



# Winter Newsletter



## President's Ponderings

- *Allan Fleury*

Comrades. A new year and new challenges for us to face. We have a fine Executive

Committee once again and our group of regular volunteers are second to none.

I would like to express my gratitude to Harry Addison for his leadership over the past two years. Harry has been more than just a President. He has been a good sport and all round team player. Several times at our various 'dress-up' events, Harry has been the focal point of some humorous gag. Once we even turned him into a bigamist.

Harry kept a grin on his face every time and joined in the fun. He took every one in stride and many times, gave as good as he got.

I look forward to Harry being the Immediate Past President during my term of office.

I have appointed Gail Hanson to be our House Chairperson. So ye who drop your popcorn and spill your drinks . . . . Beware! Rodger Wright is now Entertainment Chairman and we can expect some fun events in the next eleven months.

I will serve as the Branch Service Officer. I have a lot of experience in Legion service work having served eight years as secretary to the Service Officer when I was in Branch 172 and on committee as a member for six more.

British Columbia/Yukon Command Convention will convene in Trail BC this June. Gail Hanson and I will be the Branch delegates. At the Convention I will let my name stand for either re-election to Command Executive Officer or Command Vice President. It will depend on the outcome of the Command-restructuring proposal that will be the first item of business on the agenda.

A Branch is not a President, it is not an Executive, and it is not a building. A Branch is the membership. Every one of us has the opportunity and the duty to help the Branch prosper. As the saying goes: "united we stand, divided we fall". With all of us working together, we can keep Public Service standing for a good many years to come.

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**90TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARMISTICE DAY**

- Harry Addison

The mission of the Royal Canadian Legion is *TO SERVE VETERANS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS, TO PROMOTE REMEMBRANCE AND TO ACT IN THE SERVICE OF CANADA AND ITS COMMUNITIES.*

There are many different Acts of Remembrance which honour the memory of the fallen and pay tribute to the sacrifices and accomplishments of Veterans. One of the more poignant events, is the 90th Anniversary of Armistice Day, the 11th day of November 1918.

World War I was a major conflict fought in Europe between 28 July 1914 and 11 November 1918. Nations from across the globe were involved and over eight million people died, although Russia, Britain, France, Germany and Austro-Hungary dominated.

During World War I (1914-18) more than 600,000 Canadians volunteered to go overseas. As of November 2008, only one was still alive -- John Babcock aged 107, who was born on an Ontario farm and now lives in Spokane, Washington. These troops fought a series of bloody battles and by the end of the war, more than 66,000 Canadian soldiers had been killed and 172,000 wounded.

The Flanders Poppy was adopted by the Allied nations as the *FLOWER OF REMEMBRANCE* because it was most evident in the battle fields of Northern France and Belgium after hostilities.

In recent times, there has been some confusion as to whether the *DAY* is Armistice Day or Remembrance Day. After World War II (1941-1945), it was deemed more appropriate to commemorate the sacrifices of *ALL CONFLICTS* and named *REMEMBRANCE DAY*. The tradition of Armistice Day remained until 1946, when *TWO MINUTES OF SILENCE* was adopted and the 11th day of November designated remembrance Day.

In keeping with the adoption of "All Conflicts" and 11 November, the Torch of Remembrance was passed to representatives of Veterans, Cadets, Peacekeepers and an Active Soldier in a Remembrance Day Ceremony held in Ottawa, at the National Military Cemetery, 11th November 2008.

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.*

*Lt. Col John McCrae, 1872-1918*



End of World War I

Actual Date: November 11, 1918

Official Date: Treaty of Versailles signed on June 18, 1919

**COMRADE JACK COCKRELL**

On the first day of winter 2008, Lionel Philip "Jack" Cockrell, a very good friend of this Branch and the Royal Canadian Legion, passed away. As a member of Branch #91 of the Royal Canadian Legion, Jack served as President, as a Service Officer, Chairman of several committees as well as Zone Commander for South Vancouver Island. His major projects for the Legion were organizing the BC Ceremony for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Memorial Wall in Victoria's new arena.

There will be a service on Saturday, March 7, 2009, 1:00 pm at St. Paul's Anglican Church, 1379 Esquimalt Road, Victoria. This will be followed by ceremonies at 3:00 pm at Prince Edward Branch #91, 761 Station Street.

## 2009 EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE

President	Allan Fleury	(250) 384-7470
Immediate Past President	Harry Addison	(250) 652-5660
1st Vice President	Mel Smith	(250) 385-1084
2nd Vice President	Bal Sekha	(250) 595-6362
Secretary	Heather Clark	(250)-882-5870
Treasurer	Bud Hall	(250) 727-7129
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) 478-5560
House	Gail Hanson	(250) 920-7760
Membership	Jenny Fossum	(250) 384-3380
Newsletter/Web Site	Bal Sekha	(250) 595-6362
Scholarships & Bursaries	Len Anderson	(250) 658-4749
Service Officer	Allan Fleury	(250) 384-7470
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) 920-7760
Zone Alternate	Bill Morris	(250) 479-1186
Branch Telephone/Fax		(250) 386-3325

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Monthly Meetings:** 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month, 7:30 pm unless advised otherwise  
(March 3 April 7, May 5, June 2)
- Executive Meetings:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month, 7:30 pm unless advised otherwise  
(February 25, March 18, April 15, May 20, June 17)
- Monthly Bowling:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, 3:30 pm, Miracle Lanes, Sidney  
(February 19, March 19, April 16, May 21, June 18)  
Please check with Len Anderson (250 658-4749) for details
- Theme Nights or Socials:** March 14 Pre-St. Patrick's Irish Stew/Movie
- Steak Night/Barbecue** Fourth Saturday of the month, numbers and weather permitting

*(Please check the calendar on the web site for up-to-date, specific information.)*

**2009 BRANCH 127 EXECUTIVE**

Left to right: *Rodger Wright, Connie Meadmore, Len Anderson, Alison Fisber, Heather Clark, Bal Sekha, Allan Fleury, Mel Smith, Gerry Gerrard, Jenny Fossum, Harry Addison, Zone Commander Angus Stanfield*  
Missing from Photo: *Bud Hall, Gail Hanson, Rev. Larry Scott.*

**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](mailto:Legion.Br127@shaw.ca) or [bsekha@shaw.ca](mailto:bsekha@shaw.ca))



**MEMBERSHIP**

- Jenny Fossum, Chair

Our membership sits at 121 members. We have had a few transfers, a few deaths and a few new members.

A warm welcome to our newest members, Matthew Greig, Carleen Kerr, Margaret Matthews and Jack Thame.

**2008 SICK AND VISITING REPORT**

- Connie Meadmore, Chair

During this past year I have sent out sympathy and get well cards to various members or families of this Branch. Several phone calls have been made to inquire how members are doing.

While it is appreciated that members send their own sympathy and get well cards, if you wish me to respond in these situations on behalf of the Branch, it is important that I am kept informed.

In 2008, we lost the following Comrades: Joe MacLaren, Jack Belanger, Bill Osborne, Dean Palmer, Dennis Heinekey, Danny Peacock, Howard Taylor, William Dorby, Doug Hudson, and Roy Hinchcliffe.

In 2009, we lost Tom Wylie who had been our Branch Secretary for the past few years.

***“We will remember them.”***

WYLIE, Squadron Leader Thomas Lamont, CD. Born Ottawa May 9, 1933, died peacefully in Victoria February 5, 2009. Married to perfect wife and companion Gwen, in Nottingham UK 1954. Leaves with Gwen, son Thomas R. of Red Deer, daughters Wendy (Bud) and Janet (Mark) of Ottawa. Survived by his

brothers Peter (Lynn) and David (Sherry), nieces and nephews. Tom left home in Ontario at 15 for Victoria. Joined the RCAF in 1951 as A5 Tech serving at all European Air Div Wings. BSc Concordia U 1971. Seconded to RCMP and joined Force in 1975. OIC and architect of first national group formed to

counter computer crime. Moved to M.O.T. in 82 and left in 86 as A/DG. Director of Computer System MSP and Pharmacare and architect of Teleplan system used by doctors for on-line billing. Retired in 1989. Ardent rallyist in 60's, driving in Monte Carlo and Shell 4000. Tom leaves us following a full and rewarding life with a loving supportive family.



**2008 SPORTS REPORT**

- Len Anderson, Sports Chair

A total of 19 members, at one time or another, as well as guest, participated in our bowling program from October 2007 to April 2008. Awards were presented for High Average, High Single game, and Team Champions.

Golf season followed from May to September. Twelve members plus guests participated. We played Royal Oak, Cowichan, March Meadows, Mt. Brenton and Mt. Douglas. Awards were presented for Most Improved, Best Average Difference, Low Team, and the "Old Boot" award.

Golf at larger courses starting in the summer and bowling are arranged for the third Thursday of each month. Golf is at 11:30 am and bowling at 3:30 pm in Sidney. Tuesday golf starts at 8:30 am at Mt. Doug. Lung and Entertainment books help with the cost of golf and meals.

Now that the weather shows sign of improving, the 2009 golf outings to Mt. Doug should be starting soon so keep tuned.

If you are interested in participating and have not participated or been called before, please get in touch with myself, Len Anderson (250 658-4749), or Bert Soutar (250 477-8818) for the Mt Doug weekly golf outings on Tuesday mornings. We would love to have you join us.



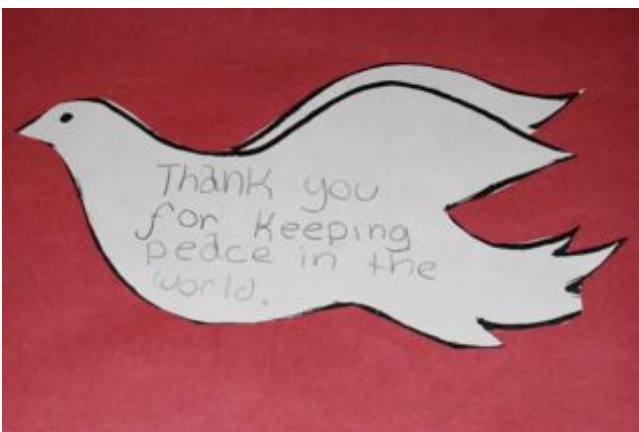
***Hang in there, British Columbians. Winter is almost over as we can see by the deer wandering around.***



This banner was made for Remembrance Day by Mrs. Terry Willow's Grade 1 Class at St Margaret's School, Victoria, BC. Each dove contains a message of remembrance for veterans, a few samples follow. Mrs. Willow is the daughter of the late Doug Hudson.





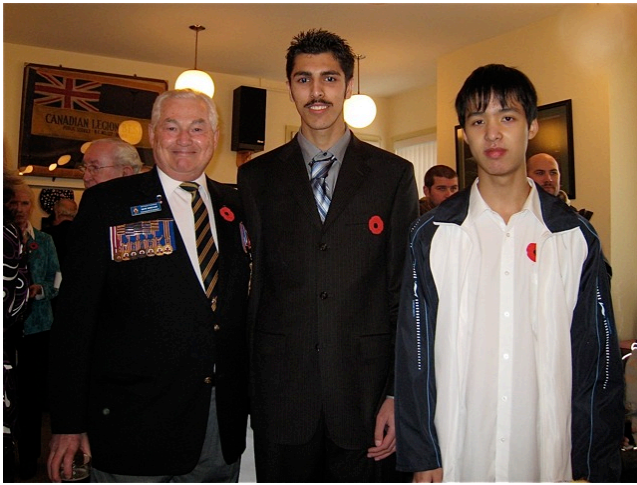


WINTERY WORDS (December to March)

S	T	P	A	T	R	I	C	K	S	D	A	Y	T	E	A	Q	Z	H
N	W	L	E	K	Z	O	O	J	Y	D	D	G	G	Z	S	K	I	
O	F	E	O	S	R	Q	P	L	X	D	T	Q	X	R	I	A	L	B
I	S	O	E	E	B	A	W	Y	R	A	U	R	B	E	F	P	X	E
T	D	P	Z	T	Q	L	P	F	L	F	S	K	S	L	E	E	T	R
U	R	F	I	V	H	B	A	N	H	F	N	P	A	K	E	R	C	N
L	A	X	S	L	R	E	X	T	Q	O	H	O	M	V	A	R	I	A
O	C	K	O	Z	U	D	A	N	I	D	O	I	T	T	H	R	W	T
S	S	L	B	A	A	T	J	R	R	I	C	S	S	J	C	H	P	I
E	O	X	S	P	C	L	N	K	T	L	K	Y	I	K	R	E	X	O
R	A	B	W	O	L	P	W	O	N	S	E	X	R	R	A	Q	M	N
F	L	R	L	W	O	C	M	J	V	Y	X	H	E	M	Y	I	M	
W	H	D	F	G	M	Y	X	E	O	Q	I	A	C	H	F	I	W	V
W	W	H	I	H	R	K	F	V	H	E	L	T	M	T	O	C	Y	W
P	R	X	T	A	V	C	H	L	V	P	P	K	D	A	S	I	V	V
D	B	J	U	P	C	U	R	L	I	N	G	C	R	E	E	C	F	C
I	V	N	P	Q	B	N	M	M	K	J	O	I	T	H	D	L	N	K
B	A	N	P	M	K	B	R	U	T	U	S	U	E	C	I	E	B	Z
J	U	L	I	U	S	C	A	E	S	A	R	Q	T	P	G	S	L	X

- |            |           |                 |               |               |
|------------|-----------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| SNOWDROPS  | PARKA     | HEATHER         | SNOWPLOW      | ICE           |
| SWEETHEART | ICICLES   | ST PATRICKS DAY | IDES OF MARCH | JULIUS CAESAR |
| OSCARDS    | DAFFODILS | TULIPS          | JANUARY       | RESOLUTIONS   |
| MARCH      | FEBRUARY  | HOCKEY          | CURLING       | ICE SKATING   |
| QUICKTAX   | BRUTUS    | SLEET           | HIBERNATION   | CHRISTMAS     |





*Zone Commander Dave Sinclair, with winners of the Poster & Literary Contests Sasha Gunn, Senior Essay and Jason Xue Bin Peng, Senior Colour Poster*

## **2008 ENTERTAINMENT REPORT**

*- Bal Sekha, 2008 Chair*

2008 was a busy year for Branch 127's Entertainment Committee. As in previous years, it provided refreshments for monthly meetings, Remembrance Week activities, and this year, for Public Service, Branch 127's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Wine and Cheese Reception. Our traditional Christmas dinner on December 9 catered by Goldstream Catering was also arranged.

Several self-sustaining barbecues and theme nights were held throughout the year. Regular barbecues were held in April, May, and June. The first theme night was held in February to help break up the winter doldrums with a Hawaiian theme. August was the ideal month to have a Burger Indoor/Outdoor Movie Night with "Blazing Saddles" being the main feature. Naturally, October lent itself to Oktoberfest. The attendance at these functions ranged from approximately 25-35.

In September, a Wine and Cheese Reception celebrating the Branch's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was held on the premises. Commemorative ribbons and engraved napkins were provided for guests and the extra ribbons were sent with the Fall Newsletter to those members unable to attend. Photos of the event were taken by Rodger Wright and included in the Fall Newsletter. A very popular highlight of the reception was a set of seven collages, created by Alison Fisher,

using photos taken of Branch members and events over the decades.

Remembrance Week of course was our other important event this year. In recent years, the Province has generously provided an array of refreshment after Rotunda Service so as an experiment this year, the Branch reduced its offering for this day only and focused more on the Remembrance Day refreshments. This change worked very well, with minimal leftovers or wasted food. Commercial catering was provided by Thrifty Foods and two types of home-made chili were provided – regular chili by Jenny Fossum and vegetarian by Rodger Wright. A special banner to thank and honour veterans for their sacrifices was created by Mrs. Terry Willow's Grade 1 class at St Margaret's School (photos on pages 6-7). Terry is the daughter of the late Doug Hudson.

The limit of 40 guests was quickly met for the Christmas dinner held once again at 521 Superior. Branch 127 provided the table wine. Many thanks to Al Fleury, Gail Hanson, Harry & Lis Addison, Heather Clark & Rodger Wright for the lovely decorating job which added so much to this festive occasion.

The 2008 expenditures for this committee were \$1351.55, up from \$596.93 last year. This jump is due to the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Wine and Cheese Reception. Its expenses were \$735.74 for catering and mementoes. Remembrance Week expenses were \$391.40 and the refreshments for general meetings totaled \$126.77. The Christmas dinner made a slight profit of \$21.52.

## **2008 HOUSE REPORT**

*- Roger Wright, 2008 Chair*

2008 was a busy year for the House chairman and his small committee. Aside from the normal set up, tear down and cleaning for meetings, we held one work party in the spring where a general cleaning of the branch took place. The basement storage area was also cleaned out and up with the removal of a number of items the branch no longer used. Items disposed of were two TVs, a VCR and the photocopier. Thanks to Comrade Fleury, new storage racks were installed for the wreaths.

One item remains to dispose of, that being the old organ located in the front hall. This item will be dealt with in 2009, as well the ongoing issue of obtaining keys for the dumpsters. The building itself

is in great shape. We had no major issues with the building, however the stove in the kitchen will have to be replaced this year, as it packed it in during the Christmas dinner. All in all not too busy, but steady year for the house committee. Many thanks to all the members who assisted me throughout the year.

**Update 1:** A new stove was purchased and installed by Gail Hanson and Al Fleury in early January. It looks great and it is totally accidental that the colour is almost an exact match with the decor.

**Update 2:** Our building has new tenants upstairs for at least a few months, if not longer. They are Ministry of Education's Records & Management Branch as well as its Information and Privacy Branch. There will be about a dozen people and an added bonus, they won't be drumming while we have our Tuesday meetings. Their work day starts before 8 am and a handful may even join us on Fridays after their work day is over. Possibly new members? You never know.

### From the Diary of a Pre-School Teacher

My five-year old students are learning to read. Yesterday one of them pointed at a picture in a zoo book and said, "Look at this! It's a frickin' elephant!"

I took a deep breath, then asked . . ."What did you call it?"

"It's a frickin' elephant! It says so on the picture!"

And so it does. . . .



“A f r i c a n E l e p h a n t”

### WHAT DID YOU DO TODAY?

What did you do today my friend  
From morning till the night?  
How many times did you complain  
The rationing is too tight?  
When are you going to start to do  
All of the things you say?  
A soldier would like to know, my friend,  
What did you do today?

We met the enemy today  
And took the town by storm.  
Happy reading it will make  
For your tomorrow morn.  
You'll read with satisfaction  
The brief communique,  
We fought, but are you fighting?  
What did you do today?

My gunner died in my arms today,  
I feel his warm blood yet:  
Your neighbor's dying boy gave out  
A scream I can't forget.  
On my right a tank was hit;  
A flash and then a fire;  
The stench of burning flesh  
Still rises from the pyre.

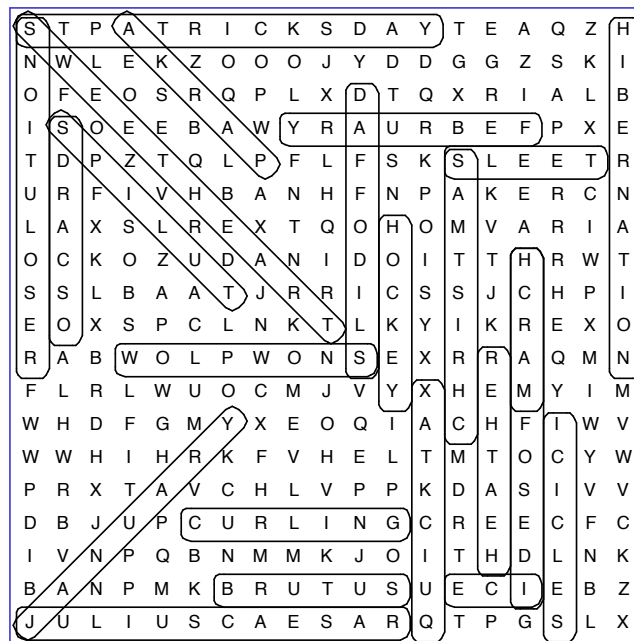
What did you do today my friend,  
To help us with the task?  
Did you work harder and longer for less,  
Or is that too much to ask?  
What right have I to ask you this,  
You probably will say;  
Maybe now you'll understand,  
You see, I died today.

*by Lt. Dean Shatlain, Tank Commander  
Written on the Battlefield of Africa*

Lt. Shatlain amputated his own foot with a jack-knife and thought he was dying when he wrote this poem. He was rescued by the Americans after two hours of hiding and is now in hospital in England.  
(Vancouver Province, October 23, 1943)

### Answer Key to Wintery Words

#### WINTERY WORDS (December to March)



- |            |           |                 |               |               |
|------------|-----------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| SNOWDROPS  | PARKA     | HEATHER         | SNOWPLOW      | ICE           |
| SWEETHEART | ICICLES   | ST PATRICKS DAY | IDES OF MARCH | JULIUS CAESAR |
| OSCARDS    | DAFFODILS | TULIPS          | JANUARY       | RESOLUTIONS   |
| MARCH      | FEBRUARY  | HOCKEY          | CURLING       | ICE SKATING   |
| QUICKTAX   | BRUTUS    | SLEET           | HIBERNATION   | CHRISTMAS     |

