



Royal Canadian Legion Bells Corners Branch 593 Newsletter



Volume 1 / Issue 2

May 2020

Last Post

January to April

- **Richard (Dick) Malott**
- **Lois Laycock**
- **Brian Mellor**
- **William Paterson**
- **Phil Herbst**

Our condolences to their families

Whenever we are notified of a Legion Tribute or Celebration of Life, we will pass this information to all our members.

Perley and Rideau Veteran's Health Centre, **COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund**

The Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre is accepting funds to:

- Purchase additional personal protective equipment (PPE) to respond to increasing needs.
- Additional housekeeping staffing to support enhanced cleaning measures around the clock.
- Hiring a new team of meal helpers to assist residents during the three daily meals and with snacks-delivery.
- Create opportunity to show our appreciation to all staff who continue to keep seniors and Veterans safe and happy.

If you would like to donate:

www.perleyrideaofoundation.ca or call 613-526-7194.

Branch 593 - Diamond Jubilee

On May 3rd, 2021 the branch will be celebrating our Diamond Jubilee (60th Anniversary). We are in the early stages of planning different ways to celebrate our anniversary. The following are some ideas we are looking at to commemorate the Branch's 60th Anniversary:

- Update our Cenotaph to include Peacekeeping and Afghanistan
- Create a Branch history book;
- 60th Anniversary Dinner; (when safe to do so)
- Branch clothing to commemorate the 60th anniversary.

In the future we will be asking for photos or information from different past Branch events over our 60yrs. We can't receive any photo donations just yet under the current circumstances, but we hope to have this part of our Anniversary project up and running soon. If you have some ideas, please let us know. Watch for more on this in future Newsletters

COVID-19

This is an update on the COVID-19 situation and how it affects your Branch. The Branch has been closed since Tuesday March 17th 2020, due to a State Of Emergency declared by the Ontario government. The Branch will remain closed until the State Of Emergency is lifted, and our building is safe to re-open.

All events and meetings at the Branch are cancelled until further notice.

We are monitoring, and investigate all aid packages that are offered from the different levels of government, Legion Dominion and Provincial Commands.

We are all expecting changes to the way we operate the Branch. We will meet the guidelines and direction that will be given to us. We all anticipate this will most likely include reduced capacity and physical distancing measures. Watch for updates on this in future Newsletters.

Some of you have asked how the branch is doing during the closure. We reduced all of our expenses to the bare minimum and have been checking the Branch daily as directed by our insurance company. The Executive have kept in contact by email and continue to hold our monthly Exec meetings by video conference.



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Donation

The Branch has made a donation of \$500 in memory of Phil Herbst who passed away at the Perley Rideau Veteran's Health Centre last month, and who was a long-time member of Branch 593. Our donation went to the Perley Rideau Veteran's Health Centre, COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund.

Branch Events

All events are cancelled until further notice.

Branch E-mails

Once a month the Branch will send out a newsletter on what is happening at your Branch.

Please note that your e-mails will never be shared with anyone.

If you, or someone you know is not receiving our newsletter, please send me their e-mail address and we will update asap.

Your Executive is asking our membership to let us know if a Branch member could use some assistance during these difficult times. We are here to assist you and have many tools to pick from, so don't suffer alone. Thank you to members that have assisted some of our members during the last weeks.

Spotlight On A Branch Member

Retired Naval Officer (and Legion Branch #593 member) Bill Dziadyk published (on 11 November 2019) an historical non-fiction book "S.S. Nerissa, the Final Crossing: The Amazing True Story of the Loss of a Canadian Troopship in the North Atlantic".

The details of the sinking of the S.S. Nerissa were highly classified until almost 50 years after the event. The tragic loss of this ship on 30 April 1941 resulted in the third largest loss of life for a ship sunk by U-boats in the approaches to the British Isles. The deaths of 81 Merchant Navy seamen, 98 Canadian, British and Norwegian troops, 11 Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA) American pilots and 17 civilian passengers touched not only Canadian families at the time, but also many families in the United Kingdom, Norway and the neutral United States. This book focuses on the events which led up to the sinking by U-552 (Erich Topp) and the resulting public relations dilemma on the Canadian home-front. Also included are eye witness accounts from many of the survivors and some stories of those who perished. Much of the material is based on the analysis of testimony, recollections and official reports taken from survivors, as well as declassified Canadian, British and German documents.

This book (and readers' reviews) are available at

<https://www.amazon.ca/dp/1704113822>

The book is also now available in Ottawa at the Canadian War Museum gift shop.





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***Remembering Those Who Served
And Their Sacrifices***

Due to our current situation, and being unable to meet in the next weeks, we have designed a way for all of us to commemorate the May events that honour our WW2 veterans, and sadly the loss of 6 crew members from HMCS Fredericton who were deployed on Operation Reassurance. We Will Remember Them!

Two wreaths one with a Yellow and one with a Black Ribbon have been mounted outside at the front door of the Branch for you to place/pin a Poppy.

Poppies are available (Covid 19 spaced) by the door, so you take a poppy to pin to one or both ribbons.





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**Please Place A Poppy On The Yellow Ribbon At The Branch
To Honour The Veterans Of WW2**

**This Ribbon Is To Commemorate The Events Which Took
Place During The Month Of May
Battle Of Atlantic
Sept 1939 – May 1945**

**Liberation Of The Netherlands
5 May 1945**



**Victory In Europe
8 May 1945**

RCAF/RCN - Helicopter Crew Memorial

**Please Place A Poppy On The Black Ribbon At The Branch
To Honour The Canadian Armed Forces Members Of A
CH146 Helicopter, Callsign Stalker, Which Crashed While
Deployed From HMCS Fredericton on 29 April, 2020**

