

The Advance

Royal Canadian Legion
Branch 641 Barrhaven



Vimy Memorial Bridge
Photo credit to The Wright Team

Volume 19
Issue 10
April 2024



The President's Message

Comrades:

On April 1, 2024, the RCAF marked its 100th Anniversary. For a century, the RCAF and its personnel have defended Canada, its people, allies, and interests. There are many events planned across the country to commemorate the anniversary. Details can be found at <https://rcaf2024arc.ca/>. In recognition, for the month of April, we will fly the RCAF flag over the branch.

I would like to thank everyone who stood for appointments at the April 16 election and congratulations to those newly elected and acclaimed members. I'm excited to continue the work with our new Executive and it's also wonderful to have some new faces joining us when we kick off the 2024-25 term in June.

On the weekend of April 19-21, members of the Executive (Lyle Brennan, Bert Boehme, Angele Guy, and Richard Lynn) attended the District G Convention to represent Branch 641 along with our G5 Zone Commander Stéphane Guy. The conventions allow for networking among branches and sharing ideas to tackle common issues as well as discuss and pass resolutions. Branch 641 and Zone G5 were well represented.

Volunteers make it work. If you or someone you know wants to lend a hand, speak with myself or any of the Executive.

"Lest we forget."

Lyle Brennan, CD, President

In This Edition . . .

- Page 1 – The President's Message
- Page 2 – Last Post and Let Us Know
- Page 3 – Branch Elections
- Page 5 – Quilt of Honour Presented to Jim Duff and Memorial Bricks
- Page 6 – 2023/24 Executive
- Page 7 – Where to Find Minutes of Executive and General Meetings and How to Reserve Dinners
- Page 8 – We Love Our Volunteers
- Page 9 – Cleaning the Capital
- Page 10 – Literary and Poster Contest and Bingoland
- Page 11 – Branch 641 Dart Champs
- Page 12 – Membership Update and Veterans Benefits Guide
- Page 13 – RCAF Turns 100
- Page 14 – Poppy Fund Donations
- Page 15 – 17th Annual Golf Tournament
- Page 16 – Barrhaven Food Cupboard and Notes from the Editor

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Last Post

We Will Remember Them

Ken Hopper (1949-2024)

Ken passed away peacefully with his loving family by his side at The Ottawa Heart Institute on March 21, 2024. Ken, in his 75th year, was the beloved husband and best friend of Debbie Hopper for 39 years. Loving Father of Ashleigh (Adam) and Ryan. Loving Grandpa to Chelsea and Chase. Dear son of the late Dellas and Phyllis Hopper. Dear son in law to the late Thomas and Emily Grice. Loving brother-in-law to Mike (Judy) and Kevin (Darlene). Also survived by numerous nieces and nephews. Ken had a very successful career as the assistant managing director in organizing and regional services when he retired from CUPE. After retiring, Ken enjoyed many winters in Florida golfing and socializing with his friends in Deer Creek. Ken was larger than life, and had the magic touch of drawing people in. He was always the life of the party and kept everyone laughing. There was never a dull moment when Ken was in the room. A celebration of life will be held on Saturday June 1, 2024, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Merrickville Legion (229 Main St. W Merrickville).



Let Us Know


When a comrade or family member passes away, it's important that you let our chaplain, Margo Whittaker, know. She can then put several things into motion such as advising the president and our executive, connecting with the family, arranging for colour parties and Legion services – all of which fulfill our role to each other as a Legion family. When comrades are ill or pass and we don't know, we can't support the member or their family in their time of need.

If a comrade becomes ill, please let our Hospital Visits Chair, Louise Laflamme, know so that she can contact them or the family and arrange a visit. Members love seeing a friendly face when they are sick, especially if they don't have many family members in town.

Reverend Margo Whittaker
Chaplain
margo.l.whittaker@gmail.com

Louise Laflamme
Hospital Visits Chair
louisellaflamme1@bell.net

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Branch 641 2024 Elections

Thanks to all our members who attended our April 16 General Meeting. We had an excellent turnout for our annual election and here are the results:

- Lyle Brennan was acclaimed as President
- Bert Boehme was acclaimed as 1st Vice President
- Angel Guy was acclaimed as 2nd Vice President
- Richard Lynn was acclaimed as 3rd Vice President
- Paul Leadston was acclaimed as Sergeant at Arms
- Pam Hall was acclaimed as Secretary
- Diane Craig was acclaimed as Treasurer
- Executive Committee was elected as follows: Carol-Anne Marleau, Stephane Guy, Joe Guitard, Robert MacNichol, Anne Cole, Will Read

Thank you all for volunteering to accept these important positions. Without your support, our branch would not be able to operate.



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Other presentations: Angele Guy presented Acting President Bert Boehme with a cheque for \$500 from proceeds from the [Virtual Garage Sale](#) she has been organizing for several years. Since 2020, Angele has raised close to \$10,000 for the Land and Building Fund with this fundraising initiative.



Acting President Bert Boehme presented Kevin Brown and Kim Krueger with Certificates to acknowledge their volunteerism at the Branch.



Following the meeting, we managed to capture four of the 46 Daves of Branch 641.

Thanks to all our volunteers. Our branch operates solely on the volunteerism of our members. If you haven't volunteered yet, please step forward and we will gladly find you a position.



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Quilt of Honour Awarded to Jim Duff

On March 19, 2024, Jim Duff, former long time Treasurer of Branch 641, was awarded a [Quilt of Valour](#) with the nomination having been put forward by RCL Branch #641. Jim received this Quilt for his work in the Air Transportable Communications Branch of the Air Force for his work and volunteerism in Canada, Overseas and Alert. This well-deserved award was presented by Denise LaViolette Presenter, Ottawa Quilts of Valour - Canada, with Honours and Awards Chair Ed Schelenz, Sergeant at Arms Paul Leadston and Legion Seniors Chair Richard Lynn representing the Branch and supporting our dear member, Jim.



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 family member or friend. For more information, please contact Debi Sereda by email at debi.foxhill@gmail.com.

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2024/2025 Branch 641 Executive Team

Position	Chair	Position	Chair
President	Lyle Brennan	Honours and Awards	Ed Schelenz
Immediate Past President	Ed Schelenz	Hospitality/Entertainment	Angele Guy
1st Vice President	Mike Harrietha	Housing	Dave Cole
2nd Vice President	Bert Boehme	Leadership and Development	Bert Boehme
3rd Vice President	Angele Guy	Legion Seniors	Richard Lynn
Chairman	Dave Cole	Long Range Planning	Stephane Guy
Treasurer	Diane Craig	Membership	David St Amand
Secretary	Pam Hall	Poppy Campaign	Stephane Guy
Sergeant at Arms	Paul Leadston	Poppy Trust Fund	Bert Boehme
Bar Officer	Dave Sereda	Public Relations (Website, Newsletter)	Debi Sereda
Cadets	Patrick Makinson	Sports/Track and Field	Joe Guitard
Community Liaison	Dave Sereda	Veterans' Service Officer	Anne Cole
Constitution and Laws	Stephane Guy	Ways and Means	Anne Cole
Finance Officer	Bert Boehme	Youth Education/Bursary	Carol-Anne Marleau
Grants and Assistance	Richard Lynn		
Non-Executive			
Bar Manager	Carol-Anne Marleau	Golf Tournament	Jennifer Read
Bingo Team Co-ordinator	Ed Schelenz	Hall Rental	Cathy Pearen
Chaplain for Legion Tributes	Reverend Margo Whittaker	Hospital Visits Co-ordinator	Louise Laflamme
Finance Review Committee	William Read, Lorette Ellis, Kim Krueger	Housing Assistant	Tom Lamb
 Email: rcl641@bellnet.ca 			
April 2024			

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Executive and General Meeting Reports for April 2024

These documents are now available on our website. Please note these are shown as submitted so please excuse any typos.

Executive Meeting Report, [please click here](#).

General Meeting Report, [please click here](#).

Barrhaven Legion 641 is on Facebook

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

*If you don't answer the questions, your request won't be approved.

This is a private, members-only group.

Reservations for Friday Night Dinners and Special Events

Barrhaven Legion Branch 641

Dinner served from 6-7 p.m.

Members: \$25 Non-members \$30

For reservations, please contact Ken.

Phone 613-795-2127 or Email br641reservation@gmail.com

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We Love Our Volunteers

On Monday, April 15, our Executive hosted a BBQ for our volunteers to thank them for their support of our branch. More than 50 volunteers attended this event and enjoyed hamburgers, hotdogs, salads, and cake. Here are some photos of the event.

We couldn't run this branch without our team of volunteers. Thank you for all you do for us.



♥ thank you volunteers ♥

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The 2024 Spring Clean the Capital was held on April 20, with a record turnout – 40 people showed up. It was a blustery cold day, and we ended up with over 50 bags of garbage.

Thanks to our Legion Members, members of the Rotary Club, as well as the cadets from 2317 Army Cadets Uplands and 2958 Army Cadets Manotick.

Looking forward to seeing everyone back in the fall!



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2023 Poster and Literary Contest

On March 31, Carol Anne Marleau, Youth Education and Bursary Chair, presented Xiao Yue Zhang John from McCrae Secondary School with her prize and returned her entry for the Black and White Poster. She placed first at District and second at the Provincial level, Senior, colour and Black and White Poster Categories



"Supports RCL Branch 641 Barrhaven and our Veterans"



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Branch 641 Dart Champs

On April 20, 16 641 members headed to Stittsville Legion Branch 618 to participate in the Zone G5 Mixed Dart Tournament. We entered eight people into doubles and four groups of four into teams and a great day of darts and camaraderie with other Legion branches was had by everyone. While our doubles teams didn't progress past semi finals, we were thrilled to watch the team of Joe and Michelle Guitard and Jim and Dianne Cusick take home the trophy. Congratulations to all our players!



Above, our 16 members/players

Our champions being presented with the plaque and cash by Zone Sports and Youth Sports Officer, Jackie Fuchs



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Membership Update

Membership Total for March: 713 active accounts (2023 – 762)

New Members: 4
Re-instated: 0

Transfer in: 1
Deceased Members: 1

Transfer out: 0

This will be my last year as Membership Chair. After many years in this position, it's time to pass on the job to someone new. I will finish my term that runs till the end of May. In the interim, I will train the new person and have them ready to take the reins on June 1. If you are interested in becoming Membership Chair, you need to talk to our President Lyle Brennan.

If you haven't renewed for 2024 yet, you are not a member in good standing. Status on your file with Dominion Command shows "dormant." Your status will change to "active" when you renew for 2024. Legion Lapel Pins are in the process of being distributed. Pins are awarded at five-year intervals.

Finally, our quorum for General Meetings has increased from 36 to 38. Quorum is calculated at 5 per cent of last year's membership total. This number remains constant throughout the 2024 calendar year.

Dave St Amand, Membership Chair

**NOW AVAILABLE
2024**

Veterans Benefits GUIDE

Make the most out of your disability coverage and pension

The 2024 digital guide includes helpful, up-to-date information on **eligibility, applying**
+ MUCH MORE!

FREE for all veterans and their families

Click here for 2024 Veterans **BENEFITS GUIDE**

LEGION
CANADA'S MILITARY HISTORY MAGAZINE

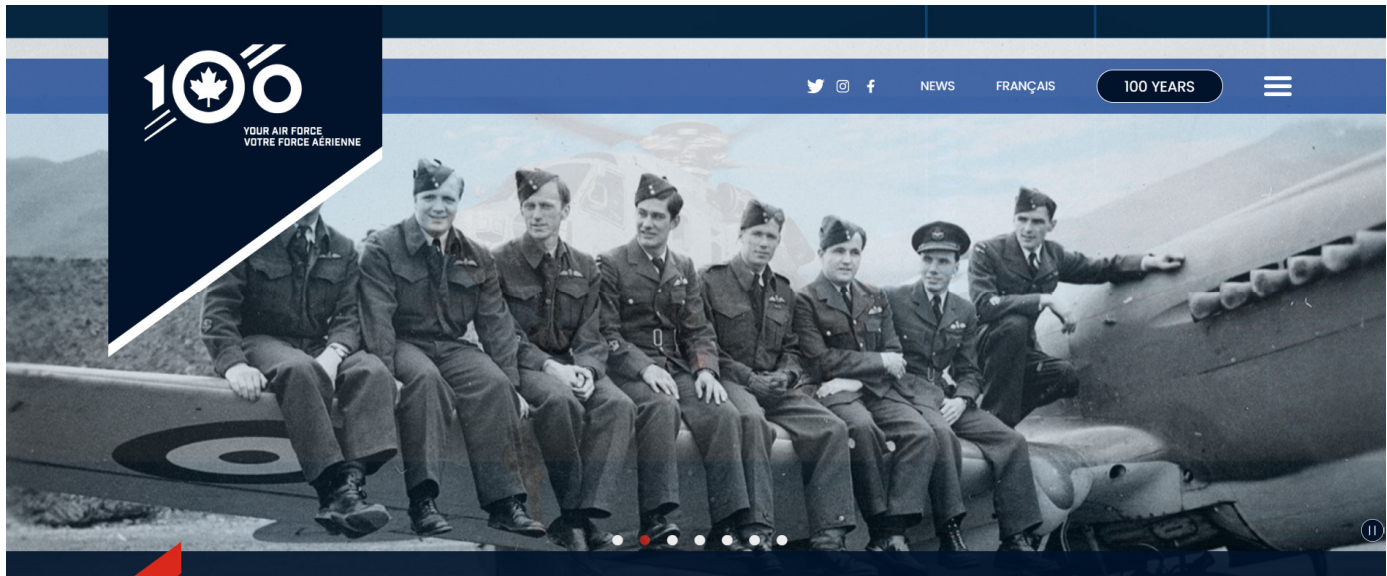
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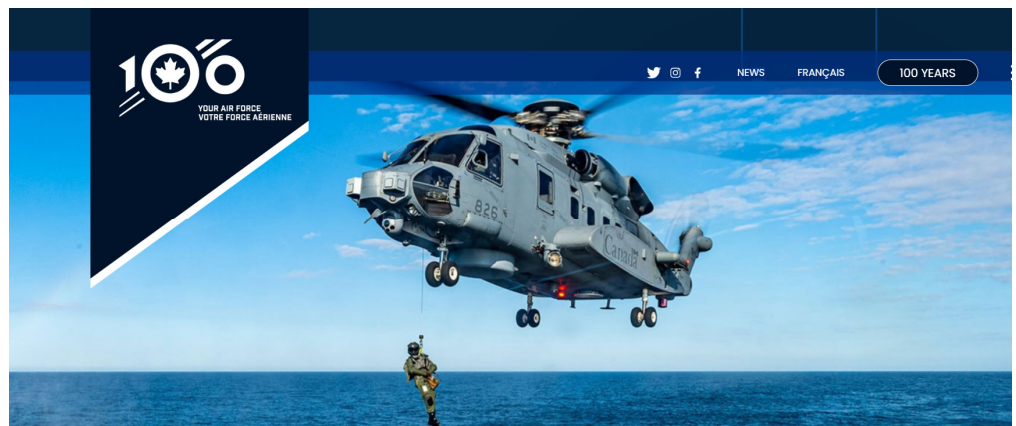
Royal Canadian Airforce Turns 100



April 1, 2024 marked 100 years of service for the Royal Canadian Air Force as a distinct military element. The Centennial milestone places the RCAF in a unique position to honour its distinct heritage; recognize its tremendous people today; and generate excitement for its bright future. This is an opportunity to fuel internal and external support in the organization that instills pride in Your Air Force, while creating an enduring legacy that propels the institution forward into its next century of service. Canada's Air Force will be showcased in a past, present and future context, with a focus on highlighting contributions to national safety and security, international peace and global stability.

The RCAF 2024 Team are curating a year-long program that includes International, National and Regional events, such as the RCAF Run, RCAF Gala, Legends of the Sky, and allied air demonstration team participation in Air Shows across Canada, as well as activities to Inspire future generations of Canadians through STEM initiatives, such as the RCAF Gaming Tournament.

[Learn more about the evolution of the RCAF through memorable milestones and moments, our aircraft, and people, that have helped build and shape the RCAF you know it to be today.](#)



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Poppy Fund Donations for 2023/2024

At the April General Meeting, the proposed Poppy Fund Budget and Donation was approved by the Membership. The Fund has \$118,639.29 on deposit. In accordance with the Poppy Fund policies and guidelines, these monies may only be used to support remembrance, veterans and their families, and community. It is noted that the Branch Bingo and Nevada accounts are also available and used by the Branch to support various local charities and community groups.

\$118,639.29	Opening Balance
\$15,000.00	Supplies for FY2024 campaign
\$5,000.00	Veteran support through Veteran Service Officer
\$20,000.00 (SUF required)	\$4K donation to each of the five sponsored Cadet Corps/Sqn. Nevada funds to provide an additional \$1K each.
\$2,000.00 (SUF required)	Veterans annual Remembrance Dinner
\$2,500.00	Branch Youth Education (Poster and Literary Contest)
\$3,000.00	Zone G5 Branch apportionment for Veteran and Youth support
\$10,000.00	Support for Bursary program
\$10,000.00	Emergency set aside
\$20,000.00	Perley and Rideau Veterans Centre
\$10,000.00	Operation Leave the Streets Behind
\$1,000.00	Ruck to Remember
\$5,000.00 (SUF required))	Operation Service Dogs
\$2,000.00 (SUF required)	Veteran Adaptive Ski Program
\$2,000.00 (SUF required)	The Pepper Pod. Supportive program for women veterans
\$2,000.00	Veteran's House Ottawa
\$500.00 (SUF required)	Memorial Park Hwy 416 maintenance/upkeep
\$500.00	District G Youth Education (Poster and Literary Contest)
\$800.00 (SUF required)	Operation VetBuild. Pending Command approval
\$500.00 (SUF required)	Quilts of Valour. Pending Command approval
\$7,339.29	Balance Remaining and available for future donations

Note: "SUF" is Special Use of Poppy Fund request form requiring Provincial Command approval

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17th Annual Golf Tournament

Last year, thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and players, our very popular golf tournament raised \$10,000 for our Land and Building Fund.

Registration for this year's golf tournament opened at noon on April 19 and within 48 hours, we were 50 per cent sold out! It's a testament to the popularity of this tournament that we had people lined up half-an-hour before the branch opens so people could register.

Here are the sponsors for 2024:

Title Sponsor – The Moussa Group/RemaxHallmark

Dinner/Golf Sponsor – Dr Kevin Rattray Dentistry

Silver Sponsor – Kelly Funeral Homes, Capital Funeral Home & Cemetery by Arbor Memorial

Thanks very much to these sponsors.



Barrhaven Legion 18th Annual Golf Tournament
Friday, August 9, 2024

- Golf at Cedarhill Golf Club
- Dinner & Prizes at the Barrhaven Legion

Putting Contest – 1130 hrs
Shot-Gun Start – 1200 hrs

Registration opens Friday, April 19th for Branch 641 Legion Members
and on May 17th for Non-Legion Members
Sign up early to guarantee your spot!

RCL Members \$110*
Non-Members \$125*

* Includes, golf, cart, dinner and prizes

Donations of non-perishable food items for the Barrhaven Food Cupboard would be greatly appreciated

If you would like to volunteer to help with the golf tournament, please reach out to the organizer, [Jennifer Read](#).

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BARRHAVEN FOOD CUPBOARD

Please put your non-perishable, canned and packaged food donations in the donation box at the entrance to the Branch. It will be taken to the Barrhaven Food Cupboard as it fills up.

Items most desired by the Barrhaven Food Cupboard include:

Cooking Oil	Flour	Rice	Feminine Products
Crackers	Cookies	Cereal	Canned Vegetables (especially corn)

Baby food and diapers are also highly sought-after donations.

Thank you for your generosity.

William and Jennifer Read

Notes from the Editor

Debi Sereda



We've had another very busy month at Branch 641. As always, our Hospitality team has been serving delicious meals to our members and guests at our Friday night dinners, as well as our open mic events and our volunteer BBQ. Behind the scenes, our Executive, bartenders, and cleaners keep our branch going every day, and without all these volunteers, we would not be able to open our doors and in turn support our Veterans. Keep supporting your branch and donate some time to volunteer. Being part of a community like Branch 641 is more than just paying \$50 to cover your membership – it's about belonging and participating and having a voice in **your** Legion.

Our new executive has been chosen by the members. Take a moment, when you can, to thank the outgoing and the incoming volunteers who have generously donated their time to participate in **our** Legion.

Enjoy your branch. Volunteer if you can. Stay safe.

Debi Sereda
debi.foxhill@gmail.com