



BRANCH 127 NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



Comrades,
 Over the past several years it has been my pleasure to serve as President and past President of Public Service Branch 127.

As many of you are aware I held a job with the Ministry of Education and when functions happened at the branch, I was

already in the area.

As it turns out, I recently retired and am finding the travel time and expenses required to be burdensome. As I evaluate the situation, I realize it is no longer enjoyable and I am struggling to make it to most of the functions at the branch. With this in mind, I will not be available to continue as president come election time.

I thank the branch for all the support I have received over my term and continue to wish all the members and the branch continued success.

*Richard Steele
 President Branch 127*

MEMBERSHIP

Folks ... it’s time to renew your membership for 2018. Even though the Dominion per capita tax increased by \$1.25 to \$40.11, our annual membership dues will remain the same - \$60.00. Those whose renewals are received by the end of November will receive a \$5 discounted Early Bird rate of \$55.00.

We are pleased to confirm that we now have the new reusable plastic membership cards which display the year you joined. Annual stickers, to be applied to the back

of the card, will be provided in subsequent years for renewals

At present, because the system is so new, we are not encouraging doing online renewals. You can pay at the Legion on regular Friday nights (4:30 to about 6:30 pm) or come out to the special member appreciation event on Friday, September 29. (see Entertainment). You may also pay at the monthly general meetings on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm and of course on November 10 after the Rotunda Ceremony and November 1 after the Cenotaph Service.

We have 116 members paid up for 2017.

If you need a ride to the meetings, etc., please contact me at (250) 384-7812 or vicmarshall@shaw.ca or one of the executive members.

Vic Marshall, Membership

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HONOURS AND AWARDS

In June, President Richard Steele was presented with the Life Member Award for his dedicated service to not only our branch (rescuing us twice), but to the Legion movement as a whole. Gerry Gerrard and Mel Smith are the other Life Members in our branch.

Recipients of Honours and Awards pins have not been determined at this time.

Vic Marshall, Chair

POPPY FUND

The pre-campaign meeting of the Victoria Remembrance Day Committee Poppy Fund was on August 16. The main focus was that we are desperately short of volunteers this year as quite a few have had to bow out due to health issues. Please give me or the Poppy Office a call if you can help out, even in a small way, on any one of the many teams. This past year we raised just over \$200,000.

Dates to remember are on Page 10.

The Poppy Office is located on the second floor of the Trafalgar/Pro Patria Branch 292 at 411 Gorge Rd. E., parking and entrance off Dunedin St. Phone 250 386-2533

Vic Marshall, Branch Rep. to Poppy Fund

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

At our general meeting on October 3, 7:00 pm we will be looking for members to sit on the nomination committee which will be tasked to find candidates for some of the executive positions as some of them will be stepping down. Hopefully we can get a new executive for next year so that we do not have to think about shutting down. More information will be provide at this meeting. The up-side is, this committee exists for only about a month.

Vic Marshall

Tears : The hydraulic force by which masculine will-power is defeated by feminine water power.

GOVERNANCE

Bylaws

Bylaw amendments dealing with issues of a housekeeping nature were approved this year.

However, due to issues of meeting quorum and the difficulty of getting members to serve on the executive, more amendments are going to be presented for your approval at the October 3rd general meeting. These amendments involve reducing the size of the executive and the number of general meetings.

Liquor Licence

As a private club licence was cost prohibitive and required major rezoning for a building we don't own, we are pursuing a different avenue - temporary permit which is for a 3 year period with an option to renew for another three.

LAST POST

Since the last newsletter, we have lost the members, past and present, noted below. This information was emailed to members at the time but is provided for those who do not have email access and may not have heard:

GOSSE, Alan

GOSSE, Alan Frank Guthro As the sun set on May 16, 2017, with his drums sticks hanging beside him, his big band music playing, and family by his side, Papa quietly passed away at the age of 92. He is now reunited with his wife and best friend Evelyn, whom he missed very much. Papa was very proud of his family and they were his world. He is survived by his loving and devoted daughter Fay, his special granddaughter Heather (Ryan) and his treasured great-grandchildren Ella, Mya, Liam and Ryan, whom he absolutely adored, Heather's Dad Alan (Denis). Papa was proud of his career in the Air force and loved to share his stories. He loved his time volunteering at the Oak Bay Sea Rescue and the First Open Heart Society, where he met many friends and touched many lives.



Papa had a talented gift and a love for music he brought joy to people with his drumming and drew in a crowd where he played, right up until his last months. His enormous caring spirit and his ability to connect with people made him enjoyable to be around. He loved with his whole heart and was so loved in return. Rest in peace Papa, you made a bigger difference in this world than you know. A special thank you to Dr. Rosenberg and staff, who for so many years respected Papa's wishes to live independently with dignity. Thank you to all the staff at Luther Court who cared about him so much. To the staff at JJ Morgans who for many years treated him and Nana like family, thank you.



BOND, Jean-Noel
(December 25, 1931
- July 14, 2017)

John passed away peacefully in his sleep at Broadmead Lodge. He is survived by his children Susan and Stephen, his brother Arthur, and many extended family and friends. Predeceased by loving wife Sheila and brother Robert. Born in Montreal, John was an avid hockey player. He joined the Canadian Navy in 1951 and served in the [Korean War](#). He was a feisty goal-scorer for the Esquimalt-based Naden hockey team in the 50s and 60s. After 23 years in the navy, John retired and opened the Mr Mixer store in Nootka Court. In retirement John enjoyed volunteering with the Korea Veterans Association and his daily walks. A people person, John moved to the Glenshiel where he made many good friends. Friends who looked out for him as his memory faded. In the last days of his life he still enjoyed walks, listening to music and making people smile. His generosity, loyalty, smile and sense of humour will be missed. A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, September 30, 2017 in Victoria. Please RSVP at

johnbondmemorial@gmail.com. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Glenshiel Housing Society or Broadmead Care Society: Veterans Memorial Lodge. PS You look like a million bucks.

Published in The Times Colonist from Sept. 8 to Sept. 10, 2017.



ADDISON, Harry
August 17, 2017
RCAF RAF USAF
GHANA AIR
FORCE In his
eighty-eighth
year, Harry took
his last flight.
Born in Scotland
and raised in
Powell River,
Harry's passion

for aviation led to an active flying career with the RCAF. He flew various types of aircraft including the Lancaster and the "Super Connie". His flying took him to many parts of Canada including its far north as well as to the United States and Ghana, Africa. After his military career he worked within the BC government. Throughout his life Harry was active in many sports including BC Amateur Hockey where he became its Referee and Chief for BC. He continued his love of flight by being an active volunteer at the BC Aviation Museum and through ownership of a 180 Piper Cherokee in which he and Lis spent many hours flying. A much-loved patriarch of the Addison family he was preceded by his first wife, Beverly Addison and their son, Brad. He leaves behind his wife, Lis Addison, his daughter, Cynthia Addison, her husband, Jeffrey Lynskey; their children, Ben and Sara; his daughter-in-law, Lauri-Ann Fenlon and her three children, Kate, Sean and Marc as well as his sister-in-law, June Hinds. Harry's presence and good heart will be missed by all. A date for a private service will be set later. PER ARDUA AD ASTRA



**DAY, Gwen F.
(June 07, 1927 - August 18, 2017)**

Gwendolyn Florence Day, passed into the presence of Christ after a valiant 8 month battle with cancer. Predeceased in 2007 by her husband of 56 years, Stockwell Day

(Sr.) she is survived by her children Deborah, Stockwell, Nick, Abigail, Rebecca and Matthew and her many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and extensive array of other relatives.

Please feel free to post condolences at telfordsnanaimo.com. Funeral: The Anglican Church of St. John the Baptist, 3295 Cobble Hill Rd, Cobble Hill, BC, Tues. Aug. 22, 1 pm.

“We will remember them”

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

You may do this through the branch or directly through the Dominion Command Membership Portal. Please keep in mind that when the Legion Magazine is not delivered, even one time, they do not retry until they receive a change of address notice. <http://portal.legion.ca/login>

For the past few years, Starbucks in James Bay has taken care of our everyday coffee needs and delivered canisters for special occasions at no cost to us, nor asked for any acknowledgement through advertising. We thank Starbucks for its generosity and kindness.

Miser: A person who lives poor so he can die rich.

PHONING COMMITTEE

Len Anderson is co-ordinating our volunteer callers to keep members without email access in the loop regarding upcoming events and/or other matters of interest. If you would prefer not to be called or would like to be called more often, please let Len know at (250) 658-4749. If you now have email access and would rather just get email updates, you can let Len know by email at andersonsl@shaw.ca.

SERVICE OFFICER

If you have any questions about Veterans Affairs, need assistance or advice, please contact our Service Officer, Richard Steele, rstee42@gmail.com

SICK & VISITING

Again, we are fortunate to have Maeva Gillespie send cards to members on various occasions when we are aware of them. Thank you, Maeva, for doing such a great job for us.

Please let Jenny Fossum know if you know of anyone who should be receiving a card or visit from our Sick & Visiting team. jennyfossum@shaw.ca

GAMING

The 2017 Gaming Committee chaired by Lise Bourgon consists of Vic Marshall, and Jan Price and Jo Preston.

Again, we were fortunate to receive a gaming grant of \$9000 to distribute to organizations that meet the Gaming Branch’s eligibility criteria and who write to us for financial assistance.

A partial distribution was approved in June to some of our previous organizations who had acknowledged their last year’s donation and put in their request for assistance this year. The rest will be allocated soon and a list will be posted on the Legion bulletin board as well as in the next newsletter or email update.



SPORTS

Bert Soutar, Sports Chair

The Sports Committee — that is me and myself - have decided not to have a nine and nine golf outing in September.

We have booked several tee times for golf on Pender Island for Thursday 5th October. They are very flexible at Pender Island Golf Course and will fit us in whether we play as groups of 2 or 4. Carts will be available.

We can eat at the course restaurant after golf, or those who wish can catch an earlier ferry back to the “big” island.

Please read the details on the bulletin board in our club rooms and sign up if you are interested.

Arrangements are in process for bowling to start in October at the Miracle Lanes in Sidney. Details all be posted on the bulletin board when they are finalized.

WANTED

If you have lightly used or new items that you don't need and that someone starting out on their own could use, please consider donating them to Cockrell House. Its residents get to take items from their apartment with them when they move out so Cockrell House rooms need replenishment. Items such a kitchenware, linens, etc would be warmly and gratefully received. Please contact angusstanfield@shaw.ca

BC/YUKON COMMAND SITE

The BC Yukon Command web site is full of information, including all its circulars as well as Dominion's if would like to see them -

<http://www.legionbcyukon.ca>

You need to have your membership number to register to get into that part of the site.

NEW MEMBER BENEFIT PARTNERS

NexGen Hearing has become a new member benefit partner (BC/Yukon Command) and Hearing Life for Legion members nationwide. Information about member benefit partners is available at:

<http://www.legionbcyukon.ca/become-member/member-benefits>

<http://www.legion.ca/who-we-are/affiliated-organizations/member-benefit-partners>

The member benefit partners at the Dominion Command level are:

MBNA Canada
Iris
Best Western
Carlson Wagonlit Travel
Medipac Travel Insurance
Simply Connect
Hearing Life
Revera, Inc

and at the BC/Yukon level are:

Accent Inns
Alliances by Arbor Memorial
Belairdirect,
Best Western
Costco
NexGen Hearing
Canadian Safe Step Walk-in Tub Co.
Carlson Wagonlit Travel
Enabled Financial Solutions Ltd
Iris
MBNA
Medipac
Philips Lifeline
Revera
Shaw Direct
SimplyConnect
Starkey
TMG The Mortgage Group Canada Inc.

A train station is where the train stops. A bus station is where the bus stops. On my desk, I have a work station...



REMEMBRANCE

We have our two traditional events for the upcoming Remembrance Week and the format is relatively unchanged.

- Rotunda Service - Friday, November 10, 10:45 am, in the Rotunda of the Parliament Buildings. This is a long tradition where members of our branch 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. Members will leave Branch 127 at 10:30 to go over together
- Remembrance Day Service at the Cenotaph, Parliament Buildings - Saturday, November 11, 10:30 to 10:45; To march in parade, gather at 10:30 am at Government and Humboldt Streets (north end of Fairmont Empress). Following the service, there will be refreshments, including chilli, served at Branch 127 (514 Government Street).

Cenotaph

Many thanks to Ray and Donna Brunette for looking after the Cenotaph. This is done year round but of course extra attention is devoted this time of year to ensure the Cenotaph is in prime condition for the Remembrance Day Ceremony.

Parking - Remembrance Day

The parking is getting progressively worse each year, especially with most of our block under construction.

Traditionally, Robbins does not monitor the parking lot at Menzies and Kingston until about 2:00 pm due to participation by veterans at Remembrance Day events. We will contact them again this year and ask them to continue this practice or suggest alternative parking areas.

ENTERTAINMENT

Since the last newsletter, Astrid Doidge stepped down as your Entertainment Chair, for health reasons, and Jan Price graciously volunteered to do it until the end of Astrid's term in December.

Most months have had a theme dinner, usually reflecting an event that is commemorated in that month, e.g., Robbie Burns Day, Valentine's, St Patrick's Day, Earth Day, Veteran's Luncheon in May, Canada 150th Anniversary BBQ in late June, Hawaiian BBQ in July. The August BBQ was missed but the Friday social on September 29 will be expanded to include refreshments other than nachos and cheezies to show our appreciation to our members and regular patrons. Halloween will be the theme of October's dinner on Saturday, October 28th. Due to Remembrance Day activities and open house, there will not be a separate theme dinner in November. For Christmas, we are hoping to try something different from the usual lunch at a restaurant, maybe an afternoon reception on Sunday afternoon on December 10.

Details about theme dinners or other event are sent by email to members who live in the Greater Victoria area. Please look out for information on the upcoming events and try to attend when you can.

Friday socials are an ongoing tradition and start at 4:00 pm. The closing time depends on when the last patron calls it a day and the bartender's availability. This can range from 6:30 to 8:30. If the clientele is not there, the bartender may use discretion to close early. Since we moved to 514 Government St in 2014, our numbers for Friday socials have gone up from fewer than 10 to a range of 18-30.

My uncle Max, he's ninety-four and still going strong. But sometimes he gets a little confused. He's marrying his third wife, and when I asked him, "Where's the honeymoon?" He said "Viagra Falls".

Fran Chernowsky



85TH ANNIVERSARY

It seems like it was just yesterday that Astrid was organizing our 80th Anniversary. It will be our 85th in May 2018. It is never too early to start thinking about how to celebrate. If you have a wish list for what type of a celebration you would like to participate in, please share. Even better, if you would like to serve on the committee we would welcome you with open arms.

POSTER AND LITERARY CONTESTS



In the recent past, entries through our branch have won top place in the Intermediate Poem Category.

In 2016, Nekhil Govender placed 1st in Zone and 3rd in Provincial in the Intermediate Poem Category. Nekhil was presented with cheques

totalling \$325 at our February 2017 General Meeting. His poem is on page 10.

The categories are:

Poster - Grades 1-12: Black & White and Colour; Provincial cash prizes range from \$100 to \$250 and a trip to Victoria for Senior Winners; National cash prizes from \$150 to \$1000 and trip to Ottawa.

Essay - Grades 4-12: Provincial cash prizes range from \$150 to \$250 and a trip to Victoria for Senior Winners; National prizes from \$200 to \$1000 and a trip to Ottawa.

Poetry - Grades 4-12: Provincial cash prizes range from \$150 to \$250 and a trip to Victoria for Senior Winners; National cash prizes range from \$200 to \$1000 and a trip to Ottawa

Video - Grades 7-12 (BC & Yukon residents only): Provincial prizes include Apple MacBook, Apple iPad, Apple iPod Touch or cash equivalent; Provincial cash prizes

range from \$100 to \$250 and a trip to Victoria for Senior Winners.

Contest guidelines and rules are at: legion.ca/youth/contests

The deadline for the contests is November 15 at the local branch and the South Vancouver Island Zone judging will take place on December 5.

FRESH PERSPECTIVE

It has been my privilege to become a member of Branch 127 of the Legion. This is a very worthwhile organization—and a fun place to be on a Friday afternoon as I am sure most of you will agree. We are required, however to have meetings on a regular basis and in order to conduct business we do have to have a quorum. Most recently, it has been very difficult to ensure this happens (and it only requires 13 people to be there—believe it or not). I would encourage each member who is physically able to try to come out to our AGM in January and at least 2 other meetings during the year. The meetings are not long and there are refreshments served at the end AND out of the goodness of her heart Bal usually opens the bar for anyone who wishes a glass of wine or a beer. This is your opportunity to put forth any ideas you have for the Executive and it will help us keep the club going and trying to do our best for all our members.

Jan Price



Place setting at 80th Anniversary Banquet



VICTORIA REMEMBRANCE DAY COMMITTEE POPPY FUND

2017 REMEMBRANCE CALENDAR

Envelope Preparation (David Slater Room)	Thursday, October 12, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Friday, October 13, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Saturday, October 14, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm Please note the times are different from the past.
Tray and Wreath Preparation, Replenishment and Return (Trafalgar Room)	Wednesday, October 18 - Friday November 20
Poppy Tray Deliveries	Delivery: Monday, October 23 - Friday October 27
Flag Raising	Friday, October 27 at Victoria City Hall at 12:00 noon
Man the Malls	Saturday, October 28 until Friday, November 10th excluding Sunday October 29 and Sunday, November 5
Cadets in the Malls	Saturday, October 28th and Saturday, November 4
REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE	SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11th - 11:00 am
Poppy Tray Pick-Ups	Saturday, November 13 to completion
Poster and Literary Contest	Deliver Entries to 1Trafalgar/Pro Patria Branch 292 by Friday, November 24. Judging will take place Tuesday morning, December 5.
Campaign Wrap Up Meeting (Trafalgar Room)	Wednesday, December 13, 10:00 am



BRANCH CONTACT INFORMATION

2017 EXECUTIVE

President - Richard Steele
 Vice President - Jenny Fossum
 Secretary - Bal Sekha
 Finance Officer - Lise Bourgon

Past President - Rudy Vermaning

Executive Committee:

Janet Adams
 Lise Bourgon
 Astrid Doidge/Jan Price
 Vic Marshall
 Mel Smith
 Bert Soutar

REGULAR RECURRING EVENTS

- Executive Meetings Last Tuesday of the month, 7:00 pm unless advised otherwise
- General Meetings 1st Tuesday of each month, 7:00 pm unless advised otherwise
- Friday Socials Fridays, 4:00 - 7:00 pm (closing time flexible, depending on clientele)
- Dinners Usually one per month, date depends on the theme, signed up attendees and availability of volunteers; check the online Legion calendar
<http://br127.ca/events/>
- Sports 5-Pin Bowling - 3rd Thursday of the month from October to April at Miracle Lanes, Sidney, at 3:30 pm; contact Bert Soutar for information or check the online calendar
- Golf: Mt Doug - Tuesdays and Fridays, weather dependent, time varies
 Once per month from May to October - Nine 'n Dine at other courses
 Contact: Bert Soutar for details
- Contact Us: Postal Address: Public Service Branch 127
 c/o Parliament Buildings
 Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
- Location Address: 514 Government St (Main Floor)
- Tel: (250) 386-3325
 Email Address: rc127@shaw.ca
 Web Site: <http://www.br127.ca>
 Online Calendar: <http://br127.ca/events/>



THE VETERAN

by Nekhil Govender

In Flanders Fields, my friends lie
Pushing up poppies to the sky.
It's not a coincidence that they're widespread,
Or scarlet, the colour of bloodshed.

As a veteran of World Wars
I can tell you stories of blood and gore.
Once upon a time, my duty called
And I bid farewell, my sweet wife bawled.

I remember arriving in the trenches
Seeing the broken bodies and smelling the stench.
The rations of food, I hated the taste
But I recall being too hungry to waste.

I try to push the flashbacks away
But this recurring nightmare is keen to stay.
I was at the frontline, forced to shoot
I killed a man and murdered my youth.

During wartime, my life lost its laughter
So others can live in peacefully ever after.
So every day, not just November
Please take the time to always remember
That this freedom we know came at a price.
Lest we forget those who sacrifice!

2016 Youth Remembrance Contest