PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Comrade Bruce Julian

Well my comrades, the “dog days” of summer are here, time for holidays, barbeques, family reunions, golf tournaments and all the various activities that go into our short Canadian “hot season”. It is also a time to recognize that this “term of office” is now more than half over, a time to reflect on what has been accomplished and the work that still needs to be done.

A number of the new initiatives that we have began at Ontario Command such as the “video remembrance program”, the “member service recognition book”, our redesigned revamped website and a new member recruitment strategy are either in place, or will be in the very near future. I will not steal the various Provincial Chairman’s “thunder” by talking further on these projects, but congratulate all of them on their hard work and dedication and will allow them, to describe these exiting new endeavors.

I would be remiss if I did not speak at least briefly on the recent Dominion Convention. First of all “THANK YOU” to Comrade Gord Moore for his service to our organization. I know how physically and emotionally draining “this job” can be, so I can only imagine what Comrade Gord has been through over the last two years. Also, congratulations to all our comrades who have been elected to Dominion Office. Most particularly Comrades Ed, Andre and Jack, you along with all of DEC have a monumental “job” in front of you. Comrades, I couldn’t help but leave Edmonton slightly disappointed. The “will of convention” was done and our membership’s displeasure with some unpopular initiatives was made quite clear to our elected leadership but other than “cut your expenses”, few if any ideas, compromises or constructive alternatives were put forward by the floor or the commands on the many problems our organization faces and that has to change if we are to survive.

Let us all hope and pray that a fair and reasonable combination of prudent fiscal management along with acceptable program initiatives and an affordable “command structure” is forthcoming that will be accepted by all.

As many of you have heard, Comrade Robyn Zettler will be retiring as the Assistant Executive Director of Ontario Command at the end of this year. We sincerely thank Robyn for her years of outstanding dedicated service to our membership and a heartfelt good luck and “bon voyage” to her and Ken as they begin their new careers as “professional world travellers”. Robyn your counsel, bluntness, experience and passion for our veterans will be missed.
As with most endings, there is also, “a beginning” and It is with great pleasure that I introduce Comrade Pamela Sweeny who has been chosen as our “new” Assistant Executive Director. Pam brings with her many years of “legion” experience at various levels, she has also been involved in the business and financial world. These skills along with her positive, enthusiastic and upbeat personality make her an excellent addition to our “command team”. Please take the opportunity to welcome her “on board”.

Finally it is summer, have a holiday, go fishing or golfing, go to barbeques recharge those batteries, but come back in September refreshed, ready to work for our veterans, your branches and our communities. To do everything, that we as members of the Royal Canadian Legion have always done, things that make this a better country and a better world, for everyone.

Yours in comradeship and service,

PROVINCIAL IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Andre Paquette

Comrades,

Before getting into my report I would just like to take a moment to thank everyone from the bottom of my hearth for your support in my being elected to Vice President of Dominion Command in Edmonton. The trust that you have placed in me will not go unnoticed. This term the members of DEC face some out of the ordinary challenges especially those related to finances. Working on your behalf we will face those challenges head on. Comrade Tom has indeed already started the ball rolling and I am sure will continue on. Once again thank you for your support.

Property;

Since last reporting the property committee has been somewhat busy. We have dealt with the sales of property, amalgamation of branches and new construction. Some branches are still butting heads with their respective Mayor’s, town or city councils and anyone else who wishes to stop progress. For all of those branches who find themselves in this position I urge you not to give up the fight, there is light at the end of the tunnel.

I am also happy to say that branches are following the recommended guidelines that are in place. Comrades Dave and Robyn are speaking extensively to individuals from their respective branches in order to get everything just right. Our doors are open so therefore please do not be afraid of asking for help should help be required. Soon comrade Pam Sweeney will be replacing Comrade Robyn and I know that in her capacity as assistant executive director she will be more than willing to listen and aid whenever required. Welcome aboard Pam.
Comrades if anyone out there needs to talk to me please do not hesitate to put in a request through Ontario Command. Once notified I will get to you as soon as possible.

Keep up the great work and May God Bless.

PROVINCIAL 1ST VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT
Comrade Brian Weaver

Comrades, by now everyone will have heard from the delegates that attended the 45th. Dominion Convention in Edmonton Alberta as to who has been elected for the ensuing term. The newly elected Dominion President is Comrade Tom Eagles from N.B. Command with Comrade Dave Flannigan, NFLD/LAB. Command being elected 1st. Vice President. We were very fortunate to have Comrades Ed Pigeau and Andre Paquette elected as Vice Presidents along with Comrade Tom Irvine QUE. Command adding to the fold. (BTW Comrade Tom had been our Dominion Chairman for the past 10 years!)

Also elected to the DEC was Comrade Jack Frost, On. Command as our Chairman for the ensuing term.

We also have elected a new Treasurer for the next two year term; Comrade Mark Barham from AB/NWT Command and hopefully he will stem the tide as finances are concerned. As you may have heard by now the answer to the resolution of a $5.00 increase to the per capita tax was a resounding NO! From the convention, the voice was loud and clear “Stop the unnecessary spending and start showing some fiscal restraint” In the President’s speech at the installations; Comrade Tom addressed that very matter with a promise to look into every aspect of the Command structure and cut costs where needed.

Many resolutions were presented and all will be outlined in our post convention booklet coming soon. One resolution that was soundly defeated was the one on membership to have only two classes of members – Veteran & Member.

We did however change the definition of what constitutes a “Veteran”
As it reads now a Veteran is -
A Veteran is any person who is serving or has honorably served in the Canadian Armed Forces, the Commonwealth or its wartime allies, or as a Regular Member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, or as a Peace Officer in a Special Duty Area or on a Special Duty Operation, or who has served in the Merchant Navy or Ferry Command during wartime.

This past weekend June 26th. to June 29th. I was extremely busy with meetings at Command Office. We met with VAC representatives on the Thursday; held a Military Service Recognition Book meeting followed by a Finance meeting on Friday. Saturday was our Bursary, Membership, PRO, Youth Education and Poppy meetings for all District Chairpersons. On Sunday morning we held our
Charitable Foundation meeting where we allotted but not yet approved $380,000. to many organizations across our Command.

The weekend of July 26th will be Blackdown, the Cadet review at Base Borden. I look forward to attending this event as I am your Cadet Liaison Officer for Ontario Command. These young cadets are our future leaders and hopefully our future Legionnaires. All Legionnaires are most welcome to attend. We review the Cadets, are given a tour of the grounds and then treated to a great BBQ lunch. These Cadets are trained by some very good military people and could not want for anything more. Now for the best news!! We have found a replacement for Comrade Robyn Zettler who is retiring at the end of this year. Comrade Pam Sweeny has been hired and is a very capable young woman who is in my estimation a perfect fit for the job as Assistant Executive Director, Ontario Command. Pam has a vast knowledge in the financial field as well as Legion. Pam comes to us from the Brighton area in District ‘F’ where she held many positions on District for many years.

I look forward to a somewhat slow summer before gearing up for many Conventions in the Fall. Comrade Bruce and I will be attending the Ladies Aux. Provincial Convention in London in September. I will be attending The District ‘F’ Drumhead service at Br. #110 Trenton September 26th – 28th. On October 3rd – 5th. I will be attending the District ‘E’ Convention in October then District ‘G’ convention two weeks after. I do think I can squeeze my own District ‘A’ convention in there just to keep busy!!

As our Remembrance period rolls around I am looking forward to travelling to Br. #185 Blenheim this November 11th. and will be their guest speaker.

That’s just about all the news I have for now so will cut this off. Thank you to all the many branches in the past that have made Debbie and I feel very welcome with your fine hospitality. We have enjoyed these past few months immensely.

Yours in Comradeship:

PROVINCIAL VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Comrade David Smith

I hope that everyone is enjoying their summer. It seemed at times that we were destined for a year of winter, but summer is finally here. First of all I wish to thank all of the dedicated Youth Education Chairmen from our Branches, Zones and Districts for the continual support you have given to this program. Without this devotion, the Poster, Literary, Public Speaking and Remembrance Video contests, would not be the success that they are today. We are all well aware that updating of procedure needs to be addressed on a continual bases and at the past June meeting of the Provincial Youth Education Committee, the committee members focused on many of these areas. As in the past, circulars will be mailed out to all Youth Education Chairmen, outlining Rules and Regulations along with other information that pertains to the different contests. Comrades, please take the time to read these circulars carefully and in
their entirety, as some changes have been made. One of the notable changes is the removal of the ranking system, which seemed to cause confusion in determining the Public Speaking contest winners. For this year, we will only use the Judges score to determine the winners. This is on a trial bases to see if the change will eliminate some of the confusion.

The Remembrance Video contest that was implemented this past year can only be described as a complete success. We received a total of 40 entries in the two categories. The winners have had their videos posted on the Provincial web site and I would certainly recommend that you take the time to view them and see for yourself how talented our youth are. While mentioning the web site, remember that all of the Legion programs are noted on the Provincial web site, along with other informative information.

Comrades it has been said many times that the youth of today will be our members of tomorrow. With that said, please give your utmost support to all of the Legion youth programs, whether it is Track and Field, Bursary or Youth Education. The continued success of this great organization will be in their hands.

**PROVINCIAL VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

*Comrade Ken Sorrenti*

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who sent me cards and e-mails of sympathy on the passing of my wife, Diane last October. I greatly appreciated it and it makes me proud to be a member of this great Legion family.

Since the last newsletter, I’ve attended a number of District conventions (Great hospitality and comradeship. Definitely the biggest pleasure of this position), participated in Poppy, Property, Finance, Training and Organizational Development and Sports committee meetings, PAC and PEC meetings.

I had the privilege of attending the Dominion Convention in Edmonton. The days were long but a lot of business was accomplished. The delegates presented a strong mandate to Dominion Command that expenses need to be reviewed and reduced. After convention, I was selected to continue to be a member of the Dominion Ritual and Awards Committee, which I honourably accepted.

As Chairman of the Provincial Poppy Committee, I would like to use the rest of this space to bring everyone up to date on some of the issues facing us and some new initiatives that we are researching.

At the Dominion Convention a number of Poppy and Remembrance resolutions were concurred. The topics of these resolutions are, Navy League of Canada – Support for Funding from DND, Annual Veterans Visit – Meal Cost, Use of Poppy Funds – To Expand Those Covered for the Annual Veterans Meal at the Branch, Poppy Fund – Section 1116 (change the amount in Section 1116) and Support Costs Associated With Service Dogs. These resolutions will come into effect October 1, 2014 after the DEC meetings in September. The Service Dog issue still needs more research and both Dominion and Ontario Command will be doing such.
The Provincial Poppy Committee held their meeting in Aurora on June 28, 2014. This is the last meeting of this term and a number of issues were discussed. The biggest problem last year was the lateness of the Branch Status Reports being sent to Command. As of this writing, there are still a number of outstanding reports. Unfortunately, this was the worst showing in nine years. It is extremely important that Branches complete and send in their Branch Status Reports on time in order for us to send our report to Dominion Command.

Also, 76 LCBO reports were not received. Again, these reports are necessary to report back to LCBO. Without these reports we can jeopardize our relationship with LCBO.

We continue to receive BSR’s indicating expenditures where a Special Use Application was required prior to expending the funds. If a Special Use was required and not completed, the Branch may be liable to refund the Poppy Fund from their General Fund. If in doubt contact Command.

We are slowly becoming a cashless society. Could this affect Poppy donations in the future? Quite possible. The Committee is looking into new ways to collect donations electronically. One method was undertaken in District B. Branch 164 Hagersville approached their local grocery store if they would ask their customers, while checking out, if they would like to make a donation to the Poppy Campaign. The store agreed and programmed the request for a “toonie” in their computers. At the end of the campaign, the store presented a substantial cheque to the Branch.

Another initiative being researched is “Square-One”. A device attached to a cell phone. A customer can swipe their credit card and make a donation. The amount donated, less a small service charge, is then deposited into the Branch’s Poppy Fund. More information will follow.

I wish all Branches a successful upcoming Poppy Campaign and Membership drive. Have a safe rest of the summer.

PROVINCIAL VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Comrade Sharon McKeown

Comrades,

Following that long cold winter, we dare not complain about the heat and sunshine of July! Accepting the few intermittent showers, or, torrential downpours, are Mother Nature’s way of letting us know who’s in charge, appreciate her contribution to the green grass & brilliant flowers!

Mid-June only 285 Accredited Ontario Delegates, carrying 973 proxies, attended our 45th Dominion Convention in Edmonton. Thanks to Dave & Robyn for the hours spent distributing proxies. Shame on the no shows! Hopefully, those who said they were saving to attend the 46th in St John, Newfoundland, are doing just that!
First time delegates had to be impressed when witnessing the strength demonstrated by the floor on a couple of issues. It was obvious our ranks were not happy, nor should we be. Though we may have been a tad quick to decide some issues, I believe the majority received due attention, and, fair discussion.

Congratulations to our Ontario Reps elected to Dominion Executive, Comrade Jack Frost-Dominion Chairman, Comrades Ed Pigeau and Andre Paquette - Vice-Presidents.

Rather than update you on my social calendar and Legion activities conducted since our last bulletin, at Comrade Brenda’s suggestion, I’ll touch on membership. First, some items from Convention.....Associate Members, nationally, say THANK YOU Comrade Patti Sargent-Gibson, DD C Commander, who with raspy throat, gave an emotionally charged plea, to all delegates, defeating the resolution to drop from 4 membership categories to 2, being Veteran and member. With but one delegate at the mike to speak for the resolution, you could tell we are PROUD of our family ties!

The online application available since the Fall of 2013, received support. The Dominion Executive Secretary advised a member of the virtual Legion, at renewal, would be encouraged to transfer to a local branch, however, currently, there is a 6 year window to actually make that move. Remember, if a 'member' transfers to your branch from the Dominion Command Branch, if accepted by the floor, the 'member' should be initiated. As an FYI, a total of 366 people have joined to date. It’s too soon for renewal stats on the ‘no contact’ method. However, while on stats, note our recruiting is good, our retention is poor. Comrades, all of us need to make the effort to involve the new members in activities around the branch ASAP, make them feel welcome and wanted. As a side note, it’s been proven that volunteering can increase life expectancy, since helping others increases the brain’s production of happy cells....get involved...live longer!

It was approved that Dominion Command develop a simplified single form to address all membership input requirements, with the form available online, and a method of paying membership dues, either online, thru automatic deduction or pre-authorized payment. While on the topic of paying dues, many Senior members pay the dues of family. If you don’t see those members in your branch, get in touch NOW! Don’t waste a moment, given, 80% of our membership is over the age of 65, if we don’t act soon, they’re gone, we’re gone, too! Make contact, keep your Legion alive!

All Branches in Canada received One by One Campaign promotional material, in February, yet, of 1400+ only 187 entered the contest! The campaign ended May 16, bringing in 1031 new
members. The top three: BC/Yukon with 358; Ontario with 290; Alberta with 140. Let’s do better next time. **David McQuillen of Branch 142 Dunnville Ontario** won the grand prize of a balcony cabin for two on the 3rd Annual Caribbean Commonwealth Veterans Cruise. David and wife Joan sail from Fort Lauderdale to visit the Grand Caymans, Colombia, Panama, Costa Rica, Belize and Mexico, along with IPDP Comrade Gord Moore. Be the next lucky winner, it only takes one member to win!

**Congrats & Happy Sails to Dave & Joan McQuillen from All Ontario Comrades!**

Last summer, the Legion Riders program was introduced across Canada, to attract motorcycling enthusiasts to join our ranks. Thank you to those members making this initiative work. Comrade Bill Bennett of Branch 25 SSM has organized a group of 35 to 40 riders who meet at the branch Monday nights for coffee. They’re planning group rides around the District to promote the program. In Edmonton, on Friday the 13th, a partnership between the **Legion & ‘Ride for Dad’** was announced, by Comrade Gord Moore. Riders had traveled from Calgary to Edmonton to attend the official announcement. Thanks to Comrade Colin Wackett, District E PRO, an Executive Member of the Ride for Dad group, for suggesting the initiative and Comrade Bob Berg, ZC C-2 for his support.

Early this year we were told the Non-Voting Affiliate category would be eliminated, as the status wasn’t legal in Canada. Comrade Robyn researched and confirms this is not the case. To our **Non-Voting Affiliates**, our apologies for the confusion. Make no mistake, you are wanted and most welcome in our branches.

In closing, membership is the lifeblood of the Legion, we must all do our part to keep it flowing! Acknowledging that membership is on the decline, let’s work together to turn it around, take up the challenge of bringing in one by one, get us on the road to recovery. Special Thank You to All members who diligently, with energy and enthusiasm, pride and passion carry on the work of our organization, Keep it up!

Keep Smiling & Have a Great Summer!
See you by the Falls in May 2015!

**PROVINCIAL CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

*Comrade Bill Chafe*

Comrades, I hope you are enjoying your summer when the weather allows you to. Well we made it through another Dominion Convention, but this time there was a significant difference. The delegates made
some huge decisions on the future of The Royal Canadian Legion. Without going into the details, as I am sure it will be covered by the Command Standing Committee Chairmen, your District Commander and your Zone Commander, the delegates have instructed Dominion Command to get the Command into a financially responsible position and to be accountable for the finances of Dominion Command with what they currently have available. There will be no per capita increase at this time.

I would like to thank Comrade Gord Moore for his contributions to our Legion, during his two years as Dominion President of The Royal Canadian Legion and I congratulate Comrade Ed Pigeau and Comrade Andre Paquette on their election as Dominion Vice Presidents and Comrade Jack Frost on his election to the office of Dominion Chairman. I believe that they will work hard on our behalf and do their best to fulfill the mandate they accepted at the Dominion Convention. The Convention saw the acceptance of many resolutions which will be covered by others in the near future.

I believe that our Convention has left our elected officers with a huge challenge and I believe that we have elected the Comrades who are able to accept these challenges and they will present us with a clear path forward at the 2016 Dominion Convention.

Our meeting schedule has continued on since out last Bulletin and in August we will be conducting a Finance Meeting and an Admin. Committee Meeting. It is that weekend where I and all other members of the Admin. Committee, have the honor of participating in the annual CNE Warriors Day Parade. This is a very impressive parade with so many Veterans and currently serving CF personnel showing the CNE audience their pride in their service and our nation. The parade also allows us to march past many Sunnybrook Veterans and offer these true Canadian heroes our thanks as we salute them.

In early April, my wife Laurie and I had the opportunity to attend the District "B" Spring Convention held at Branch 479, Niagara Falls. It was an excellent Convention where the Dominion Convention dominated much of the discussions throughout the weekend. We wish to thank District B Commander, Comrade Tom Astley and his wife Olga, as well as all of the members of District B, for their hospitality, friendship and Comradeship shown to Laurie and I as we visited their District and attended their Convention.

Later in April, Laurie and I had the opportunity to attend the District "K" Spring Convention held at Branch 287, South Porcupine. Again, it was an excellent Convention where the Dominion Convention also dominated much of the discussions throughout the weekend. We wish to thank District K Commander, Comrade Tom Garnett, as well as all of the members of District K, for their hospitality, friendship and Comradeship shown to Laurie and I as we visited their District and attended their Convention. For a small District, they do things in a big way.

In closing, I would like to thank all of our Elected Officers for their continued efforts and support. I would also like to thank the Command staff members for their assistance. Comrades, I thank you for the honour of allowing me to serve you as your Chairman and I hope that I have the opportunity to meet many of you throughout the remainder of this term. Comrades, our Command has completed a lot of great work but there remains a lot of work yet to be done.

We all know that the summer is the slow season for the majority of our Branches so let each of make that extra effort to support our Branch, when financially, many of them need it the most.

Comrades, we must remember them.
PROVINCIAL VICE CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Comrade Ron Goebel

Comrades

It hardly seems possible that a year has already come and gone since our last Provincial Convention in Kingston. As the old saying goes, how time flies when you are having fun! Keeping busy of course also helps with the time going by so fast. However most of us no doubt felt that our winter was never going to end.

A lot of my involvement with our Command over this past year has been with our Military Service Recognition Book as your Chairman. Although we had a few hiccups for our first book, generally speaking they were minimal and our first book that has now been completed has been a tremendous success. For all those Branches who participated, thank you for your support and involvement. I am overwhelmed at the number of submissions that we received.

I cannot overstate the great work of Carolyn McCaul, our Provincial Public Relations Chairman and Coordinator for our book, and Mary Ann Goheen, our Provincial Website Coordinator and Ontario Correspondent. They both went overboard in assisting Branches and individuals to ensure that the submissions were all properly submitted. It was through their dedication and many long hours that has made our first book the success that it is. My personal thanks and appreciation go out to both Carolyn and Mary Ann.

A big thank you as well to all Branch coordinators for all of their support and dedication in making our first book a tremendous success. When our program first kicked off in September of 2013, submissions for our book were very slow in coming in for the first three or four months. However, once our Remembrance period and Poppy Campaign had been completed, it was very evident that most Branches then put forth a concentrated effort towards obtaining submissions for our book.

A special thanks as well goes out to the staff at Fenety Marketing, the publishers of our books. Working with them over the past year or so has been a real treat and they were always there for valued support. They are very professional in what they do. This assisted in keeping any problems to a bare minimum. Although the income derived through advertising and donations was not what they had expected, they feel that now that they have gone through the first sales campaign in our Province, their sales campaign should be much more successful for our second book.

With the initial slow response for submissions for our first book, I felt that we would be lucky to receive 500 submissions. However, thanks to the efforts put forth by our Branches, Veterans and family members, our total submissions for our first book ended up at 1863. Unfortunately, all of these will not be included in our first book. However, those that did not get into our first book should be included in our second book.
Copies of our first book should be in the hands of all Branches by early September. The quantity of the complimentary copies that each Branch will receive will be determined on a pro-rated basis which will be based on the membership of each Branch. Once received, it is suggested that copies be given to the families of those who submitted bios and photos for our book. It is also suggested that copies possibly be distributed to local libraries and schools, municipal offices and businesses. Copies should also be on display at your local Branch and could be utilized as a promotional tool at displays you may have set up during your annual Poppy Campaign.

When you receive your copy of our first book, I believe you will be very impressed with it and our cover page. A selection had to be made for the cover page by members of our MSRB committee and it was not an easy task to say the least. We had given consideration to 27 various photos and images that included photos of our National War Memorial and Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Memorial Forest located at Base Petawawa, and Youth Education posters that were winners at the Provincial level and placed at the Dominion level of our Youth Education Poster Competitions.

Once our committee members narrowed the selection down to two, the final selection became even more difficult. However in the end, I believe the choice made was a good one. It was the 2014 Provincial Command Senior Coloured Poster Contest winning poster submitted by Srinidhi Shaw from Hamilton through Dundas Valley City Branch#36. The poster also won second place at the Dominion level. Well done Srinidhi.

Once again, a big thank you to everyone involved in making our very first Military Service Recognition Book the tremendous success that it is. It was an honour and a privilege to have served as your Chairman.

Our MSRB Committee met in Aurora June 28th to not only critique our 2014 book, but also to make preparations for our 2015 book. As was discussed, everyone felt that for our first book, it was an overwhelming success. Information concerning our program for our 2015 book will be sent in an all branch mailing in early September.

Our 45th Dominion Convention has now come and gone. There were many contentious issues discussed at the Convention. However in the end, the delegates attending the Convention in Edmonton voiced their opinions and made their intentions known as to the future of The Royal Canadian Legion through the various decisions that were made. No doubt Dominion Command now has some work to do.

Through the elections at Convention, we now have a new President in Tom Eagles who I am sure that along with all of the newly elected officers, will be dedicated to working on behalf of all of our Branches, our Veterans, Seniors and Youth in leading us into a bright and successful future. I also am honoured to have Comrade Tom re-appoint me to D.E.C. as the Chairman of the Ritual and Awards Committee for the 2014-16 term.

Many Branches held elections this year to elect their new slate of Branch officers. I congratulate all those elected and wish them all a most successful term of office. I ask that you work in harmony as a Branch Executive for the betterment and success of your Branch and The Legion.
Since our last bulletin last fall, Barb and I attended the District ‘D’ Convention at Scarborough Centennial Branch #614 and thank District Commander Jay and all of District ‘D’ for the great hospitality that was afforded me and Barb during our visit to District ‘D’. Then in April, we were delighted to have been invited to attend the District ‘H’ Convention at Callander Branch #445. A big thank you as well to District Commander Gerry and all of District ‘H’ for the great hospitality afforded Barb and I on our visit to the north.

In November we attended our annual P.E.C. meeting in Aurora prior to leaving for our winter vacation in Florida where Legion work never stopped. March 1st I attended our P.A.C. meeting in Aurora and in May Barb and I had the opportunity of attending our Provincial Youth Education Public Speaking competitions at Bells Corners Branch #593 in Ottawa on May 3rd. As always, the competition was phenomenal and I am just glad that I was not a judge. Our students certainly make us all proud as Legionnaires, not only for the great work that they do being involved in our programs, but also that we support and continue to be involved with our youth programs the way we are. They are our future.

We are looking forward to our August P.A.C. meeting with the highlight of the weekend being our involvement in the annual C.N.E. Warriors Day parade. This is a parade that all Legionnaires should get to participate in or watch at some point in time during their lifetime. It is a great venue for showing our colours.

Comrades, it has been an honour and a privilege to have served you as your Vice-Chairman over this past year since our Convention in Kingston and working alongside Chairman Bill and all of our other Senior Elected Officers. I also want to thank you for your continued support in allowing me to serve you in this capacity. I look forward to working with you for the forthcoming year as well which I am sure will prove to be just as exciting and challenging as this past year has been. But it will all be in the best interest of our Legion Branches and our Veterans.

Comrades, remember that we all stumble at one time or another. Every-one of us do. So it is always comforting to go hand in hand. No road is long when we walk hand in hand with good company.

Barb and I wish all of you a most enjoyable summer and fall and may the wind always be at your back.

Comrades, We will Remember them.

PROVINCIAL BURSARY CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Comrade Karen Luttrell

Comrades; Time is flying as usual. It is hard to believe that a year has passed already. I hope that everyone is well and enjoying the summer.
We held our yearly Bursary meeting in Aurora last Saturday, June 28th. The Bursary Committee passed a motion to extend the online trial of the Provincial Bursary form for another year. 18% of submissions for the 2013/2014 year were completed online. This is a good result for the first year. Well worth another try. **This form can be filled out online but cannot be emailed to Command. The form has to be printed off and mailed in with the necessary documentation.**

There is also a check list with the online form. If the original paper application is used for 2013/2014 please make sure to check the date on the back. **It should be Jan 2013.** There were some changes recommended to the Bursary form but they will not affect the 2014/2015 term.

There was no change to the eligibility criteria and the award amount will stay at $500.00. Please note that a student attending a school outside of Canada can also apply for a bursary.

The Bursary Poster has been updated and was passed out to the District Chairmen at the Bursary meeting. It is printed on bright yellow paper so it will stand out.

Donations are always welcome. Donations received for the 2013/2014 term totaled $368,011.64. Thank you to all of the Branches who donated. There was a total of 609 applications received; 552 applications approved and 57 declined.

The budget for the Bursaries was $450,000.00 but because of the decline in donations ($89,080.86 less than 2012/2013) and applications (29 less than 2012/2013) the Bursary Committee are asking for a budget of $400,000.00. This breaks down to a total of 800 bursaries at $500.00 each.

Comrades, “word of mouth” is the best advertisement. Please get the word out there. The District Chairmen are going to get the Bursary Posters to the Zone Chairmen and from there to the Branches. Please get them posted everywhere and in all the schools as well. **We also need to get rid of all outdated application forms.** Please check your Branches and your schools and destroy all outdated forms and replace them with the current ones. (Jan 2013)

Comrades, I would like to thank our Command secretary, Jen Leclair and my committee for all of their help. I can't thank Jen enough for all that she does. We would be completely lost without her. **Thank you Jen from all of us on the Committee.** I would also like to thank the Ladies Auxiliary for their continued support.

My committee has changed for the rest of the term. Comrade Betty Lamble has resigned due to health problems. Best wishes go out to her for a speedy recovery. District F Commander, Greg Kobolt attended the meeting in Betty’s place and Maryann Goheen will be representing District F for the rest of the term. Comrade Howe Saunders from District H has resigned because he is moving out of the District and Mary Marquette is replacing him for the remainder of the term. Thank you Maryann and Mary for stepping up to fill the vacancies.

The Bursary Committee now consists of Comrades: District A – Gayle Brown; District B – Jackie Ralston; District C – Brian Smith; District D – Verna Burness; District E – Pam Davidson; District F –
PROVINCIAL FINANCIAL ADVISORY CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Comrades: At this time your committee has new members assigned from the individual Districts. At our meeting in September 2014 this group will be asked to review all of the work done by the previous members to see where it needs to be updated and how the program can be improved.

Branches have asked for a set of chart of accounts that they all can use and we will produce it and ask every branch to use the approved chart of accounts, that being said it is understood that each branch would still be allowed to have extra accounts depending on their circumstances. The chart will be a guideline only.

Both the BRANCH FINANCIAL ADVISORY GUIDELINE at District Level and the INTERNAL FINANCIAL CONTROL GUIDELINES and the Seminar Material are to be updated as soon as possible. We are looking at including a section on applying for grants and will update you as soon as possible.

The District Financial Advisors have been quite busy in the districts in helping branches to become more stable and hopefully more profitable. Where they run into problems is the same as the Advisory Boards as soon as they leave the branches some return to their same bad habits. As a committee we can only hope that they look at the branches that have changed for the better and do so also. The advisors are not there to run your branch but to help you head towards a financial profitability. Branch Presidents and Executives need to take all advice under consideration. Some branches have asked for help and some have decided they do not need help, however the Zone Commanders continue to RED FLAG Branches each year and it shows that a lot of them still do need the continued help of the advisors.

“Thomas Jefferson said never spend your money before you have it.”

I would like to thank Comrade Bruce for reappointing me to this committee and this important position. I also would like to thank all of the hard work that the past committee members have done to date and look forward to working with the new members in the future. Your committee consist of the following persons.

1st Vice President Ontario Command Brian Weaver, District A Valerie Staudt, District B Frank Funk, District C Pat Smith, District D Bob Fletcher, District E John Briscoe, District F David Harnden, District G Terry Jacobs, District H Peter Miller, District K Allan Shier, Secretary Assistant Executive Director Robyn Zettler
First and foremost thank you to our Branches and Ladies Auxiliaries for your ongoing generous support. Because of that support the Foundation was able to approve a budget of $496,293.00 for 2013 – 2014, plus an additional budget of $450,000.00 for student bursaries. THANK YOU! What an impact that alone is to our communities especially if you consider everything else our Branches and Ladies Auxiliaries do for their communities!

In my initial report for the newsletter, I provided information on the Charitable Foundation and how it works. Continuing in this issue is a little more information. CF has two committee meetings each year. The first one in June begins with a finance meeting followed by a sub-committee meeting. The finance meeting reviews investments and determines the funds available for distribution for both CF grants and Bursary. Then following finance, the sub-committee meeting begins where, after normal business is dealt with, the members review the applications for funding and make recommendations for each application. This year there were 91 applications addressed at the June 29th sub-committee meeting.

In November the entire committee, this includes Ladies Auxiliary representatives and representatives from all Districts, meets and reviews each recommendation of the sub-committee and makes the final approvals. This process is taken very seriously by our committee and we do our very best to be generous and fair to all applicants that meet the CF guidelines. Following the meeting, Command staff notifies each applicant and advises them of the next steps to follow.

A reminder that the CF’s full title is The Royal Canadian Legion and Ladies’ Auxiliaries Charitable Foundation so we both work together as partners for this Foundation. For further information visit the Ontario Command website at www.on.legion.ca. The Charitable Foundation tab is located under the menu item “Community Resources”. Under that tab you will find everything you need to know about CF and how to apply. You will also find approved grant information from 2007 to present.

Reminder letters, asking for financial support, were sent this year to Branches and Ladies Auxiliaries. Donations were down but with so many charities and Legion sponsored programs asking for donations we understand that there is only so much money to go around. Any support you give the Foundation is very greatly appreciated. New CF brochure should be ready very soon and will be distributed as soon as possible.

As always thanks to the Ladies Auxiliaries not only for their donations but being great partners and thanks to the branches, zones and districts for their donations, without all of you there would be no Charitable Foundation. Please be sure the local Branch and LA are part of the any CF cheque presentations.

Finally thank you to our staff at Ontario Command, especially Aida Kostuck, they all do a great job. On behalf of our committee we welcome Pam Sweeney as a staff representative at our CF meetings. Best wishes to all for a wonderful summer, keep safe and God bless.

The Pessimist complains about the Wind! The Optimist Expects it to Change!
For those who were at the Dominion Convention in Edmonton made it home safe and sound, firstly I would like to congratulate Comrade Ed Pigeau and Comrade Andre Paquette on being elected as Vice Presidents of Dominion Command and Comrade Jack Frost being elected Dominion Chairman.

There were no resolutions pertaining to Honours and Awards that met with concurrence, there were 5 submitted but were all non concurred by the committee before the convention.

There is a new Honours and awards Manual that all Branches should have and be using, it is called Ritual and Protocol Manual, order #7000103 (Feb. 2014) the new Manual combines the two previous Manuals Ritual and Insignia Manual and Awards Manual, please refer to the new manual when you are preparing applications for awards as well as using your Ontario Command Honours and Awards guidelines.

Your Honours and Awards committee and the Dominion Ritual and Awards Committees both meet monthly where all applications are processed in a timely manner so there is no backlog of applications, if you are planning in honouring one of your Comrades with a MSM, MSA or Palm Leaf please allow the minimum of at least 3 months to have it approved and processed all other Awards you should allow at least two months,

Please read your manuals and follow the guidelines and your applications should meet with favourable results.

One of the best ones yet, it started as soon as you arrived with four seminars which were well presented but too close together for anyone to see them all and get anything out of them, in my opinion they should have been more spread out maybe 2 each day as you really did not have time to absorb the presentations and get questions out to the presenters,

Most questions when asked were answered but some when the presentations were completed were still questions with unclear or no answers at all.

Again the seminars could have been longer and spread apart as you had no time to really digest one subject before you had to move on to the next seminar.
Sunday the parade went off quite well and was well covered the motorcycle riders were a very nice added touch and brought a lot of good publicity to the parade.

The first day on the convention floor was to say the least interesting and very controversial.

The main topic became membership and per capita increase, again in my opinion the Chairman who in previous conventions controlled the meeting did not do it this time, after the first day we were at least 3 hours behind in scheduling.

The membership on the floor came to convention ready to get answers to why the increase and asked how was it possible for membership to be down 25% and employees up by 3 personnel?

I believe it was quite evident the membership wants cost by Dominion command to be looked at and cut back just like all of our branches have had to do. Staying at the most expensive hotels and spending all kinds of monies has got to stop.

The per capita increase was defeated and the vote done so quickly that no other options were allowed to be given.

I believe costs have gone up and maybe a smaller increase may have worked but Dominion Command and most likely some Provincial Commands may be better prepared to be looking at their own costs and how monies are spent.

It was quite clear the membership on the floor was ready to get answers and was not going to be fooled into giving their hard earned money from their branch members away without being justified.

The two category membership motion on the floor was also defeated which for all intensive purposes really should not have been even considered. Again my opinion.

It was a shame because of the continued debates on the 2 above issues some of the presenters were not given in their time slots and because of travel and time were missed by some of the membership.

Maybe in the future they can have not as many speakers or have shorter time slots.

All being said I was very happy not to have missed this Convention and I can hardly wait to see how the next Dominion Convention in Newfoundland and the Dominion Executive stands in front of the membership and shows how they have improved on their cost cutting and really remembering why we are all members of The Royal Canadian Legion.

PROVINCIAL CORRESPONDENT’S REPORT
Comrade Mary Ann Goheen

Comrade Chairman, Comrades all--
Ontario’s exposure in Legion Magazine for 2013 was phenomenal with 6 articles, and well over 300 photos. However there is still work to be done as I have a lot of concern about the lack of exposure of branches from District K which had only ONE photo in the magazine, and figures for districts A & E are
down from the previous term—could be the result in changes to branch/zone level chairman. By far the branches that have consistently promoted themselves in the magazine tend to be the same ones, obviously a result of ‘success breeds more success’, and those branches are in districts B, C, and G. Evidence would suggest to me that a seminar on the submission process in E & K would perhaps result in more submissions from the branches therein. I still receive some photos in hard copy format but would be encouraging people to learn how to use the digital camera and submit electronically to me as it is much faster. Further, I always provide the emailed confirmation to publish from the editor to the submitting branch with cc to the district PRO for their records and report to the branch membership.

Submissions from the Ladies Auxiliary have increased specifically with respect to donations and awards. In March I was able to attend the LA Provincial Euchre in Owen Sound and take the winning team photo as I was in the area own some personal business.

With respect to submissions for 2014, we consistently have had good coverage in the 4 issues this year. The most frustrating part of the correspondent position is to receive a photo that should qualify for the magazine but is rejected because the resolution quality of the photo is such that we can’t use it nor can we even have the branch get a printed version from a photo lab, adding to that is to have people send a photo to me but when I contact them for further information---they do not reply because they do not ever check their email messages.

On March 8, 2014 I attended a provincial correspondent’s meeting in Ottawa at Legion Magazine. Although there have not been any changes to photo and news submission criteria, we did feel that the need to update the guideline manual was necessary and subsequently, the magazine have had new guideline manuals printed and 2 copies have been mailed to each branch. I also have some available should you require them in the future if people can’t find them—although for the time being, branches should be encouraged to use the new ones they just received.

As part of the team for the Military Service Recognition book, I leave the details of this project to our Chairman, except to say that I processed 1096 submissions—the large majority of them being in April and May.

The Provincial Website is being redesigned. We had hoped to have it launched by June but time and other priorities took precedent so our goal now is August---it is a fresh new look with some added features such as an Ontario ‘shopping’ section with a link to the Dominion web store. That is all the information I can provide to you at this time.

Donation of $ 7,000.00 from Listowel Legion Branch 259 LA to Branch.
Pictured Brad Matheson (President), Sandy McNaught (LA President) and Linda Hoffele (Past President).
PROVINCIAL SPORTS CHAIRMAN’S REPORT
Comrade Vic Newey

"We have completed most of our program, with things going extremely well, thanks to all the District Sports Officers and the involvement of the host branches in the events. We still have Lawn Bowling, Horseshoes and Golf left to be played.

Last event of the season will be Golf to be hosted by Br 201 Essex which will be the trial of the new format "Best Ball" which seems to have been welcomed at the zone and district levels. We have our Sports Meeting at the end of September and that will be the time we discuss any changes that could possibly be made to the program."

This is a painting of an original World War 1 recruiting poster, it was donated to The Royal Canadian Legion Br 178 by Gary Cole to Roger Leetooze Br 178 Museum curator. This painting now hangs on the outside wall at the entrance to the Branch. Personnel Left to right: Roger Leetooze- Br178 Museum Curator, Gary Cole.
Comrades

Recently the military has been proactive in securing more programs for soldiers and veterans.

Pass this information along to veterans in your communities. Pass it along to your branch members. Go online to the web sites to get more of the information.

There is now a CF one card. www.CF1FC.ca This is a card that gives access to all programs offered by the CF Morale and welfare Service. This is an improved service that has lots of discounts from companies.

There is CFapreciation@cfmws.ca that has lots of discounts as well to events and attractions across North America. The Bank of Montreal has special bank fees for veterans. Via Rail gives 25% off for veterans. Many US hotels let you stay for a week for $369.00. Air Canada does not charge fees for extra baggage for veterans. There are a lot of good deals on the site. Please make everyone aware of this web site so all veterans check it out and tell each other.

Check out www.supportourtroops.ca There are 5 funds to help soldiers and veterans and their families.
Military Family Fund
Soldier On Fund
Hospital Comfort Fund
Operation Santa Claus
Canadian Forces Personnel Assistance Fund

You should learn about them in case we have members or veterans that qualify. Also branches may want to support these funds as well. Have your branch PRO or service officer let everyone in your town know about them. This information is awesome.

There is also the soldier on fund for those veterans with CF injuries at www.soldieron.ca This website provides a lot of information to assist soldiers and veterans with their concerns.

We are entering a new era. The community and the military are working together. Take advantage and inform your veterans while these programs last. If we don't use them they will not be continued. Popularize them.

Giving money and power to government is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenage boys. P.J. O'Rourke, Civil Libertarian

I contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle. Winston Churchill
Ladies Auxiliary 65th Anniversary Committee for Sutton West, Branch 356. Our 65th Anniversary date was Dec 13th, 2013 and was celebrated on Nov 24, 2013. Starting from the left and going to the right are: Lynda McKeand, Cheryl Baker, Carol Mitchell, Jean Harper, Penny Mackey, Carol Keetch.

Upper Rideau Branch 542, Westport presented the Branch Service Medal to Comrade Carmel Paynter. Carmel has been active volunteer of the Branch for the past 30 years. Along with her late husband, Austin, she was a shining example of what a Legionnaire is. They were instrumental in running the branch bingo which funds youth and senior programs in our area.
“Councillor Steve Desroches was honoured to present Barrhaven Branch 641 of the Royal Canadian Legion with their own copy of the ‘Barry Helman Cres street sign in honour of Mr. Helman who passed away in January 2013. Major (Ret’d) William Barry Helman CD (1929-2013) was a Canadian Forces and Korean War Veteran and member of the Barrhaven branch. Pictured in the photo are, from left: Councillor Steve Desroches, Ray Desjardins, Branch President Ernie Hughes (seated), Gus Este, Ed Schelenz, David Sereda, and Dave Cole.”

This is a photo taken at the Bala Legion 424 on Jan 1, 2014. This is a gift of the flag memorial representing the 158 Canadian fallen soldiers in Afghanistan designed and hand made by Alex Chidley. Bala Legion Representatives are Ross Smith, President and Keth Metcalfe, Sargent at Arms. Alex Chidley is the third person.