



Vimy Memorial Bridge  
Photo credit to The Wright Team

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## The President's Message



Stéphane Guy

Hi Comrades,

This pandemic has truly put a big wrench in our current plans; however, and with a healthy operational fund which is backed by a large sum in our Building as well as the Land and Building fund, we can withstand this pandemic until well in the year 2021. The expectation at this time is that with a lease of about \$10,000 a month, and with utility expenses of less than \$2,500 a month, we will probably have to tap into our reserve funds in about three months or more.

As far as the re-opening is concerned, we have made all the modifications and have produced plans that will provide a safe and enjoyable location for our members. It is expected that until a vaccine is available, we will have a reduced number of customers to a point that it will take a few months before we break even between our revenues and expenditures. This is expected to continue until Friday-night meals can resume, and therefore will gradually reduce even further our reserve funds. However, it is better to have some revenues but most importantly, to offer a place for our members to socialize once again after this long and dreadful isolation period.

Another issue that I'm working on is that our Finance Officer is working hard to produce a budget for 2020/2021 which is greatly affected by this pandemic and truly an unknown future of what our business will look like once we re-open. This budget will be voted on through an electronic voting procedure as soon as it is ready.

I also found three members to be part of our Financial Review Committee who must provide a report by September 1, 2020. As per the normal procedure, I have put forward a motion to have the three members approved which will provide them with the authority to proceed with the review.

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As mentioned in previous emails, our current plans for our new clubhouse have been put on hold but I'm eager to resume our plans as soon as possible. We will keep you updated as soon as we have new developments. (Update: the branch will be re-opening on July 17.)

Please enjoy the summer as much as possible and stay safe.

Stéphane Guy, President  
613-797-7021  
rcl641president@hotmail.com

*"Always Do the Right Thing"*



<b>Branch 641 Executive Team</b>			
<b>Position</b> (Title/Name in bold denotes Executive Position and/or Executive Member)	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Position</b> (Title/Name in bold denotes Executive Position and/or Executive Member)	<b>Chair</b>
<b>President</b>	<b>Stéphane Guy</b>	Grants and Assistance	Martha Walsh
<b>Immediate Past President</b>	<b>Bert Boehme</b>	Honours and Awards	<b>Bert Boehme</b>
<b>1st Vice President</b>	<b>Ernie Hughes</b>	Hospital Visits	<b>Stephen Silverthorne</b>
<b>2nd Vice President</b>	<b>Victor Chan</b>	Hospitality/Entertainment	<b>Angele Guy</b>
<b>3rd Vice President</b>	<b>Angele Guy</b>	Housing	Tom Lamb
<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Dave Cole</b>	Leadership and Development	<b>Victor Chan</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Jim Duff</b>	Legion Seniors	<b>David St Amand</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	Vacant	Long Range Planning	<b>Ernie Hughes</b>
<b>Sergeant at Arms</b>	<b>Lyle Brennan</b>	Membership	<b>David St Amand</b>
<b>Chaplain</b>	<b>Stephen Silverthorne</b>	Poppy Campaign	Ed Schelenz
Bar	<b>Ernie Hughes</b>	Poppy Trust Fund	<b>Ross Stephen</b>
Branch Service Officer	<b>Victor Chan</b>	Public Relations (Website, Scrapbook, Bulletin)	<b>Debi Sereda</b>
Cadets	<b>Dave Sereda</b>		
Community Liaison	<b>Dave Sereda</b>	Sports/Track and Field	Jackie Fuchs
Constitution and Laws	<b>Dave Cole</b>	Ways and Means	Joe Guitard
Finance Officer	<b>Bert Boehme</b>	Youth Education/Bursary	Lyle Brennan
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## Membership Report – February-July 2020

Since becoming Membership Chair once again, our numbers have been stagnant. The number of members who have used the online renewal system have increased substantially, but over the past few months, renewals have been very limited.

Current membership – 561

During the COVID-19 closure, six of our members passed away. We lost Bev Schlivert, Chris Alivisatos, Ross Boyle, Ruby Tait, Ron Chafe and Edwin Middlemiss. All six will be added to our memorial board and have been added to our [online Last Post](#).

When Branch 641 does re-open for business, we will have a considerable number of pins to present to our deserving members. One member will receive the 50-year medal for 50 consecutive years of Legion service.

Congratulations to Ed Schelenz on being awarded a Life Membership from our branch. Well deserved Ed.

## Seniors Report – February-July 2020

Prior to the shutdown, Victor Chan and I had been visiting the local retirement homes. Those visits came to an abrupt end for obvious reasons. Barrhaven retirement/long term care facilities were relatively untouched during this pandemic. That's a remarkable achievement and the homes are to be congratulated for taking such good care of our seniors/veterans.

The seniors' luncheon scheduled for June was cancelled. It would be great to have a luncheon next year, but that seems unlikely at this time. We can only hope that our situation improves.

### Branch 641 Helping Others

A month ago, the Barrhaven Food Cupboard received a request for assistance from a family who was looking for a computer for a special-needs student. Because we had successfully procured computers for our seniors in the past, our branch was requested to help. A request went out to our membership looking for anyone with a computer that they weren't using and if they would be willing to make a donation. It didn't take long to get replies. I received two offers from our members who were willing to make a monetary donation towards a new computer if necessary. One member had a very nice I Mac computer with all the peripherals that he would gladly donate. He formatted the computer back to its original state and ensured everything was working as it should. The computer was given to Kevin Miller, president of the Barrhaven Food Cupboard, who presented it to the family in need. The student was extremely pleased to receive such a gift. Her family would like to thank the Barrhaven Food Cupboard and the members of Branch 641 for their outstanding generosity. Thanks to everyone involved.

David St Amand  
Membership/Seniors Chair

## Bar Officer's Report for July 2020

Comrades, we have been closed for all branch functions as of March 15, 2020. Our volunteer bartenders have been entering the branch every day to check that there are no leaks or water damage, no power outages and our refrigerators are at the proper temperature. This is also done to ensure compliance for insurance purposes.

We have made many safety changes to ensure the protection of all members and volunteer staff. Thanks to Tom Lamb for installing plexiglass along the entire bar and spacing out sitting areas to fully respect social distancing. There are hand sanitizers at the front door and another at the entrance to Valour Hall. Both washrooms have lots of soap and only one person at a time may use each washroom.

Everyone entering the branch must be wearing a face mask. Once you order your beverage, go to your sitting area and remove your mask. You must use your mask when ordering your beverage, using the washrooms or leaving the branch.

Bartenders will have face masks on at all times. One bartender will take your order, make your change and put used glasses in the bar glass washer. The second bartender will provide your beverage and also take clean glasses out of the glass washer. If you reorder another beverage please ensure you put your face masks on and take your used glasses and empty beer bottles to the bar. Once you have your beverage and return to your seat, you can remove your mask. Both bartenders will be sanitizing the bar area and tables once they are vacated. Once cleaned and sanitized another person can use that area. If we follow these necessary safety rules, we can ensure the safety of everyone including our volunteer staff.

There will be no food provided other than bar chips and peanuts. We also ask that you do not share food with other members unless they enter with you.

When we receive the authority to open our hours of operation will be noon to 6 p.m. until we move to other permitted stages.

At this time the pool table, dartboards and Friday-night dinners and dancing are closed until we are able to move to another stage.

Nevada tickets and Chase the Ace will be available.

According to the news, it looks like we may be permitted to open in late July. (Update: the branch will be re-opening on July 17. To familiarize yourself with the re-opening rules, [please click here.](#))

Looking forward in seeing you all soon.

Ernie Hughes  
1st Vice President & Chairman Long Range Planning & Bar Officer

## Honours and Awards Report for July 2020

Since the last report, the Honours and Awards Committee has not met due to the COVID-19 gathering restrictions and closure of the branch. However, prior to closure, a number of service awards have

been approved and are pending formal presentation. Those presentations will be formally made once the branch opens for regular business. All awardees have been notified and are congratulated on their outstanding support and commitment to the branch.

Service awards are awarded to the following branch members:

**The Branch Service Medal** is awarded in recognition of significant service to the branch:

- **Patrick Makinson** has given much to our branch since transferring from Bells Corners. He has always made himself available for the colour party, supporting meetings and parades and currently cleans the branch every Sunday. He is also a strong supporter of the poppy campaign, where he regularly covers the late shift every day throughout the campaign each year.
- **Diane Craig** is recognized for her outstanding services as our bar manager since 2015. Her unwavering support and skilled management of bar operations has ensured the success of our bar operations. Diane has also been a strong supporter of weekly charity bingo. helping to ensure its success in raising over \$179,000 to date.
- **Gail Prevost** is recognized for her outstanding and unfailing support she has given to our branch. For years, she has been a Hospitality member and the lead for Friday-night dinners and special events when the chair is absent. She is also one of the regular volunteers who participates almost every Friday night and leads the work that needs to be done in the kitchen. She also provides an essential service to the branch by being one of the few cash counting members preparing the daily bar and hospitality floats.

**The Branch Certificate of Merit** is awarded in recognition of outstanding service to the branch:

- **Danny Desmarais** and **Monique Desmarais** have helped run a weekly “charity bingo” game on behalf of our branch for several years. Danny and Monique have participated since the start in May 2014. Due to their unfailing dedication to the task at hand, they have helped to raise in excess of \$179,000.00 for our branch to distribute to those in need.
- **Butch Whitlaw, Chris Bartraw** and **Patrick Makinson** have provided significant support in somewhat of an ignoble task, maintaining the cleanliness of our branch for the past several years. Without their generous support we would not be open.
- **Doug Brunton** has been doing Legion colour parties for nearly 40 years, including at other branches prior to the creation of branch 641, where he has served on the colour party for the last 13 years. He could always be relied upon to participate in the many ceremonies that the colour party is involved.
- **Nancy Rule** has been a staunch supporter of the branch for many years, volunteering at the bar, hospitality, and co-ordinating the semi-annual City of Ottawa’s “Cleaning the Capital.” Her unwavering support of the branch has helped to ensure our success.

**The Certificate of Appreciation** is awarded for special services provided to the branch:

- **Caroline Boily** and **Mike Harrietha** have helped run a weekly charity bingo game on behalf of our branch. They have participated for several years now and due to their dedication, they have, together with the team, raised in excess of \$179,000.00 for our branch to distribute to those in need.
- **Barry Holman** and **Janice Curling** form part of the branch cleaning team. Without their continued support the Branch would not be open and the hall a welcoming and clean place.

**Life Membership** is awarded for outstanding Legion Service for more than 10 years:

**Ed Schelenz** was recognized for his outstanding service and commitment to the branch for over 10 years.

### Previous Awards Presented

Previously announced and presented prior to the branch closure was the Meritorious Service Medal to Comrade **Gus Este** and **Ray Desjardins**, and a Life Membership to Comrade **Dave St Amand**.

As always, if you would like to recognize any members for their contributions, please submit their nomination to me at your convenience.

Bert Boehme  
Honours and Awards Committee Chair

## Housing Report – March-July 2020

As the emergency executive has previously talked about, we needed a plan to keep our bartenders safe, our guests safe and try to keep that open friendly feeling in the branch. (Update: the branch will be re-opening on July 17.)

Together with the bar officer, we have removed stools and chairs to allow for proper spacing to operate in. The bar itself has had two-foot plexiglass partitions installed in the front and back bars. Valour Hall will be set up with round tables with only three to four guests per table to maintain proper spacing.

I have installed a fold-away stainless-steel counter in the back to help with the long over-due BBQ dinners, whenever we can hold these again. Also, the hall way has been floored and plywood added to the lower walls for upkeep.

Tom Lamb  
Housing Chair



## Hospitality Report – March-July 2020

Friday, March 13, was our last Friday-night dinner because of the closure of the branch due to COVID-19. Since then, hospitality has been inactive. We had to postpone all our activities such as high tea, medieval night, garage sale, and all Friday-night dinners till further notice.

I don't really have an update for you on the reopening of hospitality's events; however, the good thing is that we have a plan in place for when we can open our doors.

We are thinking of everybody's well-being first, so hospitality won't be back for a while. One thing I can tell you is that the hospitality team is eager to go back to work and see all of you.

Angele Guy  
Entertainment/Hospitality Chair

## Cadets Report

At present we are financially supporting four cadet corps, with a request for support from a fifth, RC Army 2958 which we will support as needed.

May and June saw three virtual parades with the Legion Award of Excellence being given out. The fourth will take place in September. Early in June there was a change of command at 2332. I have connected with the new CO.

The corps will start up in September provided regulations allow.

Dave Sereda  
Cadets and Scouts

## Chaplain's Report

Since my last report, and throughout the pandemic, I have contacted a number of families of members who passed as well as ill members and members in need.

At the beginning of the quarantine, I co-ordinated telephone calling to members who did not have an email address listed in our members' database. This was undertaken by myself and our branch president, in order to ensure members knew that the Legion could help with groceries and other necessities. All were doing well, and appreciated being called. Members with email addresses were contacted via email by the branch president.

Thank you to Kathy Johnston for sending cards on behalf of the branch. Thank you also Louise Laflamme, Nim Moussa and Simon Logan for helping coordinate grocery deliveries.

Fr. Stephen Silverthorne  
Chaplain, Branch 641

## Poppy Chair Report

I am going with the assumption that we will have our normal poppy campaign (Friday October 30 to November 10 for a total of 12 days).

I have reached out to last year's volunteers and most have agreed to continue with the same duties for this campaign. I am looking for a volunteer to be the Store Captain for Walmart. If you can help out, give me a call.

Thank you to our president Stephane Guy for taking on the responsibilities for the Remembrance Day parade and Remembrance Dinner with the assistance of 3rd Vice Angele Guy. Thank you to all the volunteers who took on the duties of Store Captain: Dave Lee, Nancy Rule, Victor Chan, Caroline Boily and Angele Guy. Our trap lines will be looked after by Ross Stephen. Maureen Wheeler and her group of volunteers will look after the cash gathering and counting. Dave Cole will look after our schools, sound system and wreath delivery for the Parade. Our cadets will be looked after by our Cadet Officer David Sereda. Jim Duff will be around to help gather the cash and ensure deposits. Our PRO Debi Sereda will look after advertising all our efforts in the community. We are still in the process of confirming a couple of other volunteers and as you can see it takes a lot of comrades to get involved.

Here is a quote out of the Poppy Manual: "The annual Poppy Campaign is not an administrative chore to be handled by a few branch officers or the secretary. The campaign is the most important branch project of the year and must be conducted by a committee dedicated to this purpose."

We had great participation by our members volunteering last year and I hope the same for this year. I ask that if any of these volunteers ask for help leading up to and during the campaign please help out. When I am made aware of any changes to the campaign because of Covid 19, I will brief everyone involved.

Thank you all for volunteering.

Ed Schelenz, CD  
Poppy Chair

## Branch/Veterans Service Officer Report to July 2020

Since suspension of activities stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been no change in the number of veterans aided through the VSO since my March 2020 report. The cumulative number of persons aided through the Branch 641 VSO is currently at 4 persons for 2020. No name or pack drill.

With COVID 19 being a known health threat to our older population, as per the visitation intentions laid out in February 2020 by our Seniors' Officer, Comrade David St Amand, SO and VSO have not visited Veterans, their spouses, widows, or seniors. Visits to our local area seniors' homes/retirement homes will resume only after health care officials have identified general visits as being safe to restart and the individual homes have reopened their doors. Visits to long term health care homes are currently limited to only essential visitors with a single visitor per resident at any one time. All visitors are screened at entry and must wear a mask for source control during the visit. For information on prevention and management of COVID-19 in long-term health care and retirement homes, see the Public Health Care publication released in June 2020 at



<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/ltrh/2020/06/covid-19-prevention-management-ltrh.pdf?la=en>

Current information on the status of COVID-19 in long-term health care and retirement homes in Ontario may be found at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/how-ontario-is-responding-covid-19#section-1>

As an update to my June 2020 email sent as general distribution to our branch membership, the opening for Veterans' House, the Andy Carswell Building, has shifted from November 2020 to January 2021 timeframe. The Veteran's House is a community-style affordable housing initiative intended for veterans who are homeless or at risk of being homeless and will provide supportive housing services for 40 persons allowing Veterans on-site support to facilitate recovery from health, mental health and addiction related issues. The Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Command and District G are financial supporters for this veterans' housing effort. For more information, please see the Multifaith Housing Initiative website at: <https://www.multifaithhousing.ca/veterans-house.html> The Veterans Emergency Fund (VEF) provides temporary emergency financial relief to support Veterans, their families or their survivors whose well-being is at risk due to an urgent and unexpected situation. The emergency fund covers essentials, such as: food; clothing; rent or mortgage; medical care/expenses; and expenses to maintain safety and shelter. While the intent of the VEF has not changed due to COVID-19, VAC can approve amounts in excess of \$2,500.00 per applicant/family during the COVID-19 pandemic. Applicants are encouraged to first apply for other COVID-19 support funding before applying for the VEF as this will help determine need and VEF eligible expenses. Application for the VEF can be made to Veterans' Affairs on-line via the My VAC Account or paper application mailed in or dropped off at a VAC Office or CAF Transition Center.

For more information on the Veterans Emergency Fund, please see: <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/about-vac/legislation-policies/policies/document/2690> and /or <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/financial-support/emergency-funds/veterans-emergency-fund#05>

Comrade Victor W.S. Chan, LCdr(ret'd), CD, KStG  
Veterans' Service/Branch Service Officer

## Leadership and Development Officer's Report to July 2020

With the branch closure due to COVID-19, the Veterans' Bulletin Board has not been updated with modules from the Leadership Development page on the Legion members' portal. A one-manual-at-a-time process had been incorporated since May 2019, generally with one manual added at approximately four- to six-week intervals to cover the 10 modules made available under the training program. Since the RCL Dominion Convention held in Winnipeg MB August 2018, direction from Dominion Command has been for self-directed learning using the 10 "modules" in the Leadership self-learning program made available on the Legion Members' Portal. Executive members should be familiar with the modules to better understand their own roles and responsibilities.

Comrade Victor W.S. Chan, LCdr(ret'd), CD, KStG  
Leadership and Development Officer

# Sgt-At-Arms Report

I have received a handover of the branch colour party flags and the Sgt-At-Arms email address ([641rclsergeant@gmail.com](mailto:641rclsergeant@gmail.com)) from Gerry Woodard prior to his departure.

## Youth Education and Bursaries

The branch bursary program for the 2019-20 academic year is closed.

\*\*2020-21 program: Tentative upon opening of branch operations: Applications will be accepted in person at the branch or by mail from September 1, 2020 until the deadline of October 31, 2020. (Restrictions due to COVID-19 may impact our ability to support this year's process).

[Branch 641 Local Bursary Application form.](#)

## External Scholarship Resources

The Canadian Institute for Military and Veteran Health Research have extended the deadline for their Masters, Doctoral and Postgraduate scholarships and awards until August 31, 2020. More information is found at <https://cimvhr.ca/funding/scholarships/>

## Branch 641 Youth Education and Bursary Contact:

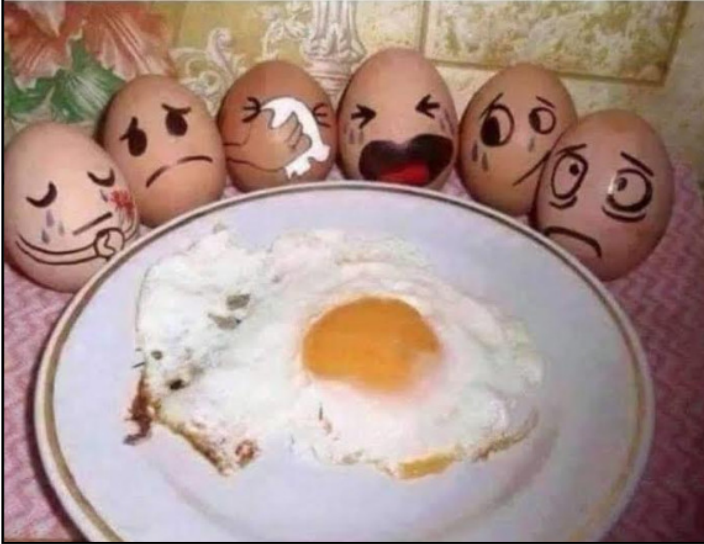
For help or clarification on any of the above info, contact Youth Education & Bursary Chairman [Lyle Brennan](#).

Lyle Brennan CD  
Sgt-At-Arms/Youth Education & Bursary



## A Little Bit of Humour

She died last Fry Day. Thank God she wasn't beaten. Dont worry, she went over easy. She's now on the sonny side. She's definitely in a better plate.



Want to hear something terrible? Paper. See? I told you it was tear-able 😏

### Barrhaven Legion 641 is on facebook

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

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 641 Barrhaven, 3A-3500 Fallowfield Road, Ottawa K2J 4A7  
Call us: 613-843-8691 | Email us: [rcl641@bellnet.ca](mailto:rcl641@bellnet.ca) | Visit us: [www.rcl641.ca](http://www.rcl641.ca) |  Barrhaven Legion 641  
This and all past issues of The Advance can be viewed at: <http://www.rcl641.ca/advance.html>



# 14th Annual Golf Tournament – Friday, August 14

As most of you know, this year's golf tournament has been cancelled because of COVID-19. But the good news is that Cedarhill Golf and Country Club has saved the date for us.

I have had discussions with the club to see if we could organize a fun golf day – no dinner and no prizes but we can finally see each other and they have a great patio for après golf!

We can get foursomes out starting around 10 or 11 a.m. and then every 10 minutes depending on the number of players. They have offered us the same green fee price, \$60.70, which includes a cart and tax. The course would prefer it if family members can share a cart versus having more than two carts per foursome.

**If you are interested, email me the names of your foursome by Sunday, July 26.** I will then set up the tee times with the golf course. Everyone will pay for their golf at the course.

Stay safe

Dave Sereda

Email: [davidmsereda@gmail.com](mailto:davidmsereda@gmail.com)

Cell: 613.218.7306

## Notes from the Editor

Debi Sereda

Who would ever had thought our lives would change so quickly and so profoundly as they did in March 2020? Many things came to a grinding halt as fear and uncertainty about the virus and our future took over our daily lives.

Now, some four months later, we are all trying to find our new normal – whether it's reconnecting with family and friends, or it's trying to balance the difficulties of managing work and schooling for children, or it's finding new processes and protocols to keep ourselves and our families safe. It's all new.

While many of us have been staying home and staying safe since March, our volunteers have been busy at the branch, keeping things clean and operational and planning for our eventual re-opening. When we finally receive the go-ahead to open our doors, our bartenders will be ready to welcome everyone with open arms and smiles. Their readiness is thanks to a number of people who have worked behind the scenes: Stephane Guy, Ernie Hughes, Tom Lamb, Diane Craig, Cathy Pearen, Nancy Rule, Jim Duff, Ed Schelenz, Angele Guy, Pam Hall and Dave St Amand. (If I've missed anyone please accept my apologies.) Thank you to each of these dedicated volunteers for their focus and hard work.

At the time of writing, we are thrilled to anticipate the re-opening of our branch on Friday, July 17.

Debi Sereda

[debi.foxhill@gmail.com](mailto:debi.foxhill@gmail.com)

