



# Royal Canadian Legion Bells Corners Branch 593 Newsletter



Volume 1 / Issue 3

June 2020

## Last Post

May  
- we have received no names

Please inform us of any passing of members so we can inform the membership and update our records

Please inform the Branch Chaplain at 613-828-2314 or [weasle3@rogers.com](mailto:weasle3@rogers.com)

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

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## Your Branch Requires Volunteer Bartenders

We are seeking volunteers to be bartenders at the Branch during the daytime.

You are required to obtain your Ontario Smart Service. After your successful training, the Branch will reimburse you the Smart Service fee.

**Without bartenders the Branch *will NOT REOPEN as normal*. Please send an email if you are interested to**

[President@legion593.com](mailto:President@legion593.com)

Visit our Branch website - [www.legion593.com](http://www.legion593.com)

## COVID-19 – Branch Update

This is an update on the COVID-19 situation and how it affects your Branch. The Branch has been closed since Tuesday March 17<sup>th</sup> 2020, due to a State Of Emergency declared by the Ontario government.

On Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup> 2020, Ontario (certain parts) entered into Phase 2. Under this phase, business with patios with dining serve are allowed to reopen.

Your Executive met on Monday June 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss all possibilities of reopening the Branch under Phase 2. A big concern was staffing, and availability of volunteers to handle the constant sanitizing and cleaning of tables, portions of the building, and washrooms throughout the day. A volunteer to constantly monitor our entrance, members seating, and exit of the Branch was also a potential issue. Another concern is that currently we have only one bartender who is available. We reviewed Legion Provincial letters that outlined many considerations to open, or remain closed for a little while longer.

After the Executive reviewed and debated all the available information on the requirements and guidelines to reopen from the different levels of Gov't and Ottawa Health, a unanimous decision was reached:

**\*\*\* We WILL NOT reopen the Branch during Phase 2**

\*\*\*When Phase 3 is announced, the Executive will meet ASAP to re-evaluate the criteria directed from the Provincial and Municipal Gov't along with any direction from Legion Dominion or Provincial Commands.

\*\*\* While we await Phase 3, we will work tirelessly to obtain enough PPE & supplies to keep our members and staff safe when visiting the Branch. Currently we have very few supplies due to the high volume demands placed on our supplier, and throughout Canada. Filling our order for PPE & supplies will take more time, before enough arrives.

\*\*\* We will, during this time develop floor plans, footpath routing, obtain sneeze and cough guards, safety signage and many other anticipated requirements so that when the time does come, we will reopen with confidence!

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Visit our Branch Facebook page  
[Bells Corners Legion Branch 593](https://www.facebook.com/BellsCornersLegionBranch593)

Visit District G website  
[www.districtglegion.ca](http://www.districtglegion.ca)



# Royal Canadian Legion Bells Corners Branch 593 Newsletter



1

## Join the Legion's new member discount program

The Royal Canadian Legion is excited to announce the launch of **MemberPerks®**, our newest member discount program!

**MemberPerks®** gives you access to thousands of money-saving offers and deals at stores and restaurants across Canada. You can save on just about everything, including clothing, furniture, electronics, dining and more.

**And the best part? It's all included with your Legion membership.**

**Register today to start saving!**

<https://www.legion.ca/join-us/memberperks>



**MemberPerks®**

## Branch Secretary Required

Our Branch is seeking someone to be our Branch Secretary. The Branch Secretary attends all General, Special, and Executive Committee Meetings, and is the scribe, keeping a complete and accurate account of all correspondence.

The Secretary receives and replies to all correspondence promptly and will answer questions from Zone and District levels, and possibly Dominion and Provincial Command. We are looking for a member to take on this key position. Please contact the President if you can help your Branch by taking this important role.

[President@legion593.com](mailto:President@legion593.com)

Visit our Branch website -  
[www.legion593.com](http://www.legion593.com)

## Spotlight On Veteran's Services

### Who we serve

The Royal Canadian Legion Veterans Services Network serves Veterans, members of the Canadian Armed Forces, RCMP, and their families, providing support, referrals, representation, advocacy and financial assistance free of charge, Legion member or not.

### The Legion's definition of a Veteran

“A Veteran is any person who is serving or who has honorably served in the Canadian Armed Forces, the Commonwealth or its wartime allies, or as a Regular Member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, or as a Peace Officer in a Special Duty Area or on a Special Duty Operation, or who has served in the Merchant Navy or Ferry Command during wartime.”

### Legion services for Veterans and their families

The Legion provides a range of services and supports for Veterans, their families and dependents. In addition to directly assisting Veterans and their

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# Royal Canadian Legion Bells Corners Branch 593 Newsletter




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## Branch Cleaner Required

The branch is seeking someone to perform janitorial services at the branch. Approximately 20 hours per week may be more, depending on events held that week at the branch.

**Contact the President to apply, or for more information**

[President@legion593.com](mailto:President@legion593.com)

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## Branch Events

All events are cancelled until further notice

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## Branch Emails

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

Please note that your email address will never be shared with anyone.

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

[President@legion593.com](mailto:President@legion593.com)

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families with the disability claims process through Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC), the Legion offers a variety of programs, resources and referrals to support Veteran health, transition to civilian life, financial assistance and well-being.

2

**At the local Legion Branch, a Veteran or their family can:**

- meet with a volunteer Legion Service Officer to help identify unmet health or support needs and review possible benefits through VAC, as well as other supports available
- get assistance with completing the Legion Claims Form and receive a referral to Legion Command Service Officers for individual assistance
- request benevolent financial assistance through the Poppy Fund
- request visits to Veterans in retirement and long term care facilities
- access Veteran support and care programs as offered through the Branch

Each Branch appoints a Veterans Services Chairman/Branch Service Officer who is available to advise and assist the Veterans, widows, ex-servicemen etc., in their communities. A branch may appoint two people to fill the Veterans Services Chair position and the Service Officer position.

The officer can be called upon to respond to a variety of questions and situations. Most Chairman are familiar with Veterans Affairs benefits, and are also aware of other Federal, Provincial and Municipal programs which exist and might be appropriate.

All information and questions brought to the Branch Service Officer/Veteran Services Chairman are held in the strictest confidence.

The Veterans Services Chairman/Branch Service Officers works with the Provincial Service Officer and Counsellors at Veterans Affairs Canada to ensure that requests for assistance are referred to the attention of the proper persons or authority.

The services of the Provincial Service Officers are available to all Legion branches, the Legion member, or ex-service personnel and/or their



# Royal Canadian Legion Bells Corners Branch 593 Newsletter



dependants. You need not be a member of the Legion to use the services of a Provincial Service Officer.

The Provincial Service Officers devote most of their time to disability pension claims and are actively involved in the preparation of these claims. They also appeal and defend against negative pension decisions.

3

Although the Provincial Service Officer is knowledgeable on other programs provided by Veterans Affairs (such as War Veterans Allowance, Treatment benefits and the Veterans Independence Program), veterans and their dependants are routinely referred to Veterans Affairs to establish their eligibility for these programs.

Referrals to the appropriate Provincial Service Officer should be made through your local veterans services chairman/branch service officer.

The Pension Act is the major piece of legislation governing the award of disability pensions. Merchant Navy Veterans and Civilians are covered for benefits under the Merchant Navy Veteran and Civilian War-related Benefits Act.

### You may qualify for benefits!

You do not need to be a member of The Royal Canadian Legion to apply or to receive assistance from our Legion Service Officers. The Legion is here to assist you with completing claim forms through Veterans Affairs Canada, providing guidance and assistance with the navigation of potential benefits, as well as acting as a referral agent to supports available to the Veteran Community. This assistance is free of charge and all possibilities can be discussed.

We offer assistance to Veterans, Still Serving Members of the Canadian Armed Forces, RCMP and/or their dependents to make you aware of and potentially obtain government support from Veterans Affairs Canada. You may not be receiving all the benefits to which you are entitled! That assistance can be sought through the Legion Service Bureau at no charge!

Our Legion Service Bureaus assist with exploring benefits you may qualify for:

#### 1. Disability Benefits



# Royal Canadian Legion Bells Corners Branch 593 Newsletter



Present day disabilities that have arisen from service (including Peacetime and Special Duty Area) may receive disability entitlement through Veterans Affairs Canada. Legion Service Officers provide assistance with the completion of disability applications, building strong cases, discussing future benefits, post-decision explanations, and reviews and appeals for disability entitlement.

## 4

Survivors of Veterans may also apply for potential benefits. Provincial Service Officers can review your current entitlements for reassessments and additional benefits, such as the Veterans Independence Program (VIP).

### 2. War Veterans Allowance

This Veterans Affairs Canada income related program ensures that a qualified person receives a minimum monthly income and supportive treatment benefits to meet their basic needs.

- Qualifications – Age 60 for Males; Age 55 for Females;
- Service during World War II or the Korean War
- Surviving spouse may also apply

Qualified individuals may receive benefits from Veterans Affairs Canada so they may continue to reside in their own homes by assisting with the cost of housekeeping and grounds keeping. The program may also assist with the costs of Long Term Care or adult day programming.

### 3. Review/Appeal/Reassessment

If you have previously applied for disability benefits without success, a Provincial Service Officer may assist by reviewing the previous decisions. Provincial Service Officers may also review your current entitlements for reassessment and any potential additional benefits.

### 4. Financial Assistance

Benevolent Funds are available to provide assistance to qualified veterans, members and their spouses/survivors/dependents with emergency financial needs, including but not limited to eyeglasses, hearing aids, dentures, repairs, rental arrears, and outstanding utility bills.





# Royal Canadian Legion Bells Corners Branch 593 Newsletter



## 5

### 5. Veterans Well-Being Act

The Veterans Well-Being Act governs the benefits available to Disability Entitlement claims rendered April 1, 2006 - to date for Regular Force & Reserve Force Members and Veterans of Peacetime & Special Duty Area service. Information regarding potential benefits available through Veterans Affairs Canada can be found at the Veterans Affairs Canada website ([www.veterans.gc.ca/eng](http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng)).

Helpful tools that are available on the Veterans Affairs Canada website include, but are not limited to, the Benefits Browser, Fact Sheets associated with specific benefits, etc. For assistance with your application, please contact the nearest Royal Canadian Legion Branch Service Officer or Provincial Service Officer. If you have any inquiries with respect to Legion, call your local branch – we're happy to assist!

The formation in the newsletter was obtained for the Dominion and Provincial Command Websites.

## Seniors – COVID 19 & Self-Isolating

Branch 593 is very concerned about our members many who are seniors and maybe self-isolating. If know a member or you are a member who lives alone and has no immediate family in the area, call us, we are here to offer a helping hand. As examples, we could offer a valet service to help purchase food, pickup medications or other services that are needed. Consequently, if you are self-isolating or know of someone that is self-isolating, and can use our assistance in some way please call our Bells Corners Branch #593 Chaplin and Seniors Officer, Bob MacNichol at 613 828-2314 or email [weasle3@rogers.com](mailto:weasle3@rogers.com) anytime.

Let's ensure we help each other during these unsettling times. With both a Branch Service Officer and a Branch Chaplin within your Branch, there is nothing we can't help you solve.

