



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Harry M. Addison  
President*

The Public Service Branch 127 of the Royal Canadian Legion has enjoyed another year of friendly, spirited and eventful membership in the year 2007. We may be the little Branch in Victo-

ria, but we, the members, know it to be the best.

We are a volunteer organization and the members are the ones who have made it what it is today. They have fun, they accept responsibility and they are all proud to be Legionnaires.

Our 2008 Executive and Executive Committee was installed on Tuesday, 08 January 2008 by BC/Yukon Command Executive Officer Allan Fleury, admitting two new faces to the table, Jenny Fossum in Membership and Rodger Wright in Housing. One other young lady, namely Bal Sekha, has been elevated to 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and with her experience over the past few years, she is a great asset to events within our Legion.

Another one of our dedicated young ladies is Alison Fisher, who has worked very hard to keep our Legion facilities up to date and serviceable. Remember all those decorations and dinner table settings? WELL, she's the one. The Executive decided that she should be awarded OUR VOLUNTEER PLAQUE for the years 2003 to 2007 and regardless of health, she carries on. Congratulations Alison!

Our next major event of the year is the proposed 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Branch 127 of the Royal Canadian Legion, some time in September.

I have attached a short "survey" to have membership input on whether it warrants a Banquet, Wine and Cheese or All the Trimmings Steak Night. Our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was staged at Monterey Centre on May 30, 2003.

Please help out with the initial decisions by mailing in your views. WE can do it Comrades.

## 2007 ANNUAL REPORT - PRESIDENT

Time does seem to have its way and marches on with an inevitable pace that leaves us with fond memories and hopes for a world at peace as we too leave our footprints in the sand.

The Public Service Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion has come to a close on another successful year. The Executive Committee has once again brought us together with Steak Nights and a novel Halloween Night. With so many members in costume and adding to the evening events, it does show the SPIRIT inherent in a Branch that enjoys the benefits of Legion membership.

As President for 2007, I have had real support from all our Executive Committee, major events just happen when everyone pitches in and rallies to the call for help. The Rotunda Service, Poppy Campaign and Remembrance Day were well supported. The large increase in civilian attendance attests to another Legion event where we gain recognition for our veterans programs and support.

Your President attended and participated in the following meetings/functions in 2007:

- 12 Executive Meetings
- 9 General Meetings
- 3 Remembrance Day
- 3 Rotunda Service
- 3 Zone Meetings
- 5 Poppy Campaign
- 4 Provincial Convention
- 4 Funeral Services

Branch 127 awarded three bursaries as follows:

- Sarah Burrows - \$1000
- Michael Munro - \$1000
- Kate Shepherd - \$1000

The Executive and Membership are proud to announce the award of a plaque to Alison Fisher for her untiring efforts to decorate, clean, paint and maintain our Legion premises. As our esteemed Volunteer this young lady deserves the thanks and credit from us all.

Thank you all for allowing me to participate in 2007. Let us hope and pray for an even better 2008.

*Harry M. Addison  
President  
Branch 127, RCL*



### 2008 EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE

President	Harry Addison	652-5660
Past President	Wayne Fisher	382-5648
1st Vice President	Mel Smith	385-1084
2nd Vice President	Bal Sekha	595-6362
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
	Alison Fisher	385-9842
Honours & Awards	Tom Wylie	478-5560
House:	Rodger Wright	220-5630
	Alison Fisher	385-9842
Membership	Jenny Fossum	384-3380
Newsletter/Web Site	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 & 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

### Regular Recurring Events

Monthly Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month unless advised otherwise

February 5, March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3

Executive Meetings: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month

February 20, March 19, April 16, May 21, June 18

5 Pin Bowling:

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month, usually until May depending on numbers;  
please check with Len Anderson

Mt Doug Golf:

Tuesday mornings depending on weather and course conditions, usually starts in late March or April; please check with Bert Soutar (477-8818)

Steak Nights:

4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month starting in April, weather permitting; please check with Wayne Fisher for details



2008 EXECUTIVE & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Back Row, left to right:

*Wayne Fisher, Bill Morris, Len Anderson, Mike Rainone, Connie Meadmore, Gerry Gerrard, Rodger Wright, Jenny Fossum, Padre Larry Scott, Alison Fisher*

Front Row, left to right:

*Tom Wylie, Mel Smith, Harry Addison, Bal Sekha, Bud Hall*



## ENVELOPE STUFFING

- Gerry Gerrard

Branch 127 had a minimum of ten members for each of the four days it took to stuff poppies into over 80,000 envelopes

The following members took part:

Harry Addison  
 Len & Shirley Anderson  
 Ernie Brown  
 Bobby & Mary Burrows  
 Gerry Gerrard  
 Dick Lidstone  
 Connie Meadmore  
 Bill & Mary Morris  
 Miki Simpson  
 Mel Smith  
 Bert & Myrna Soutar  
 Jack & Marg Weber

And, don't forget all the good work Astrid Doidge does at the Poppy Office and on the Poppy Committee

Thank you for a good job done.

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Recently a chap by the name of Colin Hotham, who lives in the UK, contacted the BC/Yukon Command. He will be visiting Victoria next July for a couple of weeks, and since he had served post-war in the RAF for 26 years. wanted to know if he could hook up with a local Legion Branch. His email notes were forwarded to Branch 127, and we have responded, welcoming him, and offering to meet with him.

Colin has been doing research on the role of Canadian troops during Operation Husky, the invasion of Sicily, in July and August 1943. He has visited the Canadian cemetery at Agira in that country twice and has contributed to the BBC WWII website. He is obviously continuing his research, and would very much like to meet anyone who was involved in the Operation Husky campaign.

Colin is also involved with remembrance at a disused WWII RAF airfield known as RAF Blakehill Farm that was used by (RCAF) 437 Squadron.

If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in meeting with Colin, please let us know, and we'll make his visit as meaningful as possible.

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### For Sale:

Wedding dress, size 8.  
 Worn once, by mistake.



Alison Fisher receiving Branch 127 Volunteer Plaque

### VERY IMPORTANT

If your application for hearing loss disability benefits has been turned down in the past, either by Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) or by the Veterans Review and Appeal Board (VRAB), you may be eligible for a partial entitlement as a result of a recent Federal Court of Appeal decision. Please call 1-877-534-4666 or send an e-mail to [pallard@legion.ca](mailto:pallard@legion.ca)

### Short Quiz

1. Name 6 or more things that you can wear on your feet beginning with the letter "s".
2. There are 14 punctuation marks in English grammar. Can you name at least half of them?
3. In many liquor stores, you can buy pear brandy, with a real pear inside the bottle. The pear is whole and ripe, and the bottle is genuine; it hasn't been cut in any way. How did the pear get inside the bottle?

(Answers on page 8)



## FROM DAVE SINCLAIR, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT, BC/YUKON COMMAND

- Terri Orser, SVIZ Secretary

Hi Folks,

I had passed out information on this mini-cruise at the meeting in Aldergrove, but wanted to make sure these details are making the rounds. I am pretty sure I will be going on this cruise and am hoping to have a good bunch of Legion folks there for this very fun weekend.

Can you please pass this on to your contacts, branch presidents, Legion friends and the Zone Commanders? That way people can start thinking about it. We are holding cabins until January 8th - after that we think the availability won't be so great, so let's get the word out.

VIP bookings can come through my office by contacting Melissa, or you can go see your favourite travel agent to get on this cruise.

### 2 Day Fun Cruise to Nowhere!

09 - 11 May, 2008 aboard the Norwegian Sun  
(Ship leaves from Vancouver & Returns to Vancouver)

What's Included

- \* 2 day cruise aboard Norwegian Sun
- \* All meals aboard the ship
- \* Port charges and all taxes

No surprises pricing from \$330.00

### Exclusive Legion Inclusion

Over 32 Legion Members on this trip and BCAA will send one of the Group Affinity Team to host the trip and have a fabulous cocktail party for the whole group!

\*\* Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include all taxes at time of printing. Subject to availability at time of booking. Gratuities, Insurance & items of a personal nature are not included in this package. Meals have an additional surcharge at specialty restaurants.

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## HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY, XMAS EVE 2007

For those who are not aware of it, in Holten (The Netherlands) all of the school children are each assigned one grave, belonging to a Canadian Serviceman who perished in WW2.

On Christmas Eve around 11 PM, the children go to their assigned graves, light a candle, and leave it to burn there while they attend Christmas Midnight Mass.

Considering that it has now been over 60 years since Holland was liberated from the Nazis this is particularly special heartwarming!!!



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## ENTERTAINMENT ANNUAL REPORT, 2007

- Bal Sekha

The Entertainment Committee generally provides refreshments at various Branch functions, e.g., monthly meetings, Remembrance Week activities, Saturday socials and arranges dinner socials including the Christmas party. 2007 was no exception.

The main difference this year from previous years is that Saturday socials have almost disappeared with only 1 in 2007 while Saturday steak night/barbecues, as introduced by Wayne Fisher in 2006, have flourished. Between April and August, there were 5 barbecues with the last one having a hillbilly theme. A Halloween themed dinner with a smorgasbord of stews was held in October and proved equally popular. Earlier in the year, spring socials were held in February & March at the Embassy and Samuel's Restaurants. Attendance ranged between 25 and 40.

On behalf of the Branch, Wayne hosted 2 chili lunches during the Annual Convention of the BC/Yukon Command in Victoria in June. This was good public relations for our little Branch which flies under the radar most of the time.



Remembrance Week of course was our most important event. It was very successful especially considering Remembrance Day was on a Sunday and many people may have chosen to travel on a long weekend. The premises were packed after both the Rotunda Service on November 9<sup>th</sup> and the Cenotaph Ceremonies on Remembrance Day. An impressive array of refreshments was served by the Government after the Rotunda Service and was much appreciated by our members. Again, our refreshments were catered except for the chili which was made by Jenny Fossum. My thanks to Jenny, Lis Addison, Alison Fisher, Gail Hanson and Myrna Soutar for their assistance during this week.

For a change, our Christmas dinner was held on a weekday, December 9, instead of the normal Saturday because most caterers will not provide for events for fewer than 50 on weekends and our premises cannot comfortably accommodate more than 44. We had 43 guests this year. Goldstream Caterers were excellent, both with their staff and the selection of entrees. Harry Addison was MC extraordinaire and even donated several cheeky Presidential Awards (see adjacent photo). Several gift draws of wine and other goodies were made after the dinner. Wayne Fisher, Harry Addison, Bud Hall, Tom Wylie, Gail Hanson, Heidi Hall and Bal Sekha donated these gifts. Special thanks to Lis Addison for the lovely flower corsages for all the women attending and many many thanks to Allan Fleury, Gail Hanson, Jenny Fossum, and Heidi Hall for the great job of decorating the hall for Christmas.

The 2007 expenditures for this committee were \$528.15, down from \$620.30 last year (includes Remembrance Week expenses). This is due mainly to Saturday socials being replaced by self-sustaining barbecue and theme dinners.

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## SICK & VISITING

- *Connie Meadmore*

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).

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## PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL AWARD



*A personally created non-fail menu by the President*

As Master of Ceremonies, President Addison spares no expense or effort to find exactly the right award for his Executive members. Of course an award of this caliber is only enhanced with an accompanying card saying --

*"Party/Dinner Menus are a continuing source of stress for our mild-mannered please everyone Executive Member. Dear Bal has arranged meals fit for a King but not necessarily our hungry comrades. The attached sample menu should please even the most discriminating and CHEAP, even Addison and Wayne can afford it. While the choice is limited, we could arrange for a darker, crisper flavoring, however the only jam is Marmalade.*

*You can always DRINK you know . . . . ."*

Won't Harry be surprised to see his handiwork on eBay!!

\* \* \* \* \*

A woman was arrested for shop lifting. When she went before the judge in Cincinnati he asked her, "What did you steal?"

She replied, "A can of peaches."

The judge then asked her why she had stolen the can of peaches, and she replied that she was hungry.

The judge then asked her how many peaches were in the can.

She replied, "6."

The judge said, "Then I will give you 6 days in jail."

Before the judge could conclude the trial, the woman's husband spoke up and asked the judge if he could say something.

The judge said, "What is it?"

The husband said, "She also stole a can of peas."



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**2007 BURSARY WINNERS**



**AMANDA BURROWS**



**MIKE MUNRO**



**KATE SHEPHERD**



75<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary  
Public Service Branch 127  
Royal Canadian Legion

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

The Executive Committee has recommended that we organize an event to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Public Service Branch during the month of September 2008.

This major event will entail the invitation of guests from VIP, dignitary, political and Legion executives and their wives.

Please complete this survey and mail to:

Public Service Branch No. 127  
Royal Canadian Legion  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Where an item is not listed for this survey, an open space is provided at the end of the survey for any additional advice you can share with us.

If there should be any item for discussion, please call me directly at my home in Brentwood Bay, (250) 652-5660.

*Harry M. Addison*  
*President*  
*RCL Branch 127*



**Answers to quiz on page 4**

1. Shoes, socks, sandals, sneakers, slippers, skis, skates, snowshoes, stockings, stilts
2. Period, comma, colon, semicolon, dash, hyphen, apostrophe, question mark, exclamation point, quotation marks, brackets, parenthesis, braces, and ellipses.
3. The bottles are placed over pear buds when they are small, and are wired in place on the tree. The bottle is left in place for the entire growing season. When the pears are ripe, they are snipped off at the stems.





### 75<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Survey

Banquet	Costs	Hall	Bar	Invitees
Wine/Cheese	Legion	Legion	Legion	Limited
Tickets	Member+wife \$30-35 each	invitee+wife Free		Widows+Partner \$30 each
Dress	semi-formal	long dress		short dress
Wines	dinner only	pre-drinks		member cost
Port/Toast	include	include		include
Invitations	Who <hr style="width: 100%;"/> Lt-Governor, Politicians, BC/Yukon Command, Zone Local Legions, City, Widows			
Menu	Roast Beef, Chicken, Seafood, Buffet Selections			
Date	Weekday, Weekend, Gather at 6 for Dinner at 7:00			
Receiving Line	VIP, President, Vice President			
Seating	Wine & Cheese - Seating for Older Members Some tables  Banquet - seating plan/head table spacing  Pre-Dinner			
Guest Speaker	Provincial/Dignitary			
History	Legion background			
Music	Background (low) Queen/O Canada			
Formal	Anniversary Ceremony Guest mementos		Chest Ribbon	

Other:

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Date: Saturday, February 23, 2008  
Drinks: 6:00 - Tropical  
Dinner: 7:00 pm  
Cost: \$10.00/person  
Menu: Ham, Green Salad, Yams, Roast  
Potatoes, Veggies, Dessert  
Entertainment: Maybe  
Tickets may be purchased from the bar. If  
you have any questions, contact Bal -  
bsekha@shaw.ca or 595-6362

