



The Royal Canadian Legion

General Nelles Branch #124

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August 2020 (Covid) Newsletter (08/25/2020)

Hello Comrades, we hope you all are keeping well during this unprecedented time! Welcome to our August Newsletter filled with information regarding the branch and how it's been doing during the past few months. However, whether we are open or closed if you, or any members/veterans require any sort of assistance please contact the branch, we are always here to help.

Covid-19 Reopening Plan & Social Distancing Protocols

We have as a community, moved into Stage 3 which details that we can have up to 50 guests in attendance inside/outside. There are of course new procedures and etiquette to adhere to regarding social distancing practices. Our bar staff has been trained in the governments' regulations of Restaurant Guidance of Health and Safety. All necessary requirements are in place. Our official Branch Covid-19 Reopening Plan is available in the office upon request. The Patio has been extended onto the front lawn until October 2020 to help adhere to the 2m/6ft apart social distancing rules set by the government.

The Social Distancing Protocols are as follows:

- Only members and their guest are allowed at the branch at this time.
- Upon entering please sign yourself as well as your guest in, with included contact information for tracing purposes.
- When entering the branch, please sanitize your hands.
- When inside the branch and walking around masks are mandatory at all times.
- When seated, masks are voluntary.
- Masks are available for purchase within the branch.
- Please at all times, respect the 6feet/2m apart rule,
- Only one person allowed in the bathroom at any time.
- Please wash your hands often and the sanitizer is available at the front when needed.
- Plexiglass has been installed in front of the bar for added safety for the stewards.
- All commonly touched surfaces are being washed/sanitized often and physical floor markings/signs have been implemented to help stop the spread.
- Please be respectful of our bar staff as they navigate this tough and unprecedented time.

NEW Branch Hours

Due to Covid, we have re-opened on restricted hours and for our members and their guests only, and with strict social distancing protocols.

The Clubroom's new hours are Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 3pm to 8pm.

The Office is still available via phone, email or walk-in (masks required) from Monday-Friday 10am-2pm.

Committee Reports

Cadet Liaison (809 Squadron Royal Canadian Air Cadets)

- 50th Anniversary Plans are in Motion
- Start up for the Program has been delayed until October
- Bottle Drive is still happening with changes noted below
- Cadets are not to participate in Fish Fry, Serving Dinners, on Parade, etc. at this time.

Cadets Bottle Drive

Comrades, we have been advised that “Due to Department of National Defense regulations, Air Cadets and their immediate families are not allowed to sort bottles during the present Covid-19 Emergency Measures”. Therefore, there is a revised collection depot located at the Hustler lawnmower dealership on East-West Line at Hwy 55 just behind McDonalds & Picard Peanuts for anyone who would still like to donate their bottles to the cadets.

Padres

- Our Padres, Judy and Sheldon Kofsky have been attending many services where required and they have been supplying meals for a drive by activity on many different days.
- Judy has been active in sewing masks for those in need and taking phone calls as needed
- They are not allowed back in the nursing homes yet but have been doing lots of prayer for those sick
- The Padres attend at Celebrations of Life as requested

Youth & Education

2019 Poster and Literary Contest

We received 178 entries, with a total of 78 winners to the Legion’s 2019 Remembrance Poster and Literary Contest from all five schools in Niagara on the Lake. Unfortunately, due to the closures resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic, to-date we have been unable to present the awards to Crossroads Public School. We will contact the school in September to see if we can make suitable arrangements. We have now received the entry forms for this year's competition from Command however the ongoing disruptions due to Covid-19 may bring challenges this Fall. We will do our best to involve as many of the Town's schools as possible.

Treasurer

Financially our branch is doing okay. We do have a Net drain of about \$2,000 a month, however our ongoing profits help to offset costs.

One Donation has been made for \$500 to the Lake Report for their generosity and support over the year.

Branch Funding Assistance has been offered from Command, however as there is only \$3million to be divided amongst all branches, it may have a more direct and urgent need elsewhere.

Branch 124 is currently not under financial stress, and has substantial savings in the bank should further concerns arise. Members can contact the branch for current bank balances.

Membership

2021 Dues are coming due in September for Early Bird. As many members are still understandably wary of coming into the branch/clubroom, you may also mail in or renew your membership online.

Office

- Elizabeth Richards is back in the office
- Have you been receiving branch correspondence? Are you included on our Membership Email Blast List?
- Please provide Elizabeth with updated contact information to ensure we have on file, the correct mailing address, phone number and email address on file.
- Legion Merchandise can be ordered online or through the office – please email legion124@gmail.com

Sports

Due to the ongoing issues with Covid-19 a decision had to be made to CANCEL all 2020 Provincial Sports events that had not yet been played. Please look on the Ontario Command Website for the 2021-2022 Provincial Schedule. Looking forward to seeing everyone again when we can get back to normal and to enjoying the fun and social enjoyment our Sports Program provides.

Ways & Means

Saturday Clubroom Activities – Now Open at 2pm!

Our Saturday Clubroom activities are slowly resuming! Yay!
Bingo is back on! With Social Distancing Practices in place.

These include not being able to get up from your seat during, game cards will be brought to you.
Weekly BBQs Resuming from 5pm-7pm. *Volunteers needed
Meat Draw to be restarting soon (Date TBD)

The weekly draw has been ongoing, as well as a Ladies Auxiliary Covid Summer Raffle going on.
Tickets are 3 for \$5, prize to be awarded on Sat. Aug 29.

- Unfortunately, other Clubroom activities are still Cancelled until further notice (IE. Pool, Shuffleboard, cards, darts, etc). However, stay tuned for more re-opening information!
- Hall Rentals are currently on hold.

Sick & Visiting Officer / Service Officer

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, all visitations at retirement homes and long-term care facilities have been suspended since mid-March 2020.

Please contact the branch office if you need assistance in filing an application for benefits or obtaining assistive devices.

We expect to receive notification in September as to when the Provincial Service Officer will be in our area to address any concerns our veterans, and or their spouses may have.

Bar Chair

- All Covid-19 Safety Procedures, such as plexiglass barriers have been put in place for the safety of both the Bar Stewards and customers.
- We are/have been using new Biodegradable Straws to try to be more eco-friendly.
- Additionally, we are not serving draught at this time.

Fish Fry

The Executive is currently in discussion regarding the Fish Fry dates. We know how much you all miss them! We are hoping to resume sometime in the Fall. We must find suitable ways to socially distance upstairs in the tiny and hot kitchen for the safety of our volunteers. Additionally, we are not permitted to have the Air Cadets at this time, so further volunteers are needed.

Poppy

- We advertised in the Local Newspaper for Veterans or their dependents to contact us if they require assistance. This was done for 6 weeks and Stan Harrington attended the Branch as a contact person.
- A vet and their dependent were assisted out of Poppy Funds
- As authorized by Command, \$500 was moved from Poppy to pay for the cost of PPE to protect our veterans.
- A small deposit into Poppy was made with funds collected
- All the required collection and canvass boxes have been prepared for the 2020 Poppy Campaign by Stan Harrington.
- This year is going to be an interesting Poppy Campaign year; however we must still carry on and honour their memories. Extra volunteers will be needed as there are no cadet volunteers allowed this year.
- The Remembrance Dinner date is still TBD.
- The Poppy Funds' current Balance is above \$45K

BRANCH UPDATES

Meeting Dates

The Executive has continued to meet during the pandemic shut-down, however our General Meetings are still cancelled until further notice. We have just been given approval to resume our General Meetings with appropriate precautions in place. However, the executive is currently in discussion as to when it will be safe to return to normal procedures. All minutes are available within the branch at request.

The next Ladies Auxiliary meeting is set to be held on Tuesday September 1st @ 430pm.

Branch Elections

The Branch elections have been cancelled for this term year per a Provincial Decree. The current Executive and Committee positions are to stay in place until the new June 2021 term. Please contact the branch for more information if you would be interested in running for the executive or committee member roles.

Events

All current in-branch events are temporarily cancelled due to capacity restrictions.

The upcoming Bua Trip to Oshweken has also been cancelled, any questions please see Paul Eramian.

Upcoming Events (Ie. Thanksgiving Turkey/Ham Roll) are to be decided (TBD) still.

We hope things return back to more normal activities prior to our Remembrance Day Services.

Please stay tuned for upcoming decisions, or email the office if you have any questions.

Last Post

Unfortunately, over the last few months some of our members have passed. Deaths that happened around the pandemic time were as follows: Dal Sartor (January), Billy Walker (February), Blanche Quinn (May) and past-member/brother of Dennis, John Skubel (August). An Honour Guard was arranged with social distancing for our longstanding (ordinary) comrade, Blanche Quinn, at St. Mark's Cemetery.

Calendars

The August and September Branch Calendars are attached.

Volunteers

Please let us know if you're available to volunteer your time at all. Assistance is needed to clean/clear out the branch during this quiet time, as well as when we re-start up all of our normal branch activities.

Volunteer Thank Yous

- Pop Cans were organized for the Cadets by Mark Gaspich
- Back Storage/Blue Trailer cleaned out thanks to Paul Eramian
- Branch Cleaning/Organization/Covid procedures help -Beth Black of the Ladies Auxiliary
- Our Patio Tables were painted by Janet Abrahamse and Barb Taylor
- Our Lawn has been being cut by Tim Tranter
- Outside yard work has been helped being taken care of Richard Myers

Website

A Website has been voluntarily created for our branch. It is 90% complete, with some 'Coming Soon' additions to add. check out www.Legion124.ca for more information on branch updates, contact information, and more.

Awards Dinner

The Annual Awards Dinner has also been postponed at this time due to the pandemic. The Honours and Awards Committee will be in discussion to see when this dinner can be safely rearranged, at that time all membership will be revised of the rescheduled date.

Wall of Remembrance

The Niagara Military Museum is establishing a Wall of Remembrance to honour those who have served in the Canadian Armed Forces. Veterans of WWI, WWII, Korea, and Peace Keeping will be honoured with a plaque and their names will be entered in a Book of Remembrance with their history and stories. For information on procuring a plaque contact the Niagara Military Museum email: niamilmuseum@gmail.com or Telephone them at 905-358-1949.

Military Service Recognition Book

Copies of the newest edition of the Military Service Recognition Book (Volume 5) are available in the office. Please let us know if you'd like a copy or have a submission you would like published.

Legionnaire Award

This year District B Council has created the Legionnaire of the Year Award. To qualify, the person nominated must be a member of the Legion in good standing, must not have received Legionnaire of the year award before, and cannot be a member of your executive. This award is for that one person in your branch who has worked hard and is deserving of recognition. Comrades, it is one of the things that we can do to recognize those unsung volunteers that keep our legion going and who are part of the building blocks to a successful legion. Forms available in the office.

Thank you to everyone for helping to keep our Legion Branch going during these difficult times.

2020 AUGUST



Royal Canadian Legion -Branch 124

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	01 <u>We're Open! 3pm-8pm</u>
02 Closed	03	04	05	06 <u>We're Open! 3pm-8pm</u>	07 <u>We're Open! 3pm-8pm</u>	08 <u>We're Open! 3pm-8pm</u>
09 Closed	10	11 <u>Executive Meeting @ 1pm</u>	12	13 <u>We're Open! 3pm-8pm</u> <u>Office Hours: 10am-2pm</u> <u>Fish Fry: Cancelled (Returning: TBD)</u>	14 <u>We're Open! 3pm-8pm</u>	15 <u>We're Open! 3pm-8pm</u>
16 Closed	17 <u>Office Hours: 10am-2pm</u>	18 <u>Office Hours: 10am-2pm</u>	19 <u>Office Hours: 10am-2pm</u>	20 <u>We're Open! 3pm-8pm</u> <u>Out of Office: Today</u> <u>Fish Fry: Cancelled (Returning: TBD)</u>	21 <u>We're Open! 3pm-8pm</u> <u>Office Hours: 10am-2pm</u>	22 <u>We're OPEN! 3pm-8pm</u> <u>Bingo is back on!</u> <u>Saturday BBQs starting back up!</u>
23 Closed	24 <u>Office Hours: 10am-2pm</u>	25 <u>Office Hours: 10am-2pm</u> <u>Executive Meeting @1pm</u>	26 <u>Office Hours: 10am-2pm</u> <u>General Meeting: Cancelled</u>	27 <u>We're Open! 3pm-8pm</u> <u>Office Hours: 10am-2pm</u> <u>Fish Fry: Cancelled (Returning: TBD)</u>	28 <u>We're Open! 3pm-8pm</u> <u>Office Hours: 10am-2pm</u>	29 <u>We're OPEN! 2pm-8pm</u> <u>Bingo is back on!</u> <u>BBQ! 5pm-7pm</u>
30 Closed	31 <u>Office Hours: 10am-2pm</u>	01	02	03	04	05

2020 SEPTEMBER



Royal Canadian Legion -Branch 124

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	01 <u>Office Hours: 10am-2pm</u> <u>Ladies Auxiliary Meeting @430pm</u>	02 <u>Office Hours: 10am-2pm</u>	03 <u>We're Open! 3pm-8pm</u> <u>Office Hours: 10am-2pm</u> <u>Fish Fry: Cancelled (Returning: _____)</u>	04 <u>We're Open! 3pm-8pm</u> <u>Office Hours: 10am-2pm</u>	05 <u>We're OPEN! 2pm-8pm</u> <u>Bingo is back on!</u> <u>BBQ! 5pm-7pm</u>
06 Closed	07 <u>Office Hours: 10am-2pm</u>	08 <u>Office Hours: 10am-2pm</u>	09 <u>Office Hours: 10am-2pm</u> <u>Executive Meeting @ 1pm</u>	10 <u>We're Open! 3pm-8pm</u> <u>Office Hours: 10am-2pm</u> <u>Fish Fry: Cancelled (Returning: _____)</u>	11 <u>We're Open! 3pm-8pm</u> <u>Office Hours: 10am-2pm</u>	12 <u>We're OPEN! 2pm-8pm</u> <u>Bingo is back on!</u> <u>BBQ! 5pm-7pm</u>
13 Closed	14 <u>Office Hours: 10am-2pm</u>	15 <u>Office Hours: 10am-2pm</u>	16 <u>Office Hours: 10am-2pm</u>	17 <u>We're Open! 3pm-8pm</u> <u>Office Hours: 10am-2pm</u> <u>Fish Fry: Cancelled (Returning: _____)</u>	18 <u>We're Open! 3pm-8pm</u> <u>Office Hours: 10am-2pm</u>	19 <u>We're OPEN! 2pm-8pm</u> <u>Bingo is back on!</u> <u>BBQ! 5pm-7pm</u>
20 Closed <u>Decoration Day</u>	21 <u>Office Hours: 10am-2pm</u>	22 <u>Office Hours: 10am-2pm</u>	23 <u>Office Hours: 10am-2pm</u> <u>General Meeting: TBD</u> <u>Next General Meeting: TBD</u>	24 <u>We're Open! 3pm-8pm</u> <u>Office Hours: 10am-2pm</u> <u>Fish Fry: Cancelled (Returning: _____)</u>	25 <u>We're Open! 3pm-8pm</u> <u>Office Hours: 10am-2pm</u>	26 <u>We're OPEN! 2pm-8pm</u> <u>Bingo is back on!</u> <u>BBQ! 5pm-7pm</u>
27 Closed	28 <u>Office Hours: 10am-2pm</u>	29 <u>Office Hours: 10am-2pm</u>	30 <u>Office Hours: 10am-2pm</u>	01	02	03