



# 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 legion124.ca

## 2020 Poppy Campaign Newsletter

We'd like to start off by saying THANK YOU. It was a complex Poppy Campaign year but still successful, and we couldn't do it without everyone's help. We too feel it unfortunate for the changes that were deemed necessary for the safety of all this year. And again, we appreciate everyone's assistance in the planning and procedures/execution of the campaign.

Some changes/highlights made to this year's Poppy Campaign/Year include:

### -Decoration Day - Cancelled (due to Covid)

While there was no formal Decoration Day Parade held unfortunately, the local Veterans graves were still decorated with a Legion Marker and a Canadian Flag. If you noticed your Veteran relative does not have one, please contact the branch. Thank you to our Ladies Auxiliary for purchasing the markers the past couple years to ensure our Veterans graves are clearly marked and easily identified, remembered and honoured.

### -Remembrance Ceremony - Private / Live-Streamed (due to Covid)

While it would have been preferred for the service to be freely attended, the pandemic restrictions forced us to find another way to reach the public. With high hopes, next year will be both freely attended and live streamed for anyone at-risk or unable to attend. This was our first time Live streaming with one rehearsal test stream, and while it could have been better (Ie. wind sound, no parade), it went quite well considering! It has now been viewed over 1500 times and continues to be available for viewing on our Facebook Page and Website, which is an added bonus.

### -Seniors Homes Remembrance Services - Adapted to CD (due to Covid)

We were not allowed into the seniors' homes; however, the Poppy Committee recorded a complete Remembrance Ceremony in our hall and distributed it to the senior's homes on CD so could be played/heard at 11am on Nov 11th with local familiar voices. This was widely appreciated as it allowed them to hear the ceremony without having to congregate together.

### -Girl Guides Remembrance Presentations - Revised (due to Covid)

In the past few years a connection has been built with our local Girl Guides groups, as we brought a Female Veteran (Blanche) to meet with them to discuss the importance of Remembrance. As we would not risk bringing a veteran out to meet with them at this time, they came to us with another way to connect. The 'Brownies' and Girl Guides had Poppy Rock painting activities and presented them to our Ladies Auxiliary and laid at our Cenotaph. The 'Sparks' decorated cards and sent them to our Vets. We gave them Poppy Activity Booklets and bracelets/etc. These were adorable interactions, and opportunities will be continued in the future.

### -Niagara on the Lake Museum - Fostering Community Connections

The Museum used some of our members to read the names on the cenotaph in their 'We Remember Them' feature with Niagara College. This was a video of songs, and stories from the First and Second World War. We hope to continue to build this relationship with both the Museum and the School.



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## -Veterans Dinner - Revised (due to Covid)

While we were unable to hold our Annual Remembrance Dinner, we did get Command approval to provide 50 meals (1x 2piece Fish Fry Dinners each + Dessert) to our Veterans and their spouses/caregivers. Thank you to those responsible for completing this gesture. We received positive feedback.

## -Newspaper Coverage - Fostering Community Connections

Although there are 2 local newspapers, we appreciate both for their coverage regarding our Remembrance Day Ceremonies and changes. They were a big help in getting our information out there, connecting with the locals and portraying a good public image. Plus, the coverage of the Memories Project always draws public interest including the NHS Museum.

## -Cenotaph Poppy Box - Created

As in the past it has been tradition for everyone to come up to the cenotaph and place a poppy, two beautiful hardwood boxes have been created to place them instead of being blown away/into traffic.

## -Flag Raising Ceremony

Attended privately, a Poppy Flag was formally raised to signify the start of the Poppy Campaign with Lord Mayor Betty Disero. The First Poppy was 'pinned' on her at this time as well.

## -Cadets

Unable to do Cenotaph vigil per usual.

## -Social Media

We gained approx. 150 'followers' and growing on Facebook due to our Live Streamed Remembrance Event and the need to keep in touch this year.

## -Donations Dispersed

The Poppy Committee has recommended to the Executive to make donations to the Cadets in the amount of \$4,000 and the District Hospital Fund for \$2,000.

## -Youth & Education

The Poster & Essay Contest is to be completed online this year per Command's direction and resources. Lots of participation from all schools this year, collection/judging to come still.

-Outreach - Is an ongoing concern of the branch during these socially isolated times.

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## **Summary:**

Due to the restrictions, we expected to receive half of our usual donations. While we are still counting, we are happy to announce that we have substantially surpassed our expectations. We would like to thank the ~145 town businesses, schools and community groups who allowed us to display our poppy boxes. Although we did not reach the dollar amounts we often do, it was a successful year, and we thank all who donated to our branch Poppy Trust Fund. Final count numbers to come.



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## THANK YOU

Special shout outs to our Poppy Chair Marg Boldt, and Al Howse and Stan Harrington for your daily assistance in all aspects of the campaign. As always, we couldn't have done it without your friendly, familiar, and reliable faces. Although, more hands-on deck are needed.

Thank you to the Town for their support and for lending us Beth Audet's IT skills and use of tripod and automated coin counter.

Thank you to all the local businesses who placed a Poppy Collection Box at your store. We relied more than ever on them to distribute our poppies and collect donations.

Thank you to our Padres Sheldon and Judy Kofsky for their assistance and wonderful execution of our revised Remembrance Ceremonies.

Thank you to the presenters of the Remembrance Ceremony, Lord Mayor Betty Disero, President Paul Eramian, 1st Vice Mo Pam and our Sgt. @ Arms Doug Garrett.

Thank you to our readers of the Seniors Home Remembrance Service CD, Jacqueline Dickieson and Doug Johnson.

Thank you to our Poppy Box Collection Distribution guys, Brad Kempston, Chris Toye, Rhys Beak, and Ross Bateman.

Thank you to our bill counters; Elaine Pole and Pauline Derouin.

Thank you to our Girl Guides Connections/Leaders, Megan Gilchrist and Leslie Moulson for their creative and innovative ideas this year.

Thank you to Vic Packard for making the Cenotaph Poppy Boxes featured at both cenotaphs.

Thank you to those who made the Veterans Dinner a success, Gary Bradnam, Lori Beak, Rhys Beak.

Thank you to anyone/everyone who offered to canvass on behalf of our branch.

Thank you to Barb Worthy for providing her knowledge and her connection with the local historical Museum.

Thank you to the community for support and understanding during these unusual times.

Thank you everyone for continuing the importance of Remembrance in our community each year.

Please note many volunteers' assistive throughout multiple tasks.

Our apologies if your assistance has not been acknowledged.

If you'd like to be involved in next year's Poppy Campaign, please let us know.



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The Names on the Wreaths placed at the Old Town/Queenston Cenotaphs are as follows:

Dominion of Canada	Province Of Ontario	Regional Municipality of Niagara	Town of Niagara on the Lake	Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124 / Ladies Auxiliary	Revs/Padres. Judith & Sheldon Kofsky
Military Missions Korea to Afghanistan	809 Newark Squadron – Royal Canadian Air Cadets	The Cooper Family	The Patterson Family	The Bell & Bevan Families - "In Memory of Ken & Mike Bevan"	The Bradley Family – Memory of Allen Bradley
The Danieluk Family – In Memory of William Bowman & Carl Doucett	The Derbyshire Family – In Memory of Oswin & Allan Derbyshire	The Gollop Family	The Grimstead Family – In Memory of John & Joe Grimstead	The Haines & Cully Family	The Houghton Family
The Hope Family	The Howarth Family	The Howse Family	The Hutchison Family "Joseph Hutchison"	The Lambert Family – Memory of Lewis Lambert & Harry R. Wales	The Lowrey Family – "Wright Lowrey"
The McBrayne Family – In Memory of Reg Thomas	The Nisbet Family – In Memory of Walter L. Nisbet	The Rescorl Family – In Memory of Percy Rescorl	The Scott Family – In Memory of George Scott. & Michael Scott	The Stewart Family – Memory of Reg Stewart"	The Taylor Family
The Unger Family – In Memory of J. Unger	The Ward Family	The Wing Family	The Lamoure Foundation/Family	LCPL George P Wilson	St. David's/ Queenston United Church
Crossroads School	District School Board Niagara	Retired Teachers Association, District 14	1st NOTL Pathfinder/Ranger (Girl Guides Canada)	Civil Air Rescue Emergency Services	District #1-5 Niagara Fire Dept
Emergency Medical Services	Lincoln & Welland Regiment	Masonic Lodge #2 AF & AM	Niagara Golden Age Club	Niagara Historical Museum	Niagara on the Lake Chamber of Commerce
Niagara on the Lake Kinsmen	Niagara on the Lake Lions Club	Niagara on the Lake New Comers Club	Niagara Parks Police	Niagara Regional Police	Queenston Residents Association
RCMP	Virgil Women's Institute	Rotary Club of Niagara on-the-Lake	Royal Arch Masons – Chapter 55	St. David's Lions Club	University Women in Niagara

Those who had purchased a wreath will be receiving an invoice in the mail in the next few days. Our policy is that the above listed presenters will be an annual contributor unless otherwise stated. If you have not received any contact from us within the coming weeks, and would like a wreath next year please let us know.

Please note, the Poppy Trust Fund doesn't profit from selling wreaths.

Please see our Website's Remembrance/Poppy Campaign pages at: [www.legion124.ca/Remembrance](http://www.legion124.ca/Remembrance) for this year's service video and clips from last year.

Thank you,  
Lest We Forget  
Branch 124 - Poppy 2020



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## FAQs

### **1. Where can I find more information about the Poppy Campaign?**

You can find more information specifically about Branch 124's past Poppy Campaigns at [www.legion124.ca/PoppyCampaign](http://www.legion124.ca/PoppyCampaign) or at the Provincial Command's Poppy Website at <https://legion.ca/remembrance/the-poppy-campaign>.

### **2. Who can I contact to volunteer, give suggestions, provide feedback, develop connections, sign up for next year, etc?**

Please email the office at [Legion124@gmail.com](mailto:Legion124@gmail.com) and you will be connected with a member of our Poppy Committee at the time.

### **3. Where can I mail my donation to?**

Please mail the cheque addressed to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124 to P.O. Box # 714 - 410 King St. Niagara on the Lake, L0S 1J0, pay to the order of RCL Branch 124 Poppy Trust Fund.

### **4. When is the Poppy Campaign?**

The Poppy Campaign runs from the last Friday in October to November 11th. However, the Poppy Committee is a year-round commitment, as fundraising is not limited to those 2 weeks. You can help support the Poppy Trust Fund year-round by donating, buying merchandise, signing up to volunteer, register your business for a Poppy Collection Box, and more! Have Ideas? Contact Us!

### **5. Where can I buy Poppy Logo items?**

You can order them through our branch at [legion124@gmail.com](mailto:legion124@gmail.com) or online at the [www.poppystore.ca](http://www.poppystore.ca).

### **6. Where do Poppy Trust Funds go?**

Through your donations to the Legion Poppy Fund, the Legion provides financial assistance and support to Veterans, including Canadian Armed Forces and RCMP, and their families who are in need. Poppy Funds may be used for:

- Grants for food, heating costs, clothing, prescription medication, medical appliances and equipment, essential home repairs and emergency shelter or assistance for Veterans and their families in need
- Housing accommodation and care facilities for Veterans
- Funding for Veteran Transition Programs that are directly related to the training, education and support needs of Veterans and their families
- Comforts for Veterans and their surviving spouses who are hospitalized and in need
- Veterans visits, transportation and day trips



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## 6. Where do Poppy Trust Funds go...(Continued)

- Accessibility modifications to assist Veterans with disabilities
- Educational bursaries for children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Veterans
- Support of cadet units
- Veteran drop-in centres and services in communities where Veterans would benefit
- Community medical appliances, medical training and medical research which will assist in the care of Veterans in the community
- Support the work of Legion Command and Branch Service Officers across Canada in assisting and representing Veterans
- Donations for relief of disasters declared by federal or provincial governments which impact Veterans in those communities
- Promotion and administering of Remembrance activities to ensure Canadians never forget the sacrifices of Canada's Veterans

