at District level.

The obvious question here is what will the topics be for the other phases of this seminar series. Again the TOD committee will address this topic in September. What I would really like to see is input from all levels of Ontario Command in helping to decide what the future topics will be. Please feel free to contact myself, your District TOD Chairman, Your District Commander or Ontario Command with your thoughts.

Comrades this type of training is aimed at one objective. That is to give current and future leaders in Legion the tools to help the organization at all levels grow and prosper. Having said that, the TOD Committee believes that any Comrade who is or plans to be a leader in Legion, must be a part of this training opportunity.

My Comrades; travel safely and good Legion.

## **HONOURS AND AWARDS CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

*Comrade Mike Atkinson*

I hope everyone has enjoyed the summer! Honours and Awards applications have been steady over the summer but, unfortunately, many have been returned as they were not complete. The applications must be completed in full before they can be processed – the membership number, age and type of meeting are the most common items being left off the form. Also, the two people who sign the front of the application must also sign and date at the end of the Citation. This prevents anymore information from being added after the fact.

The Life Membership form is now available online under Dominion Command web-site "Legion Forms" at [www.legion.ca](http://www.legion.ca). These forms are dated July 2009 and your data can be typed on them and saved. The old forms (2001) WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE END OF DECEMBER 2010. As well, applications must not exceed six (6) months of the date of Branch approval.

A copy of the new Guidelines for the Completion of Honours & Awards will be sent to all Branches in the next Command mailing and the Command website will be updated as well.

The Honours and Awards Committee feels that if you follow the guidelines there should not be any problem getting your applications approved. If you do run into problems, please contact me or Command staff.



Mount Hamilton Branch 163 Ladies' Auxiliary celebrated their 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and a Life Membership was awarded to Carol Mack. Pictured left to right are Barbara Brown, Carol Mack, Jackie Ralston and 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Ontario Command Ladies' Auxiliary, Barbara MacIssac.



Hearst Ladies' Auxiliary celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with the presentation of two 60-year long service awards to Elsie Halme (2<sup>nd</sup> left) and Verna Stolz (3<sup>rd</sup> from left). Congratulating the ladies are Zone Commander Diane Denault (left) and far right, Branch 173 LA President Alice Callewaert.

Congratulations were in order from District "A" Commander Bill Misener (far right) and Zone "A-6" Commnder Art Scadden, when Dorothy Leyland (far left) received the LMSM from the Duchess of Kent Branch 263, London.



John Cummins (centre) from Branch 120 Georgetown was presented with the 65 Year Long Service pin by Bob McNeilly, Sick & Visiting Chairman (left) and John Harrison, 1<sup>st</sup> VP of Georgetown Branch.

Ilderton Branch 531 President Wayne Player (left) and Secretary Leah Steele (right) presented a Life Membership to Comrade Lloyd Veale (centre).



Elliott Lake Branch 561 Honours & Awards Chairman Colleen Manuel (left) and Zone H-4 Commander Dan Roche (right) presented William Martin with his 65-year pin.

## PROVINCIAL SPORTS CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

*Comrade Vic Newey*

The 2010 sports schedule was completed on September 11, 2010 with golf in Blenheim. We made gains in participation this year due to the open format in "Ten Pins" and the all-Branch mailing we did for "Lawn Bowling". Golf increased from 62 entries in 2009 to 73 this year, all signs of improved activity.

With the passing of "8-Ball" at Dominion Convention, I think this will create more interest in the Branches which has been growing since we introduced it to Provincial play. Some of the Zones and Districts are trying "Progressive Euchre" as this seems to have a quite a bit of support from members. We will follow this and see where it goes.

Because of the changes in a few of the District Sports Officers, we decided to create a "District Sports Officers Training Manual Guide". This should answer all, or most of, the questions or situations that could arise at any time as well as helping the Zone and Branch Sports Officers.

The biggest problem we had this year were the late or last minute entries from a District. This causes problems of having to reformat a tournament after it had already been set-up. The new manual should help to resolve this.

**Remember – You don't have to play a sport to be a good sport!**



Little Current Branch 177 has hosted a fun curling bonspiel for members every year for over 50 years. Here we see at far right Bonspiel Chairman Pee Wee Oliver announcing the winners of the Ruth Marshall trophy to (left to right) Cathy Fowler (lead), Mike Wall (skip) and Cathy Case (vice skip). Missing from the photo is Perry Nickels.

## VETERANS SERVICES & SENIORS REPORTS

*Comrade Bob Sivyer, Chairman*

We held our annual meeting on September 25<sup>th</sup> where we discussed Veterans issues as well as the work of the Seniors Sub-Committee.

“The Royal Canadian Legion cares for all Veterans of all ages, and their families”, says Patricia Varga Dominion President. Her remarks followed the announcement of \$1,000 per month for wounded veterans by Minister Blackburn.

Peter McKay, Minister of Defense and Jean-Pierre Blackburn, Minister of Veterans Affairs announced help for injured veterans and their loved ones, including a \$100-a-day caregiver grant and twenty (20) more front line case managers to address the needs of disabled soldiers on September 28<sup>th</sup>.

Minister McKay also hinted that the government will soon unveil changes to the heavily criticized lump sum payments and income support in the 2006 Veterans Charter, which replaced life-time guaranteed pensions for Veterans.

The Service Bureau continues to be busy and the Provincial Service Officers wish me to pass along how thankful they are for the work of Branch Service Officers.

Seminars have taken place or are being planned in most of the Districts.

### ***Comrade Greg Oakes, Vice Chair, Seniors***

Human Resources and Skills Development Canada announced the quarterly benefit rates for Old Age Security (OAS), effective October to December 2010.

As of October 1<sup>st</sup>, the basic OAS pension benefit, paid to people 65 years and older, will be \$521.62 per month. This is an increase of 0.6% compared with the July to September rates. Payments under the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) and the Allowances will also increase by 0.6%.

The OAS program consists of the basic pension, the GIS, and the Allowances. The GIS and the Allowances provide additional benefits to eligible low-income pensioners and their spouses or common-law partners, as well as to eligible survivors. OAS benefit rates are revised quarterly (in January, April, July and October) to reflect increases in the cost of living as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

For further information you can consult the Human Resources and Skills Development Canada web site at [www.hrsdc.gc.ca](http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca).



Central Muskoka Branch 161 in Bracebridge celebrated National Flag Day with a dinner for Veterans. Pictured are a group of Veterans who attended this function.

## CONSTITUTION AND LAWS CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

*Comrade Bruce McKittrick*

The submission of Branch Regulations from throughout the Command has been slow over the summer. However, I anticipate that this will change over the next couple of months with all Branches getting back into a regular meeting routine.

It appears from the submissions to this point that some Branches are confused on the use of the forms developed specifically for Branch Regulations. The use of the form titled *Create and/or Amend Branch Regulations* has been made optional for the first submission only as its use is that of a working document, similar to the portion of a resolution utilizing "Where as". Branches are therefore only required to submit to Command a completed Notice of Motion (Form 2) and the completed Branch Regulations to the General By-Laws for Branches (Form 3) under the cover of a Branch Regulations and Clubhouse Rules Submission Form which was recently approved by the Provincial Executive Committee.

Another problem that Branches appear to be having is the failure on their part to reference the applicable General By-Laws and the Guidelines for Branch Regulations. All these documents should be referenced during the drafting of the Branch Regulations to the General By-Laws for Branches (Form 3) to ensure that the information entered on Form 3 is consistent with the allowable provisions.

Some Branches are failing to submit a copy of their Clubhouse Rules, if they maintain same. Branches should be reviewing their Clubhouse Rules on a regular basis on a minimum rotation of every five (5) years to ensure that they are current and all entries are still applicable. Many of the submissions have failed to include the Branch name and date of Branch approval on the submitted document. The document should also have the names and signatures of the President and Secretary at the time of approval.

Finally, all Branches must have submitted the aforementioned Branch Regulation Forms by December 31, 2010. Command has indicated that there will be no extensions provided and no exceptions.

### **Chairman's Report**

*Comrade Bill Chafe*

I hope that when you read this issue of the Information Update, you have had an enjoyable summer and are now back supporting your Branch in whatever way you can. As many of you are now aware, the Dominion Convention held this past June in Winnipeg has resulted in the election of our new Dominion President, Comrade Pat Varga. Congratulations to Pat and to Comrade Gord Moore on being elected our Dominion First Vice President and to Comrade George O'Dair as he was elected Dominion Vice - President. Once again the Convention delegates were asked to make many crucial decisions that will have a direct impact on the future of our great organization. The good news is that we were not asked to approve a member per capita rate increase. I will not go into the Convention details, as I am sure that your District Commander, Zone Commander and Standing Committee Chairmen will adequately cover the Convention during your District Conventions and during other events. I would like to thank all Ontario Command delegates for their patience and understanding during our Command caucus meeting as it was a long and sometimes tiresome day. We went to the Convention to take care of Legion business and Comrades; your delegates did so in a very professional manner.

I would also like to offer my congratulations to Comrade Barb MacIsaac, who was just recently elected, President of the Ontario Command Ladies' Auxiliary. Congratulations to all of the newly elected officers of the Ladies' Auxiliary and we are all happy to know that you had a very successful and enjoyable Convention. I look forward to working with each of you.

Since our March 2010 edition of the Update, my Legion activities have continued to keep me busy. In August we held our Finance Meeting and Administration Committee Meeting where many issues were discussed, debated and decided upon and your District Commander will update you on the specifics of the meetings. Comrades, I could go on forever but space is limited so I will close with this.

As I write my update, Canada continues to count her dead. We have now lost 152 Canadian heroes, as our nation continues to fight the war against terrorism in Afghanistan. Remembrance Day is fast approaching and this year, it is very unfortunate that November 11 will take on a whole new meaning and sense of reality for the families and friends of the young Canadian men and women who have paid the supreme sacrifice while answering our country's call to serve in Afghanistan. This will be the first Remembrance Day that many more mothers will be wearing their Silver Cross and the families will be remembering one of their own family members who will never again be able to remember with them. When we are at our Cenotaphs or participating in our Services, let each of us be sure to remember and thank every Canadian Veteran for their past and present sacrifices and let us also show our gratitude and understanding to the family members who have lost their loved ones while in the service of our grateful nation, Canada.

Comrades, at our Provincial Convention being held in May of next year, I will be a candidate for the office of Chairman of Ontario Command. Again, I humbly and respectfully ask for your continued support to allow me to continue to serve our Veterans, our members and our Legion as the Chairman of Ontario Command.

Comrades, we must remember them!

## **TRACK & FIELD CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** *Comrade Bob Tucker*

The Ontario Command Track & Field Program continues to be the best program in Canada. However, we are seeing the rise of some problems that will affect the continued success of our program. Last May and June, each of the 9 districts held zone and district championship meets from which teams of 40 to 68 athletes were selected to attend the Ontario championships in Timmins. We then choose the 40 best athletes to go to the national championships in August at the Terry Fox Track in Ottawa.

### **Indoor Track & Field Meet — Jan. 30, 2010 Toronto**

The meet was held at York University with the assistance of the Toronto Olympic Club. New events in the Bantam age group were introduced. Congratulations to the organizers for doing an excellent job.

### **Outdoor Track & Field Meet - July 9 & 10, 2010 Timmins**

Comrade Vital Shank and his organizing committee are to be congratulated for their hard work in organizing this meet. The level of athletic performance was excellent. A 40-member team was selected from the group of 55 athletes who won their events. As always, the selection of athletes was a difficult task. This year the selection task was more difficult due to the number of changes to the national meet. We are going to have to re-examine our selection guidelines for next year. Comrade Vital announced his retirement after the meet. He is going to be a great loss after many years of devoted support for the program.

## **National Championships & Camp - August 5 – 12, 2010 Ottawa, Ontario**

Ontario results at the National Meet this year.

2010	Ontario Team	33 Gold,	9 Silver,	9 Bronze,	Total = 51 medals
2010	Ontario Non-Team	17 Gold,	15 Silver,	21 Bronze,	Total = 53 medals

This year I attended the meet as the Technical Manager (no Legion affiliation). The 33 gold medals is one of the best results ever for Ontario Team athletes, although the total number of medals was down. This year for the first time athletes from clubs were allowed to enter the meet through Athletics Canada into both age groups. This saw more than 350 athletes entered including most of the Ontario athletes who were not selected to the Ontario Team. Of the 288 medals available to be won, athletes from Ontario collected 104 – 37%.

The whole Legion Week continues to provide a positive experience for most of those who are able to participate. The meet was very well run with excellent officials.

The Ontario Chaperones, Marilyn Patterson, Judy MacDonald, Tony Sharpe and Attila Kovacs did an exceptional job. The Chaperones hard work and dedication to the athletes is greatly appreciated.

I would like also to thank the Ontario Coaches, Head Coach – Joel Ruel and Assistant Coach – Tom Carr, for an excellent job.

Most of the comments that I received from Athletes and parents were extremely positive. The athletes enjoyed the week. The uniforms, bags and hats supplied by the Ladies' Auxiliary are greatly appreciated by all of the athletes.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Indoor Track & Field Meet — Jan. 29, 2011 Toronto**

The meet will again be held at York University.

### **District Track & Field Meets (9) – June 16 to July 7 TBA**

### **Outdoor Track & Field Meet — July ???, 2011 Chatham**

### **National Championship & Camp — August 3 to 9 2011 Ottawa, Ontario**

The Ontario Staff has yet to be selected.

## **GENERAL COMMENTS**

### **National Meet**

The change to the structure of the National Meet - being opened up allowing club and school athletes to compete, has resulted in many Ontario athletes opting to go the way of direct entry, thus bypassing the Ontario Legion Program. This is a challenge to everyone to make an effort to work closely with schools and clubs and to be sympathetic to their concerns.

We have a strong program and many dedicated people to continue with the organization of the Legion program. The continued support of the National Legion, the Ontario Legion; executive council, the Branches and the membership for this important program is appreciated now and will be more so in the future.

Lastly, I would like to thank all members of the Ontario Track and Field Committee for their continued hard work and support. I would specifically like to personally thank one of the hardest working District Chairman I have had

the honour to know, as he steps down from his District positions after many years of dedicated service to the Legion program and to the athletes of Ontario. Vital Shank (District “K”)



The entire District “C” Track & Field Team prepare to board the “Lest We Forget” bus to travel to the Provincial Track & Field Meet in Timmins in July.

## **ONTARIO CORRESPONDENT’S REPORT**

*Comrade Mary Ann Goheen*

Ontario has seen significant improvement in the number of photo submissions appearing in the snapshot section the *Legion Magazine* since Sept. 2009—as well as names of Life members and other awards on the H&A pages.

At the Correspondents meeting held March 1, 2010, the magazine editor provided statistics for the ‘Snapshot section only’ for the calendar year 2009. The results are as follows:

In 2009, the total number of photos (from all provinces) that appeared in snapshot section was 459 as compared with 447 for 2008. Of this 459—100 were from Ontario—(50 appearing in the Sept. And November issues combined). BC/Yukon--89; Alberta/NW--19; Sask.—44; Man/N.Ont.—44; Que—16; NB—39; NS/Nunavet—69; PEI—16 and Nfld/Lab—19.

I’m pleased to report that with the support of the Branches, Zones and Districts, in the 6 issues of 2010 published, we have surpassed the ’09 published numbers and currently have seen over 200 photos in the snapshot section as well as a feature article on Ontario’s ‘Operation Smell the Coffee’—the presentation of 3,500 Tim Horton cash cards to serving members and civilians of CFB Trenton and we have a second article in the process of being completed. I congratulate the Branches and other levels for their participation and support of this venue for self-promotion.

Although there have been a few disgruntled Branches, disenchanted at the first rejection for lack of following guidelines, the overall experience has been that the Branch PRO’s are willing to learn the guidelines and how to take digital photos that meet the technical requirements of the magazine. They have commented that the tip sheets and other information I provide have been helpful; the improved communication between the submitting PRO and the Correspondent has netted Ontario higher visibility at the National level of Command. I cannot stress enough that Communication is a two way street---and it has been KEY to our success thus far.

Apart from attending the Provincial PR Committee Meeting in June, District “A” invited me to participate in their annual ‘Legion school’ August 29<sup>th</sup> and the 3 presentations I gave that day were well received by those members.

There have been some very visible changes in the snapshot format of the magazine—it is now printed in COLOUR—so although it states Black and White photos are accepted, the reality is that COLOUR will be printed. All H&A head shots will continue to be printed in B/W.

I would like to see more submissions from the Ladies’ Auxiliary—guidelines are the same for them; and from Districts “H”, and “K”, especially.

In April I was contacted by the Rogers Sportsnet and asked to arrange for six veterans from WWII, Korea, and peacekeeping missions to participate in a taping which would be used during the opening/closing games of the 2010 Memorial Cup Jr. hockey tournament broadcast nationwide commencing May 14<sup>th</sup>. The taping was done at the RCAF Museum in Trenton and on the tarmac of CFB Trenton. Several of the vets were in Legion dress complete with war medals and Legion service medals — it will be good promotion for our organization.

It is important for those that are submitting news items or photos with caption information to understand the **IMPORTANCE of ACCURATE INFORMATION** such as names, dollar amounts of donations, positions of those in the photo, and correct names of Organizations/ Hospitals etc that are recipients of Branch generosity **the first time you submit it to me**---I usually forward the photo within 48 hours of receiving it and if you tell me you have made a mistake in that information a week or so after the fact, this results in my contacting the magazine (sometimes the submission has advanced beyond ‘changing it’)---and impacts negatively—in that it does not present us as ‘reliable/ credible or professional’--- Everyone must realize that **the magazine is NOT a Branch bulletin which can easily be changed** –it is a production at the same quality level as Canadian Geographic or Chatelaine magazines. Further the magazine does not publish poetry, or individual veteran stories.

Refer to the ‘purple booklet’ titled Legion Magazine: SNAPSHOTS—Guidelines for Submitting Photos and News Revised June 2008. Or information is also on the website at [www.legionmagazine.com](http://www.legionmagazine.com) follow the links to Submissions—Photos.



Carleton Place Branch President Iain Davidson presents the Cadet Medal of Excellence to Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Juliet Sawyerr at the Sea Cadets of Lanark Annual Inspection held June 6<sup>th</sup>.

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

### *Comrade Carolyn McCaul*

To start off with I want to bring you up to date on the promoting of our new project, "Operation: Leave the Streets Behind". We held a Press Conference in Toronto at the Good Shepherd Missions on September 24, 2010. We had a good turn out for the event and got a little coverage. You can download an article for yourself on the internet at <http://cnews.canoe.ca/CNEWS/Canada/2010/09/25/15478031.html?cid=ETF>

There will also be an article in the Legion Magazine in an upcoming issue. So comrades, please keep watch for news on this awesome project!

Our District PRO's have been briefed on this program and are helping with the promotion at their level. So comrades, when you receive information and updates on this, please pass this unto your members and most definitely the public. The more help we have in making this more aware to our members and the public the better and sooner we can help our Veterans living on the streets.

We are asking all Branches and Ladies' Auxiliaries to help with the fundraiser; this project is the fundraiser for our next Provincial Convention in May 2011 in Sault Ste. Marie. Comrades, we wish you much success with your events as we continue supporting our Veterans.

A task that our Committee took on this year is a branch survey. In the past, surveys have been conducted at Dominion level and information past unto Provincial Command. A downfall with this is that all Branches are not completing the surveys which results in inaccurate information. From these surveys we take the information and produce a Fact Sheet that we use to promote the Legion and what we are doing for our Veterans, seniors, youth and our communities.

We have downsized Dominion's survey and are only asking questions on information we can use for this fact sheet. Information such as Poppy funds, Troop Moral Fund and now Operation: Leave the Streets Behind will already be in files at command office from other reports, so we are not asking for these figures in the survey.

In the last survey, only 122 Branches completed this task, that isn't even 1/3 of our branches in Ontario Command. Comrades, please help us out by completing the survey so that we can produce a more accurate fact sheet. The survey has been sent to all branches and is also available electronically through your District PRO. The deadline to have all surveys into Ontario Command is February 28, 2011. Thank you comrades in advance for all your help!

I attended the Dominion Convention in Winnipeg and covered it with photos and video; a DVD has been produced and is available through Ontario Command office in the form of a \$20/DVD prepaid order.

As always, the Provincial Outdoor Track and Field Championships medal presentation photos have been forwarded to the District T&F and PR Chairmen for their use and also to the Ontario Correspondent for the Legion Magazine.

The date for Legion Week next year is September 18-24, 2011.

The Bulletin and Scrapbook contest has been concluded for this year. Thank you to those Branches and Ladies' Auxiliaries that sent their submissions in and also a thank you to everyone that helped in the judging system! Congratulations to all!

A couple of items that we need to draw attention to the editors of the scrapbooks and bulletins for the contest is that all entries must be sent to their District PRO and not myself. When elections in the spring have been completed and if there are new PRO at any level, please let your editors know who they have to send their entries to.

The second issue is that the contest covers entries for the period of June 1<sup>st</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup> of the falling year. Bulletin entries submitted are running into trouble with sending May/June issues. This covers 2 terms, so it would be to your benefit to only include the month of May on that particular issue.

The program "Operation Santa" continues and this year's gift is a Legion crested pen and Legion crested Day-Timer. And good news for all of our troops deployed during the summer months; we now have "Operation Canada Day" and are sending these troops a red ball cap with a Maple Leaf on the front and the word Legion on the back. Comrades, remember that these gifts are sent to all deployed Canadian Soldiers.

I continue with hopes that all members will keep communicating with each other and the media so that we can keep our strong relationship with our communities!

In closing, as always this time of year I remind everyone that with **Remembrance Day** just being around the corner; remember the importance of the need to contact your local media to get to the public Aware of "**The 2 Minute Wave of Silence**". We still practice this today and will continue to take these 2 minutes to remember the sacrifice that has been laid down for our and their freedom. This freedom we so enjoy and sometimes take for granted has been paid at a cost in the past and continues as our brave soldiers of today fight for this continued luxury that many countries do not have.

Comrades, "**Thank a Vet**" and "**We Will Remember Them!**"



The Powassan Branch was recognized with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Blood Donor Clinic and the local Masonic Lodge in appreciation for the donation of their facility on a regular basis. The Clinic is conducted under the sponsorship of the local Masons. Here (far right) President Barry Gouldborough accepts the certificate from Masonic Lodge representatives Harold Toswell and Doug Billingsley.

How the Community of Cambridge remembers – submitted by Hespeler Branch 272, Cambridge, Ontario.



Harry Wray Branch 302 Gravenhurst member Ivan Conway traveled this past May to Holland for the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Liberation. Here he takes the time to visit the grave of a fellow soldier and friend killed in action.

## HONOURARY TREASURER'S REPORT

*Comrade Larry Lamble*

I have examined the General Account Financial Statement for August 31, 2010 and I find that on the Income side of the ledger our per Capita Tax is up approximately 10% ( hopefully this increase is a sign of things to come).

In spite of historically low interest rates our Interest Income was up a whopping 172% which shows the excellent job our Command Staff and Finance Committee are doing investing the assets that we hold in the General Account. The Profit on Sales, Veterans License Plate Fees were basically unchanged from the same period last year, while Break Open Ticket Service Fees were down 9.5%. We still do not have a contribution for or T&F sponsorship which was \$15,000 last year. Overall our income for the first 3 months of the fiscal year is down less than 1%.

There is one other item to mention and that is the figure for the Sale of Property, it is \$138,323. This is Command's portion from the sale of Legion Branches that have handed in their Charters and have been sold.

On the Expense side of the ledger I found that overall our expenses are up some 28.5%. This is mostly due to Command's expenses for the Dominion Convention in Winnipeg in May that should have been charged to Command in last quarter's financial report. In fact without this item our expenses would have been down only 4.7%. Also I see that Administration costs were down some 43%, District Expenses are down an incredible 320% over the same period last year and Administration salaries were unchanged. Employee benefits were down 57% and postage Expenses were down 31%. The Standing Committees, of which there are 12, totals show an increase of 33% with all of that increase coming from the Track & Field Committee and due to the size of that Committee's expenses that gives us an overall expenses over income of \$134,297 for the first quarter of the 2010-2011 fiscal year. This is a decrease of expenses over income from \$197,762 from last year's statement covering the same period.

So, all in all, our finances are in very good shape. Command Staff and the SEO'S deserves a great deal of credit for these overall results.

#### How to tell if you need to pray at work

- If you every thought about poisoning, choking, punching, or slapping someone that you work with – You need to pray at work.
- If you avoid saying more than hello or how are you doing to someone because you know it's going to lead to their whole life story – You need to pray at work.
- When you're in the elevator and it stops to pick up someone who stood for five minutes waiting for the darn thing only to go DOWN one floor, and you say "that lazy #\*%@%^" – You need to pray at work.