

The Advance

Royal Canadian Legion
Branch 641 Barrhaven



Vimy Memorial Bridge
Photo credit to The Wright Team

Volume 17
Issue 9
February 2022

The President's Message



Stéphane Guy

Comrades

March and April are important months, as your participation is required in order for our branch to have a successful election. Our Branch Regulations are very explicit as we must hold a Nomination Meeting in March and Elections in April. Consequently, they can't be delayed as we are bound by the details of our Branch Regulations, and we must have a quorum at both General

Meetings to be successful. After a three-year term of office, many of your executive are eager to change our duties and try something new, including me.

As of March 1, there are no longer any capacity limits, which is great news. Furthermore, and as announced, our hours of operations will be extended to include some evenings and the reintroduction of the euchre league which have been cancelled since the start of this pandemic. Life is finally getting back to a "NEW NORMAL" with the hope that the few remaining restrictions such as the wearing of the mask, will be lifted soon. However, caution must remain in order to stay safe and healthy.

Financially, we are in very good health as we were able to tap into three different grants that have provided us with funds suitable to pay for our monthly expenses over the last two months.

Have a good day and stay safe.

Stéphane Guy
President RCL Branch 641
613-797-7021
rcl641president@hotmail.com
Always do the right thing

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Highlights of Reports from Your Executive Chairs for February*

*Full reports can be found in the binder containing Meeting Minutes which are available behind the bar, in the Branch

Membership Report

Membership Total = 543 (626 as of January 31, 2022)

Our yearly total is hard to pin down. Everywhere you look online, the numbers can be different by one or two. In addition, a member can renew today for last year and this year which would cause the total to change once again. The total could change by ten and it would not affect our delegate total.

For conventions, we are entitled to seven delegates. This number is based on one delegate for the first fifty members, and then one delegate for each one hundred members thereafter.

2021 memberships are valid until the January 32, 2022. Effective February 1, anyone who has not renewed for 2022 loses their "member in good standing" status. For example, when you arrive for a Friday night supper, you will not be given the member rate.

Finally, if you've been told that you have a card, pin or sticker at the bar, please retrieve it at your earliest convenience. Just ask any bartender.

David St Amand
Membership Chair

Youth Education

Contests

An update to the Poster and Literary Contest;

- Judging of the over 400 entries took place on Sunday, November 21, 2021 and the local level 1st place winners were forwarded to the Zone Level.
- The Poppy Chair provided the funds to cover the prizes for our local level winners. Certificates and prize money are being distributed to the winners through their respective schools.
- I am expecting to receive the prizes and plaques for the Zone Level competition from Mr. David Daley, the G5 Zone Youth Ed Chair in the next week or two, and I will co-ordinate their subsequent deliveries.
- The contest results were presented at the February General Meeting. Two of our candidates winning 1st at Zone have proceeded on to district level.
- Questions may be directed to the Youth Ed chair.

Lyle Brennan CD
Youth Education & Bursary Chair

Bar

We re-opened on Monday, January 31 and we were all happy to do so. We are in step 1 of 3; step 2 will start February 21 if it is safe to do so.

We will continue with all protocol in place set forth by the Ontario Government.

I would like to welcome some new bartenders, Gerry Langevin who has passed his training as well as Michelle and Joe Guitard who are starting their training.

Under Step 1 we are doing the following:

1. All non-members will continue to sign-in as they did pre-COVID.
2. A QR code will need to be shown at the door if you are not already registered with the branch.
3. Sanitize your hands.
4. Masks must be worn while moving around in the branch. Masks can be removed once you sit down.
5. A capacity has been set by the Government equal to 50 percent of the capacity in the Bar area, maximum 40, and 75 in Valour Hall. This could change when we go into step 2 on February 21.
6. We continue to have two bartenders on duty for each shift. Some discussion has taken place with using other members to assist during slow periods where only one bartender is needed.

Darts has restarted on Wednesday nights along with Friday night dinners. Euchre will be looked at in a few weeks and we are presently discussing hosting Trivia on Tuesday nights. I have set up have set a small group of three to report back on this possibility.

Coming soon to the bar will be some new products and a beverage tasting.

Dave Sereda
1ST Vice President
Bar Officer
Housing officer
Cadet Liaison

Entertainment/Hospitality Report

With the reopening of the branch, Comrades were eager to start coming back for their Friday Night Dinners and other special events. Hopefully in the coming weeks, we will be able to do them. The numbers of guests are going up, from 40 to 50.

Meals and Events to Come In March 2022:

- Friday, March 4, 2022 -- Legion Roast Beef
- Friday, March 11 – BBQ Steak
- Wednesday, March 16, 2022 Lunch -- Tomato Soup & Grilled Cheese \$5.00 and Hot Dog \$2.00 with condiments from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 16 Kitchen Party 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
- Thursday, March 17, 2022 St Patrick's Day Shepherd's Pie or Beef Stew for \$5.00 each. Band: Heart and Soul Duo 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. At this time, we are not sure if dancing will be allowed.
- Friday, March 18 -- Salmon OR Chicken
- Friday, March 25 – BBQ Steak

Hope to see a lot of you at our next events or Friday Night Dinners.

Angele Guy

Entertainment/Hospitality Chair

Grants and Assistance Committee

Since the last General Meeting, we have received two requests for financial donations.

1. **Heart and Stroke:** Due to its positive impact on just about all of us, Branch 641 has supported this research organization on an annual basis for some considerable time. I am advised that in the past, donations up to \$10,000.00 have been approved and submitted. This year we have a unique opportunity where every dollar we donate will be matched by Canadian Pacific. Therefore, the committee is proposing to again donate \$10,000.00 from the Lottery Account which (subject to branch approval) result in an overall donation of \$20,000.
2. **Dementia Society:** This is an organization that again impacts on many of us. Past records indicate we have donated \$500 to the Dementia Society

Dave Voisey

Grants and Assistance Chair

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 Veteran, a family member or friend. For more information, please contact
Debi Sereda - debi.foxhill@gmail.com

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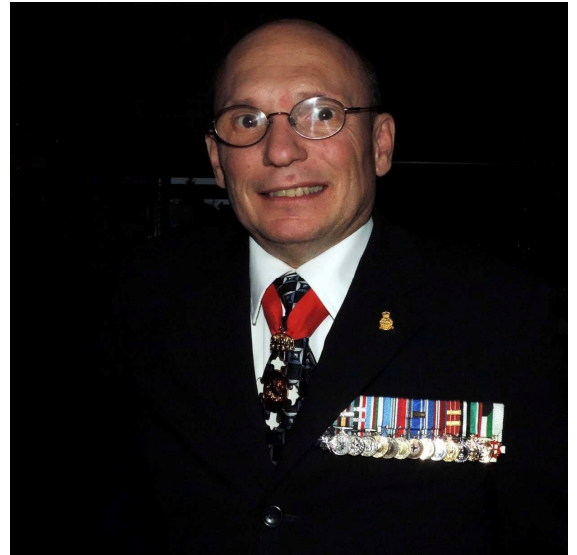
Meet Some of Our Ordinary Members

This month let's meet Veteran David Cole OStJ, CD.

Dave was born in 1958 and served 26 years as a CF Physician Asst and a further 12 years in the Medical Primary Reserves, attaining the rank of Chief Warrant Officer. He served in the Gulf War as well as multiple UN, NATO and peacekeeping deployments to Cyprus, Golan Heights, the former Republic of Yugoslavia and Ethiopia. Dave earned a very impressive rack of medals that he wears proudly.

Like many members of our Branch, Dave is a Knight in the Order of St. George.

Dave has been a member of the 641 Executive team for many years, holding numerous positions, including Sgt at Arms and the Chairman position that he still holds. He has also been the Chairman of Zone G5.



Since retiring from the military, Dave works as a para-funeral director for Capital Funeral Home and Cemetery. Over the years, Dave has helped numerous families plan funerals for deceased Veterans and non-Veterans, and has organized many celebrations of life in the branch.

Another Fundraiser for the Branch

At the February General meeting, President Stéphane Guy received a cheque for \$1,000 from Angele Guy, representing another donation from the proceeds of our Virtual Garage Sale. To date, Angele has raised \$3,700 for the branch. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication Angele. And, thanks to everyone for their donations.

To check out the items currently for sale, please [click here to access the Virtual Garage Sale](http://www.rcl641.ca/virtual-garage-sale). If you have items you would like to donate, please contact Angele.



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Craft Beer Tasting

Join us on **Saturday, March 5 from 1-4 p.m.** for a craft beer tasting, and help us choose some new local beers from the following local breweries:

- Vimy
- Dominion
- Overflow
- ABC
- Calabogie
- Big Rig
- 1000 Islands
- Whipsnaper
- Mill Street

The breweries named above have all donated one or more cans of beer for our tasting, and we thank all of them very much for their generosity. We have close to 40 beers for you to taste and enjoy. Guests are asked to complete a questionnaire to help us select some new beers for the bar.

It's a free beer tasting (2-3 oz) but a donation to our Building Fund would be very much appreciated!

Don't Need Those Old Eye Glasses?

One of the many legacies of Comrade and Lion Ray Trudel (who passed away in 2011) is that he helped start a community initiative, [Recycle for Sight](#), to collect unwanted eye glasses and distribute them to people in need in third world countries. Boxes can be found in several stores in Barrhaven including branch 641. If you have any unwanted glasses and/or glass cases, please drop them off in the box which can be found at the entrance to the branch.



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Branch 641 Executive Team

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



E-mail: rcl641@bellnet.ca
November 2021



"Supports RCL Branch 641 Barrhaven and our Veterans"

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How to Reserve for Friday Night Dinners and Special Events

To make your Friday-night dinner reservation, please contact Kathy Torunski either by:

- email at br641reservation@gmail.com or
- phone at 613-825-6938

When you email or call, please provide Kathy with the following information:

- date and meal being served, i.e., Friday February 4 BBQ Steak
- number of people in your party
- name of each person in your party
- at least one phone number for the group
- the name of the person/people you want to sit with if applicable

Please contact Kathy directly with all your requests for dinner reservations.

Notes from the Editor

Debi Sereda



It's been two years since we can honestly say that life was normal – the arrival of COVID-19 has affected everyone around the world. Since then, we have all donned masks as a matter of routine, kept our distance from everyone including family members who we have missed terribly, washed and sanitized our hands more than we want to think about, and had to isolate ourselves to the point where some people are no longer comfortable leaving their homes. Many people have lost family members and friends and weren't even able say goodbye, or mourn them properly with a funeral or remembrance ceremony. It's been a hard two years, and harder for some than others.

As restrictions ease a little more effective March 1, it's important to remember that we still need to be vigilant – don't let your guard down too much. But at the same time, let's try and find a happy medium between lock down and a return to what we fondly remember as normal life.

We hope you come back to the branch – sign-up for Friday night dinners and other events being organized by the Hospitality Team.

Debi Sereda

debi.foxhill@gmail.com