



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

“THE BUGLER”



May, 2022



Message From The President:

Another month has flown by and some changes have been happening in our branch. Our new commercial dish-washer is here and will be operational as of Thursday, May 5th. Our new commercial sink is also here and has been installed. Next up, our new rotary glass sterilizer for the bar is here and should be operational Monday, 9th May.

I am working on obtaining a new stove / oven for the kitchen as well. It will be a double oven model that will help with future operations in the kitchen. I am also at the point of obtaining a new large screen smart TV to be installed where the present one is on the beam in front of the dart board area. I hope to have this done before end of May. This TV will replace the need for a newer projector as the new smart TV can be connected to laptops, smart phones, etc to use as a method of projecting images, etc for memorials, meetings, etc. This will better meet our needs for hall rentals and future branch specials!

The big news is this, we will be expanding our hours of operations as follows: Tuesdays to Saturdays will be open Noon to 8 pm. The kitchen will be open Fridays and Saturdays Noon to 7 pm with a new menu. Stay tuned in branch and local radio / newspapers advertising these new plans of operations. Attend our General Meeting on May 29th to learn more details as well!

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

Membership:

- Make sure you have renewed your membership for 2022! Online renewals can be done through Legion.ca easily 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:

DUTCH LIBERATION

Seventy-seven years ago, on May 5th, 1945 the Dutch people and the Netherlands were free for the first time after almost five full years of Nazi rule. Terms of surrender were imposed by the Commander of 1 Canadian Corps, Lieutenant – General Charles Foulkes and took place just three days before the complete capitulation of the German war machine.

The Netherlands was neutral at the start of the Second World War which was declared in September, 1939. This did not stop the Germans who invaded this small country on May 10th, 1940 and on May 15th, the Dutch Forces surrendered. The Dutch government and the Royal Family fled to London, where a government-in-exile was established. Princess Juliana and her family sought refuge in Canada until the war was over. On January 19th, 1943 Princess Margriet of the Netherlands was born at the Ottawa Civic Hospital in a room officially designated as solemn Dutch Territory. This ensured that she would retain her right to the Dutch Throne and she was also the only Royal to be born in North America.

After the Allied invasion in Normandy on June 6, 1944 the Allied forces rapidly advanced into continental Europe. The First Canadian Army advanced on the left flank of the Allied Forces and wheeled north to complete the liberation of the Netherlands. The First Canadian Army fought with American, Belgian, Czechoslovak, Dutch, French, and Polish Forces under the Canadian Ensign. It was fitting that the Royal Netherlands Brigade was part of this force.

The winter of 1944-45 was very harsh and led to what was to become known as the Dutch Famine or the Hunger Winter of 1944. This state of affairs continued as people living in the still occupied areas were dominated by a relentless and increasing search for food and fuel. The Nazis were indifferent to the starvation and confessed they were unable to feed the Dutch inhabitants. Over 20,000 died during this time.

Over 210,000 Dutch inhabitants died during the Nazi occupation. Another 70,000 were classed as indirect consequences. (poor nutrition or limited medical services)

During the liberation of the Netherlands the Canadian Army won great glory with its courage and self-denial and filled the hearts of the Dutch people with everlasting gratitude. Canadian servicemen retain pleasant memories of the country where they won lasting fame, and many friends who are filled with deep gratitude. The Dutch people still care for the Canadian headstones and monuments throughout the country.

Every year the Dutch people stop to pay their tribute to the fallen during Remembrance Day on May 4th. A national ceremony takes place in Amsterdam, and other ceremonies take place in towns and cities across the country, as well as in Holland's war cemeteries.

The next day, May 5th, is Liberation Day, or Freedom Day, and is celebrated all over the country.

(Submitted by Harry Welton)

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 May:

- 6th May - Burger and a Beer

- 8th May - Mother's Day (Branch not open but buy her a poppy cup, she'll love it!)

- 9th May - Monday 5 pm Executive Meeting

- **14th May - Friday - 6 pm to 10 pm - Turtle Valley and Friends band playing for dance and musical entertainment. (\$5 cover charge at the door). The Branch lounge will close early**

- at 5 pm to allow for the band to set up, etc.
- 28th May - Saturday - Our own Shelley and Michael will be performing from 6 to 9 pm.
- 29th Sunday 1 pm General Meeting
- Tuesday Night Sports is back on every Tuesday from 5 - 9 pm for drop in darts and pool.
- Saturdays - Meat Draws - **PLEASE TAKE NOTE THAT AS OF 21ST THE MEAT DRAW TIMES WILL CHANGE FOR SUMMERTIME HOURS OF 3 TO 5 PM.**

Entertainment:

- 14TH May - Saturday 6 pm - Turtle Valley and Friends. This is a 5 piece band that has very accomplished musicians from around the province performing. (Some of whom are local!) I will go so far to say that I think I can guarantee that if you like Rock n Roll and Country as well, you will love this band!!!
(There will be a \$5 cover charge at the door for this entertainment event.)

- 28th May - Saturday - Shelley and Michael will be performing their musical talents from 6 to 9 pm. Our own Shelley Desautels has a duo band that will be showcasing their musical talents for our branch. All welcome and dancing will be expected to their exceptional music!

- The public is welcome to these entertainment events as well as to our weekly Saturday Meat Draws!

(There is no reserved seating for our entertainment events. First come, first serve seating!)

Volunteers and Acknowledgments:

First, let me identify some of our past couple of months volunteers that have stepped up and gone above what is expected of our volunteers.

- Brian Scott has not only volunteered to be chair of our building and maintenance committee but has put in so many hours making sure our kitchen renovations have been successful. He has worked on getting our AV capabilities in place for the ability to connect laptop presentations onto our TV. Has ensured our heating / cooling system filters were cleaned and inserts changed. Given me advice as needed for various things within the branch to make it a better place. It is because of his dedication and physical labor that our branch is improving each month! A great big thank you to Brian and an acknowledgment that he is a volunteer that makes our branch special.

- Dave Cockram has worked in association with Brian Scott to ensure many of the above listed efforts were completed. Thank you Dave! Again, Dave's volunteer efforts is what makes our branch special!

- Dan St-Pierre has stepped up and volunteered to act on my behalf at meetings I was not able to attend for the holding Society as well as volunteered to be one of our three delegates for Zone. Dan of course is not only our Poppy Chair but has also stepped up to be one of three directors on the Management Committee. Thank you, Dan. Again, he is what makes our branch special.

- Lance Ewan has worked tirelessly on obtaining information and quotes on various projects that we are pursuing. I can't imagine having half the things we can get done in the next couple of months without Lance's efforts. He also showed up to help clean our parking lot this past April.

Once more, Lance is another reason that our branch is special!

- Rick Ward came off of being sick to pursue getting the resources of getting our parking lot cleaned for free. He also was there to provide the labour to get it done. Rick has also stepped up to be one of the three directors assisting me on the Management Committee.

- Joe Rhodes has volunteered to be the third director on our Management Committee. He is also a member of the band that has now played multiple times at our branch to help us get our entertainment efforts off the ground and raise our branch's ability to go forward. These performances were at no charge to our branch. One more reason that our branch is special!

- Jennifer Pace of Vernon Branch has volunteered for the past many months to provide professional accounting services to our branch to help us through our bad financial times and into our bright future. Without Jennifer's expertise and guidance, we would not have been so far along in our recovery and advancement of profitability as we are today. What an acknowledgment to be able to thank someone who is from another branch that has helped us so much. Thank you Jennifer!

- My own wife, Ingrid Belt has put in so many hours bookkeeping, scheduling, training, volunteer bartending and generally being their for all things! I am a proud husband and legion member to acknowledge how much she has done for our branch. We have a special branch because of her.

- Shelley Desautels, creating and updating our r new website, updating and administering our Face Book page, being part of our Entertainment Committee and the most important position as our Branch Service Officer. All at no pay! Yes, she is also what makes our branch special.

- Margaret Meissner, for the hours she has put in organizing and operating our Poppy Store. I know I am missing others that I will endeavor to acknowledge was time goes on. Just know that when you volunteer for our branch, you are volunteering to help our veterans, our branch and our community by doing so!

If you want our branch to continue to improve and be the fun place to come to, it takes volunteers to make it happen. We need volunteers for our Meat Draws. Please sign up at the front door. We will ensure if you are new to it, you will be partnered with someone experienced to show you the ropes! We will be needing volunteers to help with gardening and other things around the building, you can make a difference with just one hour of volunteering!

Thank you to all of our volunteers!

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

Bursaries: Harry Welton

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

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, Penny Favell (Others to be listed when
membership has been obtained)

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

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