

The Royal Canadian Legion Whalley Branch #229 75th Anniversary Magazine



*Pride In Our Past
Faith In Our Future*



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Whalley #229 at 75 years

The Royal Canadian Legion
Whalley Branch No. 229 (B.C./Yukon)
75th Anniversary Magazine

Dedicated to
the members of the Canadian and
Allied Forces who gave their lives
for their Country in the
two World Wars, the Korean and
Afghanistan conflicts and in
Peacekeeping missions
with the United Nations
and in honour of all deceased
Comrades of the Whalley Legion.

“They shall not grow old
as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them
Nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun,
and in the morning,
We will remember them.”

Memoriam Eorum Retinebimus

(We will Remember Them)

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Original Architectural
Concept Drawing of
the Legion Veterans
Village Project



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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



It was in 1998, the occasion of the Whalley Branch's 50th Anniversary, that I first volunteered to produce a magazine like this one. It was quite a success, with a large team of members contributing to the selling of advertising whilst I compiled pages of information and photos that would journal the first 50 years of our Branch's history in a few dozen pages. Wow...that was 25 years ago now and here I am again with the work of re-creating yet another commemorative book. But I hope what you will see again is a "snapshot" of our Legion Branch, something that celebrates the countless number of members and guests that have participated in our journey over the years. Hopefully in the years to come you can look back on this keepsake as a memorial to the volunteers and folks who brought us to this point and to show future members who we are and hopefully, where we will be in the years to come. Enjoy.

Yours in comradeship...

Darren Crum



The 50th Anniversary Magazine was produced in 1998.



WWI Canadian National Vimy
Memorial, France

In the
Beginning...

The Birth of The Canadian Legion

The Purposes and Objects of the Legion

The purposes and objects of the Legion are to constitute an association of those who have served or are serving in His Majesty's armed forces or any auxiliary force and others who support the purposes and objects of the Legion.

The Legion shall stand for Loyalty to the reigning Sovereign and to Canada for strong and united comradeship among all members and those that have served or are serving, so that their rights nor their interests are forgotten, and that their welfare and that of their dependents, especially the dependents of the disabled, the sick, the aged and the needy may always be safeguarded.

The Legion shall encourage, promote, and engage in or support all forms of national, provincial, municipal or community service, or any charitable purpose.

Excerpt from the Welcoming Ceremony –
Ritual, Awards and Protocol Manual

Did you know?...

In 1926 the Canadian Parliament had decided to celebrate "Armistice Day" on a Monday in November, similar to other holidays like Thanksgiving.

In an Armistice Day address, General Sir Arthur Currie, WW I Commander and Inspector General of the Army, responded to the government's decision saying:

"There are some who are quite willing to celebrate Armistice Day on any particular Monday that happens to be nearest the 11th of November, but to you, my old comrades, and to me, there is only one day we can celebrate Armistice day and that is the 11th of November."

Branches of the Canadian Legion throughout the country continued to observe Armistice day celebrations on Nov. 11th. In 1931, Commons passed the Bill of A.W. Neill (MP- Comox-Alberni) for the commemoration of Armistice Day to be on November 11th and the amendment by C.H. Dickie (MP - Nanaimo) that it be a legal holiday called "Remembrance Day".

The longtime Legion objection bore fruit when the bill creating "Remembrance Day" received Royal Assent on June 11th, 1931.



The General Service Cap Badge was worn by members of Canada's Expeditionary Forces in WW1

“What reck you whether your resting place be decked with the golden lilies of France, or be amidst the vine clad hills of the Rhine; the principles for which you fought are eternal.”

General Sir Sam Hughes
- Farewell address to the First Contingent

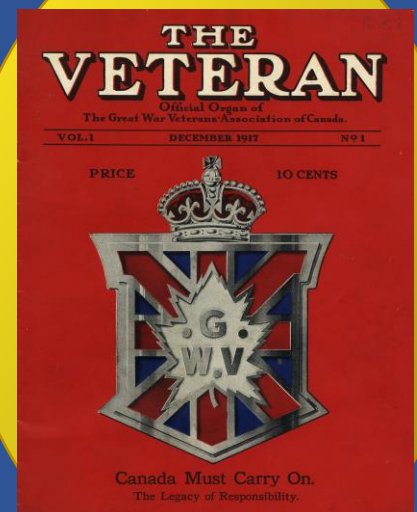
By 1917, Canada had already seen the return of 25,000 disabled veterans from the fourth year of the Great War. Prior to the war, a great many regimental associations and units of various types, including the national Army & Navy Veterans of Canada, were already in existence.

With the “Fragments of France” back home in Canada, veterans’ service organizations of every kind and creed were springing up all over the country. The Canadian government, promising the men security upon their return home, faced numerous problems and the lack of facilities to handle the complications of such a mass of men returning from war.

From 1917 to 1925, there were about 14 varied national veterans organizations and other groups throughout the country, with no united voice or effort on behalf of the veterans.

One of the largest of these, cobbled together from 147 units, was the Great War Veterans Association. (G.W.V.A.)

Other notable groups that represented veterans with specific disabilities were the Amputations Association of Canada and the Tuberculosis Veterans Association.



In 1918, the federal government approached the G.W.V.A. asking their veterans to join a special committee to advise Commons on how to deal with the issues of rehabilitation. From this came initiatives to help veterans re-enter civilian life, disability pensions, land settlements, and soldiers insurance.

The same kind of problems were being experienced by the other Commonwealth countries, so Canada's Great War Veterans Association took steps to bring some degree of unity among the many veteran's organizations. They formed the Dominion Veterans Alliance to extend the hand of comradeship to all parts of the British Empire and to work actively towards common goals.



Field Marshall Douglas Haig, 1st Earl Haig – founder of the Great War Veterans Association.

In 1921, at a meeting in Cape Town, South Africa, the G.W.V.A. and the Army & Navy Veterans of Canada were present for the formation of the British Empire Service League, of which legendary Field Marshall Earl Haig was elected First Grand President.

By June of 1925, circumstances were ripe for a greater joining together of veterans' interests. The G.W.V.A. was holding their Dominion Convention in Ottawa and invited Lord Haig and the B.E.S.L. council to attend.

Field Marshall Haig toured Canada, speaking to veterans groups and pleading for unity so that solutions could be found. His pleas for the formation of the Canadian Legion would eventually come to pass.

In November of 1925, at a unity conference in Winnipeg, 60 delegates chosen by Provincial conventions of organized and unattached veterans groups from across the country, convened to discuss issues of unity.

Ten organizations with multiple branches and 50 regimental societies and clubs – 790 units and about 20,000 members in all, began the process of union. Differences were ironed out and the purpose of uniting voices to address all the problems of veterans was agreed upon.

Heads of the these organizations placed their Charters on the table and agreed to unite and form the Canadian Legion of the British Empire Services League. Only the Army & Navy Veterans and the Amputation Association chose not to join.

By January of 1927, organizations within all the provinces had joined and the Canadian Legion prepared to convene its first National Convention in Winnipeg.

The Legion's Constitution declared it to be a democratic organization - non-sectarian and not related to any political party. This independence freed the organization to lobby government on behalf of veterans.

Another important piece within the Constitution was the provision for the formation of a Ladies Auxiliary. It proved to be one of the biggest sources of fundraising in support of the organization.



The new B.E.S.L. Legion badge appeared in 1926. The first was presented to Governor General Byron Byng.

The Early Years of the Canadian Legion

1925 At the national convention in Winnipeg, veterans organizations from across Canada unite together forming the Canadian Legion, a charter member of the British Empire Service League

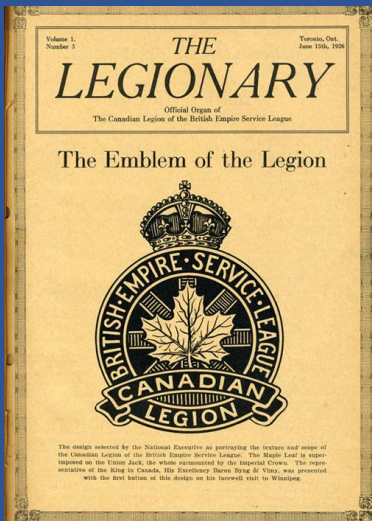
1926 "The Legionary" publishes its first edition as the official magazine of the Canadian Legion. Previously known as "The Veteran", this new monthly magazine eventually absorbs other veterans' publications. The Legion service bureau is formed to assist veterans and their dependents. Provincial Commands are also formed across the country.

1927 The first national convention of the Canadian Legion is held in Winnipeg in January. The Legion protests the Post Office policy of denying jobs to amputees and the Post Office backs down. The federal government issues an order-in-council ensuring proper burials for all indigent veterans.

1928 The Legion makes recommendations to Parliament regarding Canadian culture, such as establishing a Canadian Broadcasting system and influencing educational boards to purchase Canadian made textbooks.

1929 Membership passes the 50,000 mark. The Legion continues to influence government on issues of veterans benefits, and has continuing impact with the growth of the poppy campaign.

1930-1938 The Legion is active nationally supporting veterans pensions and benefits. Many Branches contribute by helping veterans and their communities during the difficult Depression years leading up to the Second World War.



"The Legionary" magazine was the Legion's original national publication. It was the predecessor of today's Legion Magazine.

The Early Years...



The Beginnings of the Whalley Legion

The Founding Members

J.T. Radford	R. Caley
R.R. MacNaughton	G.W. Plunkett
A.B. Walker	E.D. Wall
E. Morris	T.L. Smith
C.B. Gillen	R. Booth
L. Noakes	S. Maskaluke
S. Adamson	L. Talkington
H. McKenzie	J.G. Harley
J. Day	R. Heidman
J. Loney	A. Cotter
R. McCaskie	J. McCutcheon
F. Newton	S. Clark
G.E. Slee	J.B. Haddy
P. Sabourin	R.B. Hay
R. Mickelborough	R.T. Moore
R. Hansen	J. Riley
Mrs. E. Watson	L. Taylor
Mrs. E.L. Robertson	A. Wagstaff
Miss J. Roger	R. Caley
C.W. Watson	G. Martin
	R.S. Robertson

15 of the founding members names were drawn from a hat. They are shown as the Charter Members on the original Branch Charter.



The service station opened by Arthur Whalley in 1925 was at the top of Peterson Hill where Grosvenor Road and Ferguson Rd. (108th Ave) met at the newly paved Pacific Highway (King George Blvd).

The location which had a corner store, gas station and campground, became known as "Whalley's Corner". Years later, in 1948, the name "Whalley" was chosen in a public contest for the rapidly growing community.

It was the evening of September 29th, 1947 when a group of local veterans, the charter group for the Whalley Canadian Legion, gathered in the Morris block of Whalley where the first of several meetings of the group was held. J.T. Radford and R. MacNaughton were elected Chairman and Secretary respectively.

On November 13th, 1947, at the Hjorth Road hall (donated for the meeting) the first Executive Committee was elected with J.T. Radford as President.

The business quarters of R.B. Hay and Macfarlands garage provided a location for successive meetings.

The new Charter had been received effective January 5th, 1948 and from March until June, general meetings were held in Bolivar Hall.

It was at the July meeting in the Grosvenor road Horticultural hall that the first steps were taken to submit plans for the construction of a hall of their own.

The proposed location was a lot, 50' x 115', opposite the Grosvenor Road school as the first home of the newly formed Whalley Legion Branch.

Businesses along the east side of Pacific Hwy (later re-named King George Highway) circa 1950 looking up the hill toward 108th Avenue and Whalley's Corner.





The Branch received its Charter in January of 1948. Then called the “North Surrey” Branch No. 229, the name changed to “Whalley” years later. The 15 names required to join appear on the Charter.

1948 was a busy year for its charter members. At the time it was one of the first organizations to be formed in Whalley, second only to the Whalley Ladies Community Guild. The Whalley Legion made its presence known in the small but growing community that year. It was the year of the 1948 flood, and the Legion members, in their new berets and jackets, stepped in to help make order out of chaos. Organized by Jack Radford, members took control of traffic and transportation, standing guard and controlling traffic at roads cut off by rising flood waters in the Port Mann-Bridgeview and South Westminster areas.

That October, the Legion held its first fundraising “smoker” in the

Horticultural Hall with its 40 members and recently formed Ladies Auxiliary. Most of the next year was devoted to considerable planning, raising funds, and procuring lumber and building supplies to build the new hall.

Scarcity of materials and volunteer time added to the challenge. Yet, late in the year, almost as soon as it had a roof and walls, the new hall became one of the District’s first meeting places. By November of 1949, the hall had been dedicated and the first Bylaws enacted. Blood donor clinics were being held in the new year and the Legion continued to host Smokers and also Bingo. The Auxiliary donated a piano and two dozen chairs as some of the many gifts received from the ladies.



Built almost entirely of donated materials and labour, the Whalley Legion’s first home was also one of the first public meeting halls in “Whalley’s Corner”. It was used for various events including Legion affairs, church services, baby clinics and political meetings.

The first Remembrance Day service and parade in Whalley was hosted in 1951. The ceremony was held on the grounds of the Grosvenor Road school with a Salvation Army band attending. The Auxiliary had again donated two dozen more chairs and the lumber to construct tables.

During 1952, a committee chaired by R.W. Brown had solicited donations for the Memorial fund from merchants and residents in the community for the erection of a Cenotaph. The grey granite cenotaph, dedicated to the 1914-18 and 1939-45 servicemen, was erected on a large grassy traffic island located in the centre of the Pacific Highway at Whalley's Corner, after approval was obtained from the Province.

The cenotaph was officially dedicated on October 19th, 1952 with Zone Commander W. Cross in charge of ceremonies and the New Westminster Legion No. 2 Band and officers also in attendance. The monument was unveiled by Mrs. Violet Placas whos' four sons had served in the forces.



The Whalley Cenotaph was unveiled in October of 1952 on the triangle of land at Grosvenor Road (108 Avenue) and Pacific Hwy. Remembrance Day services were held at this location until construction on the King George Highway required its removal.

The cenotaph was eventually moved to the current Legion site on 106 Avenue due to construction of the King George Highway.

The Early Days



Early members of the Ladies Auxiliary pose for photos c.1952.



A General Meeting in the first hall on Grosvenor Road circa 1950. Note the portrait of Queen Victoria and the Union Jack flag.

Many original records of the Branch from 1947 to 1962 had been stored under the stage of the second hall. At some time after 1962, a flood had reached under the stage and destroyed most of the records. Much of the historical data available is from existing photos, newspapers and memory.



Many of the early photographs of the Branch were taken by Roy Houghton, a member who ran a local photography studio..

Scenes of Whalley in the Early Days

Remembrance services were held on a traffic island at 108th and King George Blvd. c. 1953



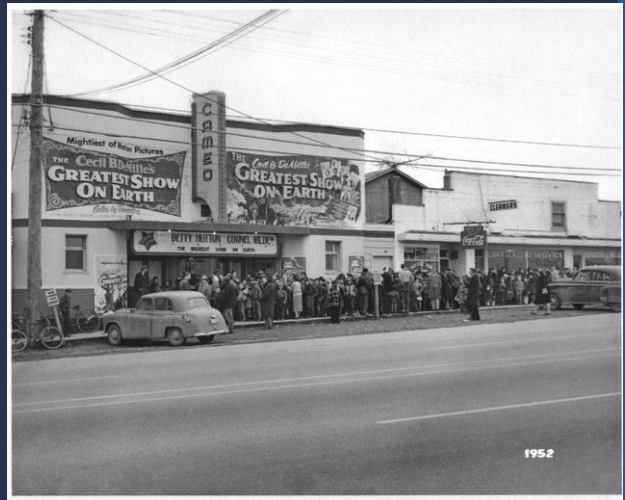
Whalley street scene looking South towards 108th Avenue.

108th Avenue and Pacific Hwy (looking west) circa 1950.



The Flamingo Hotel and adjacent shops circa 1960. The Dell Shopping Centre, up the road, was also open at that time.

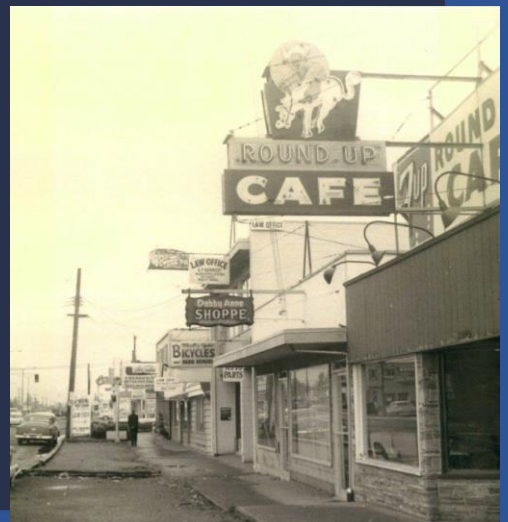
Cars pass the Cameo theatre on their way down Peterson hill to the Pattullo Bridge also called the "Pay-Toll-O" toll bridge.



Whalley street scenes near 108th Avenue and Pacific Hwy



A long standing café in Whalley, the Round Up was bought in 1959 by Orest and Goldie Springenatic. It closed in April 2021.



Pres. L. Miggins turns sod for the second hall in the Spring of 1953. It was to be the most modern community hall in the Fraser Valley.



In the latter part of 1952, plans were underway to purchase land adjacent to the Whalley Ball Park. It had become clear that the first hall did not meet the growing needs and although a meeting place for many community groups, the new location away from the schools was proposed. After much debate, the hall on Grosvenor Road was sold to Victor Fox foods, a manufacturer of fur farm equipment and supplies as a retail outlet. The sale took place in the Spring of 1953 for \$10,000 and with the sale the Branch was underway in the construction of a new \$50,000 Community Hall.

In the meantime, meetings were held in the basement of the St. Thomas church with executive meetings held in Ray Houghton's photo studio. By the Spring of 1954, plans had been agreed upon for a hall that was to be 40' x 60'. However, during the initial construction, the addition of a kitchen and a stage changed the overall dimensions. By October of that year, the new hall was dedicated in an opening ceremony attended by Senator Tom Reid. During the next year, Bingo had become a weekly affair with help offered by the Whalley Little League and the Whalley J.C.'s. A payment of \$1400 went to the trustee that year.



The second hall opened in 1954. It would be used by many community groups however within a few years it would be too small. It would eventually become an "annex" used as a practice hall for the Whalley Legion Band, a home for the Air Cadets and used by various community groups. It also served as headquarters for the Poppy Campaign.



Executive Committees 1958

A special feature was the cutting of a birthday cake by the Branch's first president Steve Adamson. The ten candles were lit, year by year by past president Al Bent as each year's history was read by past president J.T. Radford.

During 1956, a new heating system was installed and the mortgage reduced by \$2000. The Ladies Auxiliary managed through donations to complete payment of the tile floor and the stucco exterior.

More was achieved in 1957 when further payments of \$3800 went towards the debt and the Ladies additional donation of \$500 retired the debentures. An additional lot was backfilled and graveled for parking.

In 1958, the Whalley Legion was proud to celebrate its Tenth Anniversary. Celebrations were held on the evening of January 25th with the joint installation of officers and the attendance of numerous invited guests. More than 200 attended the birthday, including many charter members and visiting legionnaires from all over the region.



Even during the first few years that the new hall was open, discussion was underway for further expansion. The rapid growth of the community made it obvious that an even larger and more commodious facility was needed and would be built on the eight adjoining building lots.

Much planning was needed and the process of raising funds, materials and more began. Plans were drawn up for the construction of a two story building housing a lounge and auditorium.

A new spade was used for turning the sod before construction of the third Legion Hall.

The 1959 President Lloyd Robinson officiates with L.A. President Mrs. Elsie Harvey Davis, Comrades L.C. Miggins, Jack Radford and Charlie Thomas lend support.



Construction of projects this size required great amounts of both inspiration and perspiration. Financing had been primarily secured through the sale of debentures and from donations by the membership of both money as well as materials and labour. This would continue to be the means by which the Branch would ultimately build the newest and most modern Legion building and Community hall in the Lower Mainland.

By January of 1960, the new hall was built and ceremonies were held to commemorate the proud achievement. The then newly installed president Robert Robinson presided over ceremonies attended by David Burgess MBE,MC, the Dominion Command President, Provincial and Zone representatives, as well as representatives from many branches

The sale of debentures to members as well as donations of building materials and supplies helped fund the new \$85,000 Legion Hall.

throughout the region.

In attendance also were Miss Canadian Legion Jo-Anne Baker, and Miss Surrey Nina Laffin. Comrade Frank Newton thanked the many committee chairmen and executive members for their help in bringing the hall to its completed state, particularly the work of the Ladies Auxiliary. Legion Padre W.B. Singleton dedicated the building “not for ungodly revelry, but for the good of the community and the well-being of comrades and their families.”

This new third hall (with the second hall as an “annex”) would be home to the Whalley Legion Branch for the next almost sixty years.



CHAIRMAN H.A. Stewart, right, presents to Branch President L. Miggins, por-chaser of the first Legion debenture for new Legion in the Whalley Herald of January 23rd, 1953. Picture appeared



The modern two story Legion Hall was located on nine lots facing 106th Ave (Park Ave) at 135th St. It was the most modern and spacious facility in the lower mainland in 1960.

One snip of the scissors in the hands of Command President David Burgess and legion coloured streamers of blue and gold fall, marking the official opening of the new Legion auditorium and lounge.

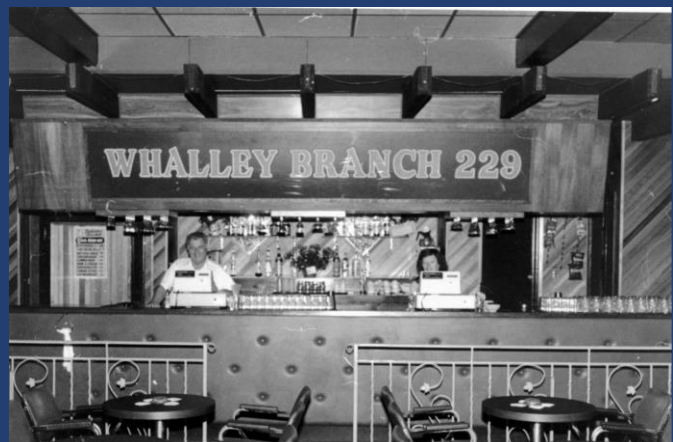


On hand for the ribbon cutting, left to right, are: Jack Radford, Pres. R. Robertson, Miss Surrey Nina Laffin, Mr. Burgess, Miss Canadian Legion Jo-Ann Baker, L.A. Pres. Mrs. Alex Stewart, L.C. Miggins and Rev. George Hahn.



The original Whalley Cenotaph was moved to the front of the Legion building. It remained there until it was removed for new construction in 2019.

In 1980, twenty years after opening, the lounge gets a facelift. The old drapery wall coverings were replaced with cedar strips and a new bar with a familiar sign was finished.



From Then to Now...

Pride in the Past

In 1958, the Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League changed its name to simply, the Canadian Legion.



In 1960, the new emblem of the Legion was unveiled, amidst considerable debate. That year, the title "Royal" was approved by the Queen to be used in the name.

75 Years of the Whalley Legion

From the early years of the Whalley Legion to today, the number of events, functions and memories are so numerous that to give them true justice would require a book with hundreds of pages. Through these years, Whalley 229 and its members continued their mission of providing what it could for its veterans and the community. Countless functions, dances, dinners, smokers, sporting events, ceremonies and the like have taken place to create the history and reputation that we have today.

Members have come and gone, but it is the memories that give flavour to the present and hope for the future.

To appreciate the journey of this Branch means to give some credit to the many and varied effort and sacrifices made by its members over the many years. Such would include all the volunteers as well as the

members of the Ladies Auxiliary and their long standing support.

Club sports and special events also play a role in what makes a Branch special, not to mention the numerous committees and subcommittees that have played roles in those functions and events over the years.

In addition, Whalley 229 has played a role in the growth of the community and one must never forget the hundreds of thousands of dollars donated from its fundraising to groups and causes over the years.

That charitable nature is what has made it stand out as an organization as well as the sense of camaraderie and friendship fostered by its members and guests through the years.

It is to all those who came before and those will carry the torch into the future that these pages are dedicated.



From 1952 until 1960, the 2nd hall was used for Branch and Community events



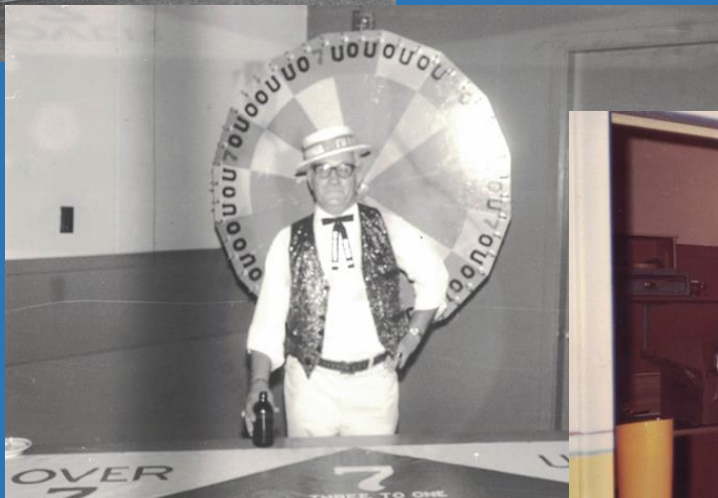
The business of the Legion went on over the course of countless meetings and ceremonies over the years...



Over the many years, the Branch always provided bursaries, scholarships and recognition to local schools, cadets and community groups .



The upstairs auditorium in the third building, opened in 1960, serving the Branch well over the years to follow...



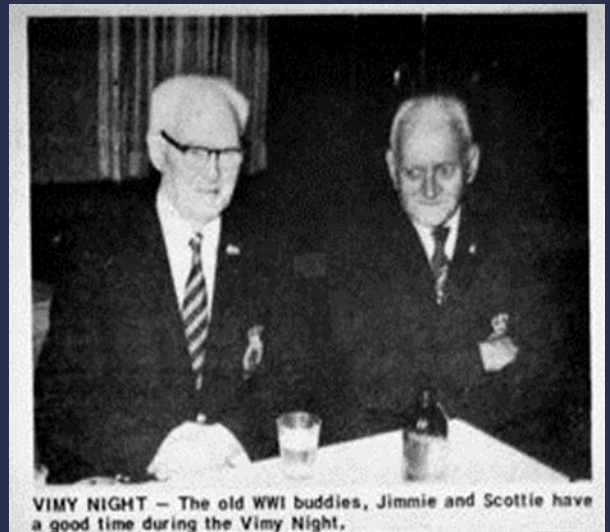
In addition to General Meetings, events included various parties and dances, New Years parties, Weddings, Memorials, Bazaars, Dart and Crib tournaments, Bingo, Reno nights and even a Red Cross donation clinic.



In 1978, the Branch celebrated its thirtieth anniversary



OUR 30th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION — Here are pioneers founders of Whalley Branch #229, the original Chapter Members. Among them, in alphabetical order, are: Bill Booth, G. Booth, John Haddy, Harold Haroldson, J. McCutcheon, Frank Newton, B. Pountney, Bob Robertson, Ella Robertson, Peter Schwarzhoff, George Stee and Mike Watson. The picture was taken during our Anniversary evening, on Saturday, September 23rd, 1978.



VIMY NIGHT — The old WWI buddies, Jimmie and Scottie have a good time during the Vimy Night.



Ladies Auxiliary donates Past President plaques to the Branch

Members receive their 25 year pins during the year of the Royal Canadian Legion's 60th anniversary..





Through the many events it was the hard work of the volunteers that made the events successful.



Over the many years, special events have always been an integral part of the experience of the Branch's members and guests. Dances, dinners and special occasions such as holidays and celebrations have been what gives character to the Branch and have always been a source of enjoyment and camaraderie.



The "Whalley Follies" was a popular show put on by a group of entertaining volunteers c.1970's



New Years celebrations have always been a big hit.

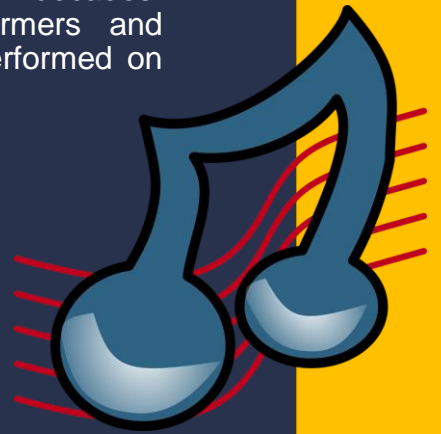


Celebrating the annual Robbie Burns Day with the traditional "Toast to the Haggis"





Dancing to live entertainment has been a fixture at the Whalley Legion for decades. Many local performers and musicians have performed on our stages.





Supporting live entertainment continues to be a feature of the Whalley Legion.





Good food, good music and good fun have always been a successful formula.

The Branch celebrated its 60th Anniversary in 2008



The Travel Gavel

The “Travel Gavel” was a tradition for many years. Branches who were in possession of the Gavel would make an event of delivering the Gavel to other Branches as a means to meet and enjoy camaraderie. Such events often included a parade, entertainment and a meal. The International Travel Gavel was particularly special as it would mean visiting various Branches (Posts) located in Washington State.



President Larry Oakland presents the International Travelling Gavel to the President of the Sedro Wooley Branch. WA c.1978

The Colour Party

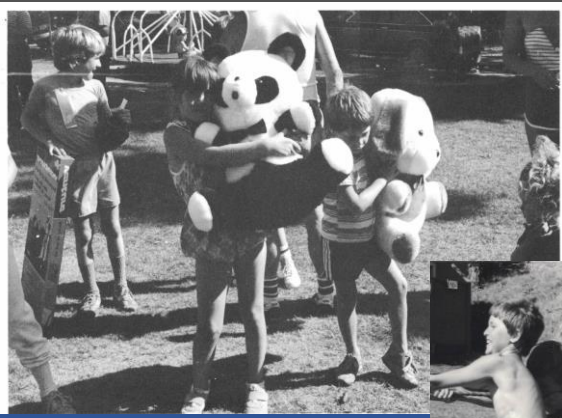


Our Branch Colour Party often participated in marching at local events, parades and festivals through the year..



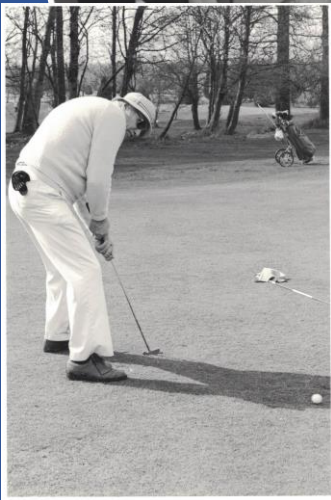
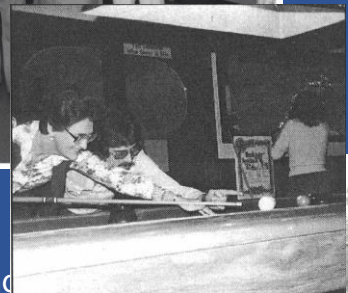
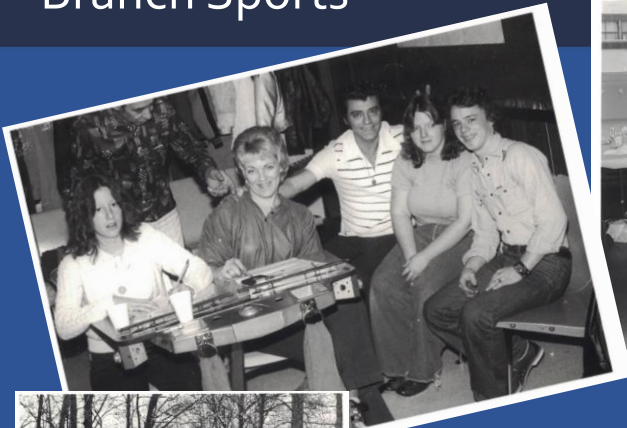
“Hands Across the Border” was another annual event where Branches of the Peace Arch Zone, with their Colour Parties, would gather at Peace Arch Memorial Park for a ceremony with our American comrades.

Branch Picnics



The Branch's Family Picnic was an annual event held at the Branch #2 campground at Crescent Beach. It was a popular event for the kids with music, food, games and prizes.

Branch Sports



Branch sports, whether golfing, darts, bowling, cribbage, curling or pool, has always been a part of the Legion. Many teams have won many trophies over the years including competing against other Branches at Zone and Provincial tournaments.



The "Old Timers" baseball games were a fun event for members to get together and have some fun.

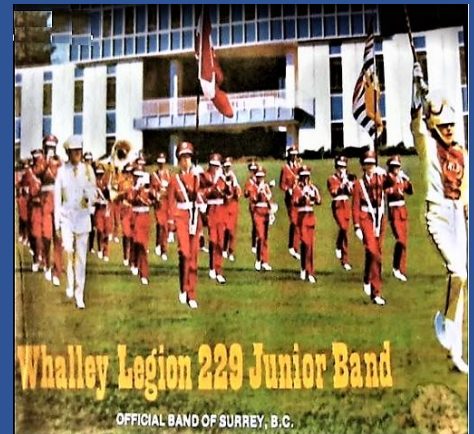
The Whalley Legion 229 Junior Band



Started by Joe McPhee in 1958, the North Central Surrey Volunteer Fireman's Junior Band changed their name in 1963 when the Whalley Legion became their official sponsor. Funded by the Legion and the raising of funds by the parents committee through Bingo (in the upstairs auditorium) and B.C. Lotteries, the band grew to comprise a marching, as well as concert and show band.

The band, representing youth from ages 7 to 17, participated in numerous events in the Lower Mainland and abroad. Over the many years, the marching band played and won numerous trophies and competitions in B.C., western Canada, the northwest United States as well as England, Germany and Scotland.

The band dissolved after 2004 due a lack of new members but some adult members still play locally and have played as a concert band at the Whalley Legion's Remembrance Day ceremonies.



As noted on this album cover, their success saw them designated "The Official Band of the Municipality of Surrey"



The Band's fundraising also included a mobile canteen to help raise funds for equipment and travel..





JOIN THE WHALLEY LEGION -
IT IS IN YOUR REGION

WHALLEY LEGIIONNAIRE

Volume 2, Number 7, (17).

WHALLEY LEGION'S MONTHLY NEWSPAPER

MARCH, 1979.

The "Whalley Legionnaire" was a 12 page newspaper mailed out to over 1500 Whalley Legion members every month (except Summer) from 1977 to 1985. The newspaper was the work of Branch Secretary-Manager Frank Howe and Editor Peter Pihichyn as well as many other volunteers. It contained Legion news and information (including Newton Branch), articles, stories, meeting minutes and more, with the intent of keeping members informed, particularly those who were shut-ins. Its printing and mailing costs were offset by paid advertising by numerous local businesses. The newspaper ceased printing in 1985 citing increasing costs.



OUR 30th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION - The photographer caught the Editor-in-chief of this paper, Cde. Peter Pihichyn and his Associate Editor and Branch Secretary Manager Cde. Frank Howe at this point of their discussion.

Existing copies of the newspaper have been digitized and donated to the Surrey Archives.

WHALLEY LEGIONNAIRE
MARCH 15 1980

JOIN THE WHALLEY LEGION - IT IS IN YOUR REGION

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 10 (20) WHALLEY LEGION'S MONTHLY NEWSPAPER JUNE 1980

A NEW LOOK FOR OUR LOUNGE

WHALLEY BRANCH 229

Volunteers Needed

The Surrey Branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society held a meeting at the Surrey Recreation Centre on Monday, April 28. Representatives from various organizations were present, including one from Branch 229 R.C.L. After introducing guests the chairman went on to describe various services provided by the Red Cross in Surrey.

These included the well known Blood Donor Clinics, Water Safety Service, and also Loan Service whereby the public may obtain the free use of crutches, wheel chairs, etc. Also described was the Assistance, International and Domestic (A.I.D.) whereby volunteers either individually or in groups make articles of clothing, quilts, doilies and other household items. These are sold by the Red Cross and the proceeds used to provide aid to underdeveloped nations and the victims of wars and other disasters.

The Red Cross is dependent almost entirely upon the efforts of volunteer workers and there is an ever increasing demand for fresh blood, both literally and figuratively, particularly at the Surrey Branch in making a determined effort to expand its ranks of volunteers.

Particularly required are drivers who can assist for a few hours at the Blood Donor Clinics and also for picking up medical equipment that has been put out on loan. If you or your L.A. could be of great assistance and have a lot of fun knitting and sewing for the A.I.D. program we could our C.A.P. groups and the men can get involved too at wood working. All materials, patterns and ideas can be supplied by the Red Cross. All that is required is the time and willing hands of the volunteers. If you think you could be of assistance and are willing to help in this great work please contact the Surrey representative or the President of Branch 229, J. Holland at 661-1762.

Zone Commander's Message

As our summer recess nears I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Branches within our Zone for their fine cooperation. They have shown this past year. During the months of June, July and August we have three parades that we are committed to so let's have a real good turnout for the Sgt. at Arms for their parade from all Branches.

Don't forget the staffing of the P.E. booth from August 19 to September 1, 1980. I would like all Branches within our Zone to try at least one shift, so get your names into your Branch Office as soon as possible.

Hope you all have a pleasant summer. See you all in September.

Fraternally yours,
LEN W. STAGG
Zone Commander

Surrey 4-H win

Educational displays by Handmade Home Club and the Richmond/Delta/Panor. Club will be among the 4-H entries on display at the Pacific National Exhibition this summer. The top table placed at the top of the district competition.

Surrey 4-H made a clean sweep in district competition for demonstration projects. Penny Frowell and Aileen Turck of Surrey Reef Club, David Ford, Darren Olson and David Winkler, Handmade Home Club, and Derek Olson and Wes Williams, Surrey Reef Club.

Derek Olson and Wes Williams, no winners, will participate in the provincial demonstration competition.

The Kids Christmas Parties ...

The kids Christmas parties began in the first hall c 1949



A group of the children gather for a movie at the Cameo theatre c 1950



Santa poses with a group of his helper elves. Volunteers made the event a gift for the children.



...always a popular event.

The Veterans Way Museum...

The brainchild of Comrade Gord Fergus, the "Veterans Way" Museum was an opportunity to display numerous donated military artifacts, badges, uniforms and books. The museum, located in the lower lounge of the former building, had previously been a small glass-enclosed smoking room until it was closed due to W.C.B. regulations. .



The Cadets

The Branch has always supported youth programs and the local Cadet programs were no exception. Over the years the Branch donated thousands of dollars and provided space for the cadets to train.

The old (second hall) annex was used for many years by the 767 Dearman Air Cadets and in later years, the Royal Westminster Regt cadets had a space on an adjacent lot.

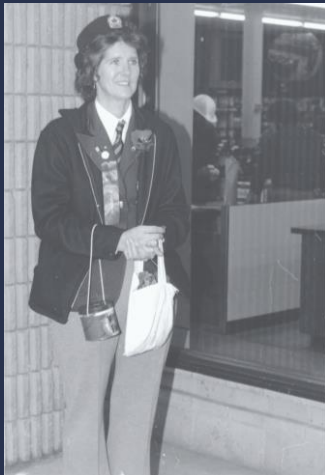


Remembrance Day and the Poppy Campaign



Refreshments were always served by the L.A. to the public after the Remembrance Service.





Every year, Branch members volunteer their time to help with the Poppy Campaign. Whether it's preparation, delivering to schools, managing tray routes or being in public, our volunteers have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years for Veterans and the Community.



The local Cadets could always be counted on to help with the Remembrance Services and Poppy Campaign. This group in 1977 were some of the top canvassers.

The Ladies Auxiliary – Branch #229



They Also Serve..



1978 Installation



2000



Many hours have been spent in the kitchen over the years preparing food for countless dinners and events.



Fundraising by holding bazaars and the like in the upstairs auditorium were an annual event.

The Ladies Auxiliary formed in 1948, shortly after the Branch was chartered. Their purpose has always been to assist the Branch in carrying out its work and is an equal partner, answering the call for assistance whenever possible.

Since those early days, the Ladies have worked hard to answer the call. Every year, they would hold events like the Spring Tea, as well as raffles, craft sales, flea markets and catering as a means of fundraising.

Their countless thousands of hours of effort has seen thousands of dollars in donations to the Branch (and the community) over the years. They continue to be a valued partner and their efforts continue to contribute to the community and purposes of the Legion.

The Ladies Appreciation dinner was an annual event to recognize the hard work the Ladies had done for the Branch.

Volunteers would come out to help serve the Ladies



The Ladies' Auxiliary is a non-profit organization operating separately from The Branch— they support the aims and objects of the Legion and today, they are a vital and integral part of the work of the Branch and provide financial and volunteer support to its programs.



In 2008, the Ladies Auxiliary also celebrated their 60th Anniversary of dedication to the Branch..



Any woman who is eligible for membership in the Legion may choose to become a member of the Ladies Auxiliary as well.



Royal Canadian Legion – Whalley Branch #229

Past Presidents

1948



2023



Steve Adamson
1948 - 50



J.T. "Jack" Radford
1951 - 54



A.E. "Al" Bent
1955



L.C. "Len" Miggins
1956 - 58



W.L. "Lloyd" Robinson
1959



R.S. "Bob" Robertson
1960



John "Jack" Ginter
1961



H.A. "Alec" Stewart
1962 - 63



James Johnson
1964, 66



Frank Howe
1965



Herb Mann
1967



George Turnbull
1967 - 68



Eric Helmer
1970 - 71



Clifford A. Peerenbloom
1972 - 73



John R. Dinvey
1974



Hugh Cullen
1975



Frank Newton
1976



William "Bill" Hooper
1977 - 79



James "Jim" Holland
1980



Douglas Belton
1981



Larry Oakland
1982 - 83



Ted Scriven
1984 - 85



Jack Kruger
1986



Al Leslie
1987 - 88

Royal Canadian Legion – Whalley Branch #229

Past Presidents

1948



2023



Joan Holland
1989 - 91



Gord Fergus
1997



Bud McCrimmon
1992 -96, 98



Gord Fergus
1999-2000, 03, 04



Earl Graham
2001



Jim Gailey
2002, 05



Charlie Gillet
2006



Gary McIlwaine
2007 -09



Ken Green
2011 - 13



Fred Halcro
2010, 14



Tony Moore
2015 --

Royal Canadian Legion – Whalley Branch #229

1948

Ladies Auxiliary Past Presidents

2023



A. Brown
1948 - 49



M. Adamson
1950 - 51



B. Ball
1952 - 53



G. Smith
1954 - 55



J. "Lindsay" Browning
1956 - 57



E. "Harvey" Lawrence
1958 - 59



F. Stewart
1960 - 61



A. Lewis
1962 - 63



I. Adamson
1964 - 65, 68



D. Johnson
1966 - 67, 70 - 71



B. Reid
1969 - 70



Margaret Haroldson
1972 - 74



I. Berkey
1975 - 76



M. Pickler
1976 - 77



Sharon Johnson
1977 - 78



Evelyn Reid
1979 - 80



M. Barrowclough
1981 - 82



J. Scriven
1983 - 84

1948 Ladies Auxiliary Past Presidents

2023



Sheran Lee
1985 - 87, 94 - 97



Jean Birston
1988 - 89



Jean Caldwell
1990



Isobel Legge
1991 - 93



Grace Grey
1996



Flo Lundstrom
1998



Pearl Schweitzer – L.A.
1999



Nancy Hall – L.A.
2000 - 02



Edna Barnes – L.A.
2003 -

The Years to Come...



Faith in the Future



During the third building's 60 year life, the lower lounge was expanded by addition of a new stage (and stairwell) on the North side, a games room (and patio) on the West side and an office addition on the front. In later years, a smoking room, built in the main lounge, would eventually be re-purposed as a small museum.

It started with an idea. Plans for building a new Whalley Legion Branch to replace the aging building, erected in 1960, were being discussed as far back as the 1990's, if not before.

For years, the Planning Committee members analyzed various options and considered many proposals, but none satisfied the vision they saw for our future Legion Branch.

It was the Legion's work with the "Iron Soldier Project" - developing an innovative exoskeletal device that enabled crippled veteran Trevor Greene to walk once more, that sparked the idea.

"The Legion Veterans Village will ensure the Royal Canadian Legion continues to provide vital services for Canadian Veterans," said the late Inga Kruse, previous Executive Director of B.C. and Yukon Command and Foundation. *"Veterans are often perceived as older,"* she said, *"but there is a need for services for those who've served in recent conflicts and our members wanted to help in any way they could."*

The timing and the project were perfect for the Whalley Legion, who not only had the land available, but also members who enthusiastically supported the idea.

Nine years after Capt. Trevor Greene took an axe to the head in Afghanistan, he is walking again thanks to an innovative exoskelton.



Inga Kruse – Past Executive Director BC/Yukon Command 2010-16

Plans first envisioned in 2015 were soon underway. Led by the BC/Yukon Command of the Royal Canadian Legion, together with Whalley Legion Branch 229, the Province of B.C. and the Lark Construction Group in Surrey, this unique \$312-million, two-phase, multi-purpose project was envisioned to be the first of many such projects across Canada.

The Legion Veterans Village would be constructed on the existing Whalley Legion Branch 229 site and include within it a “centre of clinical excellence,” where veterans, soldiers and first-responders could be offered an integrated continuum of health and wellness programs and counselling services for post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health-related concerns.

The multi-purpose project would also house medical services including a research and rehabilitation centre focusing on robotics, devices to help amputees, exoskeletons, and neuroscience as well as temporary housing for patients and their families, 91 affordable housing units, a new Legion lounge and office space for the Legion Branch and Cadets. The remainder of the building would contain a market condominium development known as “Parc Centrale”



Preliminary renderings of the project were donated by Michael Green Architecture and depicted red features reminiscent of the Canadian Vimy Ridge Memorial in France.



The official groundbreaking took place in May 2019. (L to R: Past Pres. Fred Halcro, L.A. Pres. Edna Barnes, Pres. Tony Moore, V.Pres. Jill Bilesky, and comrade Andy Anderson.)



Clearing of the site soon took place. The Cenotaph was removed and stored by the City works dept. It would be brought out for Remembrance Day Services over the next several years.





The new Whalley Legion Lounge would be part of the Legion Veterans village building's ground floor. It would host a new 10,500 square foot modern local gathering place, featuring a professionally designed bar and restaurant, banquet and meeting room with space for live music and dancing, pool tables and a lounge area. An additional small space adjoins the lounge for lease by future business. Two levels of underground parking will be available for visitors.

The Branch office space will be in off the underground parkade as well as a space for a local group such as Cadets.

Outside space on the northwest corner, adjacent to the outdoor patios, is dedicated for a new monument, which will be erected to replace the old cenotaph.

A second residential tower will fill the East side of the site in the near future.



The Temporary Legion



A temporary home was found in an old restaurant located at the corner of 108th Avenue and King George Blvd (Whalley's Corner). Leased as part of the project, it housed the Branch for a few years while the new building was erected.



The Grand Opening of Legion Veterans Village

Wednesday, February 8th, 2023



Over 400 dignitaries, including representatives of all levels of government, were invited to the Grand Opening of the Legion Veterans Village



The Legion Veterans Village Research Foundation receives 1 Million dollars from B.C./Yukon Command of the Royal Canadian Legion.



The Legion Veterans Village project will include 91 low income rental units.



In 2023, the Legion Veterans Village Research Foundation officially launches phase one of its \$10-million Fundraising Campaign to support the translation of clinical research into programs, technologies and services that will support health and wellness of our veterans, first responders and their families at the Centre for Clinical Excellence and across Canada.



Earlier, the Royal Canadian Legion Maple Ridge Branch 88, together with the Earl Haig Society, gifted the Legion Veterans Village Research Foundation (LVVRF) a total of \$600,000 to support the Legion Veterans Village Centre for Clinical Excellence.



Rowena Rizzotti, Project Lead, joins Capt. Trevor Greene (ret), the man who was the inspiration for the L.V.V. project.

The Vimy Lounge – the Whalley Legion’s new gathering place, opens their restaurant and bar along with the Legion Veterans Village...



Integrated audio and video is available throughout, with space for live entertainment in both the banquet room as well as the lounge.



An etched glass image of the Vimy Memorial fills the space inside the entrance.

The Future



Today's decisions determine tomorrow's reality. The Whalley Legion, like all Legion Branches across the country, was formed for the purpose of providing a place for local veterans to come together, share in camaraderie, serve their community and remember those comrades who never returned from war.

Over the last 75 years, the diligent hard working members of Branch 229 built a place for themselves in our community. They committed themselves to fundraising and poppy campaigns, supporting countless organizations and charities and always hosting an annual Remembrance Day service for their community.

Over the years, the veterans of past wars have gone and the idea of Remembrance and the debt owed to so many for their sacrifices has faded from the minds of many in our modern changing society. Many of the new members that have come and gone over recent years have only known the Legion as being a "beer hall" or "dance hall" and a gathering place for the elderly remnants of a forgotten and dusty past.

The truth however is that for the Legion to survive, the torch must be passed from the old to the new. The recruiting and meaningful participation of ex-service persons and those who value our purpose and objects – Remembrance and Service – is vital for the organization to evolve in the years to come.

Change is the essence of that evolution, and to evolve, Legion Branches must remain vibrant and active in the community. The Lounge must not just be a "bar" but a place for members that welcomes and engages those potential new members

In times of economic challenges and restraint, there is an increasing demand for funding by all manner of community groups, seniors services and youth programs.

The mission of the Branch, and the Legion as a whole, becomes even more important. Perpetuating Remembrance and providing service is what we as a Branch have done for 75 years. It is the mission of all of us to continue to carry the torch, and to pass it on to those we will welcome into our midst.

Passing the Torch

Looking to the future...

Members of the Building Committee Jill Bilesky (left) and Tony Moore hope younger members will take up the torch and keep the new Branch prospering long into the future .



The Whalley Legion has come a long way in 75 years, and has made a significant impact on many people in our community. The next 75 years will continue to provide just such a challenge. How we meet the challenge will rely on the members of tomorrow.

Over the years, many who have joined the Branch have found friendships and an environment of comradeship. The numerous social events, dances, functions and in-house sports programs have resulted in most members making the Legion the focal point of their social life.

Many who have seen the potential of the organization and the difference that the Branch can make in their community have become more involved by becoming committee and executive members. Participation on committees and programs offers unique opportunities to give back by contributing their time to worthwhile causes, as well as learning valuable lessons in teamwork and leadership.

In the years to come, the needs of our current veterans as well as a growing need for seniors, youth and first responders in our community will be some of the key focuses for the Branch. The other focus will always be Remembrance, the need to keep alive the memory of those who fought, and continue to fight, for freedom.



Lest we forget.

145 Branches, 60 Ladies Auxiliaries and over 47,000 members

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

- The Legion conducts the annual Poppy Campaign and raises over one million dollars annually for ex-service personnel and their dependents and other authorized purposes.
- Royal Canadian Legion members take pride in organizing Remembrance Day Ceremonies across our province. Branches collaborate with communities to build and maintain local cenotaphs and memorials to honour the Fallen.
- The Legion advocates for Veterans' benefits and for the wellbeing of Veterans and their families. They provide assistance with disability claims through the VAC and provide emergency financial assistance through the poppy fund. This includes services for aging Veterans and their spouses, to help them live independently, safely and comfortably in their own home as long as possible
- They provide support and referrals for assistance with a Veteran adjusting to civilian life, referrals for mental health support and services, assistance and supports for independent living, and support in accessing funeral and burial services for a Veteran.
- The Royal Canadian Legion is committed to helping Veterans and their families in need find homes. There are national and provincial programs that offer financial assistance and support for homeless Veterans and those at-risk of homelessness.
- Since 1956, the Legion in BC has provided affordable housing to thousands of veterans and seniors. Today, the Legion operates over 4,500 units in 70 facilities with a community investment of approximately \$94 million.
- The BC/Yukon Command Legion Foundation is committed to the health & longevity of British Columbians through Geriatric Research, Professional Training of Geriatric Physicians & Nurses, Educational Funding for rural doctors, MRI machines, Operating room equipment, Emergency room lights, and a special focus on getting rural communities the medical equipment they require.
- The Legion sponsors a Legion Riders Motorcycle program and a National Youth Track & Field Championship as well as youth-specific education regarding Veterans and Remembrance.

Why Should I Join the Legion?

The Legion is not just a bar. By joining the Royal Canadian Legion you will have the opportunity to make new friends, become involved with your community and to develop and share your leadership skills. You will have the opportunity help perpetuate the Remembrance of those who gave so much for the freedom and prosperity we enjoy today. The proud heritage of this great Canadian organization will be enriched by the enthusiasm, energy and new ideas you bring to it.

Here are some of the many benefits membership brings...

- ✓ **Social Activities** – The Branch has a licensed restaurant with live entertainment, dancing and events through the week. Members can participate in organizing special events all year round.
- ✓ **Member Sports** – One can enjoy such in-house sports as pool, darts, cribbage and golf with competitions ranging from local, provincial to national level.
- ✓ **Community Service** – You can serve your community by assisting with the fund raising programs in support of youth, seniors, the disabled and others. The Branch provides bursaries and scholarships and is a large supporter of youth programs such as Scouts, Guides and Cadets.
- ✓ **Leadership** – You will have the opportunity to grow with this great organization. The Branch needs members who can take on the leadership challenge. If this is where your interest leads you can become involved by serving on the Branch Executive Committee. You may even wish to go to higher levels such as zone, district or provincial. You may even aspire to the national level. Every Dominion Command President who has served started out as a Branch member.
- ✓ **Service** – As Canada's largest service organization, tremendous pride can be gained through the commitment to fulfil the mandate of remembrance, service to the community and our Country.

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