



The Advance

Volume 7
2011—2012
Issue # 11

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION - BARRHAVEN BRANCH 641

April 2012
Edition

Editor: Jon F. Klaus

Branch Website - <http://www.rcl641.ca>

The President's Corner



Comrades All:

You know full well that the days of winter are a thing of the past once we get deep into the month of April. With it comes rebirth - renewal and the cleansing rains of springtime. The reality of winter is in the past and almost forgotten.

In the Royal Canadian Legion it's time for our AGM (Annual General Meeting) and Elections.

We are very lucky in Branch 641 that we have members who are willing to take on leadership roles. A few are also willing to challenge each other, in friendly competition, for some of the positions and jobs on the Branch Executive Committee.

Probably a majority of the branches in our Zone are elected by the process of acclamation, where those serving as the incumbents are left unchallenged but continue

to remain in office year-after-year. In fact, in some branches, it's

not unusual for a president or secretary to have served for over a dozen consecutive years, and in some cases to have held a position on multiple occasions, just because nobody cared enough to participate.

We are very fortunate in the Barrhaven Branch to have held elections for several positions over the past six years. This year we had an election for 2nd Vice President, Sergeant-At-Arms and there were nine nominees for the six positions of Elected Branch members. The vote results are posted on this page.

We are all grateful that 83 members cared enough to show up at our AGM, and voted for those who sought office in our great Barrhaven Branch 641.



C.W. (Gus) Este

We wish the winners well in all their endeavours, also we offer the new Executive Committee our sincere congratulations!

Our third Vice President has joined with me to ensure that the new, and some old officers, will have the opportunity to undergo some form of orientation, prior to taking their seats on the Executive Committee.

Two seminars have been prepared under the aegis of Dave St Amand, Branch chairman of the Committee for Training and Occupational Development.

The first seminar will be held in the Clubhouse on Sat. May 5th, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., for Branch officers, elected members and special appointees. The second seminar will

be for committee chairmen, committee members and volunteers. A light lunch will be provided at both seminars.

Hopefully, these will be precursors for us to provide some type of short sessions, to at least familiarize our new members with what the RCL and the Barrhaven Branch 641 are all about. Also, perhaps even more importantly, what is to be expected from them as brand new members of our organization.

There are several folks in our Branch with trainer expertise and experience. Let's get them onboard too!

Teamwork work gets the job done

Gus

C.W (Gus) Este, CD KStG
President 2011-2012

BARRHAVEN BRANCH 641 LIST OF OFFICERS & ELECTED EXECUTIVE MEMBERS 2012 - 2013

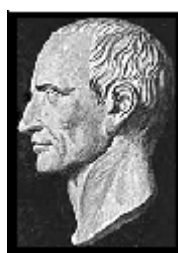
Branch Officers:

President - Ed Schelenz
IP President - C.W. (Gus) Este
1st V.P. - David Sereda
2nd V.P. - Dave St Amand
3rd V.P. - Sheila Sielatycki
Secretary - Nil (TBA)
Treasurer - Jim Duff
Sgt-At-Arms - Ross Stephen

Executive Members (six):

Comrade Tom Lamb
Comrade John Sielatycki
Comrade Kathy Blomquist
Comrade John O'Halloran
Comrade Danny Desmarais
Comrade David Cole

APRIL 'Election' Edition





Reflections by Chaplain Ray Desjardins

All Change – Great Expectations!

It's that time of the year again—our annual General Meeting, the Election and swearing-in of a new Executive. This is the most important event we take part in annually. Yet the best we seem to be able to do to speak about potential candidates is “Bar Talk” and how much more difficult one position is compared to another. Let's look at the real fact – no one is trained to the standard that's required – all are learners – some have experience, but that in no way makes them the best choice.

We get hung up on the importance or significance of the job instead of judging and proposing candidates who are dedicated, loyal and willing to put themselves out to compete for the group of Comrades that will lead and direct the Branch for the next year.

It's just not a skill mix, it's the need to put forward the best slate of candidates we can possibly find. They just don't do “individual jobs”, they run a Branch; therefore must possess a fullness of life skills and willingness to step up and do what needs to be done. Sometimes their decisions will be popular, or what some of us want, but **we** must be willing to allow them to fulfill their tasks and set our personal bias or positions aside for the good of the Branch. People who are willing to lead are rare! Why? Because it is very challenging and time consuming, it requires total

dedication and a year of full commitment .

Every single position on the Executive of any Branch is important and should be challenged for during our election process. Sitting back and just allowing those who are willing to step forward have the job, is not good enough and not healthy for any Branch (just look around Zone G-5.) We must be passionate about the choice of our Executive Members and participate in the process of growing and developing numerous members in various aspects of how a Branch is run. Laziness and indifference in our Election process does not bode well for any Branch, especially one in a growth mode with a “dream” to fulfill. So please always (year round) be or get engaged in seeking out our future leaders.

And please, please honour those who step forward and are elected to our new Executive. They will need your support, understanding and maybe even your advice. We must be there for them individually and collectively, and do what is right for all of the Membership in the true meaning of Comradeship.

In comradeship! *Ray*



Editor's Comment

The Election Edition coincides with the GM of (April 17) and the changeover of command from previous to present president. It is focused on Reflections and “lessons learned” and after last month's issue, there are many we have benchmarked, stored and now applied but that is reflective of an organization, it's executive members and volunteers that can do just that and move on. Change is just part of the landscape.

Elections always bring out questions as to why people want to run for election and while others run away from election to office. The Executive in volunteer organizations such as the Royal Canadian Legion branches have to give a lot of their energy, time and experience application - unpaid.

Regardless of the outcome, the day after an election is a time for reflection, appreciation and thanks to those that came and contributed before and commitment for those that wear the new shoes.

Sustainability for our mission / thrust is interesting as we had reached out to other “partners” and have had commitments for their views, however, we cannot be seen as always initiating the contact and reminders for input.

Member Profile—Page 10

This month's **profile** of our members is that of Ray Desjardins—our Chaplain. Next month will, hopefully, be past President Ernie Hughes.

New Contributors.

In the coming months, the new Chief of the Ottawa Police Service, Charles Bordeleau, will be sharing his thoughts of his new assignment with us. Additionally, various senior officers from the RCMP will also be sharing their perspectives on a variety of topics of their own choice.

Stamp of the Month (Learning):

Title: Royal Military College of Canada, 1876 - 2001

Date of Issue. June 1, 2001.





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AGM/Election Meeting - 2012



Officers front row seated (L to R) Sheila Sielatycki 3VP, Dave St Amand 2VP, Gus Este IPP, Ed Schelenz President, Dave Sereda 1VP Jim Duff Treasurer. *Back row Elected members* (L to R) Dave Cole, Kathy Blomquist, Elections Chairman Ron Currie, Danny Desmarais, John O'Halloran. Tom Lamb & Sgt-At-Arms Ross Stephen (Photos D Sereda)



The first five presidents of Branch 641 (L to R)
Ray Desjardins, Gord Ley, Ernie Hughes, Gus Este & Ed Schelenz

SIGN UP FOR

CLEAN THE CAPITAL

SATURDAY 12 MAY 2012, 10 AM

(Back-up Sunday 13 May)



On Saturday, 12 May 10 a.m. we will be gathering at the Legion for our spring-clean up of our section of Fallowfield Rd. If you are interested in participating, please sign up at the Legion - or just show up.

For those who are not aware, we have officially adopted the stretch of Fallowfield Rd between Woodroffe and Greenbank. We have agreed to clean it for the next five years in the spring and fall. The sign on the right can be seen on the telephone pole on the right-hand side of Fallowfield when turning on to Fallowfield from Greenbank.

(Submitted by Ed Schelenz, 1VP)



Branch humour in hindsight

The British Military writes EPRs which are officer fitness reports.

The form used for Royal Navy and Marines fitness reports is the S206. The following are actual excerpts taken from people's "206s"....

- When he joined my ship, this Officer was something of a granny; since then he has aged considerably.
 - Since my last report he has reached rock bottom, and has started to dig.
 - She sets low personal standards and then consistently fails to achieve them.
 - He has the wisdom of youth, and the energy of old age.
 - This Officer should go far - and the sooner he starts, the better.
 - In my opinion this pilot should not be authorized to fly below 250 feet.
 - This man is depriving a village somewhere of an idiot.
 - The only ship I would recommend this man for is citizenship.
 - Works well when under constant supervision and cornered like a rat in a trap.
 - This young lady has delusions of adequacy.
- Source: "Jackspeak: The Pusser's Rum Guide to Royal Navy Slang" by Rick Jolly, 1989.*

• His men would follow him anywhere, but only out of curiosity.

• I would not breed from this Officer.

• This Officer is really not so much of a has-been, but more of a definitely won't-be.

• When she opens her mouth, it seems that this is only to change whichever foot was previously in there.

• He has carried out each and every one of his duties to his entire satisfaction.

• He would be out of his depth in a car park puddle.

• Technically sound, but socially impossible.

• This Officer reminds me very much of a gyroscope - always spinning around at a frantic pace, but not really going anywhere.



FROM THE SPORTS DESK



BRANCH 641 ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

It is not too early to be thinking about golf season. The planning has already started for our sixth annual Barrhaven Branch 641 Golf tournament.



This year it will be Friday, August 17, at Cedarhill Golf & Country Club, so keep your eyes peeled for the signup sheets in late April.

If anybody wishes details about this event they can contact me directly.

davidsereda@rogers.com



EUCHRE

Play continues all summer long in the Clubhouse. Start time 7:00 p.m.

You're all welcome!

District competitions:
The complete schedule is on display in the branch.

Mixed Darts Almonte
May 12, 2012

Golf Orleans
August 11, 2012

Horseshoes Hawksbury
June 16, 2012

Golf Barrhaven
June 11, 2012



**Royal Canadian Legion
Branch 641 Barrhaven**

Mothers' Day Breakfast

Sunday, May 13, 2012

Food served from 8:30 to 11 a.m.

\$8 adults and \$4 children 10 and under

Menu:

*Champagne and orange juice,
bacon, sausage, scrambled eggs, home fries,
pancakes, toast, coffee/tea*

*Buy your tickets at the Branch by
5 p.m. on Friday, May 11.*

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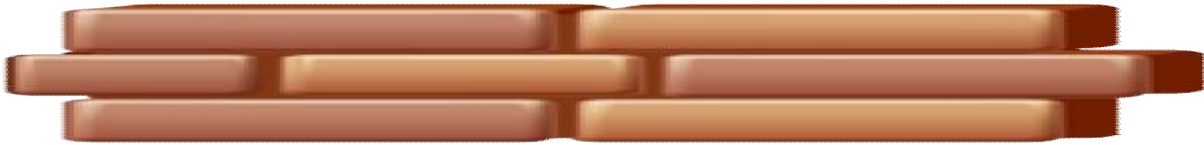
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Wall of Honour Fundraiser

In recognition to our Comrades, family, friends support and the Businesses who have ALL financially supported the growth of our Branch over the years.

Branch 641 is privileged to recognize your support by adding your name to our Wall of Honour.

The original supporters have been ``grandfathered `` to the Brick Wall of Honour.

There are several ways and levels of contributions that can be made.

| PERSONAL DONATION | | BUSINESS DONATION | |
|-------------------|---|-------------------|---|
| COLOUR OF PLAQUE | DONATION AMOUNT | COLOUR OF PLAQUE | DONATION AMOUNT |
| GOLD | \$3,000 and over | GOLD | \$5,000 to \$10,000. |
| SILVER | \$1,200 to \$2,500. Or \$500. for five years. (The Million Dollar Club) | SILVER | \$2,500 to \$5,000. Or \$500. for five years. (The Million Dollar Club) |
| COPPER | \$500. to \$1,000. | COPPER | \$1,000 to \$2,400. |

Plaques can be in the name requested to be recognized, plus can have a logo if wanted.

Once a month we will install new plaques as they are needed.

Donation can be made to the Branch in an envelope with you name printed on the outside with a notation
WALL of HONOUR.

Our treasurer will deposit the money and register the amount and name to be recognized, so we can have a plaque made.

The Million Dollar Club: (separate form to be with payment)
(Personal)

- ^a Will start at the Copper level and changed to silver after three years.
A Million Dollar Club logo can be added to plaque if wanted.
(Business).
- ^a Will start at the Copper level and changed to silver after five years.
A Million Dollar Club logo can be added to plaque if wanted

Submitted by Tom Lamb



BFC Membership Registration

Identification (Please Print)

Corporate Membership _____

Individual Membership or Corporate Membership voting member:

Last name _____ First name _____

Mailing address _____

City _____ Province _____

Postal code _____ E-mail _____

Home Phone () _____ - _____ Work Phone () _____ - _____ ()

____ Become a BFC Friend. I am interested in receiving the BFC newsletters and event updates.

____ I am interested in helping the BFC in the following capacity:

Volunteer:

- I am interested in knowing more about volunteer opportunities with BFC
- I am interested in knowing more about Board of Director positions with BFC

Donate:

I would like to make a donation of:
____ \$20 ____ \$40 ____ \$50 ____ \$100

An income tax receipt will be issued for donations of \$20 or more.
Please make the cheque out to 'Barrhaven Food Cupboard' and mail to the address below.
Please provide name and mailing address, if the information is not already pre-printed on the cheque.

An orientation session and appropriate training will be offered to all volunteers
Volunteers will be required to sign a waiver prior to providing any operational services to the BFC.
The information collected on behalf of the Barrhaven Food Cupboard will be used and retained by the Board of Directors and volunteers for the express purpose of operating the Barrhaven Food Cupboard.

By signing this form you consent to your information being used and retained by Barrhaven Food Cupboard under our Privacy Policy. If you wish to view BFC's Privacy Policy visit our Website at http://www.barrhavenunited.org/food_cupboard.htm

Please return the completed form **no later than March 30, 2012 by mail or email** to:

Barrhaven Food Cupboard
c/o Barrhaven United Church
3013 Jockvale Rd
Ottawa, K2J 4E4
Ottawa, Ontario K2J 4H8 email : barrhavenfoodcupboard@live.ca

Signature: _____

Date: _____



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Community-Inter-Branch/Association/Club activities

Nepean Chamber of Commerce Eighth Annual Charity Breakfast 2012



Pictured above are some of the highlights of the 8th annual Nepean Chamber of Commerce Charitable Breakfast.

Submitted by George Kennedy

In May, 2011, Barrhaven Branch 641 first became a Presenting Partner in the Annual Community Charitable Breakfast. Presenting Partners are the Nepean Chamber Commerce, Branch 641 RCL, Barrhaven Lions Club and the South Nepean Rotary Club.

At the eighth Annual Breakfast on of March 20, of this year, some 125 community and business leaders were in attendance.

President Gus Este delivered a short concise presentation on Branch activities. Also attending were Comrades David Rattray and Rod Vanier representing Rotary. Several of the Lions members in attendance were also Branch 641 members.

Guest Speaker Max Keeping delivered an impressive presentation and Mayor Jim Watson also gave an interesting speech.

This year's beneficiaries were the Barrhaven Food Cupboard and Bells Corners Family Services Association of Churches (FAMSAC), which received \$1800.00 each.



Comrades in Arms at Barrhaven Branch 641

Ray Desjardins was born and raised in Ottawa. He graduated from Ottawa Technical High School and joined the Public Service (Finance Department) in 1959. In 1964, he transferred to the Department of Trade & Commerce (Canadian Government Travel Bureau). He served at Canadian Consulates General in New York, Chicago, Buffalo and Boston in the U.S.A. and the High Commission in London, England over a period of 13 ½ years of Foreign Service and in a number of Director positions while in Ottawa in Public Relations and Promotion, Planning, Program Development and Marketing. He was promoted several times and ended his Public Service career after 35 years in a Senior Executive Position (EX) in Industry Canada (Tourism Canada) in Jan., 1995. During his career, he continued his formal studies and received many diplomas and certificates in Office & Business Management, Tourism and Marketing Management and an Associate in Business Degree (Major-Business Management) from institutions in Canada, the U.S.A. and Switzerland.

Prior to his Foreign Service, Ray served for eight years in the Canadian Army (Militia) – The Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa (MG) achieving the rank of Lieutenant (Infantry). His other interests include coin collecting and he has been a Director and Vice-President of the Ontario Numismatic Association and a Director and Vice-President of the Royal Canadian Numismatic Association. He is a writer of articles, editor, publisher of guidebooks and speaker on the subject of Canadian Municipal Trade Tokens. He was also the Vice President & Secretary/Treasurer of Eligi Consultants Inc., a numismatic consultancy which he just closed up on Nov. 30, 2011. He is a member of Council at his church and was a Director, Secretary and Loan Committee member from 1994 to 2004 of the Church Extension Investor Fund of the North American Baptist Conference. This Fund managed approximately \$85 million in investments while he was a member of both the Canadian and International Board and handled a portfolio's of loans of approximately \$127 million to various churches.

Ray has been President and is currently a Director on the Board of the Ottawa Support Group of the United Ostomy Association of Canada. He is a trained hospital visitor and counsels new and prospective ostomates. He is a 15 year colo-rectal cancer survivor and has written his story for the book – *Death Can Wait* – stories from cancer survivors (all proceeds go to the Ottawa Regional Cancer Center). He has been a member of the Royal Canadian Legion since 1998. He has served in various executive positions at Branch level (including Branch President) and at Zone G-5 (Ottawa Area) level as Chairman Leadership and Planning and Veterans Services. He was the President of Branch 593 Bells Corners during its 40th Anniversary year in 2001 and originator and Founding President of Branch 641 – Barrhaven. He currently serves as the Chaplain and Chair of the Long Term Planning Committee. He was a member and Secretary of David Pratt MP's Nepean-Carleton Veterans' Advisory Committee and currently serves on MP Pierre Polievre Nepean Carleton Veteran Committee.

Ray has served on many other Boards and Committees including being President of the UK Chapter of the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada, the South Nepean Youth Initiative, and the West Barrhaven Community Association. Since 2007 when he was elected to the Board of The Perley Rideau Veterans Health Centre Foundation he has served as a Member of all Foundation Committees. He was elected Vice Chair of the Foundation in May 2008 and has been Chairman of the Board since 2010.

During his lifetime, he has received many acknowledgements for his humanitarian and volunteer work. These have been awarded for his professionalism, integrity and outstanding contribution to his community, province, and country, including the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002, and most recently a Knight of the Order of St. George (KStG).

Ray is a widower and was married to the former Carolyn Anne Himes for over 49 years. He has two children – Michelle and Steven, both married, and twin grandchildren – Alex and Julie.





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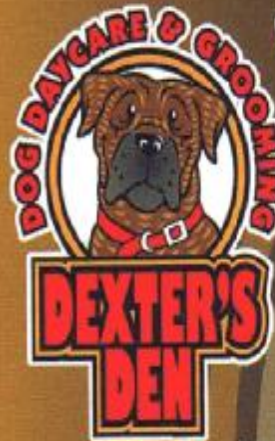
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The Legion is...

*A private club where old soldiers drink beer and tell war stories!
Not quite...*



The Royal Canadian Legion is well known as Canada's foremost veterans' support association. That it is also one of the country's largest community service organizations with programs touching the lives of hundreds of thousands of ordinary citizens every year, is known to far fewer Canadians. Because of its grass roots origins, the Legion has always responded to the needs of communities. Since 1926, members have been quietly working to improve the quality of life for all Canadians, particularly veterans, seniors and youth. Here are some of the programs:

Veterans' and Seniors' Services

Support to veterans, ex-service members and their families, health care, housing, social activities,

Youth Activities

Support to cadet corps, Scouts Canada, sports organizations, and financial assistance in the form of scholarships and bursaries;

Remembrance Maintaining the tradition of "remembrance" through the annual Remembrance - Poppy campaign, conducting the "Two Minute Wave of Silence," the establishment of "The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier," organizing and conducting national, regional and local Remembrance Day ceremonies, youth poster and essay contests, school programs, and pilgrimages to historic war-time locations;

It is estimated that the Legion's annual economic impact on communities exceeds \$348 million. Membership was originally restricted to those who had served in Canada's Armed Forces and Merchant Navy. The Royal Canadian Legion is proud of its military heritage and still maintains close ties with the Armed Forces today; however, over the years, categories of membership have evolved to include other members of the community.

Financial and volunteer assistance to a wide range of charities.

The Legion pays \$6.8 million in property taxes annually.

Employs 2,150 full time and 3,400 part time employees.

Annually spends \$2 million on direct support to needy veterans and contributes 852,000 hours of volunteer time assisting veterans, ex service members and their families.

Over 150 Legion branches have housing projects committed to providing acceptable and affordable housing for seniors and veterans—valued at \$195 million.

Spends \$2 million on direct support to seniors and contributes over 447,000 hours of volunteer time assisting senior citizens on an annual basis.

Spends \$5.1 million a year on direct support to youth activities and contributes 440,000 hours in volunteer time with young Canadians.

Donates more than \$11.1 million to local charities and 808,000 hours annually to charitable agencies.



Join us and make a difference! Call the Barrhaven Branch 641 at: 613-843-9691

We are the Guardians of Remembrance