

Deputy Zone Commander

Convention Report

It's great to see you all again and I hope you all had a good summer. I have kept quite busy since our last Zone convention. I attended the District and Dominion Conventions and also was present at the District Poppy seminar in Fenelon Falls and the Service Officers seminar in Lindsay. Not having attended these seminars before I found them very interesting and informative. There is much to be learned regarding these two very important Chairs of the Legion and I have newfound respect for the Chairmen who handle these in the branch level. As I mentioned in my last report, I did go to the L.A. Zone Convention and it was a well run and informative meeting. I enjoyed it very much and I hope I get the chance to attend again.

I have attended many of our branches and find the same problems are plaguing all of them, mainly personality conflicts and lack of funds. Every branch is working hard to come up with ideas to create new income, and I think that is great. It would go a lot smoother though, if people could simply get along for however long it takes and get the job done. Constant bickering and disagreements only make the job a lot harder than it has to be. To quote my mom when we were young, "Get along children, please get along." We are all in a time period now that is causing our veterans sadness and grief. Our branches are losing their beloved veterans at a much quicker pace now, as they are getting into their twilight years. Please consider that we owe them a great deal, but mostly I am sure they would simply just love to enter a branch that is peaceful, helpful and flourishing so they can enjoy their remaining years with us. If we keep this in mind, perhaps getting along will come easier to us. They have enough conflict to deal with in the passing of great friends and they deserve better. Enough said.

On an official note, our Zone Commander and I will be starting our annual visits to your branches this week and will continue through until they are all complete. Please have your books up to date and ready for inspection and have you PST and GST receipts available for us along with the Financial Reports, also your Employee Source

Deductions and WSIB. This year we have a new and shorter form to fill out so this is a bonus for everyone concerned. I am looking forward to seeing you then.

Yours in Comradeship
Lorraine Duncan

Veteran's Services

Convention Report

This summer has been a fairly busy time and I believe this was caused by the high cost of living. A majority of the inquiries were from widows who are trying to keep their independence, living on their own and not in a retirement center. Most of them are just getting by on their monthly pensions, until they need their glasses changed or work done on their dentures, or their hearing aids

If any of these people are ex-military or the widow of a service member, please speak to your Poppy Chairperson, I'm sure they will help if at all possible.

If you were at the Service Officer's Seminar in Lindsey you would have received a News Release titled Recognition Program announced for Atomic Veterans, would you please see that a copy of this News Release is put on your Branch notice board. Starting on October 1St the Tony Stacy Centre are going to implement restricted visiting hours, they will be 10:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. and remember to sign in and indicate who you are visiting.

If you know of anybody who is trying to find out the Service Number of a British Veteran, call 1-888-996-2242 in Ottawa and they will give you the British number to call as they keep an up to date list.

In closing I wish you all the best of health for the rest of the season and all being well we will meet again in the spring of 2009.

Yours in Comradeship
George Bournier

NEWS RELEASE

COMMUNIQUÉ

NR-08.XXX

September 2, 2008

RECOGNITION PROGRAM ANNOUNCED FOR ATOMIC VETERANS

CALGARY—The Honourable Peter Gordon MacKay, Minister of National Defence and Minister of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and the Honourable Greg Thompson, Minister of Veterans Affairs, today announced the establishment of a program to recognize the service of Atomic Veterans.

“All those who serve their country, past or present, deserve the respect, admiration and care of a grateful nation,” said Minister MacKay. “Prime Minister Stephen Harper and our Government are committed to the care and well-being of our veterans and recognizes the service of all those who participated in nuclear weapons testing and in nuclear decontamination work. This program will recognize the exceptional service that these individuals have performed for their country.”

Canadian military veterans and civilian science and technology workers from the Department of National Defence who participated in nuclear weapons tests and the Chalk River decontamination efforts performed their duty under exceptional circumstances. In recognition of their exceptional service to the nation, these Canadians will be eligible to apply for an *ex-gratia* payment of \$24,000.00.

“The Atomic Veterans Recognition Program is another example of our Government’s commitment to Canada’s Veterans,” said Minister Thompson. “Through this program, a group of remarkable men and women will finally get the acknowledgment and respect that they so rightfully deserve.”

From the end of the Second World War until the signing of the atmospheric test ban treaty in 1963, the United States and the United Kingdom conducted numerous above-ground nuclear weapons trials in the United States, Australia and in the South Pacific to develop and test nuclear weapons, and to train soldiers in dealing with the effects of these weapons. In order to provide training opportunities for Canadian military personnel in nuclear warfare and decontamination and to develop expertise therein, the Canadian military sought to take part in these trials. During the same period, Canadian military personnel were also deployed to assist with emergency decontamination efforts at the Chalk River nuclear plant following two major nuclear reactor accidents in 1952 and 1958. CF participation at Chalk River drew on past expertise gained through participation in the nuclear weapons trials, and was viewed, in part, as a training opportunity for personnel to further augment this expertise.

Youth Education

Convention Report

We are off to a great start with this years Poster, Poems & Essay Contest. For those that are returning as Youth Education Chair's I look forward to working with you all again and for the new Chair's, welcome. I did not have to make one phone call last year regarding the form submissions, all forms were completed superbly, keep up the good work everyone.

Of the 10 Branches in our Zone, 7 of our Branches participated in the Remembrance Day Literary & Poster contest and 6 Branches participated in Public Speaking. Today I'm asking each Branch President to continue to promote & support this worthwhile program by encouraging your Youth Education Chair's to stay involved or become involved. Let's all work together to help promote Remembrance in our schools.

I know it's getting harder to get the schools involved and it's a program that seems to be dieing. I would hate to see that happen because it is our youth that will go on to Remember. If you haven't already done so, please get your packages out to the schools in your area this week.

I used the Zone F1 directory to get the names of all the Chair's. For those that I had email addresses for I have already sent the schedule and the Durham Board of Education permission letter. For the others I have given an envelope to you today. If you have an email address, please give it to me today before you leave.

Poster, Poems & Essays are to be sent to me no later than November 30th. Zone judging will take place in Ajax on Sunday December 7th. First place winners will then be sent to District by mid December.

Public Speaking registration forms are to be sent to me no later than March 5, 2009.

In closing, I would like to thank Oshawa Branch 43 for agreeing to host the 2009 Zone Public speaking competition to be held on March 8th 2009. I would also like to thank everyone that participated last year to make both competitions a huge success and I look forward to another successful year.

Yours in Comradeship
Emma Smith

The Coalition