



The Official Newsletter of
Royal Canadian Legion Branch #62
Salmon Arm

“THE BUGLER”



April, 2022

Happy Easter!



Message From The President:

Some things just take longer and are more complicated to do than what you would think they should be. Take our kitchen, for example! Trying to source a commercial sink to bring our kitchen into compliance with Interior Health orders, has taken far longer and more intensive efforts by our management committee than originally thought! It has finally been ordered and when received, it will be installed. (Like so many other things lately, no one has one in stock for immediate delivery!) We do have a new dishwasher ordered and paid for. Once the sink arrives, both can be installed and our kitchen is back up to standards again!

Our internet service was lacking in strength and download capability. Because our office is being used during the day regularly with the computer operating, when busy in lounge and others accessing our office internet instead of the Telus Hot Spot, we continually crash the service and our debit machine! I have contacted Telus and they have come into the branch, three times, and have replaced all of our old modems (including for the TVs). We will see if this corrects the problems. I am working to replace our TV that has stopped working with a large screen one that will also operate off of a laptop wireless connection so that it can be used for presentations, photo journals, etc. This type of setup can be used by anyone that uses our hall for birthdays, anniversaries, memorials, and Zoom meetings as well!

Finally, I must say a great big thank-you to all of our volunteers, including our executive members. While I write about the upgrades to our branch, it is the volunteers that make it possible for all of us to enjoy a club that is welcoming and fun to be involved with! Thank-you to each of you that makes this happen!

Harley Belt, President Branch 62

A Message From Our Past President:

11 years sounds like a long time. I lived in Salmon Arm 11 years but it doesn't seem like a long time to me. I was able to spend time with family and enjoy a new way of life after 40 years in Vancouver, such a different style of life! We have enjoyed it very much and are grateful for the opportunity.

I also spent 11 years at branch #62, countless hours at the darts boards and socializing in the lounge. Met a lot of great people, had some great times. Also worked hard. Hard for the organization that is the Royal Canadian Legion. It may be that it is a family tradition for us to give to the RCL but I did this to be part of this club. Here in Salmon Arm. The community needs this branch and this branch needs the community. It stood when others moved on and it will as I move on.

I owe a debt of gratitude to those that supported me here and to our work. The volunteers are the heartbeat of these clubs and it is paramount that they stay involved to keep the club growing. I am proud of the accomplishments that occurred during the time I spent here and feel I have left things in a good and strong, sustainable position. Many thanks to those that pick up after my time,

it's not been easy and I know not every choice was what everyone wanted to see. I still feel the decisions made were for the greater good of the club.

We are on the right track here, veterans, community and charity....those are the goals and direction this club must continue to serve.

Thank you for having me here at branch #62.

Submitted by: Matthew Fowler, Past

President

- Make sure you have renewed your membership for 2022! Online renewals can be done through **Membership** and securely with less wait time for your renewal sticker. New memberships are also easy and quicker to receive your membership number when done online. It has been noticed that Dominion is now mailing new membership cards directly to our new members. Nice and about time!

- Please ask at the Branch if you would like help doing either renewal or new membership online! We would be very pleased to help you out!

- If you have lost your membership card and would like a replacement, see Holly or our president, Harley, to help you order a new one.

History Notes:

The Battle of Vimy Ridge, 9-12 April 1917

Many historians and writers consider the Canadian victory at Vimy a defining moment for Canada, when the country emerged from under the shadow of Britain and felt capable of greatness. Canadian troops also earned a reputation as formidable, effective troops because of the stunning success. But it was a victory at a terrible cost, with more than 10,000 killed and wounded.

The Canadian Corps was ordered to seize Vimy Ridge in April 1917. [Map] Situated in northern France, the heavily-fortified seven-kilometer ridge held a commanding view over the Allied lines. The Canadians would be assaulting over an open graveyard since previous French attacks had failed with over 100,000 casualties.

Naval 12 inch howitzer in action

To capture this difficult position, the Canadians would carefully plan and rehearse their attack. To provide greater flexibility and firepower in battle, the infantry were given specialist roles as

machine-gunners, rifle-men and grenade-throwers. These same soldiers underwent weeks of training behind the lines using models to represent the battlefield, and new maps crafted from aerial photographs to guide their way. To bring men forward safely for the assault, engineers dug deep tunnels from the rear to the front. Despite this training and preparation, the key to victory would be a devastating artillery barrage that would not only isolate enemy trenches, but provide a moving wall of high explosives and shrapnel to force the Germans to stay in their deep dugouts and away from their machine-guns. "Chaps, you shall go over exactly like a railroad train, on time, or you shall be annihilated," warned Canadian Corps commander Sir Julian Byng.

A Large Naval Gun, Vimy Ridge, April 1917 ; First World War - CWM Photo Reference Credit Public Archives of Canada

In the week leading up to the battle, Canadian and British artillery pounded the enemy positions on the ridge, killing and tormenting defenders. New artillery tactics allowed the gunners to first target, then destroy enemy positions. A nearly limitless supply of artillery shells and the new 106 fuse, which allowed shells to explode on contact, as opposed to burying themselves in ground, facilitated the destruction of hardened defences and barbed wire. The Canadian infantry would be well supported when it went into battle with over 1,000 artillery pieces laying down withering, supportive fire.

Taking Vimy Ridge, advancing with tank class=
Attacking together for the first time, the four Canadian divisions stormed the ridge at 5:30 am on 9 April 1917. More than 15,000 Canadian infantry overran the Germans all along the front. Incredible bravery and discipline allowed the infantry to continue moving forward under heavy fire, even when their officers were killed. There were countless acts of sacrifice, as Canadians single-handedly charged machine-gun nests or forced the surrender of Germans in protective dugouts. Hill 145, the highest and most important feature of the Ridge, and where the Vimy monument now stands, was captured in a frontal bayonet charge against machine-gun positions. Three more days of costly battle delivered final victory. The Canadian operation was an important success, even if the larger British and French offensive, of which it had been a part, had failed. But it was victory at a heavy cost: 3,598 Canadians were killed and another 7,000 wounded.

The capture of Vimy was more than just an important battlefield victory. For the first time all four Canadian divisions attacked together: men from all regions of Canada were present at the battle. Brigadier-General A.E. Ross declared after the war, "in those few minutes I witnessed the birth of a nation." Canadians Returning from Vimy Ridge 1917, First World War

Vimy became a symbol for the sacrifice of the young Dominion. In 1922, the French government ceded to Canada in perpetuity Vimy Ridge, and the land surrounding it. The gleaming white marble and haunting sculptures of the Vimy Memorial, unveiled in 1936, stand as a terrible and poignant reminder of the 11,285 Canadian soldiers killed in France who have no known graves.*

* Tim Cook, Canadian Military Historian

Poppy Store:

- It's now operational! Here how it works;

- All items that are in the Dominion Poppy Store are available through our own store. The big difference is **WE PAY THE SHIPPING FOR YOU!!!** That's a saving of a minimum of \$8 for you right off the bat! All items are at catalogue pricing.

- We carry a small supply of items in stock for either purchase or display for you to peruse. We also have the catalogue that lists all items for sale. Check it out!

- Once you have chosen an item you would like to purchase, the volunteer will complete an invoice that you take to the bar and pay for the item. You bring the receipt back to the volunteer and either they will give you the item (if it is in our sales stock) or place your item(s) on an order form and have it ordered in for you . Once received, you will be contacted to come pick it up! No shipping charges to you !!!

- Happy shopping!

What's Happening in April:

- 1st April - Burger and a Beer

And we have Patrick Ryley performing his one man Hank on the wagon show with some DJ music for dancing after.

- 18th is Easter (Anyone willing to help decorate the branch?)

- 11th Monday 5 pm Executive Meeting

- 25 Sunday 1 pm General Meeting

- Tuesday Night Sports is back on every Tuesday from 5 - 9 pm for drop in darts and pool.

Entertainment:

1st April - Patrick Ryley and his Hank on the Wagon performance and DJ music and dancing

- also Beer and A Burger day!

- Saturdays - Meat draw - 2 to 4 pm

(Ham and Turkey Meat Draw 9th April)

LATE BREAKING

- On Wednesday, March 30th , after many months of trying to contact a supervisor with New Horizons Grants of the federal government department of Social Development, I finally received a call back. I explained to the supervisor of the problems with our branch's kitchen and that the Interior Health had inspected and failed our dish and glass cleaning systems we had in place. That to continue serving our members, veterans and seniors of community, we desperately needed to replace the sink, dishwasher and rotary glass washer

to meet health standards. I received approval to change the focus of the \$25,000 grant money received to go ahead and pay for those upgrades from the grant money. Any monies left over will go towards Chair Yoga for seniors with lunch provided!

A great big thank you to New Horizons for helping our branch become modern and safe for all to socialize in and support our community!

Branch Executive

- President : Harley Belt
- Past President: Harry Welton
- First Vice President: Jane Birnie
- Second Vice President: Dan St-Pierre
- Treasurer: Ingrid Belt
- Service Officer: Shelley Desautels
- Recording Secretary: Ingrid Belt
- Sgt. At Arms: Shawn Desautels
- Padre: Reverend George Fleming
- Executive Directors: Lance Ewan, Rick Ward, Holly Hollihan, Brian Scott,
Dave Cockram, Clarence Wiseman, Shelly Desautels

Committees:

Poppy: Dan St-Pierre

Ways and Means: Ingrid Belt assisted by Janice Hamilton

By-Laws: Clarence Wiseman, Lance Ewan

Communications: Shelley Desautels

Finance Committee: Clarence Wiseman, Ingrid Belt

Sports - Clarence Wiseman, Brian Scott

Membership: Holly Hollihan, Kemi Fowler

Bursaries: Harry Welton

Sick and Visiting: (We need volunteers to fill this important committee)

Our Padre, Reverend Fleming and 'retired' volunteer

Ralph Owens filling in until volunteers step up!

Building and Grounds: Brian Scott, Dave Cockram (Includes Gardom
Lake Cabin)

Business Management: Rick Ward, Dan St-Pierre, Joe Rhodes

Cadets / Scouts: Dan St Pierre

Entertainment: - Shelley Desautels, Greg McConnell

(Anyone wanting to volunteer for one of the committees, please contact Harley by

Cell: 250-803-8213 / Email: legion62sa@gmail ; or in person!)