



BRANCH 127 NEWSLETTER



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer has almost gone and things are getting back to normal. That is, if someone could define what normal is and let me know. The branch is in better shape this year after the summer months

thanks to a renewed interest in membership.

Just as a reminder, our September meeting will be on the first Tuesday of the month and if you have a uniform, would you please wear it as we will be having an initiation service for some of the new members. To any new members or transferred members who have never been initiated, please make an extra effort to be there. Also at the meeting, membership pins will be presented to those who were not present at the 80th Anniversary celebration. These are normally presented at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Since the last newsletter, the branch has had several exciting events which were well attended and appreciated (see Entertainment). The most important of these was our 80th Anniversary Banquet which was held at the Trafalgar/Pro Patria Branch in May. Without you, these events could not have taken place so I say to you all, Thanks.

Most recently, we hosted several people who attended the 21st Annual Peacekeepers Memorial Service. Those who did attend were pleased with the service at the Cenotaph as well as the great hospitality they received here at the branch so thanks to those people who went out of their way to make this happen.

If anybody has any great ideas that will help us be better at what we do, please bring your ideas and share them so we all can benefit. Also, it is coming closer to our Annual General Meeting and if anybody would like to be part of the executive, please speak to me so when the time comes we will have a full slate of officers.

Until next time, let us never forget the sacrifices those that served have done for us all.

Richard Steele, President

Table of Contents	
President's Message	1
Executive	2
Regular Upcoming Events	2
Treasurer's Updates	3
Membership	3-4
Honours and Awards	4
Sports	4
Cenotaph	4
Last Post	5
Poppy Office Update	6
Entertainment	6-8
Remembrance Events Schedule	9



2013 EXECUTIVE

President - Richard Steele - scubadiving2008@live.ca
 Vice President - Len Anderson - andersonsl@shaw.ca
 Secretary - Bal Sekha - bsekha@shaw.ca
 Treasurer - Vic Marshall - admin@br127.ca
 Past President - Wayne Fisher - wjf4214@gmail.com
 Cenotaph - Claude Fortin - cpconductor@gmail.com
 Entertainment - Astrid Doidge - astridge8@shaw.ca
 Membership - Jenny Fossum - jennyfossum@hotmail.ca
 Newsletter/Web Site - Bal Sekha - bsekha@shaw.ca
 Remembrance / Poppy Fund - Miki Simpson - mikisim@telus.net
 Sgt-at-Arms - Gerry Gerrard - evgerry@telus.net
 Sick and Visiting - Connie Meadmore - (250) 383-0491
 Social - Wayne Fisher - wjf4214@gmail.com
 Sports - Len Anderson - andersonsl@shaw.ca
 Zone - Mel Smith - Mel-Smith@shaw.ca

REGULAR UPCOMING EVENTS

Executive Meetings	1 st Tuesday of each month (except July), 6:00 pm unless advised otherwise (September 3, October 1, November 5, December 3)
General Meetings	1 st Tuesday of each month (except July and August), 7:00 pm unless advised otherwise (September 3, October 1, November 5, December 3)
Monthly Socials	Wednesdays or Saturdays depending on availability of volunteers; announced via email; check web site or Legion bulletin board or contact Astrid Doidge
Sports	Mt. Doug golf on Tuesdays and Fridays weather permitting (Bert Soutar, Coordinator, bertg@hotmail.com) at larger courses - third Thursday of the month (May to September); contact Len Anderson for schedule and details or check web site (http://www.br127.ca)
Remembrance Activities	See page 9 for schedule

BRANCH CONTACT INFO: TEL: (250) 386-3325 EMAIL: admin@br127.ca



TREASURER'S UPDATES

- Vic Marshall, Treasurer

Finances

We have been doing quite well with our finances so far this year for several reasons including: a better turnout on our Friday night socials this summer (up quite a bit from the low of last year), getting back to having monthly themed dinners or barbecues and all with a surplus income. Thanks to Astrid and her team for the organization and good food and at reasonable prices! Also, we came in under budget for our 80th Anniversary dinner in May.

Gaming Committee

(Vic Marshall, Len Anderson, Mel Smith)

As most of you know, we got our grant of \$9500 from BC Gaming and by the time you read this, we will have distributed most of the funds for this year. For your information, a list of organizations we have approved for support from this year's gaming grant will be provided on the Legion bulletin board, the branch web site, in the next newsletter, and at the AGM in January. If you have any organization that you think we should support through a donation from gaming funds, please send a note to any member of the committee. Since BC Gaming provides the grant for us to distribute, it has eligibility guidelines that are used for reviewing and approving the requests.

MEMBERSHIP

- Jenny Fossum/Bal Sekba

General

Since our spring newsletter, we have been fortunate to have a considerable increase in membership. At this time, we would like to officially extend a warm welcome to our new members Rhonda Barnes, Shelagh Benner, Patrick Cavanaugh, Peter Dent, Arnold Eder, Sue Ann Gentry, Maeva Gillespie, Peter Hyltoft (rejoined), Bruce and Laura Neil, Mark Powell, Larry Shaw and Frank Thorogood. It is great to have our newest members become a regular part of our Friday socials family.

In the past year, two members, Richard Acton and Jean Fielding transferred out of our branch and recently, we lost two devoted members, Margot Matthews and Bob Scott who regularly attended our meetings until their health no longer made it possible (see Last Post).

Our membership changes weekly but currently stands at around 120.

Please let us know if you have a change of postal/email address so that we can update our records as well as forward the information to Dominion Command. If address changes are not forwarded to Dominion Command, the Legion Magazine will cease to be delivered - even after one undelivered issue.

We have lost contact with long time member C. Joseph Richards so if anyone has news on his whereabouts, please let us know.

Lapsed Memberships

At one time, if a membership was not renewed before the period of grace passed (March 31), the person would have to reapply as a new member. Lapsed memberships can now be reinstated with no loss of continuity if the arrears (from 2010 to 2012) are paid up.

2014 Membership Cards

Membership cards for 2014 have arrived for members who paid their 2013 dues before last year's deadline but they will not be distributed until the 2014 fees are assessed and approved at our September 3 meeting. Both Dominion and Provincial Commands have increased their respective per capita amounts \$2.00 - \$2.50 in each of the past 2 or 3 years and have projected to continue similar annual increases for 5 years. A renewal notice will be sent to members in September with the new membership fee. As always, the Early Bird rate will reduce the fee by \$5.00 if paid before November 30.

Nothing is impossible. The word itself says 'I'm possible!' - Audrey Hepburn



Phoning Committee

Since the last newsletter, a phoning committee has been set up to inform members without email access about upcoming events and/or other matters of interest. The committee has phoned on a couple of occasions and found that the branch does not have current phone numbers for a few people. If you would like to be kept informed of events or issues or would just like to be called from time to time, please let Miki Simpson know your contact details. Miki can be reached at (250)590-2268. Of course, you can also leave a phone message at the Branch at (250) 386-3325.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

The following members were eligible for membership pins in 2013:

Victor Allen - 35 years
 Jean Noel Bond - 35 years
 Ted Bowles - 55 years
 Ray Brunette - 40 years
 Claude Fortin - 25 years
 Thomas Fox - 60 years
 Richard Lidstone - 25 years
 Jack Rossiter - 55 years
 Leonard Roy - 25 years
 Mel Smith - 45 years
 Robert Thomas - 60 years

At the 80th Anniversary Celebration, Zone Commander Dave Munro presented Ray Brunette, Claude Fortin and Mel Smith with their membership pins and the Branch Executive with pins reflecting their current positions. Members who were not present at this function will receive their pins at the General Meeting on September 3, 7:00 pm (if they attend).

Members eligible for pins in 2014 will be advised in December 2013 and receive theirs at the January AGM.

To shorten winter, borrow some money due in spring. ~ W.J. Vogel

SPORTS

- Len Anderson

Our golf season ends September 12, with nine holes at Cedar Hill Golf Course, followed by a meal at J.J. Morgan's at the University Heights Shopping Centre at about 5:30 pm.

Bowling will start on Thursday, October 3, 3:30 pm at Miracle Lanes in Sidney, with a meal following at Sherlock's (Waddling Dog, Mt. Newton X Road).

Bowling will be on the 1st Thursday of each month until April (except in January where it will be the 2nd Thursday). Anyone interested can have their name added to our list by getting in touch with Len Anderson, Sports Chair.

CENOTAPH

- Claude and Kim Fortin

Weaths have been changed more often this summer due to the amazing sunshine we've been getting - about every 14 to 16 days.

When we hear that there will be a celebration at the Cenotaph, we make sure there are fresh new ones in place.

Flowers that others have placed at the Cenotaph are also removed when they are wilted.

So far this summer, there has been no broken glass and over the past several months, only two wreaths have vanished due to theft or unknown reasons.

Apologies for the lack of pictures in this issue. It was tough making a choice out of all the ones taken at the 80th; an attempt was made at the last minute to display several but created problems and the system crashed. Due to lack of time, it was too late to try again. It was not meant to be this time.

A small town doctor was famous in the area for always catching large fish.

One day while he was on one of his frequent fishing trips, he got a call that a woman at a neighboring farm was giving birth.

He rushed to her aid and delivered a healthy baby boy.

The farmer had nothing to weigh the baby with so the doctor used his fishing scales.

The baby weighed 21 lbs 13 oz.



LAST POST

MATTHEWS, Margaret (Margot) Wright
Died peacefully in Victoria on June 23, 2013
with family by her side. Born to John and Ina



Mitchell in Hawick, Scotland, on September 23, 1918, Margot was later joined by brother George and sister Frances. She spent her early years in Port Coquitlam and Vancouver, where she met her future husband, Edwin.

After marrying in 1940 they lived in Vancouver, where they raised their son, George. Subsequently they moved to Simcoe, Ontario, and in later years, Sechelt, with stints overseas in Venezuela, Coast Rica, and Egypt. Predeceased by her brother and sister, beloved son George in 2001 and husband Ed in 2006. She leaves behind her loving daughter-in-law Becky Matthews of Victoria, three granddaughters and their families, Andrea (Dan; Aga, Adam, Leah, and Dawson), Lindsay (Mark; Lauren, William, and Gareth) and Lesley (Jeff; Alison, Jillian, and Emily), and nieces and nephews in the Lower Mainland and the US. While always maintaining her Scottish sense of thrift, she was very generous, and had a gift for hospitality. She was much loved and will be missed. The family would like to thank the staff at Sunrise Senior Living in Victoria for their exceptional care and support. No service by request, but donations to Victoria Hospice and St. Mary's Hospital in Sechelt are gratefully accepted.



"What kind of music do you sing?"

"Aqua-pella."

"Don't you mean 'a cappella', singing without instrumental accompaniment?"

"Nope. I mean 'aqua-pella', singing accompanied only by the water coming out of the showerhead."

SCOTT, Robert Gregor Born in Victoria, B.C.
April 26, 1918. Bob passed peacefully into the



arms of his Lord and Savior on August 20th, 2013. Predeceased by his loving wife, Peggy and sisters, Kay and Molly. Bob is survived by son, Ian (Yolanda); daughter, Melanie (Garry); grandchildren, Doug, Stacey, Clinton, Sherri and Julie and

eleven great-grandchildren; nephews, Chris, Michael and niece, Heather. Bob was a proud [World War II](#) Veteran. He served as sergeant in the #16 General Hospital Division that left Victoria and served overseas. After the war Bob returned to Victoria with his war bride where they remained in B.C. and raised their children. He established a career with the B.C. Public Health Division and prior to early retirement he became the first Director of Public Health Inspection for B.C. Bob was able to take early retirement and served in the community with many volunteer organizations. He and Peggy traveled extensively and enjoyed over 60 years together. Very recently Bob was installed into the elite group of 100 Members of Distinction in The Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors. Bob was always a congenial, engaging man with a sharp wit. He will be missed. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to his charity of choice- Adopt-A-Child Canada, PO Box 10 - 106 4480 W. Saanich Rd. Victoria, BC V8Z 3E9. Special thanks to all the staff at Clover Point Care Facility who made Dad's last summer days pleasant. To his caregivers and friends, God bless you. A Memorial service will be held at 2:00 pm Wednesday August 28th, 2013 at Church of Our Lord, 626 Blanchard Street, Victoria, B.C. The Rev. Glen Sim officiating.

"We will remember them"





POPPY OFFICE UPDATE

- Astrid Doidge, Secretary, Victoria Poppy Committee

We are getting ready at the office for our busiest time of the year. Help has always been given freely by the members of our branch and is appreciated by the Poppy Office volunteers. I am sure we can count on your help again this year.

We would like your attendance for the following:

Poppy Preparation for Mailing

October 9 - 11 inclusive, and if required, October 15-16, usually from 9:00 to noon

(It has developed into quite a tradition and makes Astrid swell with pride that, percentage-wise, Branch 127's attendance at doing this very important job has been better than any other participating Legion's. It is fun and a great event for socializing...wouldn't miss it. Bal)

Flag Raising

October 24, 12:00 noon at City Hall followed by a luncheon at Trafalgar/Pro Patria Branch 292

Delivery and Pick-up of the Poppy Trays

October 15 - November 15

Remembrance Day Service at the Cenotaph, Parliament Buildings

November 11, 10:30 to 10:45 to march, gather at Government and Humboldt (north end of Fairmont Empress). Fingers crossed for good weather but never fear, Jenny's chili awaits those who come to the Branch for the reception following the ceremony.

Rotunda Ceremony

November 8, 10:45 am, in the Rotunda of the Parliament Buildings. This is a long tradition where members of our branch (expanded in the past few years to include members of other branches) march to the Rotunda for a brief but moving service. In the past, a very nice reception has been hosted by the Province

following the service. After this reception, everyone comes back to our branch for socializing.

ENTERTAINMENT

- Astrid Doidge

80th Anniversary Celebration, May 11, 2013

Our 80th Anniversary Celebration was held at Trafalgar/Pro Patria Branch 292 and was a great success. The goal of having "80 for the 80th" was met which made it extra special. Many thanks to all who attended from Branch 127, South Mid-Vancouver Island Zone and representatives from BC/Yukon Command as well as guests.

It was a real honour to have a Colour Party arranged by Kevin Walsh of Branch 292 and piped in by Angus Stanfield, now President of BC/Yukon Command. Richard Steele, our Branch President, gave the Invocation and Silent Tribute while one of our Past Presidents, Harry Addison, did a wonderful job as MC and kept the evening moving along. Introductions were given by Len Anderson and Vic Marshall and Toasts were made by Gerry Gerrard, Angus Stanfield, and Ted Vaughan. Dave Sinclair gave an interesting address about the Legion and his experiences with Branch; Dave Munro read congratulatory messages from Buckingham Palace, Lt.-Gov. Judith Guichon, Premier Christy Clark, Mayor Dean Fortin and Past President Jack Thame who was unable to attend. Dave also presented 2013 Honors and Awards to members of Branch 127; Mel Smith, our resident historian, gave an interesting history of the branch and Murray Rankin, our MP as well as Branch member, just flew in from Ottawa to make a presentation to the President and spoke about the Legion. Jim Dumont spoke of his first introduction to the branch when he was a young man and worked on the top floor of the branch premises and visited downstairs. Richard Steele finished the evening's presentations with his remarks and thanks.

Now, for the most important features of the evening -- the meal, mementos and door prizes.



The sit-down meal was catered by Branch 292 staff and from all the positive feedback, it was a great meal that was enjoyed by all. There was not one complaint received; in fact, everyone voted to have our Christmas party at this venue.

As mementos of this special occasion, everyone received an 80th Anniversary branch ribbon and a beautiful navy and gold pen made specially for this occasion - no one left their pen behind! These pens are available for purchase at the branch for \$2.00 each.

The three door prize winners were:

- Dave Sinclair won the first prize, a Hippo Tour Family Pack donated by our member Geoff Lind;
- Murray Rankin won the second prize, a bottle of Captain Morgan's Amber Rum donated by John Paseznuk; and
- Miki Simpson won the third prize, a standing rib roast donated by Branch 127 - the first ever meat draw held by this branch!

A very big attraction throughout the evening was the collection of photos of branch events over the decades. Several years ago, Alison Fisher sorted through boxes and boxes of photos and used them to make 7 posters for display on Remembrance Day. For this occasion, Miki and Astrid did some more sorting and found homes for duplicates and made more posters with some while leaving others loose on the table for people to browse and take if the pictures were of them. Remaining photos will be on display on Remembrance Day so please feel free to help yourself.

The organizing committee for the 80th was comprised of Astrid Doidge, Mel Smith and Richard Steele. Supporting this committee were Vic Marshall (financial expertise and budgeting) and Bal Sekha (administrative assistance). Bal designed and printed the programs, tent cards for table numbers and names. Len Reid of Branch 292 donated his time and talent to provide background music for us. Neela Streifel and Bal took many photos of the event - they are posted on the web site under Photo Gallery and can be

downloaded.

All in all, it was a great celebration thanks to everyone who contributed to its success, from those who attended, spoke, made presentations, donated gifts or their services and most of all, to the organizing committee who made it happen.

Hippo Tour/Pizza Night

June 3rd was our June fun event. There were 35 people who went on the bus tour - including the boss, Geoff Lind. We entered the water at James Bay Fishermen's Wharf with a big splash on a wonderful sunny, calm day. The water tour of the Inner Harbour was very pleasant - it was most interesting to see our beautiful harbour from a different view than we usually have as we drive around the harbour. After a short drive around the James Bay area, we were dropped off at the Legion to continue with the fun. 36 people stayed to have pizza and desserts. How can pizza be fun? Easy, if the pizza boxes aren't labelled and the four types of pizza all look alike. No one really knew what they picked until they took a bite or two. Shelagh Benner won a stuffed hippo in a door prize draw.

By all reports, this was another successful evening enjoyed by members and guests. It may be stretching it but as a result of this outing, a couple joined and since then, they have corralled several of their friends to join as well.

Summer Barbecues

The July barbecue turned out to be such a success for the 32 people who attended because of the wonderful volunteers we had, including one Glenn Brunette, a visiting member from Manitoba, here for a holiday but put to work on the grill. The tenderloin steaks, nugget potatoes, various salads and desserts were devoured with glee.

We had the same number of volunteers for the 32 people who attended an almost identical meal at the August barbecue. The August barbecue ended up with a very competitive and entertaining auction, conducted by the



President, of a bottle of wine donated by the branch and smoked wild Pacific salmon donated by Keith J. Yow of Savory Distributors.

September Dinner

Our September's dinner theme will be "Back to School" - again, limited to 32 people who we hope will wear "school" clothes! It will be a brown bag dinner with many surprises and even prizes. The cost will be \$15.00/person

October Dinner

October's dinner will have a Halloween theme, again with costumes and prizes.

November Dinner

November will be limited to the November 11th reception which will include Jenny's chili after the ceremony at the Cenotaph.

December Dinner

We are the first to invite you to a Christmas party. It is being held at Trafalgar/Pro Patria Branch 292 on December 14th from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Like the 80th Anniversary celebration, it will be sit-down dinner at a cost of \$25.00, with the choice of three entrees and a free "meat draw" (not necessarily all meat for the prizes!) This event is limited to 80 people and must be prepaid by December 1st. Plan to come and enjoy the camaraderie of your Legion and friends.

Birthday Cakes

After each General meeting, we plan to have a group birthday cake so if your birthday is in September (or in the month of any general meeting), please come to the meeting and celebrate with us after the meeting.

Remember
you can donate \$5.00 to
the Poppy Campaign by texting
"Poppy" to 20222 year round
24/7.

SICK AND VISITING

Many thanks to Connie Meadmore who contacts or visits our members when they have been sick or hospitalized. Connie also sends get well and sympathy cards, as well as attends services for members or their families. She has done this through thick and thin, even when not feeling well herself. Thank you, Connie, your dedication is much appreciated.

If you know of anyone who can use a friendly call from Connie, please let Connie (250) 383-0491 or anyone on the executive know.

A father is in church with three of his young children, including his five year old daughter.

As was customary, he sat in the very front row so that the children could properly witness the service.

During this particular service, the minister was performing the baptism of a tiny infant. The little five year old girl was taken by this, observing that he was saying something and pouring water over the infant's head.

With a quizzical look on her face, the little girl turned to her father and asked with all the innocence of a five year old...

"Daddy, why is he brainwashing that baby?"

Since the Poppy Campaign is just around the corner, you may be interested to know the types of services that are supported by your poppy donations: housing accommodations and care facilities, medical training and research, drop-in centers and meals-on-wheels, transportation, Royal Commonwealth Ex-Servicemen's League, restoration and repair of monuments, cadet corps, meals honoring veterans (Legion member or not), lifting devices and handicap washrooms, Veterans Transition Program, etc. to name just a few.



REMEMBRANCE EVENTS SCHEDULE 2013

EVENT	DATE AND TIME
Envelope Preparation (David Slater Room)	Starting Wednesday, October 9 to Friday, October 11 and if necessary, Tuesday, October 15 and Wednesday, October 16, usually 9:00 am - noon
Tray and Wreath Preparation, Replenishment and Return (Trafalgar Room)	Tuesday, October 15 to Friday, November 15
Poppy Tray Deliveries	Monday, October 21 to Thursday, October 24
Flag Raising	Friday, October 25 at Victoria City Hall at 12:00 noon
Man the Malls	Saturday, October 26 until Saturday, November 9, excluding Sunday, October 27, Sunday, November 3 and Sunday November 10
Cadets in Malls	Saturday, October 26, Saturday, November 2 and Saturday, November 9
Fairmont Empress (RCL Branch 292)	Canvass Saturday, October 26 and Saturday, November 2 and Saturday, November 9
Cash Reconciliation (Pro Patria Room)	Monday, October 28 to Friday, November 22
Rotunda Ceremony	Friday, November 8, 10:30 am (gather at Branch 127)
Remembrance Day Service (Cenotaph at Parliament Buildings)	Monday, November 11, 10:45 am, Reception to follow at Branch 127
Poppy Tray Pick-ups	Tuesday, November 12 to completion
Poster and Literary Contest	Deliver reviewed entries to Trafalgar/Pro Patria Branch by Friday, November 29. Judging will take place on Monday, December 2
Campaign Wrap-up Meeting (Trafalgar Room)	Wednesday, December 4, 10:00 am