



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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- Harry Addison

Another year of Legion fellowship has passed and we at the Public Service, Branch 127 have elected a new Executive retaining many experienced and familiar members to foster the spirit that makes our Legion successful.

I am finding my way with the able advice of such people as Wayne Fisher, Bob Burrows, Mel Smith, Bill Morris, Bal Sekha and that young dynamo Alison Fisher who has dedicated herself to keep our building in remarkable shape.

The 2007 BC/Yukon Command Convention will be held here in Victoria June 10-13, 2007. We will host noon lunches serving chili and give many of the delegates an opportunity to meet our members in our building. Wayne Fisher will be looking for a number of volunteers to assist in serving lunch and be on hand to answer questions about the highlights of your city and places of interest.

The following members have come forward in representing Branch 127 and we hope many more will volunteer:

Branch Delegates	Harry M. Addison, President Mel Smith, 1 st Vice President
Observer Status	Gladys Mullard
Volunteers:	Astrid Doidge Miki Simpson Jack Weber

Please call me directly at home if you can lend your support.

Alison Fisher was the Zone Winner for Volunteer of the Year and her name has been forwarded to BC/Yukon Command.

Allan Fleury and Mel Smith were in France from 17 March to 11 April 2007 for the Re-dedication of the Vimy Monument. Al's impressions of his experience will be posted on the web site.

SERVICE OFFICER'S REPORT

- Wayne Fisher

If you are in receipt of a Veteran Affairs Canada disability pension, you may be eligible for additional assistance from VAC. If you develop a condition (not necessarily related to your pension disability) such as heart, breathing, etc. that precludes you from doing indoor or outdoor chores, you can apply to VAC for assistance. War veterans are eligible for Veterans Independence Programme (VIP) but others can also apply for assistance. Assistance is awarded on an individual assessment by VAC.

The onus is on the individual to contact VAC. The phone number is on your VAC Health Identification Card -- 1-866-522-2122.

Web page:

<http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/clients/sub.cfm?source=services/vip>

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS REPORT

- Gerry Gerrard

There will be a number of parade events taking place during the next few months. The first parade will be the Battle of Atlantic on May 8. If you are able help in carrying the flags, please contact me.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

- Mel Smith

There are still a few membership dues outstanding. Please mail your cheque to the above address to maintain your membership in good standing. This will be the final reminder/notice.

LAST POST

Since our October Newsletter, we have lost the following members:

Robert Close
Fred Daviss

"We will remember them!"

BRANCH WEB SITE

- Bal Sekha

Branch 127 now has a web page. Its URL is included in the footer of this newsletter. Suggestions and ideas are always welcome. Please remember that you have a part to play in it – if you have something to add to it that others might enjoy seeing or reading, forward it to bsekha@br127.ca. Comments to improve it so that it can serve you better are also welcome.

Have you been to the Legion recently? Did you notice the changes made by our landlord? Pop by sometime and check us out. You will be surprised to see how bright it is. Alison has put in a lot of time, energy and effort making sure that the "renos" were suitable for us and that our belongings didn't get lost. Thanks, Alison!!!!



2007 EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE

President	Harry Addison
Past President	Wayne Fisher
1 st Vice President	Mel Smith
2 nd Vice President	Dick Lidstone
Secretary	Tom Wylie
Treasurer	Bud Hall
Sergeant-at-Arms	Gerry Gerrard
Bingo	Mel Smith
Cenotaph	Alison Fisher
Entertainment	Bal Sekha
Honours & Awards	Tom Wylie
House	Alison Fisher
Membership	Mel Smith
Newsletter	Bal Sekha
J.O. Anderson Housing	Allan Fleury
Service Officer	Wayne Fisher
Scholarships/Bursaries	Harry Addison
Sick & Visiting:	Mike Rainone
	Bob Burrows
	Connie Meadmore
Sports	Len Anderson
Zone:	Bill Morris
	Mel Smith

DATES TO REMEMBER

May: General Meeting - May 1
 Executive Meeting - May 16
 June: General Meeting - June 5
 Executive Meeting - June 20
 August: Executive Meeting - August 15

Spring Barbecue - April 28 (Wayne Fisher) - see Entertainment for details (page 4)

2007 Yukon/BC Command Convention - June 10-13, 2007, Victoria Convention Centre

BC Government Retired Employees Association's Lunch - June 12, 2007, UVIC

Golf: May 17 - Cedar Hill Golf Course, Victoria
 June 21 - details to be determined
 July 19 - details to be determined
 August 16 - details to be determined

SPORTS REPORT

- Len Anderson

Bowling concluded on April 19 at Town & Country Lanes. All planned occasions were well attended with extra members coming to the Legion for pizza only.

Golf gets under way on the 3rd Thursday of each month starting in May. There will be the usual sign up sheet on the Legion bulletin board for those interested. A good turnout is essential to booking the courses.

As usual, fun golf at Mt. Doug Golf Course on Tuesday mornings will be starting soon. Whatever your level of play (or not), you are eligible. For times and info, please contact Bert Soutar.





SALUTE TO A BRAVE AND MODEST NATION *

- Kevin Myers, Sunday Telegraph

Until the deaths of Canadian soldiers killed in Afghanistan, probably almost no one outside their home country had been aware that Canadian troops are deployed in the region. And as always, Canada will bury its dead, just as the rest of the world, as always will forget its sacrifice, just as it always forgets nearly everything Canada ever does.

It seems that Canada's historic mission is to come to the selfless aid both of its friends and of complete strangers, and then, once the crisis is over, to be well and truly ignored.

Canada is the perpetual wallflower that stands on the edge of the hall, waiting for someone to come and ask her for a dance. A fire breaks out, she risks life and limb to rescue her fellow dance-goers, and suffers serious injuries. But when the hall is repaired and the dancing resumes, there is Canada, the wallflower still, while those she once helped glamorously cavort across the floor, blithely neglecting her yet again.

That is the price Canada pays for sharing the North American continent with the United States, and for being a selfless friend of Britain in two global conflicts. For much of the 20th century, Canada was torn in two different directions:

It seemed to be a part of the old world, yet had an address in the new one, and that divided identity ensured that it never fully got the gratitude it deserved. Yet its purely voluntary contribution to the cause of freedom in two world wars was perhaps the greatest of any democracy.

Almost 10% of Canada's entire population of seven million people served in the armed forces during the First World War, and nearly 60,000 died. The great Allied victories of 1918 were spearheaded by Canadian troops, perhaps the most capable soldiers in the entire British order of battle.

Canada was repaid for its enormous sacrifice by downright neglect, its unique contribution to victory being absorbed into the popular memory as somehow or other the work of the "British."

The Second World War provided a re-run. The Canadian navy began the war with a half dozen vessels, and ended up policing nearly half of the Atlantic against U-boat attack. More than 120 Canadian warships participated in the Normandy landings, during which 15,000 Canadian soldiers went ashore on D-Day alone. Canada finished the war with the third-largest navy and the fourth-largest air force in the world.

The world thanked Canada with the same sublime indifference as it had the previous time.

Canadian participation in the war was acknowledged in film only if it was necessary to give an American actor a part in a campaign in which the United States had clearly not participated - a touching scrupulousness which, of course, Hollywood has since abandoned, as it has any notion of a separate Canadian identity.

So it is a general rule that actors and filmmakers arriving in Hollywood keep their nationality - unless, that is, they are Canadian. Thus Mary Pickford, Walter Houston, Donald Sutherland, Michael J. Fox, William Shatner, Norman Jewison, David Cronenberg, Alex Trebek, Art Linkletter and Dan Aykroyd have in the popular perception become American, and Christopher Plummer, British.

It is as if, in the very act of becoming famous, a Canadian ceases to be Canadian, unless she is Margaret Atwood, who is as unshakably Canadian as a moose, or Celine Dion, for whom Canada has proved quite unable to find any takers.

Moreover, Canada is every bit as querulously alert to the achievements of its sons and daughters as the rest of the world is completely unaware of them. The Canadians proudly say of themselves - and are unheard by anyone else - that 1% of the world's population has provided 10% of the world's peacekeeping forces. Canadian soldiers in the past half century have been the greatest peacekeepers on Earth - in 39 missions on UN mandates, and six on non-UN peacekeeping duties, from Vietnam to East Timor, from Sinai to Bosnia.

Yet the only foreign engagement that has entered the popular non-Canadian imagination was the sorry affair in Somalia, in which out-of-control paratroopers murdered two Somali infiltrators. Their regiment was then disbanded in disgrace - a uniquely Canadian act of self-abasement for which, naturally, the Canadians received no international credit.

So who today in the United States knows about the stoic and selfless friendship its northern neighbour has given it in Afghanistan? Rather like Cyrano de Bergerac, Canada repeatedly does honourable things for honourable motives, but instead of being thanked for it, it remains something of a figure of fun.

It is the Canadian way, for which Canadians should be proud, yet such honour comes at a high cost. This past year more grieving Canadian families knew that cost all too tragically well.

* *This article appeared in the April 21, 2002 edition of the Sunday Telegraph, one of Britain's largest circulation newspapers and was reprinted in Canada's National Post on April 26, 2002.*



ENTERTAINMENT REPORT

- Bal Sekha

Since the last newsletter and the Christmas Banquet which was held at our Legion premises and attended by 41 guests, there have been 2 dinner socials. The March social was held at the Embassy Inn Restaurant with 15 guests and the April one at Samuel's Restaurant with 21.

Late last summer Wayne Fisher dreamed up, and with assistance from Jack Weber, Gerry Gerrard, Alison Fisher and others, made happen the first Legion barbecue. Thirty guests gave it a unanimous "thumbs up" so a tradition was in the making.

Tentatively, barbecues are scheduled for the fourth Saturday of each month, starting in April, weather permitting of course. The first one will take place on April 28.

The tickets may be purchased on Fridays at the bar for \$15/person with a limit of 40 guests. If there are more than 40 people interested, they will be given first preference at the next barbecue. The ticket price covers the steak, baked potato, buns and 4 salads. Cash bar will open at 6:00 with dinner at 7. Please call Wayne for more information or to book your "reservation".

Please mark the following dates in your calendar if you would like to take part in future barbecue/steak nights, as a guest, helper, or co-host (or all):

May 26
June 23
July 28
August 25



If you have access to email, would you please forward your email address to us so that future newsletters can be sent to you electronically. Electronic newsletters are easier to read (adjustable type size), don't need recycling and reduce the Legion expenses by eliminating postage, stationery and photocopying costs. Please send your email address to Tom Wylie at br127@shaw.ca or Bal Sekha at bsekha@br127.ca

Members and their guests are all welcome. Tickets will be sold on a first come, first served basis.

FUN AND GAMES

HISTORY EXAM

Everyone over 40 should have a pretty easy time with this exam. If you are under 40, you can claim a handicap. This is an exam for those who don't mind seeing how much they really remember about what went on in their life. Get paper and pencil and number from 1 to 20. Answers follow test.

1. In the 1940's, where were automobile headlight dimmer switches located?
 - a. On the floor shift knob
 - b. On the floor board, to the left of the clutch
 - c. Next to the horn
2. The bottle top of a Royal Crown Cola bottle had holes in it. For what was it used?
 - a. Capture lightning bugs
 - b. To sprinkle clothes before ironing
 - c. Large salt shaker
3. Why was having milk delivered a problem in northern winters?
 - a. Cows got cold and wouldn't produce milk
 - b. Ice on highways forced delivery by dog sled
 - c. Milkmen left deliveries outside of front doors and milk would freeze, expanding and pushing up the cardboard bottle top.



4. What was the popular chewing gum named for a game of chance?
 - a. Blackjack
 - b. Gin
 - c. Craps!
5. What method did women use to look as if they were wearing stockings when none were available due to rationing during WW II
 - a. Suntan
 - b. Leg painting
 - c. Wearing slacks
6. What postwar car turned automotive design on its ear when you couldn't tell whether it was coming or going?
 - a. Studebaker
 - b. Nash Metro
 - c. Tucker
7. Which was a popular candy when you were a kid?
 - a. Strips of dried peanut butter
 - b. Chocolate licorice bars
 - c. Wax coke-shaped bottles with colored sugar water inside
8. How was Butch wax used?
 - a. To stiffen a flat-top haircut so it stood up
 - b. To make floors shiny and prevent scuffing
 - c. On the wheels of roller skates to prevent rust
9. Before inline skates, how did you keep your roller skates attached to your shoes?
 - a. With clamps, tightened by a skate key
 - b. Woven straps that crossed the foot
 - c. Long pieces of twine
10. As a kid, what was considered the best way to reach a decision?
 - a. Consider all the facts
 - b. Ask Mom
 - c. Eeny-meeny-miney-mo
11. What was the most dreaded disease in the 1940's-50's?
 - a. Smallpox
 - b. AIDS
 - c. Polio
12. "I'll be down to get you in a _____, Honey"
 - a. SUV
 - b. Taxi
 - c. Streetcar
13. What was the name of Caroline Kennedy's pet pony?
 - a. Old Blue
 - b. Paint
 - c. Macaroni
14. What was a Duck-and-Cover Drill?
 - a. Part of the game of hide and seek
 - b. What you did when your Mom called you in to do chores
 - c. Hiding under your desk, and covering your head with your arms in an A-bomb drill.
15. What was the name of the Indian Princess on the Howdy Doody show?
 - a. Princess Summerfallwinterspring
 - b. Princess Sacajawea
 - c. Princess Moonshadow



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16. What did all the really savvy students do when mimeographed tests were handed out in school?
 - a. Immediately sniffed the purple ink, as this was believed to get you high
 - b. Made paper airplanes to see who could sail theirs out the window
 - c. Wrote another pupil's name on the top, to avoid their failure
 17. Why did your Mom shop in stores that gave Green Stamps with purchases?
 - a. To keep you out of mischief by licking the backs, which tasted like bubble gum
 - b. They could be put in special books and redeemed for various household items
 - c. They were given to the kids to be used as stick-on tattoos
 18. Praise the Lord, and pass the _____?
 - a. Meatballs
 - b. Dames
 - c. Ammunition
 19. What was the name of the singing group that made the song "Cabdriver" a hit?
 - a. The Ink Spots
 - b. The Supremes
 - c. The Esquires
 20. Who left his heart in San Francisco?
 - a. Tony Bennett
 - b. Xavier Cugat
 - c. George Gershwin

ANSWERS

1. b) On the floor, to the left of the clutch. Hand controls, popular in Europe, took till the late '60's to catch on.
2. b) To sprinkle clothes before ironing. Who had a steam iron?
3. c) Cold weather caused the milk to freeze and expand, popping the bottle top.
4. a) Blackjack Gum.
5. b) Special makeup was applied, followed by drawing a seam down the back of the leg with eyebrow pencil.
6. a) 1946 Studebaker.
7. c) Wax coke bottles containing super-sweet colored water.
8. a) Wax for your flat top (butch) haircut.
9. a) With clamps, tightened by a skate key, which you wore on a shoestring around your neck.
10. c) Eeny-meeny-miney-mo.
11. c) Polio. In beginning of August, swimming pools were closed, movies and other public gathering places were closed to try to prevent spread of the disease.
12. b) Taxi. Better be ready by half-past eight!
13. c) Macaroni
14. c) Hiding under your desk, and covering your head with your arms in an A-bomb drill.
15. a) Princess Summerfallwinterspring. She was another puppet.
16. a) Immediately sniffed the purple ink to get a high.
17. b) Put in a special stamp book, they could be traded for household items at the Green Stamp store.
18. c) Ammunition, and we'll all be free.
19. a) The widely famous 50's group: The Inkspots.
20. a) Tony Bennett, and he sounds just as good today. (Oh?)

SCORING

17- 20 correct: You are older than dirt, and obviously gifted with mental abilities. Now if you could only find your glasses. Definitely someone who should share your wisdom!

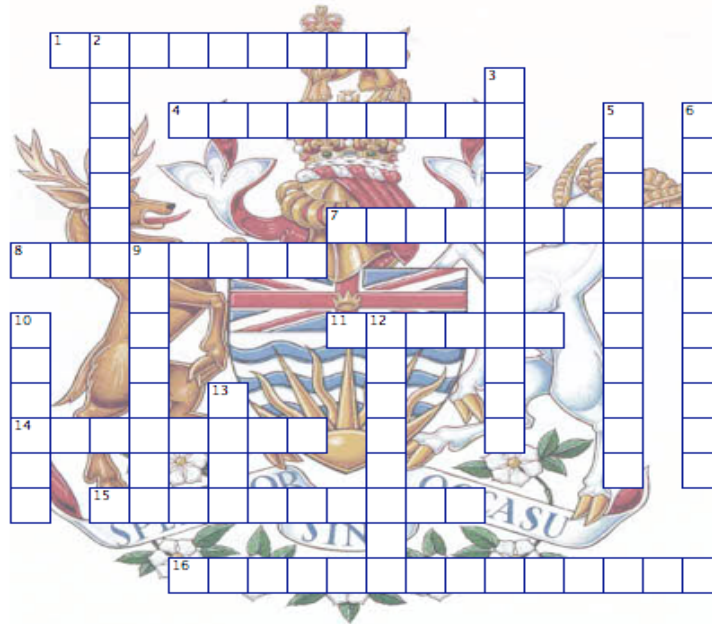
12 -16 correct: Not quite dirt yet, but you're getting there.

0 -11 correct: You are not old enough to share the wisdom of your experiences.



Unfortunately, this puzzle is not interactive electronically so needs to be printed for completion. Hopefully, future ones may be.

BC Treasures



Across

1. Spectacular shoreline on Vancouver Island (2)
4. Top taxless BC cash crop
7. International opera star originally from Peace River area (2)
8. Highway cover for avalanches
11. Formerly known as Pacific Great Eastern (2)
14. 100 Mile House is 100 miles from _____
15. International environment organization originating in Vancouver
16. Originally life saving trail for shipwrecked mariners (3)

Down

2. Okanagan Lake's rumored monster
3. 19th C gold rush town
5. Highest peak in the Rockies (2)
6. Legendary band leader from Vancouver (2)
9. World class ski resort
10. Home of gold panning championships
12. World's longest pedestrian suspension bridge
13. President Clinton's home town

SOLUTION ON PAGE 9



Cost of Heating Oil Per Liter, 1995-2007

The following shows the rise in cost of home heating oil in Victoria. These are actual numbers from a Legion member's fuel usage and tank fill history. The last couple of years reflect the company matching the lowest price charged by a competitor. Most reputable companies are open to negotiation for matching their competitors' lowest price but you have to approach them.

September, 1995	0.354
February, 1996	0.364
April, 1996	0.384
April, 1996	0.364
November, 1996	0.384
January, 1997	0.399
January, 1997	0.409
September, 1997	0.399
November, 1997	0.409
October, 1998	0.399
December, 1998	0.369
May, 1999	0.399
November, 1999	0.449
January, 2000	0.479
February, 2000	0.499
April, 2000	0.529
November, 2000	0.599
January, 2001	0.629
March, 2001	0.549
October, 2001	0.539
January, 2002	0.489
April, 2002	0.519
November, 2002	0.569
February, 2003	0.619
September, 2003	0.599
March, 2004	0.659
November, 2004	0.735
January, 2005	0.725
May, 2005	0.805
November, 2005	0.905
January, 2006	0.835
April, 2006	0.865
December, 2006	0.795
February, 2007	0.896



BC TREASURES SOLUTION



The next newsletter will be sent in late August. If you would like to contribute any articles or items of interest, please contact me bsekha@br127.ca