



Ed Schelenz

The President's Message

Comrades:

As the month of May comes to a close, so too does my third tour of the presidency. It was an honour to be the President of such a great branch. What makes our branch so great is all our volunteers for without them there would be no RCL, Branch 641 Barrhaven.

So let me thank personally all the volunteers who I have worked with this year.

Thank you to our Secretary Pamela Hall who keeps us all on top of our correspondence. Thank you to Past President (Sgt-at-Arms, Honours and Awards, Long Range Planning) Stephane Guy for all his work and to whom I reached out to many times for information and he willingly took on any task that I asked of him. Thank you to Treasurer, Diane Craig who continues to keep our finances straight and steps up for many unrelated finance requirements. Thank you to 1st VP Dave Sereda (Bar, Community Liaison) for always being available and taking on whatever is asked of him. Thank you to 2nd VP Bert Boehme (Finance Committee, Poppy Trust Fund) for keeping us on the right track financially. Thank you to our 3rd VP Lyle Brennan for the outstanding job as the Poppy Chairman and the Youth Education and Bursary Chair. Thank you to Angele Guy and her Hospitality crew for their outstanding job. Thank you to Reverend Margo Whittaker for being our Chaplain and looking after our sick comrades and supporting those who want support. Thank you to our Veterans' Service Officer (Seniors Officer, Ways and Means, Housekeeping) Lorette Ellis for looking after our Veterans and the many other things she does for us. Thank you to Patrick Makinson for representing us with the Cadets. Thank you to Joe Guitard for all the sport events that you helped ensure we were represented at. Thank you to Debi Sereda for your great job as Public Relations Officer and Editor

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of our newsletter, The Advance. Thank you to Dave Voisey for looking after Grants and Assistance. Thank you to Dave St Amand for a great job you do as Membership Chair. Thank you, Mike Harrietha, Constitution and Laws. Thank you to our Bar Manager Carol-Anne Marleau for assisting our Bar Officer and managing our bar and bartenders. Thank you to Cathy Pearen for all the time you spend managing the rentals of Valour Hall. Thank you to Chairman David Cole for keeping control of our meetings. Thank you to Jim Duff for all your years of service to our branch. Thank you to Tom Lamb for your assistance with housing issues when asked. Thank you to Sonia Martin for being our Ambassador of Goodwill.

There are many more who I want to thank: our bartenders, our hospitality committee, our Bingo volunteers, our Cleaning the Capital crews, and all those who help keep our branch clean. Thank you to all those who come out and participate in our Poppy Campaign. Thank you to all those who step up and help as and when needed. Many of our volunteers that I have thanked volunteer for multiple events and if I have missed anyone, please forgive me and I might buy you a beer.

You can see from my report how many volunteers donate their time and energy to ensure our branch runs smoothly and who support the President. Thank you all.

All the best wishes to our President elect Lyle Brennan and his executive. I will be here to support you over the next year as Past President.

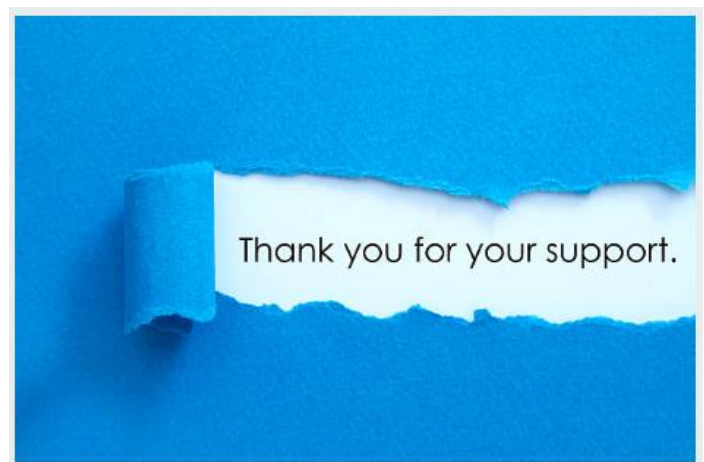
It takes a lot of volunteers to keep our branch up and running and we are fortunate enough to have them. Thank you all and please keep up with your support.

Thank you all for your support.

Enjoy your Legion. Keep volunteering.

Ed Schelenz, CD
President RCL Br. 641 Barrhaven
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"Volunteers make it work"



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Let Us Know

When a comrade or family member passes away, it's important that you let our chaplain, Margot Whittaker, know. She can then put into motion a number of things such as advising the president and our executive, connecting with the family, making arrangements for hospital visits, arranging colour parties and Legion services – all of which fulfill our role to each other as a Legion family. When comrades are ill or pass and we don't know, we can't support the member or their family in their time of need. I can be reached by email at

If a comrade becomes ill, please let our Hospital Visits Chair, Lorette Ellis, know so that she can contact them and arrange a visit

Reverend Margo Whittaker
Chaplain
margot.l.whittaker@gmail.com

Lorette Ellis
Hospital Visits Chair
ericlorette@gmail.com

What Happens When a Legion Member Passes



When we are advised of the passing of a comrade from our branch, the president and executive are advised and through our president or chaplain we connect with the family to offer and arrange a colour party and Legion service.

Once arrangements have been put into place, our Memorial Board at the branch is updated with the name and the month and date of their passing, we lower the flags outside the branch (see photo on the left showing Stephane and Angele Guy lowering the flags), we upload the obituary on our website, [Last Post](#), post the information on our private group Facebook Page and add the information to our newsletter, [The Advance](#).

If we aren't advised when a member has passed, we are not able to make a note of this and share the information with our members.


Membership News

At the May General Meeting, Membership Chair Dave St Amand announced that we have reached **703** members. Our all-time-highest number of members was 718 which was reached in 2022.

Congratulations Dave and thank you for all the hard work you have done to make this happen. We've come a long way from our original membership of 50 members. And given that we aren't half way through 2023, who knows what our final numbers will be!

If you are a new member of our branch, welcome. We invite **you** to get involved in **your** branch by approaching any of our Executive members and volunteering.

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Executive and General Meeting Reports for May, 2023

These documents are now available on our website. Please note these are shown as submitted so please excuse any typos.

Executive Meeting Report for May, [please click here](#).

General Meeting Report for May, [please click here](#).

Barrhaven Legion 641 is on Facebook

Want to be a part of our private Facebook group? Just go to "Barrhaven Legion 641" on Facebook, send us a friend request, answer the two questions* to tell us why you want to be a part of our private group, and join in the conversation.

*If you don't answer the questions, your request won't be approved. This is a private, members-only group.

FRIDAY NIGHT DINNERS & SPECIAL EVENTS RESERVATIONS

Barrhaven Legion Branch 641
Reservations functions (Friday Night meals)
Dinner served from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
\$25.00 Members
\$30.00 Non-Members
Effective December 29, if you would like to
make a reservation for a Friday Night
Dinner, please call Ken @ 613-795-2127 or
send an email to
br641reservation@gmail.com
by Thursday 3:00p.m.


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2022/2023 Branch 641 Executive Team

Position	Chair	Position	Chair
President	Ed Schelenz	Honours and Awards	Stephane Guy
Immediate Past President	Stephane Guy	Hospitality/Entertainment	Angele Guy
1st Vice President	Dave Sereda	Housing	Jim Duff
2nd Vice President	Bert Boehme	Leadership and Development	Bert Boehme
3rd Vice President	Lyle Brennan	Legion Seniors	Lorette Ellis
Chairman	Dave Cole	Long Range Planning	Stephane Guy
Treasurer	Diane Craig	Membership	David St Amand
Secretary	Pam Hall	Poppy Campaign	Lyle Brennan
Sergeant at Arms	Stephane Guy	Poppy Trust Fund	Jim Duff
Bar Officer	Dave Sereda	Public Relations (Website, Bulletin)	Debi Sereda
Cadets	Patrick Makinson	Sports/Track and Field	Joe Guitard
Community Liaison	Dave Sereda	Veterans' Service Officer	Lorette Ellis
Constitution and Laws	Mike Harrietha	Ways and Means	Lorette Ellis
Finance Officer	Bert Boehme	Youth Education/Bursary	Lyle Brennan
Grants and Assistance	Dave Voisey		
Non-Executive			
Chaplain for Legion Tributes	Reverend Margo Whittaker	Hospital Visits Co-ordinator	Louise Laflamme



E-mail: rc641@bellnet.ca
March 2023





"Supports RCL Branch 641 Barrhaven and our Veterans"

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Presentations in May

At the May 16 General Meeting, two awards were presented by Acting President Dave Sereda.



Capital Funeral Home and Cemetery

was presented with the Branch 641 Exceptional Service Award to recognize the continued support they have provided the branch over the years, including the donation of a BBQ and dinner plates for our hospitality crew as well as ongoing support of our annual golf tournament. During COVID, Capital offered their site for our Remembrance Day Ceremony and provided us with all the logistical requirements including limos, set up, sound system and the streaming and recording of our service.

Pictured left: Acting President Dave Sereda, Capital representatives Sr. Funeral Director Kyle Cuthbert, General Manager, Ottawa Region

Luke McEachnie, Managing Funeral Director Nick Brown, Chairman Dave Cole, and Honours and Award Chair Stephane Guy.

Acting President Dave Sereda presented Tracy Donahue, Director, Philanthropy, CHEO Foundation with a cheque for \$10,000. This will be used to purchase and replace existing crib stretchers which are 22 years old. Each crib stretcher costs approximately \$8,800.



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In addition, the following members were presented with Past Officer Medals and Bars, Certificates of Appreciation and Certificates of Merit, for their volunteerism at the branch. We could not operate without the support of these and all of our other generous members. Thank you for your service.

Front Row: Hospitality Dianne Powers, Secretary Pam Hall, Treasurer Diane Craig, Bartender Nancy Rule, Bar Manager and Bartender Carol-Anne Marleau, Legion Seniors, Veterans' Service Officer and Ways and Means Chair Lorette Ellis

Back row: Constitution and Laws Chair Mike Harrietha, Hospitality Paulette O'Connor, Hospitality Phil O'Connor, Shawn MacDonald, 3rd VP, Poppy Campaign, Youth Education and Bursary Chair, Lyle Brennan, Sports Chair Joe Guitard, 2nd VP, Leadership and Development Chair Bert Boehme.



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On Sunday, May 21, John and Sheila Sielatycki were presented with the Branch 641 Exceptional Service Award. John and Sheila have been members of our branch from the start, and were key in establishing the Barrhaven Legion from its early days where the founding members met in people's homes, then Walter Baker, and finally as part of the founding members of our first branch on Cedarview Drive. John and Sheila have stayed involved throughout the years as part of the executive and as volunteers.

Sheila served on the executive as our Hospitality Chair, 3rd VP, and received The Branch Service Medal and the Ontario Volunteer Service Award. John served on the executive as Seniors Chair, received the Branch Service Medal, volunteered for many years as our branch plumber and cleaner of our branch, he was a member of our Colour Party and volunteered in our branch Cleaning the Capital. For many years when acting as Seniors Chair, John regularly visited our Veterans and seniors in hospital, often accompanied by Sheila.

Sheila was the second bartender at our branch, volunteering in this capacity for 19 years, right up till 2022. Sheila's years of volunteerism were also recognized by her fellow bartenders.




Pictured right are President Ed Schelenz presenting Sheila Sielatycki with the award, along with 1st VP Dave Sereda. Unfortunately, John was not able to attend the presentation. We thank them both for their years of volunteering, devotion and dedication to Branch 641.

Pictured below are Sheila and her fellow bartenders, current and a few from the past.



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How Our Volunteers Support Our Community

For nine years, our volunteers have gone outside our branch to further their volunteerism and raise money for Branch 641. Led by Ed Schelenz, Diane Craig, Caroline Boily, Danny and Monique Desmarais, Mike McLinton and Cathy Pearen and Mike Harrietha volunteer at [Bingoland](#) on Slack Road. There they clean away bingo cards and empty food/drink containers, wipe down tables and chairs, gaming slot machines, and help and engage with the patrons. In return for their help, Bingoland rewards its 29 [charity volunteers](#) financially so that they in turn can support their community.

“We started volunteering at Bingoland Gaming Centre in July 2014, and since then, we have raised over \$270,000 and have distributed in excess of \$240,000 back to the community,” said Ed Schelenz.

“Since July 2022, we have given \$23,600 in donations to the following groups: \$200 to Camp Misquash, \$500 to Kidney Foundation, \$500 to Bruyere Memory Program, \$10,000 To Roger Neilson House, \$200 to Hospice Care, \$500 to Barrhaven Food Cupboard, \$500 to Ottawa Mission, \$200 to Canadian Cancer Society, \$10,000 to Ottawa Heart Institute, \$500 to Senior Boys Soccer and \$500 to Nepean Ringette.”

Our volunteers make it possible to provide support to our community. Thank you to all our volunteers.



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A Celebration to Be Ever-So-Thankful For

Diane Craig and I would like to say, "Thank You" to our families and friends for participating in our milestone 50th and 70th birthday celebration last month. We are very fortunate to have all the love and support you have shown us.

We would like to note that our birthday party celebration was not just for the two of us, as this celebration raised \$1,000 - \$500 each to [Cornerstone Housing for Women](#) and the Branch 641's Poppy Trust Fund. A huge "thank you" to the branch for matching our fundraising efforts by donating another \$500 each to [Cornerstone Housing for Women](#) and the [Ottawa Mission](#).

A shout out also goes to the Amazon Fulfillment Centre in Barrhaven for donating an array of daily-use products to the above-mentioned charities. Your support was appreciated, and helped the lives of many in the community.

We would also like to acknowledge a few people who made the evening so memorable – "The Committee" for organizing the party (Carol Anne Marleau, Cathy Pearen and Nancy Rule); to Mike Adams, Shawn and Joanne McDonald, and Marc Richards for their help in setting up and decorating Valour Hall; Julie and Corrie Cunningham for the decorations.

Finally, a special thanks to Doug Mason for his amazing donation of floral arrangements, and last, but not least, to all the chefs who contributed food for the event in no particular order, Nancy Rule, Lorette Ellis, Caroline Boily, Kathy Torunski, Isabel Lafrance, Lorna MacIsaac, Orlene Whitlaw, Willy and Katie Craig, Jamie and Christine Craig, Marcy Craig, and Carol Anne Marleau.

This celebration was a lifetime memory for both of us.

Comrades Diane Craig and Gary Cunningham



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Barrhaven Food Cupboard – Neighbours Helping Neighbours

Thanks to the generosity of our members, since January 2023, Branch 641 has supported the Barrhaven Food Cupboard (BFC) by donating almost 200 lbs of food. “The need for donations of food and personal care items has never been as great as it is right now,” said Jennifer Read, our branch BFC donation co-ordinator. “Our community needs our help and I know our members can support this important organization.”

What the BFC needs most right now are the following items:

- Peanut Butter
- Jam
- Canned Fruit
- School Snacks
- Canned Pasta
- Shampoo



Jennifer has placed a donation collection box at the entrance to the branch. “If we could get our members and guests to donate a few items each time they visit, we would be able to increase donations to local families in need,” says Jennifer.

The BFC also welcomes and encourages financial donations as this money can help leverage their buying power. As a registered Canadian charity, tax receipts can be provided. For more information, please check out their [website](#).

If you can help by donating food items, please check the expiration date to make sure donations have not expired.

Barrhaven Legion Memorial Bricks

If you would like to be a part of the past, present and the future of the Barrhaven Legion, purchase a Memorial Brick. Your brick will be engraved with your name and it will be mounted on our Memorial Wall in Valour Hall.

Bricks are available in three denominations:

Copper \$250

Silver \$500

Gold \$1,000

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Notes from the Editor

Debi Sereda



As summer approaches, June also brings the 2022/2023 presidency of Ed Schelenz to a close. Ed has served several terms as our president, always jumping into the fray when his years of experience have supported our branch. I had a chance to chat with Ed about his year as president of RCL Branch 641.

"I decided to put my name forward to run as president to give the last guy a break, and to ensure we continue with our all-volunteer policies for our branch. This allows us to continue supporting our Veterans and our community," said Ed. "My motto for this past term has been "Volunteers make it work." As you know, our branch runs solely with the support of volunteers. I believe it's very important to let volunteers do their job without interfering, while at the same time mentoring them . . . and sometimes trying to keep peace among them," Ed said, with a typical Ed smile.

"This past year, I've had very little interaction with Dominion and Ontario Command. The interaction with Ontario Command will pick up as we get closer to buying our new clubhouse. I've had quite a bit of interaction with Zone and District as they are not commands but handle passing back and forth the administrative requirements between commands and our branch. I've had quite a bit of interaction with other local branches such as Bells Corners.

"As with any leader, people look to the president for help and direction – sometimes this involves being a mediator. When problems come up, as they sometimes do, I encourage the involvement of our chairs and volunteers. Again, this process helps mentor our volunteers and provides a process to work through.

"The Executive Committee comprises volunteers who chair committees. They, along with their teams, do all the work that makes the branch work, referring to the president as needed for direction. The duties of our chairs include finding and organizing volunteers such as bartenders, hospitality, cleaners, etc. Then I leave them to do their work.

"The new president, Lyle Brennan will assemble his team and help them to become familiar with their duties and reach out to them as and when needed. I wish Lyle and his teams all the best in the year to come. I'll be available to help as needed of course in my role as past president; however, I'm really looking forward to some downtime with my wife Ellie and my family.

Thanks, Ed for your service, past present and future. Don't be a stranger at the branch!

Debi Sereda

debi.foxhill@gmail.com