

Editorial

Mary Ann Burdett, of Terrace, B.C., our newly elected, and I might add, first female ever to hold the office of Dominion President of the Royal Canadian Legion, stated at the 40th Dominion Convention in London, Ontario in June 2004, that most of the branches across our great nation are losing members at an unprecedented rate. Many have given up their charters and no longer exist. She acknowledged the fact that times are changing, the world is changing and the branches have to change to keep up with these difficult times.

She boldly stated something to the effect that “our younger members with new ideas have to be given the opportunity to put forth their new ways of thinking. The old guard has to step aside, and let them be heard, yet be there to support them with regards to the rules and regulations and by-laws of Command and the different branches. This is an absolute necessity or 25 years from now the Royal Canadian Legion will become just another dinosaur.”

I have to say that I was very impressed with Mary Ann, as well as all, of the officers of Dominion Command. The Royal Canadian Legion will survive if we adhere to their direction. As well, all of the presidents of the different Provincial Commands are on the same page when it comes to the Legion’s survival. These members are well educated; articulate individuals whose main purpose is to number one take care of our veterans. They are all focused in striving to make this great organization healthy again, and get it back on the road to recovery. I have every confidence this will come to fruition, but only if we change with the times.

While our branch here in Ajax is doing extremely well and is very successful at this time, what about five years now? Our membership is not getting any younger. Our volunteers are becoming more and more scarce. Every year, it is the same group of members that are continually dedicating their time and effort in making this branch the success that it is.

Are these warning signs? Does our branch have to work harder at recruiting reputable young members? Do we have to research and implement different ideas and a new way of thinking? Let’s listen to what Mary Ann and her talented, experienced group at Command are saying.

Bruce Sharpe
Public Relations Officer





Mary Ann Burdett

Dominion President
The Royal Canadian Legion



Mary Ann Burdett, 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. Burdett 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. Burdett 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. Burdett's military service was with the Royal Canadian Air Force where she served in St. Jean and Aylmer in Quebec, Namao in Alberta and Rockliffe, Ontario as an Air Force Policewoman. Now retired from public service she was formerly employed in office administration and safety engineering services for the B.C. provincial government. She has one son, two daughters and eleven grandchildren.

Allan R Parks
Immediate Past Dominion President
The Royal Canadian Legion



Allan Parks joined The Royal Canadian Legion's Dartmouth Branch in 1978, later transferring to the Miscouche Branch, Prince Edward Island, where he rose to the level of branch President. The first Associate Member of the Legion to be elected to the office of Provincial President, Mr. Parks had the added distinction of being the youngest elected officer at the Dominion Command level.

In June 2000 he was elected as Dominion First Vice-President at the 38th Dominion Convention in Halifax. He became Dominion President on the death of Bill Barclay in February 2002 and was acclaimed in the position at the 39th Dominion Convention in June 2002 in Edmonton, Alta. He is the first Associate Member and the first member of P.E.I. Command to attain this office. He became the Immediate Past Dominion President at the London, Ont. Dominion Convention in June 2004.

Mr. Parks was first elected as a Dominion Vice-President in 1992 at a Dominion Convention in Québec City and was re-elected at the Calgary Convention in 1994, the Toronto Convention in 1996 and the Winnipeg Convention in 1998. He has chaired Dominion Command's Poppy and Remembrance, Member Participation Sports, Membership and Veterans, Service and Seniors Committees. He also serves on the Canvet Publications' board of directors.

Mr. Parks has served the community in a number of capacities including as Vice-Chairman of the Prince Edward Island Department of Industry Small Business Review Board; trustee to the Unit 2 School Board (from 1989-1992); and scout leader with Scouts Canada Miscouche. He is currently a director of the New Brunswick and P.E.I. Last Post Fund. Interested in improving housing for senior citizens, he is employed as a provincial government property development and occupational health and safety officer. He and his wife Janice have four children.



**Remember Them
Support Our Veterans**



POPPY DANCE

Saturday November 6, 2004

8pm to 1am

Featuring the Fabulous

Charles Street Band

Tickets \$10 each

Cold Buffet Will Be Donated By Ladies Auxiliary

Entertainment

September

<i>Friday 3</i>	<i>Johnathon Kardos</i>	<i>9 – 1</i>
<i>Monday 6</i>	<i>Two of a Kind</i>	<i>3 – 7 (Labour Day)</i>
<i>Friday 10</i>	<i>Lindsay Morgan</i>	<i>9 – 1</i>
<i>Tuesday 14</i>	<i>Lindsay Morgan</i>	<i>12 – 4 (Seniors)</i>
<i>Friday 17</i>	<i>Tim Hewie</i>	<i>9 – 1</i>
<i>Friday 24</i>	<i>Tom Heyfron</i>	<i>9 – 1</i>



October

<i>Friday 1</i>	<i>J & J</i>	<i>9 – 1</i>
<i>Friday 8</i>	<i>Doug Deveaux</i>	<i>9 – 1</i>
<i>Monday 11</i>	<i>T & T</i>	<i>3 – 7 (Thanksgiving)</i>
<i>Tuesday 12</i>	<i>Jimmy Fraser</i>	<i>12 – 4 (Seniors)</i>
<i>Friday 15</i>	<i>Darren Freeman</i>	<i>9 – 1</i>
<i>Friday 22</i>	<i>Bill Dunn</i>	<i>9 – 1</i>
<i>Saturday 23</i>	<i>Jimmy Fraser</i>	<i>6 – 10</i>
<i>Friday 29</i>	<i>Ronnie</i>	<i>9 – 1</i>
<i>Sunday 31</i>	<i>Limelite Karaoke</i>	<i>3 – 7</i>

