



The Royal Canadian Legion
Branch 124, General Nelles
410 King St. P.O. Box #714
Niagara on the Lake, ON L0S1J0

Tel: 905-468-2353
Email: legion124@gmail.com
Website: www.legion124.ca

October 2021 Newsletter

Happy October, hope everyone is having a warm and enjoyable Fall season.

Covid-19 Restrictions

On Monday October 25th, 2021, the Government announced a lifting of some Covid-19 restrictions provincially, and in the Municipality. As a result, Branch 124 has adjusted how business is run to comply with stage 3 of the Reopening Plan. Any questions regarding the guidelines and rules, please contact the branch for more information.

The Executive has permitted the replacing of the Bar Stools, and the Pool/Snooker table and Shuffleboard are now available. Card playing and darts have not yet resumed..

The Executive are understanding of everyone's frustration with the length of Covid-19 and ask that everyone continue to comply by wearing masks, being double vaccinated and signing in at the door upon entering Branch 124. Following these rules protects your health, seniors and the public that enters our premises.

Executive (Branch Officers) Reports

President

Victor Packard, President, is available in Branch 124 on Thursday's between 1-4pm to address some of your concerns. The next Executive meeting is Tuesday, November 9th, 2021. Items you wish to raise are to be made in writing, to the attention of Victor Packard, President, so that they can be added to the agenda.

Treasurer

Financial Review - While Zone approved the current books and minutes, our financial reports for the last 2020-2021 year have been reviewed by Provincial Command and an independent Registered Accountant who had concerns with the impact of complimentary beverage tickets on bar revenue. As a result, the existing practice was halted and resumed at a reduced rate on a trial basis.

Reports - Financial Reports cannot be disseminated through this public forum. Any member wishing to review the financial statements of the branch can request a viewing with the Treasurer, Chris Toye. Contact the Branch 124 office to schedule an appointment.

Executive (Standing) Committees Reports

Membership

Updating Membership Information - Please ensure your contact information is up to date with the branch (phone, mailing address & email).

2022 Membership - Membership Dues for 2022 are now being collected and can be paid at the bar or the office. The annual dues remain at \$40.00.

Passed Members - We regret to inform everyone of the passing of member Marie Cleveland. Her Celebration of Life is to be held at the branch on Sunday, November 7th, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. Please contact the family directly regarding attending.

Poppy

The 2021 Poppy Campaign has Started! (Friday October 29th- Thursday November 11th) A Poppy Season bulletin went out last week regarding updates to this years' Poppy Campaign and Remembrance Services. If you did not receive it, please contact the branch or pick up a copy at the bar. We still have a need for street canvassers. Kindly sign up in the branch for the locations and times you'd prefer.

Remembrance Services - We're happy to announce that Remembrance Services will be held at both Cenotaphs this year. They will be limited in duration to reduce the length of time the public is gathered in a crowd. The service at the Queen Street Cenotaph will begin at 11:00 a.m., as usual, however the laying of the wreaths will start at 10:15 a.m. so we would ask members participating in this ceremony to arrive by that time. The Queenston Cenotaph ceremony will begin at 1:00 p.m., and the wreath laying ceremony will follow.

100th Year Celebrating Poppy- To recognize this important anniversary, Branch 124, together with the Niagara on the Lake Museum and its Poppy Brigade, has presented an impressive outdoor display. Please visit the Museum during the Poppy Campaign which is located in close proximity to the branch on Castlereagh.



Youth & Education - Several of our Branch's winning entries from last year's Remembrance Art and Literary Contest won awards at the Zone Level. Special congratulations to Leila Ridesic of Royal Oak School who won First Place, Junior, at the District Level for her essay entry. Thank you to all of our over 250 student participants and a special thanks to Judges Penny-Lynn Cookson, Gail Kerr and David Antscherl for volunteering their time to support this exciting program.

Sick & Visiting Officer / Service Officer/ Seniors/ Veterans Services

Please contact the branch's Outreach if you require assistance.

Legion124outreach@gmail.com www.legion124outreach.ca 905-246-4739

Laminating Services for Double Vaccination Cards Still Available - Free of Charge

Sports - Congratulations to our new Sports Chairperson, Comrade Rob Browning. He has met with the Executive, and looks forward to working with past-Sports Officer, Marg Boldt, to bring sports back to the branch.

Honours & Awards Dinner - We have hopeful plans for an early 2022 Honours & Awards / Volunteer Appreciation Dinner Event, regulations permitting.

Facebook - Our branch's official Facebook Page is currently on-hold until formal rules and procedures are put in place. The page will be monitored by Past President, Amber Holliday. The Facebook group bearing our Legion branch's name has been removed due to copyright infringement issues which is not under branch control. Thank you for your patience as we establish appropriate guidelines.

Website/PRO - Correction to last month's edition, Mark Dawson is not in charge of our Facebook Page/Newsletter, but is instead our editorial volunteer advisor for branch Public Relations.

Leadership & Development - The aim of this committee is to better inform members about the history and structure of all levels of the Legion. If you would like to formally put your name forward for an executive position, please speak with Branch President, Victor Packard.

Special Committees' Reports

Ways & Means - We ask and thank everyone for their patience and understanding as our new Chairperson, Allan Magnacca, reviews the roles, responsibilities and rules of the branch and updates them, as needed. Changes to contracts and procedures have been welcomed by the Executive and Office. The Chairperson apologizes for any inconveniences that may occur during this period.

Saturday Activities - Anyone interested in running or helping with the Saturday activities (Bingo and Meat Draw), please submit your application in writing to the President for consideration by the Executive. Volunteers are needed.

Hall Rentals - Hall Rentals are set to resume shortly, with an updated contract and pricing guide. Please contact the office with your requests which will be forwarded to Chairperson, Allan Magnacca. The branch continues to make the Boldt Hall available for *Celebrations of Life* for members, and friends of members, and for small meeting purposes.

Events - The branch held a Halloween-themed Bingo Party and BBQ on Saturday, October 30th that was well received. Fun costumes were in attendance and members were encouraged to bring friends and family along.

Community Outreach - The Outreach Committee has followed up with Newark Neighbors and can confirm the donation of the refrigerator has 'worked out very well' for them this summer. The Committee is also following up with those who are in receipt of a device to ensure that their learning/understanding is progressing and to see if any further assistance can be provided. This Committee is seeking volunteers to assist with Christmas/winter initiative. Kindly contact the Branch office to offer your assistance.

Bar

Bar Chair - Regretfully, Sandy Ross recently stepped down as Bar Chairperson however the Branch is fortunate to welcome another experienced Comrade to fill this important position, Veteran Comrade Richard Latour. The Executive thanks Comrade Ross for his service and wishes him the very best.

Changes to the Bar -

- Bar Stools are back at the bar!
- Some Sports resumed - pool/snooker, shuffleboard (no cards or darts yet)
- Bar is now closed on Sundays
- Increased Capacity Limits with more tables and chairs available

Bar Prices - As the Canadian economy fights its way out of pandemic-related shutdowns and disruptions consumers are spending again and inflation is on the rise. Coupled with rising input costs on packing, many breweries may be tempted to raise the price of their beer in taprooms and on retail shelves. For the country's biggest beer makers, price moves generally take place in the fall or early spring. With little price movement in 2020, some industry experts assume that this fall will see an uptick in prices. With the upward pressure in production costs the Branch 124 finds that we have to bring our costs in line with consumer upward trend and other Legions. - *Bar Chairperson's Report*

Fish Fry - Our Fish Fry remains both eat-in and drive-thru for the time being, every Thursday from 4-7 p.m. (rain or shine). Please stop by and enjoy the Best Fish and Chips in Town!

Volunteers - Volunteers are needed for Thursday morning Coleslaw Prep @ 10am. Please contact the office or Fish Fry Chair if interested.

Calendar

Clubroom Hours - Thursday 2pm-8pm,
Friday & Saturday 2pm-7pm

Office Hours - Monday-Friday 10am-2pm *

*Elizabeth Richards, Branch Secretary, may be out of the office periodically during these hours. Please call the office to confirm her availability.

President's Office Hours - Thursdays 1pm-4pm - please

***November 11th** - Queen Street Cenotaph @ 11am (wreath laying pre-service @ 10:15am)
Queenston Cenotaph @ 1pm (wreath laying after service)

Goodbye October, Hello November!

Comrades, Thank you for reading this month's branch Newsletter and stay tuned for more fun in the second last edition of Branch 124's 2021 Newsletters! - *Stay Warm, Safe & Happy* -