



The Royal Canadian Legion
Branch 124, General Nelles
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September 2021 Branch Newsletter

Happy Fall ! The weather is changing, and things at the branch are too!

Covid-19 Protocols

Please Be Advised that with the current COVID Protocols recently mandated by the Government of Ontario and enforced by the Region of Niagara, the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, and local Health Departments, Branch 124 General Nelles now requires proof of double vaccination and photo identification for everyone wishing to enter the premises, including the outdoor patio until further notice. The Branch Executive asks that all members, including the Executive, please respect these protocols and to please understand that the people volunteering as well as paid employees are just doing their jobs in endeavoring to keep everyone safe in these trying times. This is by no means personal. These protocols are mandated by the Province and other than medical exceptions, all people entering the Branch must adhere to these rules. refusal to comply will result in the member or guest not being admitted. Please help us all be safe.

I remain, as always, Yours in Comradeship, Amber Holliday Past President

For those of you asking about the outdoor restrictions we have adopted, we are acting with caution as we need clearer instruction from the Region, Municipality, and Health Department as to how to proceed. As it stands, people must enter the premises to order from the bar and use the restrooms so we felt it in the best interest for all involved that the proof of vaccination be required for the entire premises until further notice. Once we have a clearer picture of what we can and cannot do and how to proceed, I am sure these restrictions will be lifted/eased. This is not just about the safety of our Members, their guests, and the staff. The fines are a BIG Factor as well. The last thing the Branch and it's members/guests need are fines for not adhering to the Provincial mandates. I have included the list of fines that can be issued to individuals and businesses:

\$750 — Individuals who fail to comply with the restrictions can be issued a minimum fine of \$750.

\$1,000 — Those who obstruct an authority or individual from enforcing or complying with an order can receive a minimum fine of \$1,000.

\$10,000 — Those who host parties or gatherings in violation of the regulations can face a maximum fine of \$10,000 on conviction.

\$100,000 — The total maximum penalty for an individual is \$100,000 and up to one year in jail.

Corporations \$10M — For corporations, the fine would be determined upon conviction, Brent Ross, a spokesperson for the Ministry of the Solicitor General, said. This fine can be as high as \$10 million.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. - Victor Packard, President.

Executive (Branch Officers) Reports



Executive Photo taken at last Executive Meeting (From Left to Right) Jackie Dickieson (Service Officer, Sick & Visiting, Veterans Assistance, Seniors Outreach); Chris Toye (Treasurer, Fish Fry Chair); Doug Pettit (Membership Chair), Allan Howse (Leadership, Cadet Liaison, Seniors Outreach), Stan Harrington (Youth & Education), Allan Magnacca (Ways & Means), Lori Beak (Public Relations Officer, Recording Secretary, Youth & Ed), Rhys Beak (2nd Vice President, Grants & Bursaries), Victor Packard (President, Honours & Awards), and Marg Boldt (1st Vice President, Poppy Chair) -Photo taken by Bar Chair, Sandy Ross Absent: Amber Holliday (Past President)

Treasurer

Financial Reviews - The branch's Financial Review has been completed at both levels. Thank you to John MacBeth, Allan Magnacca and Janet Abrahamse for completing our annual, soon to be quarterly, branch financial review. The annual branch inspection was completed by Zone Commander Lloyd Cull and past Zone Commander Gerry Noel with the President and 1st Vice in attendance. Their comments were that our finances & books are in good condition.

Executive (Standing) Committees Reports

Membership

99th Birthday - John Wickabrod - One of our longtime Veteran members is turning 99 on October 8th! It would be greatly appreciated by the Wickabrod family, if anyone wanting to forward their birthday wishes to John, contact their addresses directly. Their mailing address is 488 Lakeshore Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON LOS 1JO or they can be emailed at yvonne.bruce488@gmail.com

Danieluk passing - With great sadness, we remember our fallen Associate Member John Danieluk. John passed away suddenly early last month, and has left a hole in many of our hearts. His mother Louise has been a member of our Branch for many, many years, and we send her and his family our deepest condolences at this difficult time. John will be remembered for his friendly smile and willingness to jump in to help whenever asked. He leaves behind his young son and an incredible number of friends. Extending our condolences to his ex-in laws Comrade Gary Bradnam and family as well. Rest in Peace, John. You will be truly missed.



Membership Board has been updated - Thank you Doug Pettit.

2022 Year Starting - Memberships can be renewed at the bar, in the office, or online starting October 1st. Memberships continue to be the annual price of \$40 with a one-time \$7.50 additional cost for processing for new members. Those who have already renewed their membership for the 2022 year online (prepaid/auto renewals) will be receiving their 2022 stickers shortly in the mail. Please ensure your contact details are updated with the office at this time.

Poppy - The 2021 Poppy Campaign starts Friday October 29th.

We will know shortly what this years' Remembrance Ceremony will be like. Please stay tuned.



2020 Poppy Report - Recently, in the paper, you may have seen our 2020 Poppy Totals and our acknowledgement of Legion Week.

Over the past year, the local poppy fund raised \$20,877.60.
Of that, \$2,223.19 was spent on Youth Education,
\$4,000 more went to the local Air Cadet Squadron,
which supports the branch throughout the year,
\$11,824 was donated to Veteran Supports,
and \$5,679.26 was spent on Remembrance.

Decorating Veterans Graves - On Sept 19th, a grave decorating event took place at St. Mark's Cemetery, at our veterans' graves. Thank you to those who were in attendance.

Sick & Visiting Officer/Padres

The branch was notified of a member, and past executive who was recently injured in a car accident. We wish to wish Brad Kempston a speedy recovery to his healthiest self.

Sports

Zone Sports continue to be on hold and per the region's rules in-house sports are still not encouraged/allowed as the Delta variant rates continue to rise. Please respect this executive decision. The unused shuffleboard at the back of the clubroom is being removed, if anyone would like to bid on the item. It is being released as-is, and will require some work before being 'tournament ready'. Please contact the office with any offer you may have on the shuffleboard. To be gone, end of October.

Special Committees' Reports

Social Media

Our social media Facebook page is now being monitored/curated by Comrade Mark Dawson. Thank you for taking on this role.

Seniors Outreach -905-246-4739 / legion124outreach@gmail.com / www.legion124outreach.ca

Laminate your Vaccination Card - free of charge - contact the office

Volunteer Coordinator Position Available - contact the office for more information

Outreach Guide - Mailed to NOTL mailboxes - Communicate & Connect -
Wellness & Healthy Living - Become a Cyber Senior - Good Food Available

Ways & Means

For most if not all Legions, fundraising is essential to its well being and being able to carry out it's responsibility to our veterans and the needs of our community.

We welcome suggestions and ideas from all our members.

Saturday Activities - Volunteers are also needed for assisting with the Saturday Activities.

Events - A mini Oktoberfest event was held at the branch on Sept 25th, & was well received.

Please be patient as the branch slowly starts to increase the in-house membership activities again, while keeping in mind current regulations.

Hall Rentals - We welcome inquiries for future events (post COVID). Weddings, host meetings, celebrations, groups, birthdays or special events. Our rental rates are very competitive. Currently we are not accepting hall rental applications, however the executive have made exceptions for requested Celebrations of Life to be held. Credit is due to those who ensure these events are well received by the recipients in mourning, while still adhering to covid rules and regulations. Thank you to our volunteers.

Bar Chair - The branch will be closed on Sundays starting October 10th, until further notice.

Bartenders - Interested in being a branch bartender?

Please email your resume to the branch and a meeting can be scheduled.

We would like to congratulate our longtime bartender Megan on her new employment opportunity. The regular daytime hours, I'm sure will be appreciated by her family as well as are well deserved for herself. She has not handed in her resignation, but instead has made herself available any Saturday a shift is required to be filled. She is happy to still be a helpful addition to the branch, be able to help other branches out locally, to be able to provide and be there for her family, as well as take care of what is best for herself. We thank her for stepping back in when we needed her most.

House (Building)

Congratulations to the New Building Chair approved, Comrade Rob Browning.

Note: Front Cairn is being reworked by the family of the initial installers.

Fish Fry

As of Sept 30, we have switched back to offering drive thru as opposed to take-out due to weather concerns, covid spacing regulations and also due to popular demand. Volunteers are wanted for Thursdays to help with coleslaw preparation at 10am, and during the serving hours from 330-730pm. Double vaccination required.

Historical Committee - Branch History/Memories Project

The branch has Cassette Tapes from 1987 of veterans stories of the town and more - currently being digitized by our Outreach Volunteers - we hope to be able to make these recordings shareable with their family, branch members, the local museum and local library. We will be contacting family members to gain approval in the coming months and look forward to moving forward with this lengthy but worthwhile project. Anyone interested in helping with this project, can contact the office.

Ladies Auxiliary

The Ladies Auxiliary is really looking forward to putting the pandemic behind us and being able to support the Branch with our various fundraising activities again some day soon! President Beth Black has taken a leave of absence for a few months and will hopefully be returning in November. Comrade Megan Vanderlee has stepped up from Sports Officer to fill in as Acting President until that time. We have also had to say goodbye to our Recording Secretary Lou-Anne Cairns, and we are so very grateful for her many years of service. We wish her well in all of her future endeavors.

We have been planning on holding our Annual Christmas Gift Card raffle again this year, beginning in late November. Gift card donations are happily accepted from anyone- you can leave any donations at the Branch office or bar. The winner will be drawn on Saturday, December 11th, 2021. We will miss preparing our famous chili for the Remembrance Day ceremony this year as once again attendance numbers are extremely limited.

We are always looking for new members and as we eventually transition back to our regular events, the more hands on deck the better! Please visit the Branch website for the link to our application.

Megan Vanderlee

Acting President

Calendar

Clubroom Hours: Thursdays 2-8pm, Fridays & Saturdays 2-7pm

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 10am-2pm

President in Office for appointments: Thursdays 1-4pm

Fish Fry - Thursdays - 4-7pm

Saturday Activities - Every Saturday starting @ 2pm!

Thank you for reading the branch's monthly Newsletter for September.