



# The Royal Canadian Legion General Nelles Branch #124

410 King St. P.O. Box 714 Niagara on the Lake, Ontario L0S 1J0  
Phone 905-468-2353 Email legion124@gmail.com Website www.legion124.ca



## December/Winter 2020 Newsletter

Greetings Comrades of Branch 124. We hope you all are keeping safe and well through this upcoming holiday season and through the New Year. It has been a challenging year, and we are very thankful for all of your support over these last months. We have high hopes for 2021, and look forward to seeing you there with us. Be sure to stay tuned for dates and news, as restrictions change. Everyone please stay safe, warm and we wish you Happy Holidays to you and your families!

These Newsletters serve to inform you of the happenings at the branch over the past months and to notify you of upcoming dates, events and information. Feel free to submit your own relevant questions, comments, photos, volunteer mentions and other community engagements, to the office for consideration in the next edition.

### Branch Holiday Hours/Closures

Our regular branch hours continue to remain the same, but also with HOLIDAY HOURS now decided.

Thursday December 24	2pm – 6pm
Friday December 25	CLOSED
Saturday December 26	CLOSED
Sunday December 27	Regular Hours - 2pm - 6pm
Monday December 28	CLOSED
Tuesday December 29	Regular Hours - 2pm - 6pm
Wednesday December 30	CLOSED
Thursday December 31	CLOSED
Friday January 1	CLOSED
Saturday January 2 Onward	Regular Hours - 2pm - 8pm

Otherwise, the branch hours remain the same.

Monday/Wednesday	Closed
Tuesday/Sunday	2pm-6pm
Thursday/Friday	3pm-8pm
Saturday	2pm-8pm

Please remember even during our closures, if you need anything contact the branch and we'll have someone reach out to you.

**Events - New Year's Levee** - Branch 124 would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone for the support that they have given us during this difficult year. From our faithful members for continuing to support the branch, to our dedicated bar stewards, thank you for constantly adapting to the changes required to run the branch in the "new way" due to the ongoing pandemic. As you all know, every year on January 1st we normally hold a Levee to show our thanks, to mark the start of another year and to provide an opportunity for the public to pay their respects where we gather together at the branch. This year more than ever we are thankful for all. However, due to Covid-19 protocols it is impossible to choose only 50 people to attend. So, for this reason we have made the difficult decision to cancel the 2021 Levee. The branch for that reason will be closed on January 1, 2021.



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Unfortunately, our Annual Christmas Ham & Turkey Roll is also cancelled. Many events this year have been postponed or cancelled, but we remain optimistic for the 2021 year. Please stay tuned for news regarding the 2021 Easter Ham & Turkey Roll as well as St. Patrick's Day.

**Poppy/Remembrance** – The Oct 1 2019- Sept 30 2020 Poppy Report was previously emailed, and is available for viewing on our branch website at [www.legion124.ca/branch-updates](http://www.legion124.ca/branch-updates).

This Year's Poppy Campaign - Our Current Fiscal Year Totals for our 2020 Poppy Campaign received \$16,527.60 in donations. We are grateful to those who contributed. This has surpassed our expectations, given the restrictions. We thank the many businesses that allowed us to display our countertop boxes. We thank the community for their continued and generous support for the Legion and its mission.

Thank you,  
Poppy Committee, RCLBr124

## Br 124 President's 2020 Winter Holiday Well Wishes

Comrades,

2020 has been a very trying time for us all. Restrictions, closures, social distancing, has affected us all. Many legions across the country felt the impact of these restrictions in their branch performance. Branches have closed and others struggled to keep afloat. I am proud to say that our branch was not one of them. Our focus prior to the pandemic was maintaining a healthy bank balance. Through the hard work of our members, these efforts came to light when we were forced to close our doors in March. During the lockdown, without a constant revenue flow, some branches struggled. We were prepared. Our healthy general account covered our costs during this time. When restrictions were eased, our great fish fry team stepped up and restarted this popular community event. The drive through/take out format required extra volunteers to comply with the Covid rules and I am proud to say these needed positions were filled. Our clubroom is open with limited hours and all health rules in place, both regional and provincial. Our executive committee meets regularly to discuss current and future plans as we move into 2021. As one of the executive initiatives, we have taken steps to further protect our members' welfare by arranging to have a new air ventilation system, using ultra-violet sanitation lighting, installed for the clubroom to provide clean, filtered air. Trust that we all do what we must to protect ourselves and keep well. This year unlike no other will be different for our usual Christmas holiday and family gatherings. I wish each and every Comrade and their families the best of times for the Holiday Season and the future.

Yours in Comradeship,  
Paul A. Eramian, President  
RCL Br 124, NOTL

**Ladies Auxiliary** - The Ladies Auxiliary are holding a Christmas Wreath Gift Card Raffle in support of the branch. Tickets are available at the bar. Tickets are \$5 each, with over \$300 in prizes to be won. The winning ticket is to be drawn Dec. 19th, and you don't have to be a member to participate.

**Volunteers** - Thank you to the Mystery Elves who helped decorate the branch for Christmas! Other shout outs this month go to; Andy, Stan, Gary, Richard M, Tim & many, many others, help around the branch. Again, A HUGE thank you goes out to everyone who helped out this year, we couldn't have done it without you all.



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**Fish Fry** - Our Fish Fry for 2020 only has 1 more week! Thursday December 17th from 4pm-630pm is the last day of the year you can get the #1 voted Best Fish Fry in town. The executive will meet in mid- January and decide when this weekly and highly-anticipated event will return given the restrictions at that time. This year, our Fish Fry managed to run for 14 weeks, and is in large part what saved our branch over this unusual year. We received an excellent response to our revamped Drive-Thru Only method. We have to give a HUGE Thank You to our Amazing Volunteer Fish Fry Crew, dressed in PPE, braving the cold, donating hours of their time to support the branch in its time of need. Special Thank Yous to; Gary, Chris, Rhys, Andre, Barb, Stan, Moe, Kelson, Richard, Debbie, Meghan, Lori, Beth, John, & our Air Cadet Runners.

**Youth & Education** - The Co-Chairs are thrilled to report that the branch received over 230 entries to the Legion's Annual Remembrance Art and Literary Contest this year. All the entries have now been judged and the overall winners in each category have been delivered to Zone for the next level of competition. Stay tuned for photos of some of the winning entries from each school to be posted on our Facebook page and displayed around the Legion. Prizes will be distributed in the New Year. Thank you to all the students who participated and to the teachers who made the efforts on their behalf. A special thank you to our judges: Penny-Lynn Cookson, Gail Kerr and David Antscherl.

**Finances** - While all Legions are experiencing financial difficulties, we are better off than many. Thankfully, the branch does not have any debt owing, and we're grateful to all current and past executives for being mindful of spending and saving to ensure the branch's continued future. We have received much appreciated donations over the past year for help with Branch Operational Costs. The latest executive meeting was held December 9th.

**Office** - Members, please submit your e-mail address to the branch if you haven't already, as well as any contact information changes now or going forward. We'd like to ensure your member file as submitted contains all of your current contact information.

**Facebook** - We are now nearing 600 followers, compared to 400 in September! We try to keep our membership as well as the community connected. Please follow us at [www.facebook.com/legion124](http://www.facebook.com/legion124) for the most up to date information.

**Website** - Our website can be viewed at [www.legion124.ca](http://www.legion124.ca). It is viewed approximately 40 times a week, with the pages; Hours, Calendar, Contact, and Branch Updates being the most frequented pages. Our Remembrance Service can still be viewed under the Remembrance Media tab. It is an ongoing Work in Progress with many pages to explore. Please let Elizabeth know if there's anything specific you'd like to see on there, or you have any comments or corrections to be made.

**Elections/Meeting Dates** - Executive Meetings have recommenced, being held outside or socially distanced inside, on a monthly basis, and when required. General Meetings are still postponed until further notice. Executive meeting minutes can be found within the branch or requested. The calendar year is coming to an end, but the Legion year runs from June-May, so we're half-way through our current Executive Term. Due to the ongoing pandemic, Command decided to cancel the elections for the 2020-2021 term and asked the current executives to stay on or step down. We as a branch were very fortunate that all of our Executives/Committee members agreed to stay on, and thank them greatly for their continued commitment. Provided the present restrictions on General Meetings are lifted by Spring to hold an election, we expect to have a new Executive in June, and we ask that people start considering leadership/committee roles now. If you'd like more information on the roles, please check out our website at: <https://legion124.ca/executive> or talk to any of the current executive/committee members.



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**LAST FISH FRY  
OF YEAR DEC. 17!**

4 P.M. - 6:30 P.M. | TAKEOUT ONLY | CASH ONLY

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

**A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO THE NOTL  
COMMUNITY FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

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**FISH FRY**

Thursday, December 17  
4 - 6:30 p.m.

TAKEOUT ONLY | CASH ONLY  
1 or 2 piece dinner  
with fries and coleslaw  
Drive-thru to order

**DON'T MISS THE LAST  
FISH FRY OF 2020**

*A heartfelt thank you to our  
wonderful community for your support!*

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>DECEMBER 2020 RCL Br124</b> Niagara on the Lake		1 Clubroom 2pm-6pm L.A. Meeting@4	2 Clubroom Closed	3 Clubroom 3pm-8pm FishFry 4pm-630pm	4 Clubroom 3pm-8pm	5 Clubroom 2pm-8pm *clubroom activities
6 Clubroom 2pm-6pm	7 Clubroom Closed	8 Clubroom 2pm-6pm	9 Clubroom Closed Executive Meeting @1	10 Clubroom 3pm-8pm Fish Fry 4pm-630pm	11 Clubroom 3pm-8pm	12 Clubroom 2pm-8pm *clubroom activities
13 Clubroom 2pm-6pm	14 Clubroom Closed	15 Clubroom 2pm-6pm	16 Clubroom Closed	17 Clubroom 3pm-8pm Last Fish Fry 4pm-630pm	18 Clubroom 3pm-8pm	19 Clubroom 2pm-8pm *clubroom activities
20 Clubroom 2pm-6pm	21 Clubroom Closed	22 Clubroom 2pm-6pm	23 Clubroom Closed No General Meeting	24 Clubroom 2pm-6pm Christmas Eve	25 Clubroom Closed Christmas	26 Clubroom Closed Boxing Day
27 Clubroom 2pm-6pm	28 Clubroom Closed	29 Clubroom 2pm-6pm	30 Clubroom Closed	31 Clubroom Closed New Years Eve	January 1 Clubroom Closed New Years Day	