



The President's Message

Comrades:

It's been a busy few months and December is here. We have more great things on the way to celebrate the holidays and ring in the new year, so check out the [Calendar of Events](#) on our website and stay informed.

The annual President's Draw was held on December 17 which was very well organized and attended. Once again, our members came through with their generosity in support of the Barrhaven Food Cupboard Red Bag campaign (see page 7). I've been told that Jennifer Read hoping to fill a bus next year to deliver all of the donations! Of course, there will continue to be a regular donation box at the front door of the branch if you didn't get a chance to contribute during the campaign.

I encourage our membership to consider sending a holiday greeting card to veterans at the local seniors' homes in the Barrhaven area. Did you know you can also send an electronic greeting to the members of Canadian Armed Forces? Let them know you appreciate their service by [sending a message on the monitored message board](#).

Let us remain resolute in our commitment to honoring and preserving the memory of our Veterans.

"Lest we forget"
Lyle Brennan, CD, President

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Executive and General Meeting Reports for December, 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 December, [please click here](#).

General Meeting Report for December, [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.

Reservations for Friday Night Dinners and Special Events

Barrhaven Legion Branch 641

Dinner served from 6-7 p.m.

Members: \$25 Non-members \$30

**For reservations, please contact Ken
Phone 613-795-2127 or Email br641reservation@gmail.com**

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 641 Barrhaven, 3A-3500 Fallowfield Road, Ottawa K2J 4A7

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Branch 641 Annual Craft Market

Our Annual Craft Market was held on Saturday, November 25, 2023. We had a sold-out attendance with 15 vendors registering for tables and Valour Hall was busy all day with guests coming to browse and shop.

An amazing \$749 was raised in support of the Land and Building fund which included \$589 from proceeds of the bake sale organized by the Hospitality team plus a tip of \$160 which was received by Hospitality. Everyone enjoyed the selection of crafts to purchase and Valour Hall was busy all day.

Angele Guy



Pictured right is Angele Guy presenting President Lyle Brennan with the cash and a cheque from the bake sale and tip.

Well done, Hospitality!



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Donations to the Inner City Veterans' Outreach and Support Program

Thanks to Comrade Linda Laframboise who organized 20 gift bags for Veterans living on the streets who are being cared for by the Inner City Veterans' Outreach and Support Program. Linda's donation was inspired by a presentation by LtGen (Ret) Walter Semianiw CMM, MSC, CD at the Veterans' Dinner on November 4. Linda prepared the bags with 20 warm scarves (crocheted with love by Linda) as well as hand warmers, a pair of socks, a towel and a facecloth, a warm sweater, chocolate, granola bars and a ground tarp. The gifts were presented to Elizabeth Sutherland-Bevan, IVOS Support who took everything to the centre and presented them to the Veterans at their Christmas meal on December 13. Branch 641 donated \$400 towards purchasing items for the gift bags.

Well done, Linda. What a kind and generous idea. Pictured below right is Elizabeth Sutherland-Bevan, IVOS Support.



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Let Us Know

When a comrade or family member passes away, it's important that you let our chaplain, Margo Whittaker, know. She can then put several things into motion such as advising the president and our executive, connecting with the family, arranging for 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.

If a comrade becomes ill, please let our Hospital Visits Chair, Louise Laflamme, know so that she can contact them or the family and arrange a visit. Members love seeing a friendly face when they are sick, especially if they don't have many family members in town.

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

Louise Laflamme
Hospital Visits Chair
llouisellaflamme1@bell.net



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



Purchasing a Memorial Brick is also a great way to honour a family member or friend. For more information, please contact Debi Sereda by email at debi.foxhill@gmail.com.

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2022/2023 Branch 641 Executive Team

Position	Chair	Position	Chair
President	Lyle Brennan	Honours and Awards	Ed Schelenz
Immediate Past President	Ed Schelenz	Hospitality/Entertainment	Angele Guy
1st Vice President	Mike Harrietha	Housing	Dave Cole
2nd Vice President	Bert Boehme	Leadership and Development	Bert Boehme
3rd Vice President	Angele Guy	Legion Seniors	Richard Lynn
Chairman	Dave Cole	Long Range Planning	Stephane Guy
Treasurer	Diane Craig	Membership	David St Amand
Secretary	Pam Hall	Poppy Campaign	Stephane Guy
Sergeant at Arms	Paul Leadston	Poppy Trust Fund	Bert Boehme
Bar Officer	Dave Sereda	Public Relations (Website, Newsletter)	Debi Sereda
Cadets	Patrick Makinson	Sports/Track and Field	Joe Guitard
Community Liaison	Dave Sereda	Veterans' Service Officer	Anne Cole
Constitution and Laws	Stephane Guy	Ways and Means	Anne Cole
Finance Officer	Bert Boehme	Youth Education/Bursary	Carol-Anne Marleau
Grants and Assistance	Richard Lynn		
Non-Executive			
Bar Manager	Carol-Anne Marleau	Golf Tournament	Jennifer Read
Bingo Team Co-ordinator	Ed Schelenz	Hall Rental	Cathy Pearen
Chaplain for Legion Tributes	Reverend Margo Whittaker	Hospital Visits Co-ordinator	Louise Laflamme
Finance Review Committee	William Read, Lorette Ellis, Kim Krueger	Housing Assistant	Tom Lamb
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;">  <div style="text-align: center;"> E-mail: rcl641@bellnet.ca October 2023 </div>  </div>			

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Results of the Purolator Tackle Hunger Christmas “Red Bag” Campaign

Thank you, members of Branch 641! After 13 days you donated 102 bags of food weighing 1,713.7 pounds, and \$216.60 for the Barrhaven Food Cupboard.

The food almost filled half of my garage, and once loaded, it filled the four outside compartments, and 15 rows of seats on the bus!

Many thanks to Roxborough Bus Lines, their Director of Operations (and Barrhaven Legion member) Mike Casay for donating the bus, and our driver Rita and dispatcher Sean, who allowed us to get the food from the Read garage to the BFC in one trip!

Hopefully next year, we can fill the bus!

Jennifer Read



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Membership Update

Membership Total for December: 761 active accounts (2022 – 724)

New Members: 10

Transfer in: 2

Transfer out: 0

Resigned: 0

Re-instated: 0

Deceased Members: 0

Dave St Amand, Membership Chair

Branch 641 Colour Guard Shines at the Sens Game

We were asked to provide a Colour Party at the November 4 Senators game against the Tampa Bay lightning. Due to the Veterans dinner we had to scramble to find bodies and we ended up with me (acting Sergeant at Arms) Sue Ellis and Caroline Boily (her first time on the ice). We had some extra guest tickets and we asked Isabelle Lafrance (first time at an NHL game), we called her our photographer, and Gary Cunningham, our handler and advisor. I nicknamed our group “Teddies Angels” with Gary being Bosley. We were lucky enough to meet up with Bruno from our dart league for an impromptu tour of the Press Box during the first period. We also got to catch a glimpse of Daniel Alfredson and literally bumped into Thomas Chabot. It was a great evening of laughs and the Senator organization were very gracious hosts. For a last-minute plan, we did pretty good! Branch 641 represents!

Terry Claessen



Pictured right are Terry Claessen, Gary Cunningham, Caroline Boily, Sue Ellis and Isabelle Lafrance.

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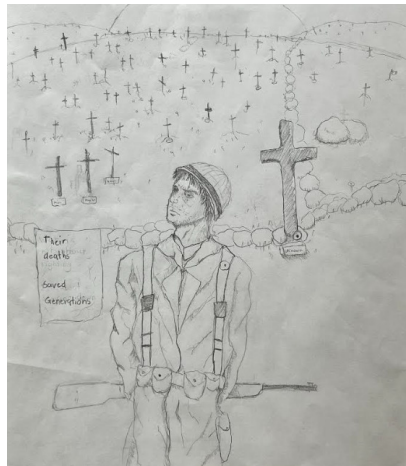
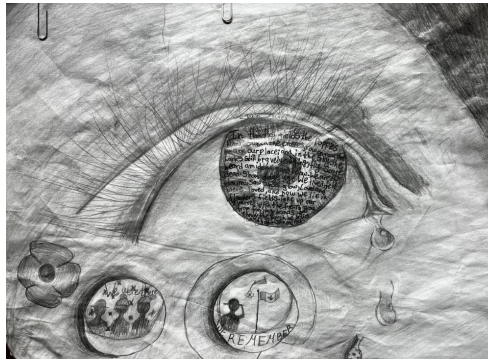
2023 Poster and Literary Contest

Judging of the Poster and Literary Contest took place on Saturday, November 18, 2023. We received a total of 354 entries from nine Barrhaven area schools. I would like to thank everyone who came out to support the judging.

The results will be available at the General Meeting once all winners have been notified. First place winners from each category were delivered to Zone at the Westboro Branch on November 21, 2023.

Our local Branch Award Ceremony is scheduled on Sunday, January 21, 2024. Winners will be notified and invitations to the Ceremony will be sent out before the end of December.

Here are just a few photos taken at the 2022 Contest award ceremony. These give you an idea of the talent that youth in our community have. We also appreciate the work that goes on behind the scene by the teachers who promote and assist youth to enter this contest. Winners at each level receive a monetary prize and winners go on to the next level of the contest.



Carol Anne Marleau, Chair, Youth Education and Bursary

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Wednesday's Open Mic Is a Very Popular Event at 641

Every other Wednesday from noon until 3 p.m., Valour Hall is filled with 100+ guests who *love* our Open Mic event.

We are extremely blessed to have so many great old country music entertainers in our host band – Howard Hayes and the Country Drifters, three of whom are in the Ottawa Valley Country Music Hall of Fame and one is a long-time drummer for Tommy Hunter.

On Wednesday, December 3, we were honoured to have another of the true pioneers of country music in the audience – Ron Sparling, Ontario Country Music Pioneer and Ottawa Valley Country Music Hall of Fame 1989. We thank Ron's family (including his Goddaughter Comrade Kendra Becking) for bringing him out, and hope he enjoyed the event as much as we did.

Pictured Left to Right: Roy Feener (Drummer), Howard Hayes (Fiddle/Guitar/Vocals), Don Pelletier (Host), Andy Clarke (Base Guitar/Vocals), Wilf Arsenault (Lead Guitar). Seated Ron Sparling, Ontario Country Music Pioneer and Ottawa Valley Country Music Hall of Fame, 1989



Many thanks to all the volunteers at Branch 641 who make this fun day happen – Angele Guy and her Hospitality team and Linda Laframboise at the door, our musicians and all our amazing guests and last but not least our bartenders.

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"Supports RCL Branch 641 Barrhaven and our Veterans"

Notes from the Editor

Debi Sereda



December brings lots of festivities and fun at Branch 641. On December 15 we hosted our Christmas Dinner catered by our fabulous Hospital Team. On Sunday, December 17, we held our annual President's Draw, a fundraiser in support of the Land and Building Fund. While our branch is closed on Christmas Day, our annual Christmas Day dinner will be held at the branch. Our New Year's Eve party is once again a sold-out event. And as always, January 1, 2024 we will be celebrating the New Year with the President's Levée – don't forget to join us at noon and share some of our famous Moose Milk.

2024 – what will it bring? We hope it brings a happy and healthy new year to everyone. Come back safe and sound to Branch 641.

Enjoy your branch. Volunteer if you can. Stay safe.

Debi Sereda

debi.foxhill@gmail.com

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**Wherever your travels take you over
the holidays, be safe, enjoy your
family and friends, and continue to
support your Legion, Branch 641.**

**Best wishes from President
Lyle Brennan and your Executive**



May your days be merry and bright

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