



*Public Service Branch 127
521 Superior Street
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
(250) 386-3325*



President's Ramblings

Just in case you have missed it, summer has gone. Many of you attended our steak barbecues in which individual teams took on the job of organizing, preparing the menu, making salads and cooking the steaks to individual tastes. From the comments I have heard, everyone had a great time. Of special interest and novelty, Big Al and his team staged the **Hillbilly Steak Night** with tremendous decorations, costumes and spittoon challenges. Members attended in typical hillbilly costumes with overalls and straw hats. Of special significance, Mrs. Bal Smith declared her latest project for all to witness, and designated me as a stand-in for the ceremony with appropriate Honor Guard. Pictures of these events are on the web site.

The Steak Nights were initiated by Wayne Fisher and I think we all owe him a sincere **THANK YOU** for all the details and arrangements in making these events possible. If you think we should do it again next summer, drop your hints to the Pina Colada man.

Our Legion survives and prospers because we have volunteers. Each and every one of you make things happen. With Remembrance Day soon upon us, I appeal to all of you to volunteer in this campaign. The Poppy Fund makes it possible for veterans to seek financial and personal help when needed. We need your help in making 2007 a real success by participating in the following events:

Envelope Stuffing	Oct. 10-12 and 15-17, 2007, 9-12 noon
Flag Raising, City Hall	Oct. 26, 2007, 12:00 Noon
Poppy Tray Delivery and Pick Up	Oct. 29-Nov. 14, 2007
Poppy Tag in the Malls	Nov. 2-10, 2007
Rotunda Service, Parliament Buildings	Nov. 10, 2007, 10:30
Remembrance Day Parade and Wreath Laying (Cenotaph)	Nov. 11, 2007, 10:30

We have well over a hundred members in the Public Service Branch 127 of the Royal Canadian Legion; it is a friendly, informal group that makes it all worthwhile. Please, please come to our monthly meetings and Friday night shindigs. Call a friend, come see what goes on.

*Harry M. Addison
President*



2007 EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE

President	Harry Addison	652-5660
Past President	Wayne Fisher	382-5648
1st Vice President	Mel Smith	385-1084
2nd Vice President	Dick Lidstone	385-3984
Secretary	Tom Wylie	478-5560
Treasurer	Bud Hall	727-7129
Sergeant-at-Arms	Gerry Gerrard	382-9827
Bingo	Mel Smith	385-1084
Cenotaph	Alison Fisher	385-9842
Entertainment	Bal Sekha	595-6362
Honours and Awards	Tom Wylie	478-5560
House	Alison Fisher	385-9842
Membership	Mel Smith	385-1084
Newsletter	Bal Sekha	595-6362
J.O. Anderson Housing	Allan Fleury	384-7470
Service Officer	Wayne Fisher	382-5648
Scholarships/Bursaries	Harry Addison	652-5660
Sick and Visiting:	Connie Meadmore	383-0491
	Mike Rainone	386-1067
	Bob Burrows	598-1288
Sports	Len Anderson	658-4749
Zone:	Bill Morris	479-1186
	Mel Smith	385-1084
	Branch Telephone/Fax	386-3325

An up-to-date calendar of Legion events is accessible at http://calendar.yahoo.ca/Branch_127 or the Branch web site <http://www.br127.ca>

What

- is better for the environment
- doesn't need to be recycled
- looks better because it is in color
- can be sized for your viewing comfort?

-- this newsletter by email.

Please contact Tom Wylie (br127@shaw.ca) or Bal Sekha (bsekha@shaw.ca) if you would like to receive the newsletter by email only.

NOTE: The Branch web site is best viewed with Firefox or Safari; the home page shows distorted on Explorer and the navigation bar is missing on Netscape.



Robert H. Burrows

"It's been bloody good, all along the line"

As Legion branches go, Branch 127 with 120 members, is tiny but it makes up in quality what it lacks in quantity -- it has two members who have the highest Royal Canadian Legion Award, the Meritorious Service Medal. The two members who have earned this Medal through hard work, dedication and long service to both the Legion and the community are Robert (Bob) Burrows and Horace (Gerry) Gerrard. This article is about Bob who could easily be called Mr. Legion.

Bob was born on September 22, 1923 in Edmonton but left at age 17 to come to Victoria. At 18, he joined up with the artillery at the Bay Street Armouries, the 27th AAC Regiment, 13th Battery whose headquarters were at MacAulay Point, with gun sites at Fort Rodd Hill, Ogden Point, Signal Hill, and Jordan River, all familiar to Bob. After six months, Bob was sent to Brandon, MB for a course on 25 lb artillery and then sent to Kingston, ON as a signalman/radio operator. He came home on leave, after which he was sent to Shilo, MB and then in 1943, sent overseas.

Bob took a refresher course in Borden, England prior to being sent to Italy, landing in the Bay of Naples. He fought his way up with the 2nd Field Regiment, 10th Battery, and was a Forward Observation Officer (FOO) Signaler, with the 48th Highlanders Infantry. Bob went up with infantry and when fire power was needed, he mapped coordinates and radioed back as well as go ahead to do reconnaissance work via various types of observation posts, including church towers.

When in the Rimini area, Bob developed diphtheria and was sent to a hospital in Ancona. He joined up the Canadian army and left Italy at Leghorn (Livorno), not far from Pisa and then went by barge all the way to Marseilles in France. Bob had a short leave in Belgium, and then on to Holland, with finally ending up at Apeldoorn and Deventer - the site of the last big action for the Canadian Army.

With the end of war and the outbreak of peace, Bob left Belgium and to quote Mary Burrows, "met his Waterloo" in Newcastle. Bob met Mary at a tea dance and knew immediately that Mary was Mrs. Right and he would spend his life with her. He was right!!! The secret to their 62 year marriage? Bob says - "doing what I am told." Don't believe that even for a minute!! Mary, a War Bride, joined Bob in Canada six months later arriving at Pier 21 in Halifax. Bob and Mary revisited Pier 21 but this time as "alumni" and were treated with great respect and showered with attention and complimentary passes, gifts, etc.

When Bob came back from the war, he returned to Sidney Roofing where he had worked before he enlisted. The Mayhews who owned Sidney Roofing were very good employers; Logan Mayhew wrote to Bob monthly throughout the war and sent him 300 cigarettes every month. Upon his return, not only did Bob get his job back but he received an allowance to upgrade his skills to the level he would have been had if his work had not been interrupted by the war, and later changed jobs.

After coming down with shingles and sinus problems, for which the military underwrote his doctors' bills and stay at the Veterans' Hospital, Bob left the paper mill.

Many who know Bob think he worked for the Provincial Government ever since he was discharged but that's not quite true as Bob tried his hand at a variety of occupations. Bob worked in a paper mill, at Yarrow Shipyards, sold insurance for Prudential, managed Eaton's Grocery Department and other jobs -- all before he joined BC's Department of Public Works as a painter. Bob retired in 1986 from the same ministry but in Property Management at Glendale Hospital.

One claim that Bob can proudly make is that he has never been on unemployment insurance. He did go to the UIC office to check it out and did sign up and while observing others waiting outside to be called for available jobs, took a job to stack two cords of wood because no one else wanted to do it. The manager was so pleased he told him to come back when he was finished because he would have something for him the next day. That is the sum total of his UI experience.

In 1972, Bob joined Public Service Branch 127 and has been devoted to it ever since. He hasn't met a person he hasn't tried shamelessly to convince to join the Branch and to his credit has been successful more often than not. Bob has served on the Executive in various offices for most of those years - to the point where his Legion blazers cannot accommodate all the medals he has received. He was elected President from 1997-2000 but also served in that capacity for part of 1996.

In 2000, Bob was justifiably honored with a Life Membership and was further recognized in April 2006 with the Meritorious Service Medal. He is now waiting for his Life Card from the BC Retired Public Service



Employees Association on his 20th year of retirement. It couldn't have happened at a better time because dues are going up and exemption from dues is its only real perk!



Bob with his MSM and Gerry Gerrard while President Wayne Fisher looks on

One of Bob's proudest achievements, if not the proudest, is his family. Having been an only child, he made sure things would be otherwise for his family. Ann, Bob, Don, John, Lynn, Walter and a whole houseful of grandchildren are evidence of another promise fulfilled and delivered. And they are all close and happy too!!

Another very major achievement which most people would never let you forget but which Bob is quite matter of fact about is his coaching successes with hockey and baseball. In 1968 and 1969, he took his Pony League team, Victoria Carnarvon all the way to the World Series in Washington, Pennsylvania and did win a game or two. It was a great experience for his boys to play with teams from Hawaii, Venezuela and the US. Is that not something to be proud of!! He coached hockey for the midgets and juveniles for 15 years, getting to the arena at 4 am and 5 am. If that is not service to community and youth, what is?

Traveling has played a big part in Bob and Mary's life together. In their travels they have touched all continents except Antarctica and if they can somehow manage to take the upcoming final cruise of the Marco Polo before it is retired, that too will be accomplished. They have taken 4 trips on their favorite cruise ship, the Marco Polo, staying in the same cabin, with the same crew. The Burrows describe the Marco Polo, a converted Russian icebreaker, as a true ship going to exotic and unusual places like the Galapagos, Bali, Australia, and Antarctica, not a "floating hotel".

When Bob talks about his travels, it sounds like you are listening to a talking book about exotic faraway

places -- Leningrad, Odessa, Yalta, Sochi, Ireland, Silk Road, Cappadocia, Israel, Egypt, Italy, Singapore, Bangkok, Tonga, Papeete, Thailand, New Zealand, Copenhagen, the English Channel, Denmark, Mexico, Germany, Caribbean (six times), eastern Canada, Puerto Rico, Colombia, Australia, New Zealand and the list goes on. They have crossed the Equator twice with certificates to prove it. Other Legion members on occasion have travelled with them on their cruises or trips but sad to say, some are no longer with us -- Doug Alexander, Jim and Phyllis Doyle, Bob Close.



Bob and Mary at Hillbilly Barbecue

In some of the places travelled, modern conveniences such as elevators were lacking. For instance, in Russia a lot of walking was involved in the early days of Bob's travels and more than once, Bob and Ian Sutherland carried some of the women up the hotel stairs and up steps to the monuments. Lucky ladies!!!

With all that traveling, and all his experiences, you would think that Bob could come up with a favorite place or two and even come up with his happiest time in his life. No sirree, Bob!! He finds great things about every place he goes and he makes the most of whatever hand he is dealt.

Even with his considerable health problems over the past few years, he is still one positive guy. When asked about how he coped during troubling times like the Depression, his smart remark was, "What's depression, Kid?" On a more serious note, he briefly mentioned about children going to school with boiled potato peels and cocoa and sugar sandwiches for lunch. It was tough going because his widowed mother did housework for a dollar a day. That was the sum extent of Bob dwelling on tough times.

Bob feels quite blessed and is grateful for the life he has had so far and all that he has accomplished whether through hard work, luck, or with help from his bosses, friends, family or others he cares about. As he says, "it's been bloody good, all along the line."



BC Lions Game Trip

On Saturday, November 3, 2007, BCAA is proposing to run buses from the Island to Vancouver to attend this special event - returning the same day on a special late ferry.

The proposed itinerary is:

- depart 1 pm Ferry from Swartz Bay
- attend the Billy Bishop Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion for a barbecue
- bus to stadium for game and participate in the half-time show
- there is no admission charge to any Vets, Colour Party, Legion Members or Pipe Bands wearing uniforms

This is a great event and the key is the ferry arrangement.

The actual cost is not known at this time and will be based on a share of the ferry-bus and the dinner.

Comrades - Let's get behind this and honour our Veterans -- Let's fill the field with colours and Legionnaires!!

Contact the undersigned with numbers. (please respond as soon as possible with your possible intentions).

Also, just to let you know this is the final season game for the BC Lions. They will be playing against Calgary.

Yours in comradeship

Angus Stanfield

Zone Commander - SVIZ - RCL

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Halloween Dinner

A costume Halloween dinner is planned on October 27 at the Legion premises, similar to the summer barbecues, especially the last one with the Hillbilly theme catered by Al Fleury and his creative group (Gail, Rodger, Heather, and Al #2). For barbecues, the cost has been \$15 so this should be roughly the same. Please sign up on the sheet on the Legion bulletin board before October 20. The maximum capacity has been set at 40.

Summer Barbecues

Barbecues were held on the 4th Saturday of April, May, June, July, and August with attendance ranging from 25 to 36. These have been successful due to the modest cost and hard work by volunteer members. A small profit was made at each event and that enabled the Executive to purchase:

- a new propane barbecue grill
- a new tank for a donated barbecue, and
- some additional plates, steak knives, wine glasses, etc. for the kitchen.

If this should become an annual event, it would require more members to volunteer.

Christmas Dinner/Party

The Branch's Christmas Dinner will again be held at 521 Superior on Tuesday, December 11, 2007. The day has been changed to mid-week to accommodate caterers who will not accept events with fewer than 50-75 guests on weekends. The caterers this year will be Goldstream Caterers. The cost will be \$28.00. Tickets will be available from Bud Hall (ajayh@shaw.ca), after Remembrance Day activities are over. The menu is as follows:

Chef Carved Roast Beef

Roasted Potatoes, with Gravy & Extra Hot Horseradish

Baked Salmon, Your choice of BBQ or Lemon Dill

Vegetarian Lasagna

Roast Turkey with Gravy and Stuffing OR

Chicken Cordon Bleu

Sliced Black Forest Ham

Salads: Potato, Caesar, Ambrosia, Greek, Pasta and Marinated Veggies

Buns and Butter, Condiments and Pickles

Tarts and Squares

Tea and Coffee

The cost includes the items above, taxes, gratuity, setup costs and for floor staff if fewer than 50 guests.

Sick and Visiting - Connie Meadmore

Since our last newsletter, we have lost two of our members -- Ferris Sturdy and Dennis Heinekey.

Please keep us informed if you or anyone else you know needs our attention (visit, phone calls, advice, assistance with completing forms). The Sick and Visiting Committee members are Connie Meadmore (383-0491), Bob Burrows (598-1288) and Michael Rainone (386-1067).

HELP WANTED

Flag bearers are needed for the Remembrance Day Ceremonies at the Cenotaph at the Parliament Buildings. Volunteers will also be needed for organizing and handling of wreaths. If you can help, please contact Gerry Gerrard at (250) 382-9827 or evgerry@telus.net



Sports Report

This year's first golf outing was to Cowichan Golf & Country Club on June 28. Jim Nishiyama had lowest number of putts at 28, with Dallas Lansdell having the best score of 85. Great timing - it started to pour just as players were walking off.

On August 1, ten members and guests played at March Meadows (postponed from July due to inclement weather) and on August 23, a similar number at Mt Brenton.

The Memorial Golf "Tournament" will be held on September 27 at Mt. Doug, starting at 1:00 pm. Please contact Len Anderson (658-4749) if you would like to participate in this outing and dinner afterwards.

September 4 was a day to remember at Mt. Doug. Why? Bill Morris got a hole in one on No. 9. Congratulations, Bill!! Couldn't happen to a more humble and deserving person. And, he has a new truck now...any connection there?

Normally at this time of year, 5-pin bowling would be starting at Town & Country Bowling Lanes but since the lanes have been closed to make way for the mall expansion, alternatives are being explored. One possibility is Miracle Lanes in Sidney. Make your preferences known soon on the sign up sheet on the bulletin board.



Shirley and Myrna discussing strategy

Quotes from the Experts:

I don't say my golf game is bad, but if I grew tomatoes they'd come up sliced. -Arnold Palmer

If you think it's hard to meet new people, try picking up the wrong golf ball.- Jack Lemmon

It's good sportsmanship to not pick up lost golf balls while they are still rolling. - Mark Twain



Bill Morris on his way to No. 9, the home of his hole-in-one.



Bill Morris with a new truck....hmmm

May thy ball lie in green pastures, and not in still waters. - Ben Hogan

Golf is a game invented by the same people who think music comes out of a bagpipe.- Lee Trevino

If you are going to throw a club, it is important to throw it ahead of you, down the fairway, so you don't have to waste energy going back to pick it up.- Tommy Bolt



SCAMS & FRAUDS

This worthwhile topic for discussion was brought up by our member Audrey Johnson. Her personal experiences or those of her friends follow ***The 2006 Dirty Dozen Scams List*** which is graciously provided by the Vancouver Island Better Business Bureau. Please check their website for additional helpful information on this and other consumer protection topics. (<http://www.bbbvi.ca/news/html>)

THE 2006 DIRTY DOZEN SCAMS LIST

1) Identity Theft – ID Theft occurs when thieves steal your personal information from your mailbox, garbage, recycling box, computer or by asking you questions via phone, mail, fax or email about your banking or credit card information, passwords or Social Insurance Number.

Consumer Tip: *Never give out your personal or banking information. Store all documents containing personal information in a locked cabinet and shred before discarding. Keep your passwords, Social Insurance Number and PIN confidential. Monitor your account statements monthly and check your credit report annually. If you suspect you are a victim of ID Theft contact your local Police or the RCMP and financial institutions immediately.*

2) Affinity Fraud – Scam artists target religious, ethnic or close-knit community groups by gaining trust and encouraging group members to invest their money in fake investment opportunities that promise guaranteed high returns, tax breaks and no financial risks.

Consumer Tip: *If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. There are always risks when investing. Before investing your money, do your research. Make sure your investment advisor is licensed with the BC Securities Commission and visit www.investright.org for information on how to make wise investment decisions. Also, consider getting a speaker from BCSC, the Wise Owls, the BC Crime Prevention Association or the People's Law School, to speak at one of your regular group meetings.*

3) Bogus Cheques / Overpayment Schemes – In this scam, fraudsters typically target people selling a product via classified ads or online bulletin boards. The buyer/scammer sends a cheque for a product or service for more than the negotiated price. The scammer then requests that the seller deposit the money and return the excess funds. The original cheque is typically stolen or fake, and by the time the victim has cashed and returned excess funds the scammer has disappeared with the money and the product.

Consumer Tip: *Never accept payment for more than your selling price and never agree to refund excess money to an unknown buyer. When accepting a cheque from a stranger*

hold the product and the money in your account until the cheque officially clears at the bank.

4) Internet Fraud – Beware of fake websites, emails (phishing scams) and VoIP phone calls (vishing scams) from scam artists pretending to be legitimate businesses, asking for your personal or banking information. Also beware of sellers from online auctions that try to lure you outside the security of the online auction site, or who ask you to download programs (usually viruses or password stealing software) in order to do transactions with them.

Consumer Tip: *Only enter personal or credit card information on secured websites. Look for the letter "s" (<https://>) and for an unbroken padlock symbol to determine if the site is secured. Check for the BBBOnline Reliability Seal on each website. Never download programs to your computer from unknown sources.*

5) Health, Beauty & Fitness Claims – Fraudulent health treatment claims are a growing concern in the marketplace. Beware of too good to be true advertisements promising "rapid & effortless weight-loss," "miracle cures," or "newly discovered" treatments for disease and illness.

Consumer Tip: *Before buying any treatment or medication or joining any health and fitness program, consult your physician, pharmacist or other health care professional. Before signing any contract take the time to read the fine print and ensure you understand your contractual obligations and the cancellation or refund policy. For more information about contracts and consumer rights contact the Business Practices and Consumer Protection Authority of BC or visit www.bccpa.ca.*

6) Lottery & Sweepstake Scams – Victims are informed they have won a large lottery prize or sweepstake, and are often sent a cheque of a few thousands dollars worth of the winnings. The "winners" are then asked to pay back a small portion to cover taxes and/or processing fees, before accessing their winnings. The victim sends money and never receives their winnings. Any cheques sent by the lottery company are fake or stolen.

Consumer Tip: *Legitimate lotteries and sweepstakes contests will not require you to pay money in order to receive your prize. Do not respond to lottery or sweepstake scams, as responding to one solicitation typically opens the door to dozens more. To reduce unsolicited marketing offers from organizations that belong to the Canadian Marketing Association visit www.the-cma.org to register with CMA's free Do-Not-Contact service.*

7) Money Wiring Scams – Traditionally called the "Nigerian Letter Scam" scammers develop a variety of sad stories and reasons they need you to wire them money.



Victims are contacted via phone, mail, email and fax and asked to wire money to the fraudster. The fraudster typically promises to return the money with interest, however, once the money is wired the fraudster disappears and the money is untraceable.

Consumer Tip: *Never wire money or give out personal or banking information to strangers. Only wire money to friends or family, and only wire money if you are prepared to lose it. If you need to transfer money for the purposes of a transaction, consider using a legitimate escrow or legal service to hold your money until goods or services have been received. For more information on scams contact the Competition Bureau or visit www.competitionbureau.gc.ca.*

8) Home Repair Rip-Offs – The contracting industry is plagued with fly-by-night scam artists that show up on your doorstep offering to do house and yard work for exorbitant fees. Home repair rip-off artists typically request that you pay fees up front before the work is completed, refuse to provide a written receipt and complete work poorly. Watch out for companies that knock on your door offering to do work, regularly over bill or that charge for services you have not requested.

Consumer Tip: *When you need work completed around your home get estimates done from a minimum of three contractors who have permanent addresses in your area. Visit www.bbbvi.ca to check out the company's Reliability Report before agreeing to do business.*

9) Bogus Charities – Scam artists pretending to represent a charity often contact victims by phone or show up on the door step during the same fundraising cycles as legitimate charities. Watch out for bogus charities with names that sound like legitimate ones.

Consumer Tip: *Ask all fundraisers for their name, the charity name and their contact information before considering a donation. Inquire as to how much of your donation actually goes to the program. Visit the Canadian Revenue Agency at www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tax/charities for a list of registered charities in Canada.*

10) Unscrupulous Moving Practices – Beware moving companies that have hidden service fees, provide low estimates then charge more at the time of delivery or that hold your goods hostage until you pay extra in cash.

Consumer Tip: *Before hiring a moving company, have them provide a detailed estimate in writing and request a firm quote. Check the company out with the Better Business Bureau at www.bbbvi.ca. Find out what protection the company will provide you in the case of damaged or missing items and make sure that this information is included in your written agreement.*

11) Resort Vacation Promotions – Free or low cost exotic vacation packages or prizes often come with hidden costs and several hours of high pressure sales meetings.

Consumer Tip: *If it sounds too good to be true it probably is. Don't sign up for any vacation package promotion without knowing what you are really getting into. Ask lots of questions about the realistic costs, insurance coverage and sales seminar requirements. Get the details in writing before you commit to the vacation.*

12) Directory Scams – In these scams businesses are typically invited to submit their company contact information for publication in a business directory for distribution on CD-Rom. By submitting their contact information the business has unintentionally committed to paying an exorbitant advertising fee to be listed in a directory that is often only distributed to other advertisers.

Consumer Tip: *Read the fine print before giving out business information and before signing any document.*

CONSUMER PROTECTION, BUSINESS & LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES THAT CREATED THE 2006 "DIRTY DOZEN SCAMS" LIST

Better Business Bureau of Vancouver Island
BC Crime Prevention Association
BC Securities Commission
Business Practices and Consumer Protection Authority
Canadian Marketing Association
Competition Bureau of Canada
People's Law School
Saanich Police Department
Victoria Police Department
BC Hydro Power Pioneers (Wise Owls)



Scamming Schemes, How Not to Become a Scam Victim, What Constitutes a Scam?

- Audrey Johnson

Common Approaches (small time stuff)

1. The Phone Call: (animated voice by caller) "You have just become the lucky winner of a trip to "Reno" or "Las Vegas", blah, blah!?" Lesson: A quick click, click denoting end of unlikely announcement.
2. The Mall parking lot - Usually a woman approaches her "Mark" (you, me) and gives a distressed tale about not having gas for her vehicle to get to the ferry or her bank card getting demagnetized and not working in the ATM and she needs a few bucks for a seemingly emergent cause. (I got bitten on this one, but my intuition told me it was not genuine.) To be sure, I watched the unfortunate maiden from my cover in the Mall. Without



so much as a backward glance, she walked to the outer perimeter of the packed lot, climbed into the passenger seat of the waiting truck and they drove off into the sunset with my money. I rationalized later all the things I might have done to foil this purloining act (c'est la vie). This scam takes place at other venues too such as around the Parliament Buildings but the excuse can vary and the person is dressed in a nurse's or lab technician's uniform and she seems panic struck because she has to be at a medical seminar and her credit card won't work in the parking meter. Because she sometimes quickly shows her driver's licence to prove her ID, the victim trusts her, especially when she promises to repay during her lunch break and asks where you can be reached. One victim did report this to the police so that it would be on record that this was happening in that location.

3. The solicitation by the door-to-door impostor (another personal encounter) A rather unkempt, hippie-type young woman purporting to be collecting funds for an unfortunate nun. Of course, said nun was not in tow. Lesson: Henceforth, anyone on such missions of mercy to my door must first show some ID and legitimacy and have a receipt book at the ready. This kind of scammer comes in many guises: the roof needs to be re-shingled; yard work, renew fences; paint exterior of house. Money is asked for in advance to pay for materials, etc. Don't bite!
4. While on a trip to the eastern United States, we had occasion to go to a home and garden show. Upon entering there was a huge barrel for people to drop in a coupon (with one's name, address, phone, etc.) on the chance of winning a door prize. I figured my chances were as good as the next guy's. No luck, no announcements of winners while we were present. However, several weeks later when we returned to Victoria, we got this phone call with the remarkable announcement that our name had been drawn from the barrel and we had won this glitzy Caribbean Cruise from Miami, Florida to the Bahamas for 3 or 4 days. It certainly sounded very promising and fetching - to the uninitiated! It was a three-way conversation: my husband, myself and this unseen male in Florida. To cut to the chase, the interview got lengthy; there were certain commitments on our part in order to gain this prize. Of course, 1) we were responsible for getting to Miami and our return trip to Victoria. That in itself represented a hefty investment for us. 2) We were expected to send some money in advance. 3) When he asked for our credit card number, I refused to give it to him. All along this chap had been most charming, patient and persuasive but at this "blocker" he became downright nasty and began to bully us. So, we hung up. Bye bye Paradise.??

Amazingly, more than two decades later, 2007, I receive the same winner's telephone call and identical tactics. So did our daughter, who lives in another part of

BC which indicates those "Florida Fishermen" are continuing to catch the "suckers" - unchecked. Lesson: when a person wins something, it is absolutely free and no exchange of money is attached. Never give out your credit card number and other personal banking info to the unknowns.

It is not my intent to cultivate unwarranted paranoia but with the rising numbers of emerging scams, this senior citizen only wishes to alert others. Con artists come cloaked in many disguises, whether they are perpetrated over the telephone, door-to-door, in parking lots (public places) and now we can add the internet. To be forewarned is to be forearmed.

To report, to stop or learn more about frauds and scams, please contact your local Better Business Bureau or police department or PhoneBusters at 1-888-495-8501 or <http://www.phonebusters.com>



Why you hardly ever see a man's letter to Dear Abby

Dear Abby,

I've never written to you before, but I really need your advice on what could be a crucial decision. I've suspected for some time now that my wife has been cheating on me.

The usual signs ... phone rings but if I answer, the caller hangs up. My wife has been going out with the girls a lot recently although when I ask their names she always says, "Just some friends from work, you don't know them."

I always stay awake to look out for her taxi coming home, but she always walks down the drive. Although I can hear a car driving off, as if she has gotten out of the car round the corner. Why? Maybe she wasn't in a taxi?

I once picked her cell phone up just to see what time it was and she went berserk and screamed that I should never touch her phone again and why was I checking up on her.

Anyway, I have never approached the subject with my wife. I think deep down I just didn't want to know the truth, but last night she went out again and I decided to really check on her.

I decided I was going to park my Harley-Davidson motorcycle next to the garage and then hide behind it so I could get a good view of the whole street when she came home. It was at that moment, crouching behind my Harley, that I noticed that the valve covers on my engine seemed to be leaking a little oil.

Is this something I can fix myself or should I take it back to the dealer?

Thanks,



Dates to Remember

September

- 27 Zone Dinner, Sooke Branch 54, 6727 Eustace Road, Sooke, 6:00 pm
- 27 Memorial Golf Outing, Mt. Doug Golf Course, 1:00 pm

October

- 02 General Meeting
- 10-12 Poppy Envelope Stuffing, Pro Patria Branch 292, 411 Gorge Road East, 9:00-12:00 noon
- 15-17 Poppy Envelope Stuffing, Pro Patria Branch 292, 411 Gorge Road East, 9:00-12:00 noon
- 17 Executive Meeting
- 27 Halloween Dinner Party
- 26 Flag Raising, Victoria City Hall, 12:00 noon
- 29 Poppy Tray Delivery begins

November

- 02-10 Poppy Tag in Malls
- 03 BC Lions/Calgary Stampeders Game (free admission to game) - BCAA - same day bus trip
- 04-11 Veterans' Week
- 06 General Meeting
- 09 Rotunda Service
- 11 Remembrance Day - Cenotaph Ceremony
- 14 Poppy Tray Pick Up ends
- 17 Saturday Social (depending on available members)
- 21 Executive Meeting

December

- 04 General Meeting (Election)
- 11 Christmas Dinner/Banquet
- 19 Executive Meeting

Meetings begin at 7:30 pm unless specified otherwise.

General Meetings - 1st Tuesday unless specified otherwise.

Executive Meetings - 3rd Wednesday unless specified otherwise.

Saturday Socials - 3rd Saturday, at 7:00 pm if enough members interested/available.

An up-to-date calendar of Legion events is accessible at: http://calendar.yahoo.ca/Branch_127 or from the Legion web site <http://www.br127.ca>

***Membership Report****- Wayne Fisher*

The current membership is:

Life	5
Ordinary	70
Associate	33
Affiliate	12
Total	120

2008 Dues: Paid before December 31, 2007 - \$30.00
 Paid after December 31, 2007 - \$35.00

Dues may be paid any Friday afternoon at the Branch or by Mailing the form below.

(2008 Membership cards have arrived and are now available.)

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Royal Canadian Legion
Public Service Branch 127
Parliament Buildings
Victoria BC V8V 1X4

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

***Cheque or Money Order only please
(Please don't send cash.)***