The President’s Corner

Comrades All:
The month of April has been very busy for the Branch with the highlights being the Branch LAC Dinner, the District Convention in Kingston and the Cedarview Middle School Renaissance Program Dinner.

The Branch was represented at the District Convention by Delegates Comrade Ernie Hughes and Ray Desjardins with Observers Comrades Caroline Desjardins, Vaughn Hughes, Bill Humphries and Lena Humphries. An overview of the Convention will be presented at the next General Meeting.

The Renaissance Program Dinner was attended by Comrades Elva Grabiec, Avtar Singh with special guests Joe and Linda Price from PJ Quigley’s, Ken and Kelly Ross from Ross’ Independent Grocers and Jonathan and Dana Stronge from Greenfield’s. The Guests were well served and attended to by Dave Cole and yours truly. The Dinner was a complete success raising over $11,000 for the Program and providing a very entertaining night for all in attendance.

The LAC for the Dominion Convention still have an urgent requirement for volunteers to work as scrutineers, in registration and the distribution of Convention kits at the Convention in June. I will request Comrades Doug and Shirley Munroe to provide an update at the General Meeting. It is important that those members who have already volunteered get an update as soon as possible. Please attend if you will be available to assist.

There are some very interesting events planned for the month of May. They will soon be posted on the Branch Bulletin Board and Web Site.

Yours in Comradeship

Gordon B. Ley
President

OLG SLOTS, AT RIDEAU - CARLETON RACEWAY, IS PLEASED TO HOST

ALL CONFERENCE DElegates - ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2008

• Free Transportation to and from the Casino
• Free 100-item buffet compliment of OLG

Please contact Ray Castle at: (613) 842-8990
Reservations must be received by May 31, 2008

(L. A. C.) Local Action Committee
42nd Dominion Convention
Ottawa June 22 - 26, 2008

Thanks Barrhaven - If some of the large Branches supported the Convention as much as what someone said “small Barrhaven” has, then we would have a really great Convention. I am really proud of our Branch for you have come to the LAC’s aid in supplying Chairmen, held a fundraiser, donated needed funds and bought an Ad in our Convention Booklet and this is not all, for Branch members have volunteered to work at the Convention.

Following is the report I just presented at the District Convention on April 20.

Comrades - We need your help. Two months from today we will be hosting the Dominion Convention. The Convention is being hosted by the District and our Committee is comprised of members from four of the seven Zones.

I want to thank our District Commander for joining the team and making the long trek from Gananoque to attend LAC meetings.

Volunteers - are still needed. 33 volunteers are needed for Scrutineers as well as others to support the other Chairmen. When you have your Branch Meetings, could you please ask your members to advise the Secretary at the following email address if they are able to help. They may also contact me, or one of the Committee members. Email me at doug-munroe@rogers.com or the LAC Secretary at lacsecretary@gmail.com or give me a phone call at 613-829-7383.

Fundraising - I want to thank all the Branches and Ladies Auxiliaries who have donated to date.

(continued on page 3)

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

The Branch hospitality committee was formed in Sep 2007 with the main purpose of coordinating good food and refreshments for the weekly Friday night dinners and for special events. This committee works in concert with the Entertainment and the Ways & Means committees. We are always looking for new people so if you would like to join our group or are interested in helping out periodically, please leave your name and phone number at the Branch and we will contact you.

Comrade Sharon Wilson, Chairman
Honours & Awards
The following members received a plaque for participating, contributing and supporting the Zone G5 Special Events which supported our Troops & Red Friday Campaign: Comrades Pierre Deveault, Elva Grabiec, Peggy Johnson & Edna Wilson. Congratulations to all of you!

Also receiving a Certificate of Appreciation was Comrade Paul Mason, proprietor of Mason Richards Florist, for the beautiful floral arrangements he provided for Valentine’s Day, also for the LAC fundraising Dinner, held recently at the Branch 641 Clubhouse.

Comrade Judy Phair, Chairman

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The following persons were recently sworn in as new members:

- Victor Chan - Ordinary
- Elizabeth Helman - Associate
- Mike Mullan - Ordinary
- John O’Halloran - Ordinary
- Paul Weisbrod - Ordinary

Welcome aboard Comrades!

Comrade Judy Phair, Chairman

Invitation
Victory Ball

The students of St. Pius X Catholic High School have sent correspondence inviting us to their third annual Victory Ball, in commemoration of VE Day. This inspirational event will take place Friday, May 9th, 2008 from 9:00 to 10:20 a.m. The party is planned to coincide with the end of their WW II studies and they have invited all the veterans in the community to celebrate with them.

The Victory Ball will feature music from the 1940’s, 1940’s vintage cars, victory styled baked goods, student work, and many of their students will be dressed in the style of 1945 hoping to win a costume contest. Members of the Museum of Applied Military History will be guests, dressed in authentic WW II military gear and have with them genuine artifacts for all to see. Dance instructors from Swing Dynamite will teach the students and guests a few simple moves from the time period, as well they will provide several demonstrations.

The party will be informal—we don’t have to make speeches and I quote “You will be our honoured VIP Guests!” More details will follow pending decisions by the President and his Executive including, the possible appointment of a special committee or member to plan and organize our branch’s participation.

FROM THE EDITOR
Comrade C. W. (Gus) Este
jugus@rogers.com

Comrades All:

Like most other Editors that I’ve ever met, there are never enough articles, photos, or information flowing onto my desktop. Yet, I’m quite content and amazed by those of you who have never let me down. If you look back upon the five previous issues of the Advance, you will notice the broad cross-section of contributors and committees that have been involved. It certainly becomes an enjoyable task for me, when squeezing the stuff that I receive monthly into eye-catching and readable sections of this newsletter. Thanks to all of you who have assisted in the past and I hope others of you will soon begin to do so.

Our Past President, Comrade Ray, has used a different approach towards the subject of membership in this month’s issue. I like his tactic of using negative psychology. But what shocked me most was the fact that we have lost more that 1000 members in our 10 Branches over this past year. That indicates to me that we have at least three major problems: 1) We are not effectively screening our prospective new members; 2) We are not informing them of the responsibilities and expectations of membership; and 3) We don’t have a retention program in-place.

If we wish to improve the situation in our own Branch 641, then each of us has to consider that membership is everyone’s business, and not solely the responsibility of the Membership Chairman, nor that committee. We all have to walk the first few steps with the members we sponsor and/or, act as mentors to those who have joined on their own. We need to encourage new members to attend the meetings and to participate in the Branch and other Legion social and sporting activities.

We do need an Orientation program or process, but we cannot saddle this onto the Membership Chairman alone.

Gus
The Past President’s Comments
Why you shouldn’t join the Legion?

Comrades:
Membership is important! How important? Zone G-5 consisting of 10 Branches has lost 1000+ members in the last year. Part of the reason, I have always believed, is that a very large percentage of Members don’t know what the Legion is, what it does, or its impact on our communities across Canada.

Since Branch 641 is a community-based branch; membership is even more important because it should consist of our families, friends, neighbours, plus every “shaker and mover” in Barrhaven. Especially as everyone can become a Member – everyone is now eligible. Consequently I thought it would be useful to review the reasons why you should NOT become a Legionnaire.

If you do not believe that our Veterans and their dependents, our seniors, youth, your community and Canada, are deserving of special care and service. If you think service, sacrifice and Remembrance are not your responsibility. If you believe that a Legion Branch is just a place for cheap booze, food and entertainment, sports, etc. and a place to promote your importance. If you think you can belong and not participate in its activities and various offices (pay your dues and use syndrome) and contribute absolutely nothing. If these things are what you believe the Legion and your Branch are all about - Then don’t join!!

Now let’s not all go out and self-evaluate just because at one time or another we’ve had these feeling or thoughts. It’s normal and very human. But let’s be clear, if you’re not prepared to place “Service before Self” then the Legion is not for you. That’s because, when all is said and done, all we have to offer is to serve others who often can not give anything back except a simple “thank you” and perhaps tear-up because of your actions. If that is not self-satisfying and keeps you “pumped up” on a daily basis, then the Legion is NOT for you. This is an organization that has nothing to offer but service.

If you are willing to give of yourself and serve, then the Legion is for you and that’s especially true of our Barrhaven Branch. So take people of like mind in your “circle of influence” and let’s grow this branch so that it becomes by its very size and impact, the most significant Service Club in Barrhaven.

Ours is the challenge!

Comrade Ray Desjardins
Immediate Past President

( LAC continued from page 1)
If I list them I am sure to miss someone, but you all will be recognized in the Convention Booklet.

Some Branches and Auxiliaries have been making and collecting items to put in the Kit Bags that will be distributed to delegates. The Bags are being packed in late May, so if you have anything to include; please give it to a member of the Committee.

I want to thank all members of Zone & District Council who along with their busy jobs have taken the time to serve on the LAC for the past 22 months.

Comrade Doug Munroe
Chairman,

Following are the LAC Team Members:
Doug Munroe, Chairman
Ron Currie, Vice Chairman
Sharon Murray, Secretary
Blaine Kiley, Treasurer
Ron Goodin, Finance
Joe Leblanc, Parade. Marshall
Jim Wiles, Sergeant-at-Arms
Terry Jenkins, Wreath Laying
Bruce McCutkin, Transportation
Leo Bedard, Sales
Ken Sorrenti, Reception & Host
Bev Currie, Souvenir Booklet
Carolyn McCaul & Doug Champagne, P.R
Mike & Lorraine Lapensee, Medical
Pam Champagne, Ways & Means
Shirley Munroe, Kits & Registration
Ron Currie, Opening & Closing Ceremonies
Jim Wiles, Colour Party

FROMWAYS & MEANS

Win a Braun coffee maker, value of $180.00. Guess how many corks in large bottle at the Branch 641 in the Clubhouse.
Tickets $2.00 ea. or 3 for $5.00
Draw - May 30th in our Clubhouse.
Contact Comrade Ray St Jacques:
(613) 823-0767

FRIDAY NIGHT DINNERS AT RCL BRANCH 641

Starting in May tickets for all Friday night dinners will be sold in advance. Reservations will also be accepted by calling the Branch at Tel: 613-843-8691.
Cut-off date to reserve/buy tickets is close of business each Wednesday. Dinner will be served from 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

STEAK NIGHT AT RCL BRANCH 641

Our first steak night of the season is Friday May 2nd. Tickets will be available starting April 25th. Reservations will also be accepted by calling the Branch at 613-843-8691.
Cut-off date to reserve/buy tickets is close of business Wed., April 30th.

(613) 823-0767

The Advance
The New Veterans Charter

To put on a uniform in service to our country is to make an extraordinary commitment; a willingness to put oneself at risk, as needed, in the interests of the nation.

To recognize the contribution that CF members have made to Canada and the world, the Government of Canada has passed *The Canadian Forces Members and Veterans Re-establishment and Compensation Act*. Many people know this Act as the New Veterans Charter. The new Charter represents the most sweeping change to Veterans' benefits and services in the past 60 years.

The New Veterans Charter gives CF Veterans and their families access to services and programs that are tailor-made for them. This builds on the services and benefits that are now in place to help traditional war service Veterans live with dignity and independence.

The New Veterans Charter's programs and services can be summed up in one word: "wellness." They offer:

- one-on-one case management;
- rehabilitation;
- financial benefits;
- group health insurance;
- job placement assistance;
- the lump sum Disability Award and other allowances; and
- support to families.

For general enquiries: 1-866-522-2122 (English) 1-866-522-2022 (French)

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Buy a Building Brick

The Executive Committee has accepted and endorsed a proposal, from the Special Fundraising Committee, to sell commemorative bricks for our eventual new building.

The categories are Gold - $500, Silver - $300, Bronze - $100 and as a Contributor for donations under $100.

Payments can be made at the bar and receipts will be issued. Contact Chairman Gerry Jodoin - Tel: 613-823-5723

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Sports & Games at Other Branches

*(If interested call Comrade Ray St. Jacques at: 613-823-0767)*

* Golf - Play-date June 16/08 / Closing date June 8/08 - Orleans Br. 632
* Horseshoes - Play-date June 14/08 / closing date June 6/08 - Orleans Br. 632

Play Darts every Wednesday in our Clubhouse - 7:00 P.M.

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BARRHAVEN LEGION - BRANCH 641 INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR

EUCHRE ON THURSDAYS - 7:00 P.M.
CRIBBAGE ON SUNDAYS - 2:00 P.M.

EVERYONE'S WELCOME TO ATTEND CALL (613) 843-8691 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION