The President’s Corner

Greetings to all of my Comrades:

First of all I’m so proud of this Branch 641 and all of you very busy members, spouses and families that played such key roles in making this the best Remembrance period in our short history.

Our commitment to the RCL was manifested in the very way we carried out all of our leadership roles and responsibilities, not only in our own branch, but in Zone G-5 and above. I don’t think that any branch that participated in the Remembrance Social Tea at the Perley/Rideau Veterans Health Care Centre had, as we did - 12 representative there. The Chairman was Comrade Shirley Munroe from Branch 641, as was the comrade representing the WW II Veterans, our own Jerry Jodoin, who was introduced by Comrade Dave Cole, a serving Chief Warrant Officer of the Forces and the third Vice President of our branch.

Those of you that attended the Branch’s Remembrance Dinner also witnessed a superb and smoothly-operated event. Members of the Hospitality Committee looked after setting up the room under the direction of our bar manager with the assistance of our resident florist, who’s contribution made the room look just magnificent.

I have to sincerely thank Dave Cole for assisting us in getting such a sincere speaker in BGen Hillary Jaeger. She was an excellent guest as she mingled and spoke to everyone she could. Her dinner speech captured the full attention of all those in attendance. Then I have to thank our Honorary Sgt-at-arms, Pat Riley, for marching in the Head table and providing protocol advice, Gus for a good job acting as the M.C., and Ernie for his organizational skills in the planning of the evening. But, most of all, the attendance of almost sixty of the members was a very good show. Thanks to all of you!

We woke up on November 11th to the coldest, windiest day of the year so far. Yet we had a relatively strong turnout for the wreath-laying and parade March-Past. The General Salute was taken by BGen Hillary Jaeger. She was not the lone female General to be a part of our ceremonies, as BGen Chris Whiteside laid a wreath at our Cenotaph in behalf of Rotary Club. I’m sure this has never happened before for any member branch of the RCL.

Once again we all have to pay tribute to the outstanding work of our Hospitality Committee. They prepared a huge bunch of assorted sandwiches, fruit & vegetable trays, soups, stew, hot dogs, desserts, tea and coffee and soft drinks for both the Walter Baker Centre following the official ceremonies, and they also had enough food to feed an army at the Branch Club-house. All-in-all a most wonderful day. Thanks & bravo – Zulu to all!

Yours in Comradeship

Gordon B. Ley
President

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General meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month except July/August - 7 pm We look forward to seeing you at the December 16th meeting

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The Advance
ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH #641 - BARRHAVEN
Volume 4
2008/2009
Issue # 5
Nov., 2008

www.rcl641.ca/

It’s a Party and You’re Invited
Children 12 years and under are cordially invited to the 1st annual RCL Branch 641 Children’s Christmas Party.

When: Saturday 20 December, 2008
From: 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Entertainment -- Refreshments

Register at the Branch by December 12th to reserve your place
**Message from the outgoing Secretary**

I would like to thank all members of Branch 641 for the opportunity to sit on your executive committee in the position of Secretary for the past year. It has been a ride! I promised to commit to the appointment for the duration of one year and cannot believe my commitment flew by so fast. I have worked with some wonderful comrades, a special thank you to all my fellow executive members for all your support. I hope you join me in welcoming your new Secretary appointed at the October 21st General Meeting, Brian Bicknell. I will be available to assist Brian in this transition, and thank him for taking on the position.

Not to worry comrades… I will still be much involved in the Branch as I continue to work on the Branch website (www.rcl641.ca), sit on the hospitality committee and soon work behind the bar on occasion. (don’t say I did not warn you).

**Past President’s Comments**

**The Poppy Trust Fund and You**

Comrades, the 2008-2009 Poppy Campaign is now complete and your representatives on the branch Poppy Trust Fund committee; Comrades Ernie Hughes, Gus Este and myself, want to add our thanks for all your hard work. As of November 18/08 we had collected a record $35,652.52 with more still expected from wreath sales. Whatever happens your committee will have the honour to propose the disbursement of over $45,000.00, when you add on the balance of $9282.96 carried over as of Oct 01/08.

We will of course be preparing a budget and a report for review and approval of the Executive Committee and the membership at the General Meeting. This will be done in accordance with the Poppy Manual, which is the “bible” of what we can and cannot do with the Poppy Funds, as they are held in public trust. There will be some things we must cover such as campaign expenses, certain administrative expenses for our Veterans Service Officer pertaining to the care and comfort of our Veterans and their dependents, Youth Education (Poster, Poem and Essay contests), Bursaries and our Cadet Corps... What a wonderful job these youths and their leaders did for us this year - a superb effort!! These are mostly ongoing activities that we are required to fund and we will be setting these out as part of our proposed expenditures.

What we really would like from you is ideas, recommendations for the disbursements. Ernie, Gus and I will be very pleased to receive them - let us worry about whether or not we can use Poppy Funds for the activities that you suggest.

At this time we can tell you that we expect a request from the Queensway Carleton Hospital, the Zone G-5 Veterans Officer has called me and said that he’s met with the Perley-Rideau Veterans Health Centre and a lot of their requests will be circulated shortly. As this is being written we have yet to receive anything from them. We expect to receive a request from the Royal Ottawa Mental Health Centre as well. However, what we’d really like to hear is what YOU think ...
Past President (from page #2) we should be supporting in Barrhaven, which is fundamentally Our Community, or the broader context in the City of Ottawa. I’m sure you have all seen the reports in our local newspaper of what we accomplished last year, so now it’s your turn to advise us what you would like us to consider for 2009, as we prepare our proposals.

Comrades this is our chance to return the generosity of those who contributed to our Poppy Campaign. It shows that we, as a Legion branch, are making a difference in our community. It also indicates that we are serious about what we have received and disbursed and, above all, it raises our optics which should help us to grow our membership. This is the strength of our branch - we mirror the community in which we are located. We reflect the values and all the while reinforcing what it means to live in Barrhaven.

We are moving into a new world in terms of the economic situation. A lot of charitable foundations and non-profit organizations are already in a world of hurt, which may last for two or three years before it begins to turn around. What and whom we support will become critical to these charities and organizations. We can’t be all things to all people, but we can help a few, therefore that will make our choices very significant to them.

May your Christmas be joyful and the New Year bring you all you wish for!

Comrades Ray - Desjardins Past President & Comrade Carolyn

NEWS FROM THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

At our October Hospitality meeting we gained a few new committee members including our first male committee member, Comrade Gus Este. Thank you Gus! We welcome all new committee members.

Part of the Hospitality Committee’s responsibility was to provide food and refreshments for our Remembrance Day activities, at both the Walter Baker Centre and at the Legion Clubhouse. This was a huge responsibility as there were many mouths to feed. Many member participated in this effort, assisting the committee by supplying soups, sandwiches, fruit and dessert trays. It was a huge success by all measurements, in spite of there being some hot dogs left over. We sincerely thank everyone that contributed to this, as well those who helped out by preparing, serving and cleaning up after the receptions.

Upcoming Special Events include: (1) Dec. 7th - Branch Brunch in the Clubhouse (see ad above); (2) Dec. 20th - Children’s Christmas Party in the Clubhouse - 1p.m. - 3:00 p.m.; (3) Dec. 31st - New Year’s Eve Party in the Clubhouse - 8:00 p.m. - closing, $20.00 each - advance ticket sale or reserve at the bar- light buffet after midnight; and (4) Jan. 1st - President’s Levee in the Clubhouse - 12:00 noon - recovery from Headaches, stomachaches, etc. Refreshments and finger foods

Comrade Gillian

Entertainment

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<th>DECEMBER</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday December 5th - Joan Parsons</td>
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<td>Friday December 12th - Unwound</td>
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<td>Friday December 19th - Peter C</td>
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<td>Friday December 26th - Boxing Day</td>
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BRANCH BRUNCH
RCL Branch 641 - Barrhaven

December 7, 2008
10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

MENU: Eggs (2) Scrambled or Fried Bacon, sausages Beans, Home fries Toast - white/brown Jam, Peanut Butter, or Marmalade Coffee, Tea (all you can drink)

Cost: $5.00 Adults, under 10-$2.50 Tickets to be purchased/reserved
Doug and Pam Champagne, A.K.A Batman and Robin, are heavily involved members of the community: They are musicians; entertainers; and animal lovers, currently rescued and are feeding 35 cats, dogs and horses. They both are long-time members of The Royal Canadian Legion and have serve regularly as branch and zone executive officers.

Shortly after September 11, 2001, Doug & Pam created a song entitled *The Legacy* as a musical tribute to all the victims and survivors of that horrific day. The song has since been named the official song of the world trade center disaster in New York City. Doug and Pam have performed at numerous memorials and fundraisers there and throughout the state of New York, each time at their own expense.

Doug and Pam have received thousands of letters and e-mails from around the world thanking them. Some of the more notable include, both the former and present Mayors of New York City, the former U.S.A. Ambassador to Canada - Paul Cellucci, the Montel Williams Show and George W. Bush. However, the most memorable and emotional came from family members who lost loved ones on that horrific day.

The Legacy has now been downloaded free of charge over 11 million times world-wide. In 2002 Doug and Pam met Pastor Dawson Mc Veeters, the founder of the fallen firefighters Memorial, in Ottawa. They immediately became involved with this worthy cause and through their musical efforts raised thousands of dollars to help with the cause. In 2003 they created a song called *Fallen Hero’s*, a tribute to firefighters lost in the line of duty.

In the past eight years Doug and Pam have raised in excess of 100 thousand dollars for local charities, such as churches, service groups and individuals in need. In 2003 they received a Civic Appreciation Award from the City Of Ottawa, as well as the highest award given by the Ottawa Humane Society, for their on going efforts save animals in distress.

In 2004, during a performance on board the U.S.S Intrepid aircraft carrier, they were presented with a certificate of appreciation from The Bear Search and Rescue Foundation and were asked to present Dr. Jane Goodall with an autographed copy of *The Legacy*.

In 2006 Doug and Pam became involved with the Red Friday Campaign and created *We Wear Red*, a tribute to Canadian Soldiers which they performed on Parliament Hill in front of an estimated crowd of 20,000 people. The song has since been named the official song of Red Fridays in Canada and has been downloaded 150,000 times from their website.

In 2007 Doug and Pam did a live radio performance for 300,000 U.S.A. and Coalition Forces around the world and as a result numerous radio stations across the U.S.A. and Canada now start their Friday morning shows with the title song: *We Wear Red*.

In 2008 they created *The Legion Song* to help raise much needed funds for The Royal Canadian Legion branches in Canada. Also it commemorates and celebrates the efforts of every Canadian who has served this country, past and present. Doug and Pam provide CDs to branches at cost, which they in turn sell and keep all profits. Since June of this year The Legion Song has raised over $18,000 for the branches that have sold the CDs.

They had the pleasure of presenting the first CD to Prime Minister Steven Harper. Doug and Pam just returned from an east coast tour where they donated their musical talents to 17 branches of the Royal Canadian Legion. This short tour helped to raise thousands of dollars in much-needed funds. Plans are already under way for next year’s tour where they will perform in 30 cities in 30 days, again with all performances being donated.
Our Distinguished Guest Speaker

BRIGADIER-GENERAL H.F. JAEGER, OMM, MSM, CD, QHP
COMMANDER CANADIAN FORCES HEALTH SERVICES GROUP
AND DIRECTOR GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES

The General gave a very moving speech, on the topic of current medical practice and procedures on today’s battlefields, that had a discernable effect on her audience.

(Photos by Dave Cole)
The Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 641 Barrhaven Colour Party leads off the parade under the direction of Comrade Laura Flanagan, Acting Sergeant-at-arms. Comrade Pat Riley was the parade commander. The Legion members were joined by many active serving-members, militia units and cadets, RCMP, Police and Firefighters and Boy Scout groups. Taking the Salute during the march-past was Brigadier General Hillery Jaeger, OMM, MSM, CD, QHP

The mission of The Royal Canadian Legion is "to serve veterans and their dependants, to promote Remembrance, and to act in the service of Canada and its communities." In essence, the purposes and objects of the Legion were born of the need to further the spirit of comradeship and mutual assistance among all who have served and never to forget the deeds of the fallen.

It is paramount that the Legion strives to pass on these goals and traditions to the families and descendants of our ex-service personnel and to raise this awareness among all Canadians.
Remembrance Day in Barrhaven - 2008

Back at the Clubhouse after the Wreath laying and Parade

The staff was fit and ready to go!!

Huddle-huddle-huddle- Baby it was cold out there!

And a good time was had by all who survived the day!

(Photos by Dave Cole)
Support for charities is one of the many services Legions provide in our communities and our province.

Legion branches individually support many organizations in their communities. Organizations such as the Canadian Cancer Society, Heart and Stroke Foundation, Salvation Army, Diabetes Association, March of Dimes, Sunshine Foundation and many more have all received support from Ontario Command branches. Funds from clubhouse operations and lottery proceeds, help us support these worthwhile causes.

Ontario Branches and Ladies Auxiliaries' have contributed annually to the Easter Seal campaign, with donations of more than $2.6 million since our support began more than 30 years ago, donating over $65,000.00 in 2007.

Support of this kind is possible because of the countless volunteer hours contributed by Ontario Command branch members. Whether assisting in lottery operations, or helping serve a banquet, or even manning a garage sale, members of Ontario Command branches work tirelessly to ensure that needed programs in their community are able to continue.

The Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Provincial Command
89 Industrial Parkway North, Aurora, Ontario L4G 4C4

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**Charities**

**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 those on our back brick wall, for donations under $100.*

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

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**Sports & Games at Other Branches**

*(Schedules will resume in due course)*

*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**