



# The Advance

Volume 7  
2011 -2012  
Issue # 8

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION - BARRHAVEN BRANCH 641

January 2012  
Happy New  
Years Edition

Editor: Jon F. Klaus

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

## The President's Corner



### Comrades All:

We have just entered the new year 2012. My sincere congratulations go out to all of you for a wonderful calendar year 2011. You have without a doubt upheld our purposes that is, to assist our veterans, their dependants, as well serving members of the Canadian Forces. You also kept the faith through Remembrance and assisting those in our community that need our help. Well done my Comrades!

Elsewhere in this publication you will find photos of our revelry, both at the wonderful dinner party we held in the Clubhouse on New Year's Eve and the full-house President's Levée on New Year's Day. They likely will be posted on our website as well.

My congratulations to the Special Events Committee, the bar managers and bartenders, the Entertainment Committee - especially to Pam & Doug for arranging such a good Disk Jockey in "Quality Entertainment." He had the dance floor filled from the moment dinner was over until the very wee - wee hours in the morning. Of course we also thank the members and their guests for attending.

It came to my attention from some of our guests that had visited other Legion Branch Levées, that we certainly outdid them all. We had great moose-milk, also plenty of scrumptious food, plus the Pam and Doug Band that kept us entertained all day.

When this month is over we will be on a steep downhill slope with just only a mere four more short months left.



C. W. (Gus) Este

We will not however, be able to rest on our laurels. There is still much work to be done as we strive to do good work in our community. Our Veterans Service Officer, Ed Schelenz and the Branch Seniors Chairman John Sielatycki have been busy at the local seniors' residences and have helped out at the Perley-Rideau Veterans Health Care Centre. While there before Christmas, they assisted in the Initiation Ceremony that brought Comrade William Cooper, a WWII Vet. into Branch 641.

They will be attending our bar night there later on during the month. These two Legionnaires do a lot of work quietly behind the scene and would welcome anyone that would like to join them during their visits.

## RCL BR 641 New Years Edition



Comrade Jon Klaus has brought some great new ideas to the **ADVANCE** and he has caught on quickly to the techniques of putting together an interesting and informative newsletter.

By the time you will be reading this January issue. It will be old news that our friend and supporter, Chief of the Ottawa Police Service, Vern White, has been appointed to the Senate. We endorse this wholeheartedly and wish him the best in his new endeavour.

Plans are in the making to hold a Tribute Dinner in our Clubhouse next month. We are in discussions with

Councillors, Steve Desroches and Jan Harder, who are also members of Branch 641. More details may be available here before we go to print, or we will communicate with all of you by e-mail or telephone.

We had some concern about the number of our members who had not yet paid up their annual dues for the year 2012. Many of you rallied to the call, so that we had 488 renewals including new members signed on by Dec 31st 2011. For other that forgot, there is, thankfully, a grace period if paid by Jan 31/12.

Gus

C.W (Gus) Este, CD, KStG  
President, 2011-12



## ONTARIO PROVINCIAL COMMAND - CHARITIES

Support for charities is one of the many services Legions provide in our communities and our province. Legion branches individually support many organizations in their communities. Organizations such as the Canadian Cancer Society, Heart and Stroke Foundation, Salvation Army, Diabetes Association, March of Dimes, Sunshine Foundation and many more have all received support from Ontario Command branches. Funds from clubhouse operations and lottery proceeds, help us support these worthwhile causes. Ontario Branches and Ladies Auxiliaries' have contributed annually to the Easter Seal campaign, with donations of more than \$2.6 million since our support began more than 30 years ago, donating over \$65,000.00 in 2007. Support of this kind is possible because of the countless volunteer hours contributed by Ontario Command branch members. Whether assisting in lottery operations, or helping serve a banquet, or even manning a garage sale, members of Ontario Command branches work tirelessly to ensure



## Reflections by Chaplain Ray Desjardins

### A Time for Renewal

The beginning of a New Year finds many of us reviewing the year past and struggling with what we want to accomplish in the future. No I'm not leading to a discussion on New Year's resolutions which are made and broken within hours, a few days or several weeks. What I would like is for each of us to take time to reflect on why we became Legionnaires, the oath we made on Initiation and how we are doing, each according to our own skills, experience and resources. I want to focus in particular on the Purposes and Objects of the Legion and in particular, and I quote "The Legion shall stand for strong and united comradeship among all members and those who have served and are serving, so that neither their rights nor their interest shall be forgotten, and that their welfare, and that of their dependents, especially the dependents of the disabled, the sick, the aged and the needy, may always be safeguarded. The Legion shall encourage, promote, engage in or support all forms of national, provincial, municipal or community service or any charitable purpose. Why you might ask am I concentrating on these particular statements. Quite simply it is because we are to serve not for reward but to honour, remember and return in very small measure that has already been sacrificed on our behalf.

Unfortunately, we live in a society that is built on an incentive or rewards system – whereas our very Purposes and Objects tell us that we are already living our reward

That seems to say to me "the doing is to each of us our personal reward" whether recognized or not. As we continue to grow as a Branch there is an ever present danger of getting caught up in the rewards system and forgetting what we are – we are Legionnaires – we are different – we wear uniforms (we are not just a service, social or recreational club) to show pride in our organization and to honour those we serve, especially those who have served and are still serving and their dependents. We do so to pay back the debt owned by all Canadians to our Comrades. We do not seek reward, we seek to serve to the best of our ability, in strong and united comradeship. And we are unique among Canadian veterans organizations in that regard.

Well here comes the questions. How are you doing as a Legionnaire? Do you serve and do so willingly and with pride? Do you wear the uniform properly and as often as you can to show your affiliation to this very special organization? (Do you even have one?) Do you understand our Purposes and Objects and abide by them to the best of your ability? Do you understand the special meaning of Comradeship? (Are you there for your Comrades whether you agree with them or not?) At Branch 641, are you caught up in our future "dream" for Barrhaven and involved in its attainment? Now is the time to reflect on these questions and find out where you stand. There will be No Test and you don't have to share your results. However maybe 2012 will be the year when your review will be evident by how you "lead" by example. God bless you all as we enter our 7<sup>th</sup> year of service.

## Editor's Comment

Again, this month and for many months to come, we are profiling our members and especially those you see at Branch 641 on a regular basis and make your day just a little easier because of their commitment to the goals and objectives of the Royal Canadian Legion, the Executive, comradeship, service to the community we represent and the best of "volunteerism."

This month is Dave St. Amand the 3rd VP, followed by Dave Cole and then Sheila Sielatycki followed by Jim Duff and others of the "Original Six" and 12.

I am especially pleased that the Chief of the Ottawa Police Service - Vern White - had agreed to contribute a monthly column starting this month (small glitch last month and again this month) His appointment to Canada's Senate might change his priorities.

The Chief of Ottawa Fire Services has graciously agreed to step up to the plate.

I expect that we will also have other guest commentators in the new year from our partners in the law enforcement, military, community and public services.

In this issue and also in the months to follow, we will be highlighting stamps issued by Canada Post over many decades to highlight not only the Royal Canadian Legion but the efforts and sacrifices of Canada's armed forces, the civilians and the families that support (ed) them.



One theme that needs to be addressed though is that of commitment—not only to any organization associated with us but to our Branch and the community we serve.

We do what we say we do and Branch 641 does it damn well by any benchmarking exercise. Clearly, more connections, affiliations (a wider audience) and volunteers are needed as the growth of this branch is incredible. We are well off—others less so.

The New Year brings with it a time of remembrance of achievements, a reflection of tasks well done, Tasks yet to be achieved, new comrades, fallen comrades and relationships, yet a thanks to those that sustained, persevered, made it all possible, a relief of a life yet to be lived and perhaps one more chance to make amends. "Lest we forget."



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### The Bill's now Red Pen

With Vern White - soon Ex-Chief of the  
Ottawa Police Service

Two days after Christmas, visiting his wife's family in Finland, Vern White waited for the Prime Minister to call.

"This sort of thing doesn't happen to people from my town, from my street," said the New Waterford, Nova Scotian who's been Ottawa's Police Chief since May 2007.

White was one of seven people officially appointed to the Senate Jan. 5. He says the PMO was one of several bodies calling hoping to pry him away from his three-decade career in policing.

"There's a lot of headhunting agencies in this country," he said, insisting he wasn't actively seeking a new job and hasn't been since the fall.

"I decided I wasn't going to look around," he said. The initial call from the PMO was one trying to suss-out whether or not being a senator is a role White would be interested in, and one he might be a good candidate for. "I fell off my chair and then I picked myself up," he said. "It's not something that ever came into my mind."

But, after the initial discussion, both sides felt it would be a fit. The next stage was to wait for Stephen Harper to call with the offer. It was just a few-minute chat," said White. "It's the first time I've ever talked to him."

White will go to bed on Feb. 19th the chief of police and wake up the next day a senator. The overriding emotion he's feeling now is sadness.

"It's very humbling as well," he said. "But for 30 years, from the time I was a constable, I've tried to make a difference in my community. I think I have. I honestly see an opportunity to make a difference on a national level."

At the top of his list of proudest achievements is raising more than \$5 million for drug treatment. "I can't think of any other police service that's done that," he said.

White knows ending his policing career will require a major mind shift. "I love policing. I will miss every second of what I do."

White was a contender for the RCMP commissioner position. He said not getting that job had no impact on his decision to take this one. "Not at all," he said. "For me, it was like my mom always said — things will come when they're supposed to."

Credit: [doug.hempstead@sunmedia.ca](mailto:doug.hempstead@sunmedia.ca)



### BARRHAVEN COMMUNITY SALUTES CHIEF VERN WHITE

It did not take long for the two Barrhaven Councillors, Jan Harder and Steve Desroches, to convince the RCL Barrhaven, Branch 641 to join with them in organizing a Tribute to Chief of the Ottawa Police Service, Vern White.

The chief had often visited the Legion Clubhouse to launch various programs, as well to disseminate info. as to the current situation of services provided locally by his dedicated team of police officers.

The community is welcomed to attend the local Tribute that has been arranged to show our support and appreciation of the Chief, before he moves on and upward into a new job as a members of the Senate of Canada. *Congratulations Sir!*

Councillor  
**Janharder**



Steve  
**DESROCHES**

*Councillor Jan Harder, Councillor Steve Desroches  
and the Barrhaven Legion Branch 641  
invite you to a special evening to say*

## Hail to the Chief!

An evening for the Barrhaven Community  
to say thank you to Chief Vern White

**Sunday, February 19th**  
**Cocktails 5:30pm**  
**Dinner 6:00pm**  
Barrhaven Legion Branch 641  
3500 Fallowfield Rd., Nepean



*In recognition of Chief Vern White's exemplary leadership of the  
Ottawa Police Service and in celebration of his recent appointment  
to the Senate of Canada, please join with us to thank him for all he  
has done for Ottawa and to wish him well in his new role.*

**Tickets \$50 each**

Available at the Barrhaven  
Legion Branch 641.

Limited seating available.

Proceeds from the event will go  
towards **project s.t.e.p.**,  
supporting Youth Drug Addiction Treatment.

*Unable to attend?  
Donations to **project s.t.e.p.** can  
be made at the Barrhaven Legion  
Branch 641 in advance of the event.*

### For more information contact:

**Councillor Jan Harder**  
613-580-2473  
[Jan.Harder@Ottawa.ca](mailto:Jan.Harder@Ottawa.ca)

**Councillor Steve Desroches**  
613-580-2751  
[Steve.Desroches@Ottawa.ca](mailto:Steve.Desroches@Ottawa.ca)



## FROM THE SPORTS DESK

### ZONE SPORTS 2012

EVENT/ DATE/ LOCATION/ LAST DATE FOR SIGN-UP

**CRIBBAGE** Jan. 14 - Orleans - Dec. 22.

**EUCHRE** Jan. 22 - Montgomery - Dec. 22.

**DARTS** Jan. 28 - Orleans - Jan. 6.

**MIXED DARTS** Mar. 10 - Westboro - Feb. 24.

**SHUFFLEBOARD** Apr. 14 - Bath, On - Mar. 23.

Posters and sign-up sheets are posted on the Bulletin Board at the Legion.  
Late sign-ups will not be accepted.



**Dave Hager**  
Sports Officer

## District competitions:

*The complete schedule is on display in the branch.*

<b>Curling</b>	Pembroke
	January 20-22, 2012
<b>Snooker</b>	Kingston
	January 7, 2012
<b>Cribbage</b>	Chalk River
	February 4, 2012
<b>Darts</b>	Amherstview
	February 25, 2012
<b>5-Pin</b>	Bells Corners
	March 3, 2012
<b>Euchre</b>	Rockland
	March 10, 2012
<b>Shuffleboard</b>	Bath
	April 7, 2012
<b>Mixed Darts</b>	Almonte
	May 12, 2012
<b>Golf</b>	Orleans August 11, 2012
<b>Horseshoes</b>	Hawksbury
	June 16, 2012
<b>Golf</b>	Barrhaven

## Sports Desk Update

The Barrhaven and Manotick Legions continued their darts rivalry on December 4, 2011 with Manotick coming out on top and evening up the best 3 out of 5 at 1 win apiece.



A great time was held by all and we thank Manotick for hosting.

Don't forget to sign up for Euchre, Darts, Mixed Darts and Cribbage. Closing dates for sign-up is fast approaching. Check the Branch Notice board for Posters.

**Dave Hager**  
Sports Officer

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## The Original Six - how the "new" Barrhaven Branch 641 came to be.

No, this is not a hockey story. Anyone who frequents the Barrhaven Legion has undoubtedly heard the terms "Charter" and "Founding" members, especially if you attend the General Meetings or ride a stool at the bar. I was certain that I knew the correct meanings, but was very surprised to learn that I did not. My discussions and research have shown that many others are just as misinformed as me on this subject. To begin, we need to look back at how and when the Branch was formed.

Sometime in the year 2002, Gus Este and Ray Desjardins suggested to a few fellow members of Branch 593 Bells Corners that they should start a new Legion Branch in Barrhaven. They all agreed it was a great idea. But how, and by whom?

Time passed, and human nature being what it is, nothing got done and this dream was only talk by people in blue blazers. More time passed, and it wasn't until 2004 that Ray Desjardins put pen to paper and started the laborious, intensive process to turn their vision into reality.

There's no manual on how to start a Branch, and initially, there were few who believed it could be done, including Ontario Command. Luckily for us, Ray is a determined individual who doesn't easily accept "NO" for an answer.

To obtain a Legion Charter, there were many obstacles to overcome, including the requirement to have 50 members. In that list of 50, there had to be a minimum of 10 new members who had never previously belonged to any Legion.

Allow me to backtrack for a minute. I incorrectly assumed, as did others, that our "Founding" members were the "Original Six" who had the vision and tenacity to start our Branch.

They were:

- Ray Desjardins
- Gord Ley
- Gus Este
- Ernie Hughes
- Don Phair
- Judy Phair

I also incorrectly believed that our "Charter" members were all members at the time we received our charter and officially became Branch 641 Barrhaven.

After a lengthy discussion with Ray, who has all the right answers, I've learned that our Branch has 12 members who are officially recognized as "Charter" members.

These 12 were the new, voting members who had not been re-instated or transferred in from another Branch.

They are:

- Wing Cdr J.D.W. Campbell
- F. Paul Charlebois
- Larry G. Charlebois
- Linda Charlebois
- Pierre Deveault
- Peggy Johnson
- Beverly Schlivert
- Greig Schlivert
- John Sielatycki
- Sheila Sielatycki
- Jim Wilson
- Sharon Wilson

Our "Founding" members include everyone who was a member in 2005 when our request for a Charter was submitted for approval. At that time, there were four re-instated members, 18 transfers and 32 new members, which included the 12 "Charter" members, for a total of 54 "Founding" members.

Since receiving our Charter on April 22nd, 2005, our Branch has grown steadily from humble, unlikely beginnings. From living room discussions to meetings at the Walter Baker Centre and our first clubhouse on Cedarview, it's been quite the ride.

The latest move to Fallowfield has proven to be an unquestionable success by our members and the community at large.

We are now approaching 500 members and have become one of the largest and most vibrant branches in Zone G5. At our present rate of growth, it won't be long before the need for a larger, perhaps permanent facility, will be thrust upon us.

We owe a great deal of gratitude to the "Original Six" who had the vision, energy and determination to create Branch 641 Barrhaven.

There are dreamers, and there are doers. We at Branch 641 are extremely fortunate to have both.

**Submitted: Dave St. Amand.**



**See construction pictures in the photo section of our website = March, April & May 2010.**



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WestJet

## WestJet, For Veterans

CF Veterans are eligible for the baggage fee exception with WestJet provided that they have their NDI 75 - Record of Service Card with them and present it to the WestJet agent at check in.

This will enable them to check in a second bag without having to pay the \$20 fee to do so. Please note that overweight fees will apply if their bags are over 50 lbs ( 22.68 kilograms ) and any additional bags (3rd bag or more) would be subject to fees as well.

**R.J. (Bob) Butt**  
Director Communications  
The Royal Canadian Legion  
86 Aird Place  
Ottawa, ON K2L 0A1  
T: 613-591-3335

## External Fundraising

Our third series of place mat ads are well under way. For those that do not know - they are used during our Friday night dinners. I am hoping to get these printed in late January or early February.

Nine spots have been taken already leaving only seven remaining.

If you know of any businesses that may be interested in advertising, they can contact me. **The cost is \$250.00 per ad.**

**Dave Sereda**  
2VP  
External Fundraising

## Looking for Volunteers

This branch has grown to almost 500 members in 6 short years. Because of this we need your help. We are looking for members to volunteer to chair either 1 or 2 committees - both of these events are very important to this branch as it gives us great exposure to our community.

- Canada Day celebrations.
- Santa Claus Parade.

Any member interested, please contact me.

David Sereda  
2 VP  
[davidsereda@rogers.com](mailto:davidsereda@rogers.com)

## Did You Know

That you can renew your membership for One, Two or up to Five Years?

Please renew now as a significant number of memberships have not been renewed and this, of course means that your standing is affected especially related to Voting.

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Please



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### ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

Once again, the Royal Canadian Legion is conducting a Public Speaking Contest. The Contest provides youth the opportunity to speak in public with the aim of developing their leadership skills. This year, the competition will be held 3 March, 2012 at the Orleans Legion Branch 632, 800 Taylor Creek Drive.

Cash prizes are to be won.

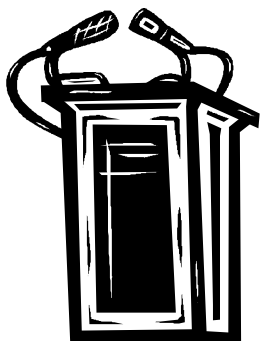
There are four categories: grades 1 to 3; grades 4 to 6; Grades 7 to 9; and Grades 10 to 12. The speech topic is open for students and speeches can be in either French or English.

Due to time constraints, the number of entries that may be accepted is limited and as follows: Grades 1 to 6 – 30 entries and Grades 9 to 12 – 30 entries.

Registration forms will be accepted on a first come first served basis and are to be sent by e-mail or fax to Comrade Shawn Taillon Royal Canadian Legion Zone G5 Youth Education Officer at [staillon@ca.inter.net](mailto:staillon@ca.inter.net) or fax: 613-829-6537

Contest rules and entry forms may be found at both the Barrhaven Branch and Zone websites ([rcl641.ca](http://rcl641.ca) and [rcl-zoneg5.ca](http://rcl-zoneg5.ca)).

Bert Boehme  
Youth Education Officer  
RCL Branch 641



# BFC

### Barrhaven Branch supports the Barrhaven Food Cupboard

Dear Members,

I have been appointed by President Gus as our Branch liaison to the Barrhaven Food Cupboard, where I am serving as a Member of their Committee.

This year, the demand for non-perishable food items from the Barrhaven community is twice as much as last year, and your help is urgently needed.

Currently, the following items are in the shortest supply:

- Canned meat
- Canned fruit
- Hot cereal
- Peanut butter
- Juice

We're not quite as desperate for the following items, but they are also in short supply:

- Boxed drinks (for school lunches)
- Canned stews and chilli
- Pancake mix and syrup
- Jello/pudding
- Toilet paper
- Soap

Please drop off your donations in the bin which is located by the front door of the Branch.

Many thanks for your generosity and for supporting the Barrhaven community.

David Sereda  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President  
Barrhaven Legion Branch 641



See Page 12 for the results of this ongoing appeal.





## Comrades in Arms at Barrhaven Branch 641

This month featuring Dave St. Amand, 3rd VP.

Dave grew up in Midland, Ontario, on the shores of Georgian Bay. In 1969, at the tender age of 17, he joined the Canadian Forces and headed for Cornwallis N.S. and recruit training. Then it was off to learn how to be a Communicator Research 291er at CFS Gloucester on the outskirts of Ottawa. .

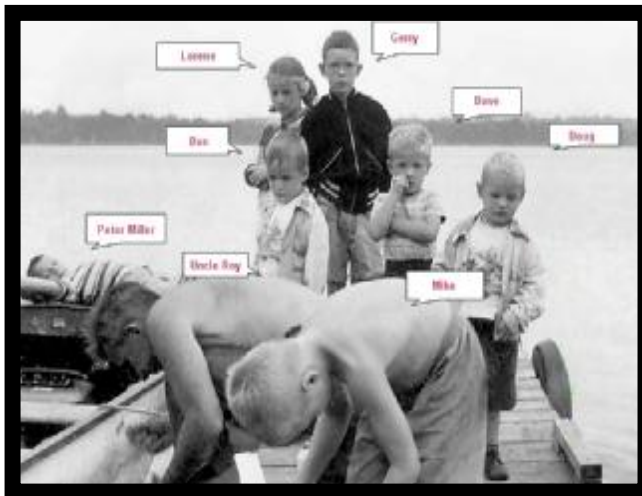
The recruiter said there was a chance to see the Arctic as a 291er. Well, he was correct. Dave endured two postings to Inuvik NWT and completed seven tours of Alert, located on the northern tip of Ellesmere Island, or as far north as you can possibly go without getting your feet wet..

Other postings included two tours of Masset B.C. on the Queen Charlotte Islands, two postings to Ottawa, twice in Kingston and a wonderful two year holiday in Bermuda. He spent almost 36 years in uniform and attained the rank of Chief Warrant Officer.

Dave joined the Legion in 1970 while stationed in Inuvik in the NWT. His membership lapsed while in Bermuda. He joined again in B.C., but let it lapse once more until his return to Inuvik in 1980. Once again, his membership wasn't renewed until 2005 when he joined the newly formed Branch 641 in Barrhaven. He currently holds the position of 3rd VP and most recently was the Chairman of the Poppy Campaign. He has been the Wednesday night bartender since the opening of the Branch in 2005.

In 1979, Dave married Fran, a Renfrew girl and they have two lovely daughters. Hollie is married to Jon, teaches part-time in the Ottawa valley and has twin girls Paige and Abby. Heather, the youngest, is a TV reporter/anchor in Thunder Bay.

Dave enjoys sports, especially golf. He is also an avid bowler, plays pool with some degree of proficiency and loves to fish.



Dave's New Year's Resolution is to be less cheerful!



## Interesting Thoughts and Reflections on the New Year

### James Agate

New Year's Resolution: To tolerate fools more gladly, provided this does not encourage them to take up more of my time.

### Eric Zorn

Making resolutions is a cleansing ritual of self assessment and repentance that demands personal honesty and, ultimately, reinforces humility. Breaking them is part of the cycle.

### Bill Vaughan

An optimist stays up until midnight to see the New Year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves.

### Mark Twain

New Year's Day... now is the accepted time to make your regular annual good resolutions. Next week you can begin paving hell with them as usual.

### Judith Crist

Happiness is too many things these days for anyone to wish it on anyone lightly. So let's just wish each other a bile-less New Year and leave it at that.

### Anonymous

Many people look forward to the New Year for a new start on old habits.

### Joey Adams

May all your troubles last as long as your New Year's resolutions!

### Anais Nin

I made no resolutions for the New Year. The habit of making plans, of criticizing, sanctioning and molding my life, is too much of a daily event for me.

### Oscar Wilde

Good resolutions are simply checks that men draw on a bank where they have no account.

### Robert Paul

I'm a little bit older, a little bit wiser, a little bit rounder, but still none the wiser.

### Anonymous

A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one Year and out the other.

### Leonard Bernstein

From New Year's on the outlook brightens; good humour lost in a mood of failure returns. I resolve to stop complaining.

### G. K. Chesterton

The object of a New Year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul and a new nose; new feet, a new backbone, new ears, and new eyes. Unless a particular man made New Year resolutions, he would make no resolutions. Unless a man starts afresh about things, he will certainly do nothing effective. Unless a man starts on the strange assumption that he has never existed before, it is quite certain that he will never exist afterwards. Unless a man be born again, he shall by no means enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.



Ed Schelenz's resolution overheard by the Editor at the New Year's Levee as told to Ernie Hughes.



## Branch 641 - Legionnaire of the Year DAVID COLE

Plaque presented by President Gus Este

And well deserved for all his tireless work at the branch.

Comrade David Cole is not just a volunteer worker. He has served on the Executive Committee in all of the Vice Presidential, positions, currently as the Branch Chairman and he is still serving as the Branch's operations manager. He is a dynamic volunteer, also belonging, and committed to other groups outside of the Legion Barrhaven Branch 641.

Dave certainly is deserving of this recognition by his peers and we wish him continued recognition as a distinguished Knight in the Order of St George.  
**BRavo ZULU!**



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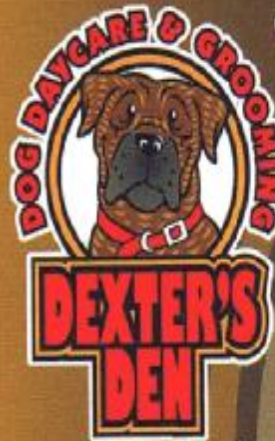
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## Barrhaven Food Cupboard (BFC)

The BFC would like to thank our membership for helping out this year with donations of non perishable food items and cash.

Did you know that the BFC runs TWO programs this time of year?

The number of families requesting Christmas Hampers from, 2010 to 2011 represents a 38 percent increase in One year alone.

- **The Christmas Hamper program** – this consists of either an individual, group, or family that sponsors a family in need. Usually this consists of a full Christmas dinner cost about \$100.00. Just over a week ago this program was very short on sponsor families; well this crisis was averted thank you to some of our members and the community.
- **The donation of non perishables food** - once again the Legion and the community businesses came together. In fact this year the Legion donations are up from 700 pounds last year, compared to about 1,800 pounds this year.

Thank you to MPP Lisa Macleod, and all those who were here last Saturday morning for the pancake breakfast. They raised \$ 1,063 as well donations of about 1,300 pounds of non-perishable food. Some of our members helped to load up the vans.

The Lions Club had their Children's Christmas party here with donations of food. David Rattray who is a member at this branch and is the chair for the Christmas Cheer Foundation, announced at Lisa Macleod's breakfast that a grant has been approved for the BFC in the sum of \$3,500.00.

Please remember food donations are needed year around.



Thank you to all.  
David Sereda  
2VP  
Steering committee member BFC





## Branch and Legion news and events

7 December 2011 NREL 9/11

For Immediate Release  
Legion says death benefit discriminates

OTTAWA - All Canadian Forces members who have lost their lives in the service of Canada should be granted a death benefit says Patricia Varga, the Dominion President of The Royal Canadian Legion.

Under the New Veterans Charter, the death benefit is granted to only the spouse, common law partner or children of Canadian Forces members. Single members are not eligible.

The Royal Canadian Legion fully supported a change to this discriminatory practice at its Dominion Convention in 2010. It requested that Veterans Affairs Canada amend the New Veterans Charter to include single members. Veterans Affairs advised the Legion that single members "may choose to obtain life insurance coverage from The Department of National Defence that allows them to designate a beneficiary such as parent, sibling, or other family member."

"This is another example of the Government creating different classes of veterans," says Varga. "The government has an obligation to recognize the sacrifice of all Canadian Forces members who have lost their lives in service to Canada" she continues. "The Legion will continue to advocate on behalf of all veterans including still serving Canadian Forces members and their families," she concludes.

For information contact Bob Butt at 613-591-3335



### **Korean War veterans to receive special recognition**

It's been 60 years since Canada's contingent of volunteers were successful in helping to restore peace in Korea. But the toll was high, amounting to 516 war dead, making the Korean War our country's third-costliest war.

To mark this 60th anniversary, the US Department of Defense would like to thank all Korean War Veterans from allied countries by bestowing an official commemorative certificate.

If you are a veteran of the Korean War, or know someone who is, and would like to receive the US Department of Defense Commemorative Certificate, please contact committee member Guy Black by mail at 944 Dundonald Drive, Port Moody, BC, V3H 1B7; or by e-mail at [korea19501953@yahoo.com](mailto:korea19501953@yahoo.com). Provide your given name and surname, rank, unit or branch of service, the dates you served in Korea, and your mailing address.



### Why People Join the Royal Canadian Legion

There are some things, organizations, places and even people, which most individuals either don't know or know very little about. These things have to be announced and advertized in order for people to realize they are among our community. But once they are aware of it they don't necessarily know what it's for, why you would buy it, or why you would join it. The point of this essay is to better explain the purpose of why people would join the Royal Canadian Legion.

First of all, when I first got the sheet explaining this essay, I read it; however, I wasn't sure what I had to write about. This exemplifies what I mean by people not knowing about organizations and charities. I had never heard of the Royal Canadian Legion until recently. After doing some research I had a better idea of what the Legion was all about.

The Legion was founded to provide a place where veterans could go during and after serving in the Canadian Forces. It's a place to socialize with other veterans. The organization itself gave and still gives returning soldiers insurance for themselves and their families. The wounded get treatment and assistance if needed. If the soldier died in battle or was wounded, the Legion will help care for their families. The Legion has its annual Poppy Campaign to fund the assistance to veterans and their families.

There is a Legion in every town in Canada. There are over 340,000 members in the Canadian Legion. The Legion supports programs such as senior communities, senior housing, senior long-term care, youth education and sports, Cadets, Guides and Scouts.

But why would people join the Royal Canadian Legion? Joining the Legion has the same reason as joining your local food bank, volunteering at your little brother's school garage sale, or bringing in items to the angel tree. It's simply to help other people within your community. Whether you sell chocolate bars at the street corner for the Heart and Stroke Foundation fund your school is hosting, or help organize big activities to raise money for veterans and the veteran's family in need, it's help either way. The answer to the question above is then very simple and clear, and is the main idea of joining the Legion and it is only one word, HELP. People join the Legion to help other people. Although the word help can be found in the dictionary like any other word, it isn't just a word, it is more than that, it's an action. This action can be performed by doing something as simple as playing cards with someone, bringing them to their doctor's appointment or the simple act of listening and creating conversation with them. Help can be showed in many different ways such as the ones I have listed above and plenty more. These actions will give hope, joy, and relief to the people in need of help. It's like going to bed at night and knowing there won't be a lack of food or that there'll be enough money in the bank to support yourself and your family until the next payday. People need all variety of different kind of help depending on their situation. While someone might only need to talk and be heard, others lack the essential elements to survival like food, clothing and shelter. If the number of people helping others in need of help increases, the amount of people helped will increase as well. Most people will then feel loved and unforgotten, and the worry and anxiety in their lives will be relieved.

By joining the Legion, not only do you help, but there is the opportunity to make new friends, grow your social skills, develop and exercise your leadership skills and become more involved in the community. There are also benefits to becoming a Legion member such as social activities, member sports and community service. Social activities and member sports are quite self-explanatory, however, community service isn't. The benefit of community service is the feeling of pride you'd get after assisting in the support of youth, seniors, the disabled, the community.

Joining the Legion is a way to give back and support veterans who fought for our freedom and the soldiers who still fight for our freedom today. It's a way to thank them for the freedom they have given us here in Canada and beyond throughout many years. We thank them by helping and supporting them in whichever way they need.

There are branches in most communities across Canada and they can be found in the local telephone directory, white pages, under "Royal Canadian Legion". There are more than 1500 branches throughout Canada. In order to join the Legion, find and contact the branch that meets your needs and is most convenient for you.

In conclusion, people join the Royal Canadian Legion in order to get involved in the thanking and the support of the veterans within their community. If more people joined the Legion like the 340,000 members, even more veterans could be thanked and helped.

Written by Mylene O'Brien, grade 9 student,  
Notre Dame Catholic High School, Carleton Place.

Photo: Caption: Ann Ecker, Branch 192 Youth Education Chair and George Wood, Branch President, present Mylene O'Brien, grade 9 student, Notre Dame Catholic High School, Carleton Place with a \$500 cheque for her award winning essay "Why People Join the Royal Canadian Legion".





## BARRHAVEN BRANCH 641 - YOUTH EDUCATION COMMITTEE - AWARDS PRESENTATION



**Best wishes for the New Year 2012 from the RCMP staff in our National Headquarters at 73 Leikin Drive.**

**Collectively we celebrated with our family and friends over the holiday season. We remember those who keep us safe – both overseas and at home, past and present.**

**Thank you Barrhaven Legion!**



**C/Supt. Sharon I. Woodburn,  
Commanding Officer  
RCMP National Headquarters.**



## Donations to Cadet Corps from Barrhaven BR 641 RCSCCC Falkland & Major EJG Holland VC, RCACC



Cadets on parade waiting for Colour ceremony.



Cadet Liaison Officer Ed Schelenz (r) presenting a cheque for \$1000.00 to CPO1 Daniel Marsh with the CO of RCSCCC Falkland, LT (N) James Clute (l) looking on.



Christmas Dinner with Parents and Cadets



Cadet Liaison Officer Ed Schelenz presenting a cheque for \$1000.00 to Capt. Carissa Morris, CO of 2332 Major EJG Holland VC, RCACC



*Submitted by Ed Schelenz*