



Summer Newsletter

The View from the Head Table

- Allan Fleury



Comrades.

As many of you know, I was elected to BC/Yukon Command Vice President at the Convention in Trail this June. As a result I am unable to continue as

Branch President.

Rest assured I will not become a ghost, I will still be active in the Branch manning the bar and working social events whenever possible.

The past six months have been busy for the Branch. We have seen the passing of several valued members and there has been a restructuring of the Branch Executive as a result of resignations. My own being the latest.

Our Friday night socials have been well attended as we have a large group of members from other Branches visiting on a regular basis. This is good for us financially as well as socially when we are able to mingle with our comrades from other Branches.

The steak nights are once again in swing and have been well attended. My congratulations to Wayne Fisher's team for the May BBQ and Myrna Soutar's team for the June BBQ. Good food and comradeship all round.

The folding plastic tables in the lounge have been replaced with eight food solid tables.

We found that the folding tables were not holding up. They were too flexible and bent a lot under any kind of pressure and the locking mechanisms were breaking. In plain talk, they weren't safe.

We also replaced the kitchen stove, which had done us years of service but was becoming unreliable.

The foyer has been cleared out and a major cleanout of the basement was done. A lot of junk went to the dump and recycling depots. Nothing important or historical rest assured.

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BC/YK COMMAND CONVENTION REPORT

- Allan Fleury

There were 307 delegates carrying 415 proxies for a total balloting strength of 722. There were 22 observers in attendance.

Trail did a marvelous job and the Convention went smoothly. A lot of work goes into a convention as we in Victoria can attest and Trail proved that a small town like them can put on as good a convention as a large town like us.



Elected were:

President	Dave Sinclair
1 st Vice President	Marc Tremblay
Vice Presidents	Bob Brady & Allan Fleury
Treasurer	Glenn Hodge
Chairman	Ed Findlater

The position of Command Executive Officer was eliminated which reduces the Elected Provincial Officers to five.

Gail Hanson won the \$500 BCAA grand prize at the Trade Show (Lucky girl, eh?)

Gail also presented the \$500 donation from our Branch to the Troop Morale Fund. A proud moment for her I assure you.

In attendance at the Convention were Past BC/YK Command Presidents Steve Dunston, Mary Anne Burdett, Mike Cook and Andy Phillips. Comrade Gerry Vowles was there of course, but is still our Immediate Past President. It was a pleasure to renew old acquaintances with all of them. BC/Yukon has done well by our Past Presidents. Both Steve and Mary Anne are past Dominion Presidents and Mike Cook is our serving Dominion Treasurer.

The amalgamation of South Vancouver Island Zone and Cowichan Mid Island Zone became official enlarging our Zone to 17 Branches. Our territory is now Sooke to Nanaimo and includes Mayne, Pender and Saltspring Island. Geographically it is still a small Zone in comparison to many on the mainland.

There are presently 18 Zones in BC/YK Command and at this time, we have the largest number of Branches. One of these days we may see North Vancouver Island and North Central Vancouver Island join and if that happens, their Zone will be 19 Branches strong.

There are high hopes that Lower Mainland Zones will amalgamate, further reducing administration to mirror our dwindling membership.

Membership continues to be a priority Comrades, so if you know someone who may enjoy being a member of the Legion, bring them to a Friday social to meet us. We need to advertise ourselves and word-of-mouth is the best advertising available.

Please support Mel Smith as he takes up the position of President for the remainder of 2009 and if possible, be prepared to take on an Executive position at the next elections.

There will be a by-election for 2nd Vice President at the September General Meeting and then in December, a full election for all positions for the 2010 term.

I thank you for the confidence shown in me when I was elected President of the Branch and I greatly regret having to resign mid term. Thank you all for your support.

Allan Fleury
July 3, 2009

WANTED

With the recent vacancy in the position of 2nd Vice President, this is a great opportunity for you to get your feet wet on the executive without having to be too heavily involved. This particular commitment is for a relatively short period of time -- September to December (annual election). The duties are not onerous at all and consist mainly of attending one executive and one general meeting each month. Please consider throwing your hat into the ring to help us keep our little branch alive. This position will be voted on at the September 1 general meeting. If you are interested in this position and are not able to make it to the September 1 meeting, please put in writing that you will accept nomination for the position of 2nd Vice President and send by email or Canada Post to Heather Clark to arrive before the meeting. Heather may be contacted at westcoast.clark@gmail.com, or (250) 882-5870 or by mail to Public Service Branch 127, c/o Parliament Buildings, Victoria. BC V8V 1X4. If you are able to attend the meeting, you may of course be nominated from the floor.



2009 EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE

President	Mel Smith	(250) 385-1084
1st Vice President	Bal Sekha	(250) 595-6362
2nd Vice President	tbd (September meeting)	
Immediate Past President	Harry Addison	(250) 652-5660
Secretary	Heather Clark	(250) 882-5870
Treasurer	Gail Hanson	(250) 479-1352
Sergeant-at-Arms	Gerry Gerrard	(250) 382-9827
Bingo	Mel Smith	(250) 385-1084
Cenotaph	Alison Fisher	(250) 385-9842
Entertainment	Rodger Wright	(250) 220-5630
Honours & Awards	Harry Addison	(250) 652-5660
House	Alison Fisher	(250) 385-9842
Membership	Jenny Fossum	(250) 384-3380
Newsletter/Web Site	Bal Sekha	(250) 595-6362
Scholarships & Bursaries	Harry Addison	(250) 652-5660
Service Officer	tbd	
Sick & Visiting	Connie Meadmore	(250) 383-0491
Social	Alison Fisher	(250) 385-9842
Sports	Len Anderson	(250) 658-4749
Zone:	Mel Smith	(250) 385-1084
	Al Holliston	(250) 661-7412
Zone Alternate	Bill Morris	(250) 479-1186
Branch Telephone/Fax		(250) 386-3325

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Monthly Meetings:** 1st Tuesday of each month, 7:30 pm unless advised otherwise
(Sept 1, Oct 6, Nov 3, Dec 1)
- Executive Meetings:** 3rd Wednesday of each month, 7:30 pm unless advised otherwise
(Aug 19, Sept 16, Oct 21, Nov 18, Dec 16)
- Golf:** Weekly - Tuesday mornings, Mt. Doug Golf Course (check with Bert Soutar (250 477-8818 for time)
Monthly - Third Thursday
August 20 - Cowichan Golf Club, Duncan, 11:00 am
September 17 - Mt. Doug details to be determined
- Barbecue/Theme Dinners:** 4th Saturday of summer months (August 22 - Chicken & Ribs Night)



ALPHABET SOUP

CREDIT CARD ALERT

One of our members reports security protection charges on his credit card in the amount of \$31 monthly. When questioned, the credit card company advised it was a private company, Privacy Protection, who was responsible and gave the contact details

To make a long story short, the email response provided three pages on how to get rid of this charge but you had to buy the software from them to do it. The customer then phoned the company and told them they were illegally charging the fees. Their response was that they installed the security system free of charge for 15 days and if the customers didn't want it, it is up to them to cancel it. This was resolved satisfactorily in that the charges were cancelled but it is buyer beware so please be vigilant and regularly check your statements for unsolicited charges.

WANTED: UPDATES FROM STUDENTS

Over the years, Branch 127 and the Royal Canadian Legion have assisted students with their educational goals by providing scholarships or bursaries. An average of 3 scholarships or bursaries are awarded annually. Some students pick up their award at a general meeting and say a few words on their career plans while others have theirs delivered personally by a member of the executive or by Canada Post.

At the last general meeting, a couple of our members gave an update on their family members who had received this assistance and what they are doing now. Members were very interested and pleased to hear about the students' progress and would like to hear about how other students are doing.

This is a gentle request for students who have been awarded bursaries or scholarships over the years to provide an update (short or long) on

what they are doing now or the impact of this financial assistance on their careers. The updates (pictures are welcome) may be forwarded to legion.br127@shaw.ca A future newsletter will publish excerpts from them or in their entirety.

WORLD HERITAGE SITES

Internet Sites:

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/>

<http://www.world-heritage-tour.org/>

<http://www.1001wonders.org>

These are all linked in ways to UNESCO's World Heritage Site of 1001 natural and cultural wonders of the world. In the 1001 wonders link, there are amazing 360° panophotographies available but you need to register (free) for the full screen version but not to see the smaller version which is fine. You can contribute a minor amount if you wish but it doesn't make any difference whether you see it free or pay. Use caution if you wish to drag the view faster to another area but clicking will stop it from moving. Panophotographies, if available for the site, are noted under Links in the other sites. With the full screen version, you feel you are right there -- armchair tourism at its second best (HDTV being first).

Email Addresses

If you have an email address and would like to receive your newsletter electronically, please send it to Bal Sekha (Legion.Br127@shaw.ca or bsekha@shaw.ca)

If you have any suggestions or ideas for the newsletter, please forward to the above addresses as well.

Any ideas for a name for our newsletter?



Legislative Changes to Extend Benefits for Allied Veterans

On June 1, 2009, the Honourable Greg Thompson, Minister of Veterans Affairs, introduced changes to the *War Veterans Allowance Act*, extending benefits to low-income Allied Veterans and their family members.

"We have made major improvements to programs, services and benefits for Veterans and their families since 2006," said Minister Thompson. "With this new legislation, we are building on that commitment—by giving Allied Veterans more choice, more options, and more hope of living out their lives with respect, comfort, dignity and honour."

Under the legislation, low-income Allied Veterans of the Second World War who have lived in Canada for at least 10 years, and continue to do so, will have access to War Veterans Allowance and associated assistance and health benefits. Eligibility has also been extended to include those who fought for Allied forces in the Korean War. Family members may also receive benefits.

To qualify for these benefits, these low-income Allied Veterans must:

- have served with Allied forces in the Second World War or Korean War; AND
- have lived in Canada for at least 10 years; OR lived in Canada prior to enlisting; AND
- live in Canada now.

Programs under this amended legislation would include:

War Veterans Allowance – Guaranteed monthly income to meet basic needs.

Assistance Fund – Financial assistance in times of emergency that affect health and/or safety.

Funeral and Burial – Financial assistance to ensure a dignified funeral and burial for Veterans.

Treatment Benefits – Coverage ranging from hearing aids to prescription drugs to dental and vision care.

Veterans Independence Program – A home-care program that includes personal care services, access to nutritious meals, housekeeping, grounds maintenance and other services.

Long-Term Care – Care in a facility for those who are no longer able to stay at home.

Family members may receive the War Veterans Allowance and the Assistance Fund, and survivors may receive housekeeping and grounds maintenance to help them remain in their own homes.

Like all Veterans Affairs Canada programs, eligibility for these programs is based on a variety of factors, including location and duration of military service, income and the nature and extent of health conditions.



Implementation is expected in January 2010. Once finalized, eligible Allied Veterans and family members may receive payment for benefits back to October 14, 2008.

"We want to extend these benefits as soon as possible," added Minister Thompson.

How to apply:

- Call 1-866-522-2122 (English) or 1-866-522-2022 (French).
- Have your service record information on hand.
- You will be mailed an application as soon as possible.
- More information is available on-line at www.vac-acc.gc.ca
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Who is an Allied Veteran?

An Allied Veteran is a Veteran who served with the forces of any nation allied with Canada during the First World War, the Second World War or the Korean War.

The above is presented in this newsletter for your convenience. It is in the current summer issue of Salute! and can be found online at (<http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/clients/sub.cfm?source=salute/summer2009/benefits>).

BRANCH 127 CHARITIES

The following charities are currently supported by Branch 127 and are reviewed annually:

Beacon Hill Little League - Uniforms
 Broadmead Care Foundation - Patient Comforts
 Operation Trackshoes - Handicapped Track Meet
 Sir Percy Lake Scholarship - Scholarship
 Canadian Cancer Society - Cancer Research
 Bursaries - Brittany Cooper, Naomi Roome, Adam Henry
 Rev. L. Scott - Rotunda Service
 Newcombe Singers - Rotunda Service
 Broadmead Care Foundation - Patient Comforts
 Times Colonist Christmas Fund
 St. Andrews Catholic Church Food Bank
 St. Andrews Presbyterian Church Food Bank
 Salvation Army Christmas Fund
 Our Place Society Food Bank
 Veterans Health Center (Broadmead) - Veterans Care
 Public Service Branch 127 - 5% Communication



MEMBERSHIP

- Jenny Fossum, Chair

Our membership has fallen slightly and sits at approximately 110 members due to loss of members through passing and memberships lapsing.

LAST POST

Since the last newsletter, we have lost four current members and one former member. Edited obituary notices are provided for your information.

MULLARD, Gladys Patricia (nee MacNeill)
March 17, 1923 April 26, 2009 Gladys was born in Hunter River, P.E.I.



and passed away peacefully at her home in Victoria. She is survived by her dear son, Charles (Lorena), her loving daughter, Elizabeth Everett (Peter) and beloved

grandchildren Anna, Rebecca, Jory and Layne. Gladys also leaves behind her brother, Harvey MacNeill (Donna) and their children Tracey and Leanne, as well as the Dunning family in P.E.I. Gladys' little angel Snowy was with her when she passed on. Gladys joined the C.W.A.C. in 1942 at St. John, NB where she met and married Rod Mullard (deceased) in 1944.

They moved to Victoria in 1984. After graduating from UBC Gladys, a gifted teacher, owned and operated St. Chads Kindergarten for 25 years. She volunteered much of her time at the Red Cross and Broadmead Lodge to comfort war veterans. Gladys was proud to be the first woman president of Kerrisdale Legion Branch #30 and marched loyally with the Lower Mainland Colour Party for 30 years. In Victoria Gladys became

President of Britannia Branch #7 and a member of Branch #127. She will be remembered for her determination, generosity and sense of humour. Her family truly appreciated her love and devotion and wishes to extend their thanks to Dr. M. Miles and Debbie, Beacon Home Care Workers and the Hospice team for their special care in our mothers last days. She will be sorely missed by her loving family, wonderful neighbours and friends.



Gladys Mullard Memorial held at Branch 127

CAMERON, Donald "Don " Aged 87, passed away peacefully at home March 14 2009. Predeceased by Alameda, mother of Duncan. Also predeceased by his beloved Irene. Leaves behind Rosemary, loving wife & companion, son Duncan (Julie) of Mortlach Sk., Grandsons Dale (Cherry) & Danny (Cynthia) of Moose Jaw, as well as several great-grandchildren. Don served as a pilot in the RAF & graduated from UBC.as



an Engineer. He worked for Western Forest Industries before joining the Forest Engineering Branch of the BCFS. He was a Life Member of APEG & the Assoc. of Professional Foresters. He was also involved with the Power Sailing Squadron & a member of the Legion. Don will always be remembered for his good humour, his loyalty and his great smile. He loved people, was outgoing & unfailingly hospitable with a store of good jokes to share, coupled with that Scottish stubborn streak that kept him going through challenging times. He will be sadly missed especially by his long time buddie John Crowe with whom he shared "A Wee Dram" on many a Wednesday night. Special thanks go out to those who touched Don's life & through their skills & care enabled him to enjoy his last years despite declining abilities.

TRESIDDER, Frederick Eric (AKA "Tres ") Quietly said goodbye during his 88th year and was reunited with his beloved wife Kaye on May 17, 2009. Fred is survived by two sons, Jim (Paula), and Frank, and three daughters, Susan (Bob) Burkholder, Sandra (Dave) Hampshire, and Brenda (Corey) Nelson, and his 10 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. Fred was an RCAF Veteran (1939-1945) and was an avid golfer and longtime member of the Gorge Vale Golf Club.

HEINEKEY, Margaret Loretta Peacefully on May 23, 2009 in Victoria. Margaret was born on July 2, 1920 in Fesserton, Ontario. She served as a driver in the Canadian Womens Army Corp, where she met Dennis, who was in the Canadian Scottish regiment. They married in 1944, moved to Victoria after the war and had 63 years together. Margaret was preceded in death by her son Ralph and husband Dennis, and is survived by daughter Denise and son Michael, along with her three grandchildren Douglas, Theresa and John. Margaret will be sorely missed by her family and many friends.

BRENNAN, Patrick Joseph (Paddy)



With sadness we announce the passing of Paddy, who was born in Patrickswell, Limerick, Ireland, on April 15, 1923, and died in Victoria on July 23, 2009. He is survived by his wife Alice, daughter Kate and her husband William, daughter

Jude and her husband Steve, son Pat and his wife Anne, and grandsons Adam and Evan. Paddy was an adventurer. On his nineteenth birthday he joined the British Army and was delighted to find himself in the Irish Guards, a regiment of which he was immensely proud. He was a tank man whose most memorable experience was participating in the liberation of Holland. After the war he served for two years with the Palestine Police, during which time he saw Israel become a nation. He then spent two years with the Malayan police, leading anti-terrorist patrols into the jungle. In 1951, Paddy and Alice married and moved to Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia), where he worked as a copper miner. In 1954 they emigrated to Canada, deciding it was the place to be. Paddy so enjoyed his 32 years of surveying BC that he never considered it work. He approached life with curiosity, always describing people and things as interesting." His Irish charm made him friends wherever he went.



"We will remember them."

SICK & VISITING

If someone is sick, under the weather, hospitalized and needs our assistance in any way, please contact Connie Meadmore.



MONTHLY DINNER SOCIALS

The fourth Saturday of most months had a social dinner event, e.g., steak night, an Irish stew and movie night, pizza and movie night, or chicken and ribs night (coming up on August 22rd).

In March, St. Patrick's Day was celebrated early with Irish stew as the main entrée along with biscuits, salad, dessert containing ice cream, chocolate cookie chunks, crème de menthe and green candy sticks. The movie *DARBY O'GILL AND THE LITTLE PEOPLE* was the entertainment, complete with individual bags of popcorn for all. Twenty-nine members attended this fun event courtesy of Rodger Wright, Heather Clark, Gail Hanson & Allan Fleury.

In April, 19 members went out for Spring Brunch to Samuel's Restaurant to celebrate the first warm day of the season.

Steak nights are still very popular and they started in May this year with Wayne Fisher as Master Chef and Alison Fisher and her team organizing everything else. There were 26 attendees with 4 last minute unavoidable cancellations. An excellent start to the barbecue season, the evening was described in superlatives.

In June, the premises were awash in red-and-white to celebrate Canada Day and what better way to celebrate than a barbecue? The hosting team included Bert and Myrna Soutar, Len and Shirely Anderson, Astrid Doidge, Ernie Brown & Miki Simpson. A very festive event with the most divine and creative dessert rustled up by Myrna (see the photos). Everything looked and tasted great. Exception: a tough Canada quiz. Attendance: 31.

July was a very slow month with many regulars away or entertaining out-of-town guests but we still managed to put on a Pizza and Movie Night. How slow was the event - an even dozen but that's not bad considering we were competing

with Luminara -- and we didn't get drenched by an unexpected summer storm featuring lightning and torrential rain. The movie that drowned out the storm - a quiet Scottish gem, *STONE OF DESTINY*, which ended to applause.

The next event will be Barbecue Chicken and Ribs Night, details to follow.

Social events and members' funeral services are now communicated to Greater Victoria members via email within a week of the event if known in advance. If you do not live in Greater Victoria, but would like to attend or know about these events rather than wait for the newsletter, please let Bal Sekha know at bsekha@shaw.ca or Legion.Br127@shaw.ca





Tricky shot but piece of cake for Myrna.

SPORTS

Golf is well underway with monthly out-of-town excursions already having taken place to Mt. Brenton in Chemainus in June and March Meadows in Honeymoon Bay, in July. There are 2 hardy foursomes who are ready to golf anywhere, any time with possibly 3 or 4 people depending on their other activities. Needless to say, the weather has been great. Our next outing is to Cowichan Golf Course on August 20, 11:00 am so if you are interested, please give Len Anderson a call.

On Tuesday mornings, 7-10 members golf at Mt. Doug at 8:15 am. We would love to have you join us so if you would like come, please call Bert or Myrna Soutar for details (250 477-8818).

Bowling will not be starting until late fall.

Photos from Mt. Brenton



Pretty, but is driving blind, then shooting down a hill and over a lake and still having to putt on a fast green your idea of a relaxing time? Doesn't Gerry's expression below says it all?



Where's my drink?