



The Royal Canadian Legion
Branch 124, General Nelles
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Message from the President - Victor Packard

Dear Comrades,
The last 18 months has been a difficult time for many of us. The effects of Covid 19 have led to the illness and loss of loved ones, business failures, and even mental health issues including feelings of loneliness and isolation for many of us. During this time, your Executive has continued to serve your Branch and its Members while determining how best to operate the branch in compliance with the often changing Covid-19 rules and regulations set by the Province and the Municipality.



In March 2020, when the first lockdowns occurred, the Legion's Dominion Command issued a directive that Member's meetings were prohibited until further notice. That restriction remains in place. We are still not permitted to hold Member's meetings or elections. Trust that as soon as we are able to call a meeting we will so that your voices can be heard.

As you know, Comrade Paul Eramian resigned as President on July 1, 2021, at which time Comrade Moe Pam (then First Vice President) would have assumed the role of President however he resigned his executive roles on July 7, 2021 before he could be formally installed as President. At that time, I was serving as Second Vice President, having been appointed by the then President Eramian on June 16, 2021. Upon Comrade Pam's resignation I then became the next eligible member of the Executive to advance to the role of President. While the timing of the appointment was unexpected, I have sworn to serve the Branch and its Members to the very best of my abilities until a formal election can take place.

Please allow me to properly introduce myself to those of you who don't know me. I have been an Associate member of Branch 124 since 2010, and a member of the Executive Committee for the past five years, most recently as Chair of Honours & Awards. I was born in Niagara Falls and have lived most of my life in the Niagara area. I reached the rank of "Able-bodied Seaman" in the Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corp Renown, St. Catharines, 1960. I presently serve on the Boards of Friends of Fort George and the Niagara Military Museum and am a member of the 57th Artillery Assoc., Lundy's Lane Historical Society, the Niagara Historical Society and a Master Mason, Niagara Lodge No. 2.

I look forward to meeting more of our Members and will continue to make myself available to address questions or concerns at the Branch every Friday between 1-4. Alternatively, you can leave your number with Elizabeth at the office and I will contact you by telephone.

Yours in Comradeship,

Victor Packard