

The Advance

Royal Canadian Legion
Branch 641 Barrhaven



Vimy Memorial Bridge
Photo credit to The Wright Team

Volume 19
Issue 9
March 2024



The President's Message

Comrades:

February and March have flown by and I'm glad many of you are back from vacation. It was my turn to head down south with the family late in March.

The G5 Zone Convention was held in our Valour Hall on March 24. Bert Boehme was our branch lead, and he appreciated all the support from the team to make this a successful event.

Thanks to the Life Membership presented to Sheila Sielatycki as well as Dave St Amand's initiative to organize the membership pin presentations, we were able to make our quorum and pass important motions during the February General Meeting. Notably, the membership approved \$10,000 to the Barrhaven Food Cupboard as well as the election committee.

Speaking of elections, which will be held during the April General Meeting, it's great to see familiar names back up on the nomination board to support another term on your executive. For those returning and those who have let us know they'll take a step back, I want to thank you all for everything that you have done and continue to do over the next three months as we lead the branch's efforts and wrap up our current term at the end of May. If there is anything that you believe that you can help with, don't hesitate to speak with me or anyone else on the executive. Our volunteers make it work!

"Lest we forget."

Lyle Brennan, CD, President

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Royal Canadian Legion Branch 641 Barrhaven, 3A-3500 Fallowfield Road, Ottawa K2J 4A7

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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

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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Executive and General Meeting Reports for February and March 2024

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

Executive Meeting Report for February, [please click here](#), for March, [please click here](#).
General Meeting Report for February, [please click here](#), for March, [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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Branch 641 Bingo Volunteers Raise Another \$61,000

Comrades, our Bingo volunteers brought in **\$61,212** last year, of which \$19,553 was donated directly to our branch, with the remaining \$41,659 being distributed to our community for those in need.

We started volunteering at Bingoland in July 2014 and we are still active there every Thursday. The money brought into our branch since then has totalled **\$326,750** which has allowed us to support many charities throughout our communities.

Here are some of the organizations we have supported over these years:

Eldercare Foundation	Hospice Care Ottawa	Last Post	Canadian Cancer Society
Rogers House	CHEO	U of OW	Heart Institute
Ottawa Mission	Salvation Army	Easter Seals	Alzheimer Society
Lung Association	Wheels of Hope	Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation	Wounded Warrior Golf Kidney Foundation
War Museum	RCMP Bone Marrow	MP Blind Children	Barrhaven Food Cupboard
Interval House OW	Diabetes Canada	Dementia Society	Youth Services Ottawa
Cornerstone Housing for Women	Sea Cadets	Army Cadets Air Cadets	

I want to thank all our Bingo Volunteers and especially our current volunteers Monique and Danny Desmarais, Diane Craig, Caroline Boily, Cathy Pearen, Mike McLinton and Mike Harrietha, for their dedication to Branch 641.

Ed Schelenz, Bingo Team Co-ordinator



"Supports RCL Branch 641 Barrhaven and our Veterans"





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2023/2024 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
		E-mail: rcl641@bellnet.ca October 2023	
			

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Membership Update

Membership Total for March: 700 active accounts (2023 – 762)

New Members: 4

Transfer in: 2

Transfer out: 1

Re-instated: 2

Deceased Members: 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 the 1st of June. 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. Pins were presented at this month's General Meeting.

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

2023 Poster and Literary Contest

I received the Youth Education Poster and Literary Contest results from both the District and Provincial Level on February 22, 2024.

I am extremely pleased to inform you that three students from Barrhaven area schools placed first and third as follows:

- Xiao Yue Zhang: placed first at District and second at the Provincial level: Senior Black and White Poster.
- Boning Zhu: placed third: District: Senior Essay
- Alyss Kubacki-Callender: placed third: District: Intermediate Essay 2

I have notified and congratulated the above students and their teachers. Their certificates, prizes and submissions will be delivered to the branch in March. Arrangements have been made for delivery to the schools the first week of April.

This concludes the Youth Education and Bursary Program for 2023-2024.

Again, thank you to all volunteers who assisted in this year's program.

Carol Anne Marleau, Youth Education and Bursary Chair

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Presentations at Branch 641

The generosity of the members of Branch 641 never ceases to amaze! The fifth Annual Christmas Day Potluck did not disappoint! Not only did the 34 "participants" contribute to a delicious meal, trivia and gift exchange, they generously contributed to this year's charity, Cornerstone Housing for Women, an amazing \$650 through a 50/50 draw and all bartender tips! And, once again, the Legion did not disappoint, as they matched the generosity of the Christmas Day Potluck! On behalf of the Organizing Committee, Lorna MacIsaac, Marcy Craig and me, thank you!

Pictured right is President Lyle Brennan presenting a cheque for \$650 to Paul Skinner, Food Services Co-ordinator at Cornerstone Housing for Women on January 23, 2024.



President Lyle Brennan presented a cheque for \$10,000 to [Barrhaven Food Cupboard](#) volunteer Mike Harrietha on Tuesday, February 20, 2024.

President Lyle Brennan presented these members of Branch 641 with service pins on February 20, 2024.



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On February 20, President Lyle Brennan presented Sheila Sielatycki with her Life Membership pin and certificate. Sheila's husband, John Sielatycki who passed away on January 5, 2024, was also awarded his Life Membership.

Thank you to all our members for your support over the years.

Presentations at the March 19 Meeting will appear in the April edition of The Advance.



Local Musician Doug Olson has been a regular at Branch 641 since the early days when for many years, together with Gord Ley and Woody Boudreau, their band, Caper Country, entertained our members and guests.

Buy any CD for \$10.00

All sales from CD's will go to the Barrhaven Building Fund

The band and the “boys” were well known throughout the Ottawa area as well as down east. Following Gord's passing, Doug has continued making music and he participates regularly at our Open Mic sessions at Branch 641.

Doug has a new CD that he's selling, with proceeds from all sales going to our Land and Building Fund.

If you get the chance to support Doug, and our branch, Doug's CDs can be purchased from Linda Laframboise at the Open Mic sessions at the branch.

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Branch 641 Updates Our Email Communications

With an ever-expanding membership, it became apparent that we needed to improve our method of reaching members via email. Over the years, sending emails to all members was a challenge because we were limited to sending to 500 addresses, per 24-hour period, per email account. The problem was that if one, two or three emails were to be distributed on any given day, Kim Krueger had to create additional email accounts to be able to distribute the information in a timely fashion. Moreover, we were not following anti-spam legislation for large mailings. We are now a large organization, and we need to communicate in a more professional manner.

Kevin Brown has a great deal of experience in this area, and he worked closely with Kim to develop templates that include a couple of new features that comply with the anti-spam legislation. We subscribed to a mailing platform, Mailer Lite, that allows us to monitor all kinds of information such as unsubscribe requests, undeliverable email addresses and click throughs which shows us who's looking at what when an email deployment is sent. All email addresses and contact information are kept secure and are not shared or sold to anyone. Rest assured your information is safe.

Thanks to Kevin for taking the initiative to co-ordinate such a big project and to Kim Krueger for always being willing to take on a new challenge, our emails are easier to send – and I think they look much cleaner and more professional.

What do you think? Let me know by emailing me at debi.foxhill@gmail.com. More updates on this will follow next month.



If you are able to help, the Barrhaven Food Cupboard (BFC) has shared what they need most for their clients:

Cooking oil
Crackers

Peanut butter
Cookies

Flour
Cereal

Rice
Fresh produce

In addition, any financial [donations](#) help the BFC leverage their buying power.

We all know times are tough. If you can help, you will support your community and your neighbours. Donations of non-perishable items can be left in the donation box at the branch.

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Fun Darts – Branch 641 vs 625

Once again, Branch 641 is back in the Legion community with fun interbranch darts. Bar Officer Dave Sereda set up the latest challenge against Richmond Branch 625 and the first match was held on January 28 in Richmond. It was a fun afternoon and Richmond won the day. A rematch was held on March 3 back at 641 and we are proud to say Barrhaven brought home the “big” win. It’s all in fun and everyone agreed that a rubber match would be held back at 641.

Each branch had eight teams of three players




The players all look “very” serious

Paul Leadston, Matt Dixie and Cccccc



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St. Patrick's Day at 641

March 17 was another great day at our branch thanks to our amazing hospitality team – they decorated Valour Hall beautifully and as always there was delicious food for all our members and guests. Despite a last-minute cancellation by our entertainment, Nina Guy quickly stepped in and provided some lively Irish music for the afternoon. We also had the pleasure of meeting a WWII Veteran who had the time of his life. Photos thanks to Angele Guy and Donna Craig.



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Important Information Regarding Branch 641 2024 Elections

It's election time once again at Branch 641. Our executive team runs for a one-year term, from June 1 to May 31.

Election Committee: Jeff Perrault (Chairman) Michelle Guitard, Linda Laframboise
Date of Election: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 (during the General Meeting)

At the March 19 General Meeting, nominations were put forward for available positions on the executive.

Nominations for the following positions were received:

President – Lyle Brennan	Secretary – Pam Hall
1st Vice – President Bert Boehme 2nd Vice President – Angele Guy 3rd Vice President – Richard Lynn and Dave Sereda	
Sergeant at Arms – Paul Leadston	Treasurer – Diane Craig
Executive Members (six positions are available) – Carol Anne Marleau, Richard Lynn, Joe Guitard, Anne Cole, Will Read, Robert MacNicoll, Kim Krueger	

Each nominee must be a member in good standing of Branch 641 for a period of one year before the election meeting and have attended three (3) general meetings during that time (June 1, 2023 to March 21, 2024). Nominees must read both the Policy and Procedures Manual as well as the Club House Rules before their name can be added to the Nomination Board by a member of the Election Committee.

Members can be nominated for more than one position, but all positions must be listed on the nomination form. If a nominee wins a seat, the other positions will be dropped from the ballot. If only one person runs for a position, that person is acclaimed for that position.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Jeff Perrault, Election Chair at jeff.perrault@rcl641.ca.

All our executive members are volunteers, and we thank them for their service.

