

The President's Message



Stéphane Guy

Comrades

We are marching head on to our elections on April 19 with a successful nomination meeting that was held during our General Meeting on March 15 when all positions were filled. However, our Zone Commander advised that even though our Policy and Procedure Manual identifies nominations were closed following our

nomination meeting, he will exercise his right to re-open the nominations on election day. This opens the door to multiple nominations per position which would trigger elections after all. I wish to remind all members that your participation in our election meeting is important and I hope that you will make every effort to attend and participate.

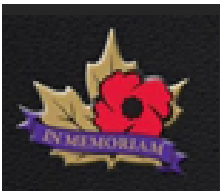
March had very successful events including the craft beer tasting afternoon and the St. Patrick's Day celebration, both of which filled our hall with very delighted participants. I would like to thank both organizers, David Sereda and Angele Guy, as well as their dedicated teams. It is so comforting to see that soon after the lifting of most restrictions, so many members came to enjoy refreshments and the camaraderie of friends.

Have a good day and stay safe.

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

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Last Post

We Will Remember Them



J. Kenneth Torrance – 1941-2021

We have just been advised of the recent passing of Professor Emeritus J. Kenneth Torrance, on December 10, 2021. Ken passed away peacefully in his sleep while at home with his wife Margaret at his side.

Please see Carleton University's Department of Geography and Environmental Studies (DGES) at Carleton University in memoriam news at: <https://carleton.ca/geography/2021/in-memoriam-ken-torrance/>

Our condolences to Margaret and Ken's family.



Rest in Peace

CPO2 George Angus Cormier (Ret.) – 1949-2022

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of a beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle and cherished friend, George Angus Cormier, on Friday, 11 March 2022. George passed peacefully in his sleep with his loving wife, Judith, holding him in her arms. Born in Sydney, Cape Breton on 29 November 1949, he is survived by his wife, Judith (Waye) Waye Cormier, daughter Nicole (Patricia) Cormier Humiston, and son John (Christina) Cormier. George and his wife Judith have been members of branch 641 for some years despite recently moving to Halifax. George is a navy Veteran.



Our condolences to Judith and George's family.

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Highlights of Reports from Your Executive Chairs for March*

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

Membership Report

Membership Total: 629 at the end of 2021 and currently we have 576 members

Transfer out 1
Transfer in 2
Reinstate 1
New 13

For conventions, we are entitled to seven delegates. This number is based on one delegate for the first 50 members, and then one delegate for each 100 members thereafter.

2021 memberships were valid until January 31, 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

Sergeant at Arms Report

On February 19, 2022, the 641 Flag Party represented by Terry Claessen and Dwayne Hordij and me, supported the Ottawa Senators game vs Boston.

On March 7, 2022, Gary Cunningham and I changed out the branch flags as they were getting tattered. I will need to replenish our stock of the three flags on hand and will co-ordinate accordingly.

One again – Thank you!

Lyle Brennan CD, Sgt-At-Arms

Bursaries/Youth Education Report

Contests

An update to the Poster and Literary Contest;

1. I have now received and delivered all but two of the prizes and plaques for the Zone Level competition from Mr. David Daley, the G5 Zone Youth Ed Chair.

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2. Unfortunately, two of the plaques had errors and I am working with Mr. Daley to get them corrected.
3. Questions may be directed to the Youth Ed chair.

Lyle Brennan CD
Youth Education & Bursary Chair

Entertainment/Hospitality Report

With the re-opening of the branch, here are some updates on what's new in Hospitality:

- Dancing allowed as of Friday, March 4, 2022
- Numbers of guests are going up, from 50 to 60 as of March 11, 2022
- Starting Friday, March 11, 2022 prices are going up to reflect the rising cost of groceries:
Member: \$25.00 and Non-Member: \$30.00.
- New events starting March 16, 2022 such a lunch at the branch

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

Angele Guy, Entertainment/Hospitality Chair

Grants and Assistance Report:

Since the last General Meeting, we have approved two donations:

1. \$500 to the Kidney Foundation, and
2. \$500 to the Bruyere Foundation. For the latter, the branch will receive two complimentary tickets to the Jesus Christ Superstar production (scheduled in mid-April) which will be raffled off within the branch as a fundraising opportunity for the building fund.

A general request from Camp Misquah, an Ottawa based charitable organization that provides summer experiences for persons with development disabilities at a camp site in Gracefield, Quebec was not supported.

Dave Voisey, Grants and Assistance Chair

Long Range Planning Report

The LRP committee held a meeting on Thursday, March 10, 2022. We discussed the following items:

1. Involving other partners in our acquisition of a new building
2. Money raised so far and what is still required. (\$400K/\$1Million)
3. More discussion with Phoenix on holding the land for us (down payment) and checking if there is any other land still available
4. Raising more money, options available. (Go fund me/Partners/Command)

Our President Stephane Guy, with the support of the Long Range Planning Committee, continues to lead our negotiations with Phoenix Homes in our effort to build a new clubhouse.

Before questions, discussion and a vote on this report I asked our President to provide an update as to where the project stands.

Ed Schelenz, CD, Long Range Planning Chair

Assistance with Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC)

The Royal Canadian Legion's Veterans Services Network works on behalf of Veterans to ensure they receive the benefits they deserve. We offer assistance and information on sometimes-complicated processes.

The Legion's Veterans Services Network consists of volunteer Branch Service Officers and [Professional Command Service Officers](#) who provide assistance at all stages of the disability claim process, free of charge, whether or not you are a Legion member. [More ...](#)

How We Kept Branch 641 Going During the Pandemic

Two years ago, when COVID-19 raised its ugly head, the branch executive discussed closing the branch, specifically how long would we be closed and how would we manage to pay our rent and utilities if the branch wasn't bringing in any money. Two years later, our president is happy to share that thanks to several government grants, we remain in a strong financial position as funds from these grants have helped us to cover our bills. "Whenever I heard that a grant was available, I went online and researched it to find out if we qualified or not," said Stephane Guy. "Some sites were not very user-friendly or the documents were not easy to complete, in one case because they required specific financial details that required the expertise of our treasurer. For one grant, the initial registration process took two months but thereafter, each subsequent month, the registration process took 15 minutes.

Here are some of the resources Stephane was able to tap into:

- Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance
- Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy
- Ontario Energy costs reimbursement
- Ontario Small Business Grant

We don't know if other branches of the Royal Canadian Legion were successful at accessing government grants, but the Barrhaven Legion Branch 641 is very lucky to have been able to tap into these grants which allowed us to keep our doors open and provide support to Veterans and their families and our community throughout the two years of pandemic.

Meet Some of Our Ordinary Members

This month, let's meet Lyle Brennan, our Sergeant at Arms, Youth Education & Bursary Chair and one of our bartenders – a man of many hats here at branch 641.

Major Lyle Brennan, CD joined 706 squadron as an Air cadet in 1991: he attended Basic, Junior Instructor Course, Survival Instructor Course, and was employed twice as a Staff Cadet, once at CFB Borden and then CFB Bagotville. He was promoted to Warrant Officer 1st Class, awarded the Lord Strathcona Medal, and graduated from the program in 1997. He worked as a Civilian Instructor with 706 until 2002 when he enrolled in the Canadian Armed Forces and held various positions within the squadron, and in 2007 he was appointed as the Commanding Officer of 706 and promoted to the rank of Captain. He led 706 to the Taylor Trophy "Most Proficient Squadron in the Ottawa Valley" for 2008-09 training year. In 2010, he was appointed as the Commanding Officer of 742 National Capital Squadron and promoted to the rank of Major. He led 742 to the Taylor Trophy which they retained throughout his command and beyond. In 2012, Major Brennan was awarded the Queens Diamond Jubilee Medal. In 2013, he was presented with the RCAF Commanders Coin and received a national recognition award from the Air Cadet League recognizing his outstanding leadership at 742. He was later appointed to a regional level position within RCSU(E) as the Zone Officer for the Ottawa Valley responsible for the 17 area units. In 2015 Major Brennan received his Canadian Forces Decoration (C.D.) for 12+ years of service with the CAF. In 2017, he was confirmed as the J3 Area Elemental Advisor (Air) for the Ottawa Valley (16 Air, Army and Sea cadet units). For six years, as both Zone Officer and J3 AEA, he has worked closely with the CO's and league partners, providing guidance and co-ordinating regional activities. In the fall of 2018, Major Brennan received the RCSU(E) CO's coin and a command commendation for his leadership and efforts. In May 2019, he took on role as the NCR Project Coordinator managing the national level tasks afforded to Eastern Region's Cadets in the Outaouais & Ottawa Valley. In July 2020, Major Brennan was appointed as Commanding Officer of 742 National Capital Squadron and honoured to have the opportunity to lead the squadron for another term.



In his civilian role and full-time capacity, Major Brennan is a Federal Public Servant employed in IM/IT at Shared Services Canada. From 2002-2012 he worked within the Information Management Group - ADM(IM) at the Department of National Defence holding positions at the National and Regional levels within various: Network, Telecom, Data Centre and IT Security roles. He received the Assistant Deputy Minister Information Management Group (ADM(IM)) coin for his leadership in support of the ADM's change gang initiative. In 2012, He was transferred to Shared Services

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Canada, during its creation and appointed to the position of Acting Director Defence Network Services responsible for the Network, Telecom, and IT Security Services SSC provided to National Defence globally. He was then appointed to Acting Director Detection Security Services within SSC. In 2014, he accepted a deployment to Administrative Tribunals Support Service of Canada where he led the establishment of the department's IT Security Program. In 2017, he returned to the Department of National Defence within the IT Engineering Group and led the Program Management Office for Communication, Computers, Command and Control, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance. (C4ISR). In 2018, he accepted an opportunity at Shared Services Canada and was promoted to his current position as Director Enterprise Facilities Operations leading the end-to-end facilities management of the Government of Canada's Enterprise Data Centres.



Major Brennan volunteers at the ranch as a bartender, Youth Education & Bursary Chair and Sergeant at Arms. He lives in the south end of Ottawa with his wife Melanie and two children Charlie and Claire.



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Craft Beer Tasting

Thanks to everyone who joined us on Saturday, March 6 for the craft beer tasting which was organized by Dave Sereda. We had a packed house that sampled 34 local craft beers and thanks to those who completed the 61 surveys, we have an outright winner.

First place: Whitewater Farmers Daughter

Second place: Big Rig Bongo, Calabogie Front Porch, Whitewater Legion Lager

Third Place: ABC Cream Ale, Overflow Landlocked EPA, Vimy Cream Ale, Whipsnapper Inukshuk

Many thanks to all the breweries that donated beers: ABC, Beyond the Pale, Big Rig, Calabogie, Dominion, Flying Monkey, Mill Street, Overflow, Vimy, Whitewater, Whipsnapper and 1000 Islands. It was a fun afternoon and we had lots of positive feedback on the event. We are hoping to add some new beers to the bar so be sure to ask what's available. Thanks to David Sereda for organizing this event and thanks also to his volunteers who served the samples: Michelle Guitard, Dwayne Hordij, Terry Claessen and Debi Sereda.

Through donations, this event raised \$800 for the branch. As a result of the beer tasting, Whitewater Farmers Daughter is now available on tap at the bar!



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Let's Meet the Hospitality Team

Now that our dinners and special events are ramping up again at Branch 641 and life is slowly, ever so slowly, returning to normal, our Hospitality team is hard at work, planning some fun and tasty things for our members and guests.

So, who's behind the ladies who wear the red aprons on Friday nights and who plan our special events? Let me introduce you to the members of our Hospitality team.

At the helm, is Angele Guy, 3rd Vice President and Entertainment/Hospitality Chair. Angele has been a member of branch 641 since 2014 and has chaired the Hospitality committee since November 2018. In addition to her volunteerism with this group, Angele was our scrapbooker for more than two years, she is a member of our Colour Party and she also organizes a [Virtual Garage Sale](#) (an online auction) to raise money for the branch.

Angele is a busy lady who leads a great bunch of people on the Hospitality team, all of whom who work hard to provide the fun for our branch: Alice Boehme, Ann Greenfield, Ann Cloutier, Arlene Harrold, Ashley Sauvé-Craig, Charlotte Cox, Denise Marshall, Gail Prevost, Joanne Benedict, Joyce Barr, Kathy Torunski, Ken James, Marie Smith, Mary Beth Nolan, Paulette O'Connor, Phil O'Connor, Sandy Maveety, Sarah Copland, Sonia Martin, Tina Stone, and Pauline Krueger.

If you would like to be a part of this fun and dedicated team, please contact Angele Guy at 613-797-7029 or rcl641entertainment_hospitality@hotmail.com.



Pictured left: Sandy Maveety, Charlotte Cox, Marie Smith, Phil O'Connor, Paulette O'Connor, Joyce Barr, Angele Guy; Front Row: Alice Boehme

Cheque Presentation

At the February 2022 Executive Meeting, a cheque in the amount of \$2,000 was presented to the [Gallant Knights Charity Sports Association](#). There's an interesting and "challenging" background story to this cheque presentation.

Founded in 2019, the Gallant Knights Charity Sports Association (NFP) has donated just over \$40,000 worth of adaptive sports equipment to well deserving Veterans in Ontario and across Canada. The mission of the Gallant Knights "is to enhance the morale and wellbeing of injured and ill Veterans by providing financial assistance supporting their return to sporting or recreational activities." Cory Moore is the Founding Director of the Gallant Knights.

"Our fundraising campaign kicked off with a bang in January 2022 thanks to President Stéphane Guy who, on behalf of its executive and members, made a donation from lottery funds of \$2,000 towards our goal," said Moore.

"Unexpectedly, President Guy then issued a challenge to other branches to "meet or beat" their donation. "Challenge accepted!" said a voice and with that, 1st Vice-President Bob MacNichol and President Shawn Taillon subsequently made a lottery funds donation of \$2,500 on behalf of the executive and members of Branch 593 Bells Corners.

"Consequently, we are now one-third of the way towards making our funding goal a reality."

Stéphane has extended the challenge to the Orleans Legion although nothing has been picked up as of the time of writing.

Pictured left to right are Manon Lacasse, Director with the Gallant Knights Charity Sports Association (NFP), president Stéphane Guy and Maj (Ret'd) GRC Moore, LL.B., CD., Founding Director of the Gallant Knights Charity Sports Association (NFP).



Branch 641 Executive Team

Position	Chair	Position	Chair
President	Stephane 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
Chairperson	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



“Supports RCL Branch 641 Barrhaven and our Veterans”

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St Patrick's Day Fun at Branch 641

It was great to see members returning to the branch after a two-year hiatus. Valour Hall was hopping on March 17 and from the smiles on people's faces, everyone was happy to be back.



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 call Kathy directly with all your requests for dinner reservations.

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Presentation of Branch Exceptional Service Award

On Saturday March 19, the 2022 Branch 641 Exceptional Service Award was presented to Bill Craig. Diane, his wife, accepted the award from president Stephane Guy on behalf of her late husband. Diane had tears in her eyes as she accepted the plaque. "These are tears of pride," she said.

For many years, Bill volunteered in numerous capacities at the branch. The presentation was made during the Celebration of Life for Bill which was held at the branch.

Bill may be gone, but he will never be forgotten. RIP.



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

These Are the Things I Miss

By Dave St Amand

Branch 641 is a progressive branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. We are fortunate to have hard-working members who are doing their best to provide a comfortable and welcoming branch for our members and guests. As we strive to make improvements and create new memories, it can be fun to look back and enjoy the times that are easily forgotten, but never really gone. For example. I miss:

- The fun crowd that gathered in the lounge every Friday evening after a hard day at work. After a drink or two and many laughs, groups would head off to an eating establishment somewhere in Barrhaven.
- I also miss the Friday night scramble to get your "Catch the Queen of Hearts" ticket. Draws took place every Friday night and the branch was packed with hopeful members.
- The unique sound of Kathy Johnston's laugh. Kathy called me weekly to discuss membership issues, and other stuff. Fran would answer the phone and say "you're wanted on the phone – it's your girlfriend. Executive and General meetings are not the same without her.
- I miss Gordie Ley. He was a lifetime member with a lifetime of stories to tell. A wonderful musician, friend to everyone and a pleasure to chat with as he kept his barstool warm. Gordie was a mentor to me and I will always be grateful for the advice and guidance he provided when I became Poppy Chair.
- I miss the dog-eat-dog games of "chase the ace."
- Victor Chan enjoyed the Wednesday night dart league. He always arrived early and took a spot at the bar because "warming up was for amateurs." He then looked for an opportunity to start a conversation with the bartender and anyone else within earshot. He was such a gentle man, a good friend and he was the very best Veteran Services Officer we ever had.
- I miss Ken Ross too. Ken dropped in on dart nights. Some days he played, others he did not, but he always dropped off a tray of cheese and pepperoni on the bar. Ken was a fine gentleman that left us way too soon.
- I miss playing pool with my buddy Geoff Kragtwyk. Geoff had a unique sense of humour to put it mildly. Without Geoff, the desire to pick up the pool cue again just isn't there. We were a good team and others in the Zone referred to us as those "F'n guys from Barrhaven." At a Zone tournament in Bells Corners, every time Geoff went for a smoke, the guys at the bar bought him a shot of tequila. Their plan worked amazingly well, and before long I was playing against three opponents.
- Our branch has enjoyed some interesting individuals who always made a trip to the branch an enjoyable experience: Mark Vallillee, Stu Blais, Noey Yantha, Ray and Carolyn Desjardins, Jerry Jodoin, Bev Schlivert, Fran Jodoin, Ray St Jacques, Bill Craig and many more.
- I miss the times when Ernie would hold court on his favourite barstool near the opening to the bar. There would be Tom, Patrick, Gus, and Gordie, solving all the world's problems and arguing over whose turn it was to buy the next round.
- I miss watching John and Eddie taking on all challengers at the pool table.
- I miss \$3 beer.

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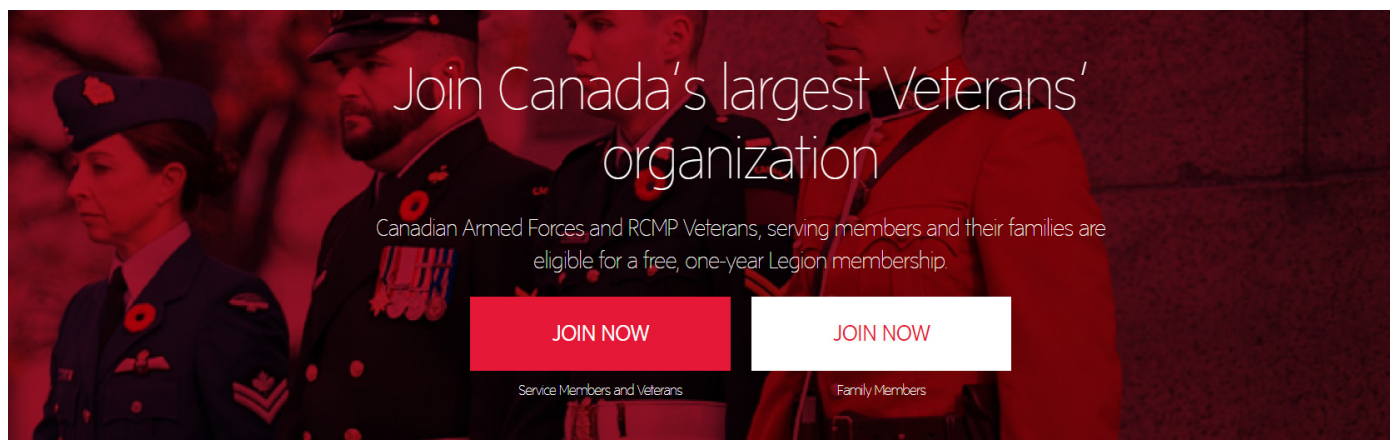
Free Membership in the Royal Canadian Legion

The Legion offers a one-year free membership to serving/retired CAF/RCMP. You must apply online at legion.ca/welcome There is also a free one-year membership for their dependants who are 18 and older. Again, you must apply online at legion.ca/welcome There is another program for graduating cadets to get a free membership.

This offer is only for people who have **never been a member of the Legion**.

For still serving or retired CAF or RCMP members who have not yet joined the Legion

For spouses and children of serving or retired CAF or RCMP Veterans who have not yet joined the Legion



The Poppy Store

Spring into spring with some of the seasonal gifts available at the [Poppy Store](http://legion.ca/poppy).



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Barrhaven Legion 16th Annual Golf Tournament

Friday, August 12, 2022

Putting Contest at 11 a.m. | Shot-gun start at 12:30 p.m.

**Golf at Cedarhill Golf Club – BBQ Steak Dinner at the
Barrhaven Legion**

RCL Members \$90*

Non-members \$100*

Registration opens Friday, April 8

Sign-up early to guarantee your spot!

***includes golf, carts, dinner and prizes**

Notes from the Editor

Debi Sereda



I want to thank Stephane Guy for all his work to secure subsidies and grants for the branch, which helped keep us financially solid throughout the pandemic. In addition, he and the Long Range Planning Committee have worked tirelessly to help us raise \$400,000 through the sale of condos through Phoenix Homes. They still have lots of work to do to see this project through to its conclusion and hopefully raise more money which will help us get closer to owning our own clubhouse.

Our Friday night dinners and our March 17 St Patrick's Day party were huge successes and it was great to see so many people back at the branch, enjoying friendship and music in Valour Hall. Thanks to the Hospitality team for their hard work to make this happen.

If you haven't volunteered at our branch, get involved. It's fun and you are supporting an important organization

Debi Sereda

debi.foxhill@gmail.com

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