

Editorial



Leadership happens at every level of the Royal Canadian Legion, and like all well established organizations, no one can shirk from this responsibility. What has to continue to carry on to keep this great organization an icon in the community is that right on down from the Dominion and Provincial presidents to the District and Zone commanders to Branch presidents and committee chairpersons in those responsible positions, have to generate excitement about their work and by their contagion, stimulate their followers.

Leadership is practiced not so much in words as in attitude and actions. Excitement builds strong relationships and high morale throughout any organization. The key to successful leadership today is influence, not authority. The best leaders are those who have sense enough to pick good people to do what they want done, and self-restraint enough to keep from meddling with them while they do it.

If you are a member or volunteer in a Legion branch that is NOT enthusiastic, energetic, creative, clever, curious, and just plain fun, you've got troubles, serious troubles. When people are involved in an organization that cares about them, they contribute a lot more than duty.

Leader's actions and words, have the ability to motivate others to attain their highest level of achievement; then gives them the opportunity and the freedom to grow. What gets measured gets done; what gets recognized gets done even better.

People who share a common sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are all traveling on the energy of one another. It makes sense to delegate or share leadership and take turns doing the hard tasks. This makes it less likely that any one of our volunteers will tire out.

Legions from coast to coast are closing their doors due to lack of membership, participation and finances. We have had two branches in our Zone F1 that would have went out of business if it was not for the leadership, dedication and experience of Past Zone Commander Dick Comeau and newly elected Zone Commander Cyril Best, as well as President Wayne Aston and his Executive committee at Branch 606 in Pickering, for rectifying many of their issues and financial woes.

They came up with a new strategy or ideology and it was successful. I congratulate them, it certainly was quite a resurrection and they should be commended for a job well done. Their veterans and members can now breath a little easier because of the commitment from a dedicated group of volunteers and extraordinary leadership. Hopefully other branches will learn from their achievement.

I wonder how many of these other branches across Canada would have survived if they had of had a captain with a new strategy, idea, or a new route to take, and a crew that really cared about the ship and each other, and most important, wanted to row together, and head in what they all believed was the right direction.

Leadership...It's so important.

Bruce Sharpe
Public Relations Officer



1st Vice President



Comrades, with the end of my term fast approaching, I would like to thank everyone for giving me the opportunity to have served you as 1st. Vice, 2nd. Vice as well as an Executive member.

In these positions, I had the responsibility of selling Provincial Lottery tickets, scheduling the Entertainment, organizing the Saturday afternoon Meat Draws and I was also in charge of the Canteen.

In addition to all of this, I was involved in many areas of fund-raising. I had a great deal of help raising money for our branch and also for the Oshawa Cancer Treatment Centre, through our various raffles and draws which included swing sets, tools, dolls, toys, bag balm, loonies, and fridge magnets. We raffled it all.

I would like to also express my appreciation to all of the members who volunteered, whether it was recording inventories, meat draws, 50/50's, or being a patron, every little or big bit helped. On behalf of Branch 322 and myself, I thank you very much.

As for myself, I declined nomination simply because my life has gotten too busy the last year with work, family, and preparing for retirement. However, I am not going to disappear, and I am not going to stop volunteering. I am just stepping down from the Long Table. I will still probably stay too late on Friday and Saturdays. Some things never change

Our staff has been very easy to deal with, and they do a great job, given the fact they have some real colourful characters to deal with around here.

In closing, congratulations and good luck to the next Executive and Officers, and thank you for your support over the years.

Yours In Comradeship
Chester McConnell



Membership Notice



Comrades, there will be NO initiations at the May General Meeting on May 4th, due to elections, and as a reminder, only Ordinary, Associate, and Affiliate Voting Members, whose dues for 2005 have been paid, will be allowed to vote for the Annual Election of Officers.

If you are a **Non-Voting Affiliate Member** with 24 months continuous service, and have participated in the Poppy campaign, you are eligible to apply for **Voting Affiliate Member** status. Please complete one of the applications that may be obtained from the Bar Steward. Your application will be reviewed by the Executive Committee and presented at a General meeting.

Brian "Dusty" Pollard
Membership Chairman

Ladies Auxiliary



Thank goodness Spring is in the air and fresh flowers are starting to grow and looking forward our Ladies have a busy couple of months ahead of us.

The past few months we have hosted Seniors luncheons, birthday parties and far too many funerals. The passing of Alec Latta who was a great supporter of the Ladies Auxiliary will be greatly missed by all of our members.

We are having our annual Craft and Bake Sale on June 18th, and we are looking forward to your continued support..

We will also be holding our elections on May 9th, and will be looking forward to seeing new faces.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Trevor Smith for designing and building a new flag stand for us, he did a great job. Finally thank you to all of our volunteers for their continued support. Without you we would not be a success.

Yours in Comradeship
Wendy Clark
President Ladies Auxiliary



Colour Guard



Comrades, sadly our long time American friend, and also a veteran of our branch, Bob Spahr passed away on April 7th. Our Colour Guard was very honoured to have been included in his funeral service in Cayahoga Falls, Ohio. Bob was the Past Commander of the Appleman Post 3294, and also Past Commander of the American Legion Post 449.

Unfortunately two of our senior members, Jim Moore (17 years) and Fred Lombard (11 years) have retired due to personal commitments. I would like to thank them for their many years of dedicated service. I would also like to welcome aboard two new members to the Colour Guard, Randy Fowler and Gil Barrett.

We participated at the Zone Convention on March 6th. We will be marching in the Battle of Atlantic Parade in Oshawa on May 1st.

The summer months and vacations will soon be upon us. Drive Safely.

Gary Whelan
Commanding Officer



The Royal Canadian Legion Dominion Command Executive



Standing in back row (L to R)

Tom Erwin, Dominion Chairman, Patricia Varga, Dominion Vice President, Wilfred Edmonds, Dominion Vice President, John Alger, Dominion Vice President, Robert (Bob) James Gray, Dominion Vice President, Micheal Cook Dominion Treasurer

Sitting in front row (L to R)

Jack Frost Dominion First Vice President, Mary Ann Burdette, Dominion President, Allen R. Parks, Immediate Past President



Dominion President Mary Ann Burdette, a Past President of Pacific Command (now British Columbia/Yukon Command) of The Royal Canadian Legion and a life member of Terrace, B.C. Branch, is the first woman to hold the office of Dominion President. She was elected to that office at the 40th Dominion Convention in London, Ontario in June, 2004.

Ms. Burdette has held all Legion branch offices except Treasurer and was a Zone Commander before entering the executive at the provincial level in 1985, where she moved from Second Vice-President through to President. A member of the Legion's Dominion Executive Council for 15 years, Ms. Burdette has chaired the Dominion Command Leadership and Development committee, the Sports Committee and was appointed chairman of the Planning, Administration, Poppy and Remembrance Committee in June 2002. She later chaired the Poppy and Remembrance Committee on reorganization. She was also appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Veterans, Service and Seniors Committee and has previously served on the Membership Committee.

Ms. Burdette's military service was with the Royal Canadian Air Force where she served in St. Jean in Quebec, Namao in Alberta, Aylmer and Rockcliffe in Ontario as an Air Force Policewoman.