




Royal Canadian Legion



Branch 625 Richmond



Legion  Canada's Largest Service Club

Foxy's Tales



March 2021

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Secretary	(613-838-6078)	Elizabeth Douville
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Boyd Dulmage
Joanne Heinbuch
Jack Lemyre
Mavis Lewis
Tom Louks
Louis Seward

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Bursary		Jane Louks
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Cenotaph		Jane & Tom Louks
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Ways & Means and Catering		Jane Louks
Website		Wendy Ryan
Youth	(613-838-6078)	Elizabeth Douville



The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 625
6430 Ottawa St. W Box 625,
Richmond, Ontario K0A 2Z0

Phone 613-838-2644
Website: www.richmondlegion.ca

Club 55 Executive

President	(613-838-2138)	Joanne Heinbuch
Past President	(613-838-4269)	Brian Goss
Vice President	(613-838-2548)	John Villeneuve
Secretary	(613-838-6078)	Elizabeth Douville
Treasurer	(613-838-3244)	Tom Louks

Committees

Branch Liaison	Shirley Morris
Cards (for people)	Brenda Goss
Coffee	John Villeneuve
Euchre	Joyce Cook
Exercise	Shirley Morris & John Olsen
Membership	Joanne Heinbuch
Movies	Tom Louks
Telephone	Marg Hogan



Deadline to submit for the next bulletin is always t
he third Friday of March, June, September and December by 6 pm please

Send to wryan1955@hotmail.com

All articles appearing in this publication are the opinions of their author.

President's Message

Here we are, heading into Spring at last!

This year we don't have any snowbirds returning to the nest as they didn't leave last fall. The vaccine is on the horizon, some may be receiving it as we read this bulletin and the Executive has started to plan on how and what to do when the Branch is fully opened up.



Membership has increased and Branch refreshing is complete.

Lets hope we can have our barbeques this summer and have Club 55 ramping up as well.

We still must be cautious and not get too far ahead of ourselves.

I would like to finish with a quote my father used to say – birds are singing, frogs are croaking, with spring arriving, it's daylight in the swamp.

Stay safe and we hope to see all of you soon.

Brian Goss

Elections

DECLARATION NO. 9 – 2021

All Branch elections, and transitions to a new Executive, and the General By-Laws of Command and Branch Regulations pertaining to Branch Elections, will be suspended pending a return to full Branch operations. The Provincial Administrative Committee will monitor and review the current and fore-casted pandemic impact, including all applicable protocols, and report to the Provincial Executive Council.



Club 55

Hello to all members of Club 55. Hope you are all still hanging in. Soon the vaccination will be in our arms and then we can use them to hug each other!

Normally we would have elections in May, but I am not sure of the protocol for this year, suffice to say that I will not be standing for any position in the club,.

Time for younger people and new ideas, I have been honoured to have served you these past years.

Everyone stay well, and if I see you and grab you for a hug, you will know that I have been vaccinated, can't wait!

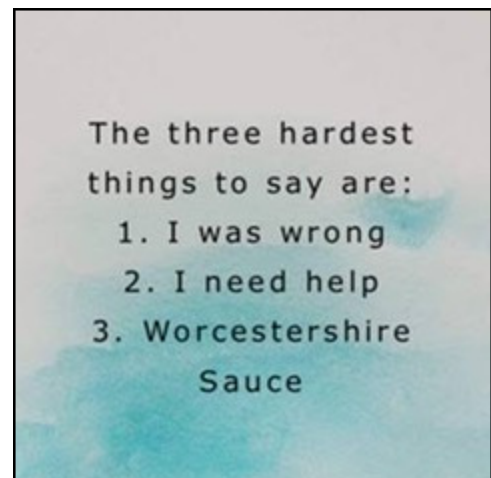
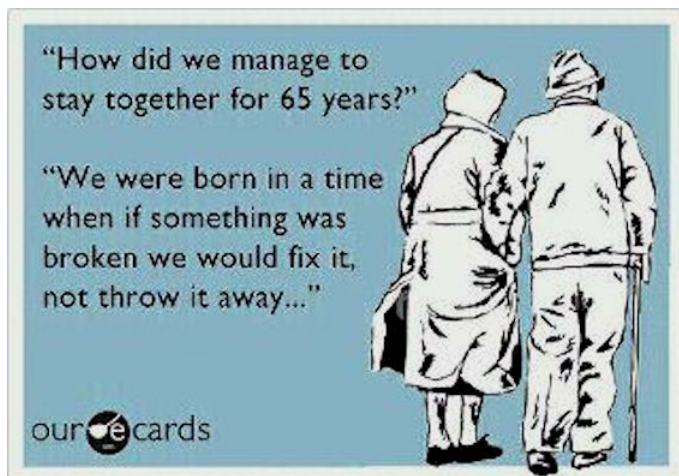
Joanne Heinbuch

LA Last Post

Mary "Pat" Loverock

March 5 2021

We Will Remember Them...





Membership Report

Since my last report there has not being a lot going on with the Legion due to the shutdown's etc. The good news is that hopefully by the Fall of this year everyone in Ottawa will have received the vaccine and things will start to open up again.

I am happy to report that we have had 10 new members join our legion in the past 12 months. This brings our membership up to 124. It is my hope that we can recruit a further 10 people in the next year. It is important to remember that veterans and members are aging in our Legion and it is important to all of us to try our best to encourage others to join as we need people to carry on the work of the legion when some of us are no longer able to.

Having said that the Dominion Command is running a promotion for any member who recruits a new member. They will have their names entered into a draw for both you and the new member for a \$500 VISA Gift card. Referring members must be in good standing, which means that dues must have been paid for 2021. The promotion runs until 30 April 2021, and new members can enrol on line. At the bottom of the membership form there is a spot for a promotion code which is "REFER". Make sure that the new member enters your name and membership number.

Thanks so much and continue being safe!

Boyd Dulmage, CD

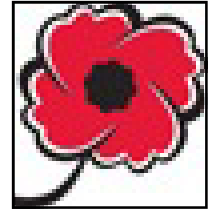
Last Post

George Murphy

December 16 2020

We Will Remember Them...

Poppy Report



It was a very different Poppy Campaign in 2020 but it is with great excitement that we are able to report that our donations totalled \$13,911!

Thank you to all the businesses who sponsored the wreath rack and made room on their counters for the boxes. Thank you to those who lay wreaths in memory of veterans and made donations this year even though no wreaths were laid and to those organizations who made donations and to every individual who put loonies and toonies and other currency in the donation boxes. Your generosity means that we are once again able to contribute to the Perley-Rideau Veterans' Hospital, sponsor bursaries for descendants of veteran's and support our local hospitals and organizations by donating to the purchase of medical equipment used in the treatment of veterans and seniors.

We did submit a column naming everyone but it seems that the Village Voice is no longer being delivered locally – another victim of the times perhaps?

The latest meeting of the Poppy committee was earlier this month and it is with regret that it was announced that Jane Louks has stepped down as Poppy chair after many years. Jane you did a terrific job in all areas and all your hard work and attention to detail made our campaign, events and ceremonies more successful each year. Thank you for all your years of hard work (and of making Tom do more than his fair share as well!!)

Welcome to Eric Booth who has taken on this most important committee and best of luck to you!

Here is a list of all the local businesses who once again made donations – individual names have not been included for privacy reasons but you know who you are and thank you again!

Bayview Windows	Goldi Ghamari MPP	Re-Max Realty
Blanchard Landscape & Design	Goodwood Association	Refresh Nail Spa
Blue Diamond Bar Grill	Grace Assembly	Richmond Agricultural Society
Bob & Lynn's Service Station	Hair Expectations	Richmond Animal Hospital
Brokerlink Insurance	J&M Harvey	Richmond Auto Care
Car-O-Practor	Kerr Karpentry	Richmond Curling Club
Cedarstone Homes	King's Independent Grocer	Richmond Family Eye Care
Chin Hon Restaurant	LCBO Richmond	Richmond Home Hardware
Christopher's Meat Market	Milano Pizza	Richmond IDA
CIBC Richmond	My Car/My RV	Richmond Lions Club
Circle K	Ottawa Valley Kitchens	Richmond Lodge
Country Quilter	Pet Value	Richmond Medical Clinic
Cousin Vinny's Pizza	Prospect Builders	Richmond Motorsport
D.E. Kinkade Konstruktion	QEL Systems	Richmond Nursery
Danby's Roadhouse	Rabb, Drs Rod & Lucy	Richmond Village Association
East West Restaurant	Rabb Construction	Richmond Village Dental Clinic

Richmond Motorsport
 Richmond Nursery
 Richmond Village Association
 Richmond Village Dental Clinic
 Richmond Village Pharmacy
 Royal Lepage/Cydney Green
 Royal's Restaurant
 Saand Ont
 SCG Construction
 St Andrew Presbyterian Church

St Clare Mission
 St Clare Catholic Women's League
 St John Anglican Church
 St Paul United Church
 St Philip Catholic Church
 St Philip Catholic Women's League
 St Philip Knights of Columbus
 S&S Service Station
 Scotiabank Richmond
 South Carleton Physiotherapy

Stittsville Goulbourn Horticultural Society
 Subway Restaurant
 Sue's Hair Advantage
 Tailor Tacks
 Talos Homes
 TD Bank
 Tercon Heating
 The Wood Turner
 Tim Horton's
 Tony's Chip Wagon



World War II Veterans and Families of WWII Veterans
"Wageningen 45" – Letters to Veterans of the Netherlands Campaign 1940-45

Wageningen 45 (The National Committee Commemorations Capitulations 1945) offers a platform for peace and freedom obtained in the Netherlands in 1945 and to draw attention to worldwide issues of Peace, Freedom and Security from Wageningen, City of Liberation.

See: www.wageningen45.nl

We aim to show our appreciation to those who fought within our land during the period of 1940-1945.

In April 2021, prior to the 5th of May, we would like to send each veteran from your country, who fought on Dutch soil during WWII, an English or French letter personally addressed to them and a bouquet of flowers.

We would like to turn this into a yearly tradition, until the last veteran passes away. These letters will be written by Dutch teenagers as part of an educational program.

So, we need help to establish contact with surviving veterans and keep in touch with them.

Please send your reply to: Elseline Grobben (elseline.grobben@wageningen.nl)

Thank you very much for your time and cooperation,
 Yours sincerely

Harry te Raa
 Coördinator Herdenken & Vrijwilligers



Niemeijerstraat 1 // 6701 CL Wageningen
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 Afwezig op vrijdag

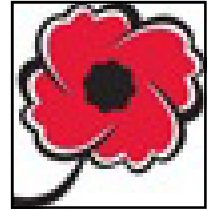
www.wageningen45.nl



Youth Report

We have our “Best in Branch” from our Remembrance Contests this year!

Halayna Brigden received a First Place at the Zone Level of judging with her poem, I AM. This poem won Third Place in the Eastern Ontario Division. Halayna is a grade five student at Richmond Public School.



Her poem will be hung on the front wall in our Legion for a year, and if the November 11th Cenotaph Service health guidelines permit, it will be included in the morning service. I think you will all agree that Halayna has made our Legion, her school, and herself proud with this fine entry.

We also had two other winners at the Zone Level this year.

Olivia Green from South Carleton High School came second with her essay, “My Covid -19 Experience Compared to my Grandfather’s Service in the Armed Forces”. When her grandfather returned to Canada he was diagnosed with tuberculosis. After surgery he was placed in a sanatorium that limited or prohibited visitors. Olivia’s essay was personally heartfelt as my father also got TB and stayed in the St Thomas Sanatorium for two and a half years. He lost $\frac{3}{4}$ of a lung and lived to be 90. Olivia ends her essay with, “I have gained perspective to his life during WWII, and I will be able to tell my children about his life so that his story will never be forgotten”.

Brody Kelahear from St. Philip School placed third with his essay, “My Remembrance Hero”. Brody wrote about his great-grandfather, James Campbell, who joined the Royal Canadian Navy when he was 20 years old. “I wish I could thank him for his role in keeping our country safe and allowing us to be free”.

Here is Halayna’s poem.

Elizabeth Douville

I AM...

I AM a child.
I SEE my father leaving for war.
I HEAR my mother’s crying.
I SMELL my mother’s perfume as I hug her.
I FEEL sadness in my heart.
I AM a child.

I AM a soldier.
I SEE my child crying as I leave for war.
I HEAR the explosive sound as the bombs go off.
I SMELL the smoke in the air.
I FEEL the pain as I’m shot.
I AM a soldier.

I AM a battleground.
I SEE the soldiers running.
I HEAR the cannons and guns shooting.
I SMELL the gunpowder.
I FEEL the footsteps as the soldiers run on me.
I AM a battleground.

I AM a little sister.
I SEE my brother leaving for war.
I HEAR my brother saying his goodbyes.
I SMELL my mother’s perfume as I hug her.
I FEEL my brother’s heartbeat as he hugs me tight.
I AM a little sister.

A View from A Hillside by John Andrew (Cyprus 1960)

The climb to the top of the Durn Hill, though a mere six hundred feet above sea level had been very strenuous. It was with great relief; therefore, that we sank in the heather to rest, the top at last.

Below us, beyond the headland to the west was the town. The sun was slowly sinking towards the horizon,

casting a deep pink glow on the glass-like surface of the sea. It was a peaceful scene. Dotted here and there were a few dark shapes, which we knew to be some of the fishing boats from the town below. One could easily visualize the solitary fisherman in each, throwing his lines over either side of the boat, each line having attached to it at least a dozen hooks baited with brightly coloured feathers. In a short time, the fisherman would, with gnarled hands, pull in one of those lines, but weighed down this time with the weight of at least four writhing, twisting mackerel. The perfect relaxation for an evening such as this.



Over Portsoy, a light pall of blue grey smoke was forming, and from a distance it seemed to hang motionless over the town as numerous housewives lit or added fuel to already lit fires as defence against the chill of this autumn evening.

Around us, the countryside, already beginning to lose some of its colour to the oncoming darkness, was mixture of pale yellow and green divided up into neat shapes By the darker line of the fence posts, or as was more common around this area, stone dykes, in the still evening air, the sound of a tractor came faintly to our ears, as some farmer, making the most of the twilight, hurried to cut as much of his field of oats as he could before any change in the weather interrupted his harvest. The farmhouses and buildings with their accompanying copse of trees stood out darkly against the lighter colours of the fields. Here and there, a light burst forth from some farmhouse, as if in a vain attempt to drive back the oncoming gloom.

Overhead, a few stars showed brightly in the clear dark sky, as we worked our way slowly down the hill. Meanwhile the large streetlights of the town had now sprung to life. Even from them, one could distinguish the new housing estates with their red-tiled roofs from the houses in the older part of the town. Those roofs were covered in what now are old-fashioned blue grey slates. The lights in the older part or “Sea Town”, being dimmer and in haphazard array, whilst those in the new estates were brighter and arranged in straight orderly rows. It was as if the town conspired to keep away the night, while the surrounding countryside welcomed it.

We quickened our pace in an attempt to reach those garish lights before the blackness of the night enveloped us completely. It had been a pleasant if strenuous evening.

Do you remember the movie, "The Great Escape" w/ Steve McQueen--read on...

The Great Escape Tunnel

Untouched for almost 7 decades, the tunnel used in the Great Escape has finally been unearthed. The 111 yard passage nicknamed 'Harry' by Allied prisoners, was sealed by the Germans after the audacious break-out from the POW camp Stalag Luft III in western Poland. Despite huge interest in the subject, encouraged by the film starring Steve McQueen, the tunnel was undisturbed over the decades because it was behind the Iron Curtain and the Soviets had no interest in its significance.



But at last British archaeologists have excavated it, and discovered its remarkable secrets.

Many of the bed boards which had been joined to stop it from collapsing were still in position. And the ventilation shaft, ingeniously crafted from used powdered milk containers known as Klim Tins, remained in working order.

Scattered throughout the tunnel, which is 30 feet below ground, were bits of old metal buckets, hammers and crowbars which were used to hollow out the route.

A total of 600 prisoners worked on 3 tunnels at the same time. They were nicknamed Tom, Dick, and Harry, and were just 2 feet square for most of their length. It was on the night of March 24 and 25, 1944, that 76 Allied airmen escaped through Harry.



1/3rd of the 200 prisoners, many in fake German uniforms and civilian outfits and carrying false ID papers, who were meant to slip away, managed to leave before the alarm was raised when escapee number 77 was spotted.

Tunnel vision: A tunnel reconstruction showing the trolley system.

Only 3 made it back to Britain. Another 50 were executed by firing squad on the orders of Adolf Hitler, who was furious after learning of the breach of security. In all, 90 boards from bunk beds, 62 tables, 34 chairs, and 76 benches, as well as 1000's of items including knives, spoons, forks, towels and blankets, were squirreled away by Allied prisoners to aid the escape plan under the noses of their captors.

NO Americans were involved in the operation. Most were Brits and Canadians, (all the tunnelers were Canadian personnel with backgrounds in mining) Poland, New Zealand, Australia, and South Africa.

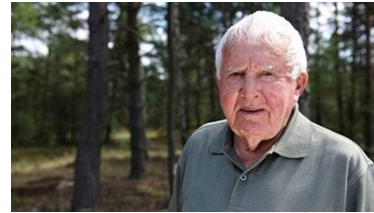


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The site of the tunnel, recently excavated by British archaeologists. The latest dig, over 3 weeks in August, located the entrance to Harry, which was originally concealed under a stove in Hut 104.

The team also found another tunnel, called George, whose exact position had not been charted. It was never used as the 2,000 prisoners were forced to march to other camps as the Red Army approached in January 1945.

Watching the excavation was Gordie King, 91, an RAF radio operator, who was 140th in line to use Harry and therefore missed out. 'This brings back such bitter-sweet memories', he said as he wiped away tears. 'I'm amazed by what they've found. '



Gordie King, 91, made an emotional return to Stalag Luft III.

In a related post:

Many recent generations have no true notion of the cost in lives and treasures that were paid for the liberties that we enjoy in the U.S. today. They also have no idea of the lengths that the "greatest generation" went to in order to preserve those liberties. Below is one true, small and entertaining story regarding those measures that is well worth reading, even if the only thing derived from the story is entertainment.

Escape from WWII POW Camps — starting in 1940, an increasing number of British and Canadian Air men found themselves as the involuntary guests of the Third Reich, and the Crown was casting about for ways and means to facilitate their escape.

Now obviously, one of the most helpful aids to that end is a useful and accurate map, one showing not only where stuff was, but also showing locations of 'safe houses' where a POW on-the-lam could go for food and shelter.

Paper maps had some real drawbacks -- they make a lot of noise when you open and fold them, they wear out rapidly, and if they get wet, they turn into mush.

Someone in MI-5 (similar to America's OSS) got the idea of printing escape maps on silk. It's durable, can be scrunched-up into tiny wads and unfolded as many times as needed and makes no noise.

At that time, there was only one manufacturer in Great Britain that had perfected the technology of printing on silk, and that was John Waddington Ltd. When approached by the govt. the firm was happy to do its bit for the war effort.

By pure coincidence, Waddington was also the U.K. Licensee for the popular American board game Monopoly. As it happened, 'games and pastimes' was a category of items qualified for insertion into 'CARE packages', dispatched by the International Red Cross to prisoners of war.

Under strict secrecy, in a guarded and inaccessible old workshop on the grounds of Waddington's, a group of sworn-to-secrecy employees began mass producing maps, keyed to each region of Germany, Italy, and France, or wherever Allied POW camps were located. When processed, these maps could be folded into such tiny bits that they would fit inside a Monopoly playing piece.

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

As long as they were at it, the clever workmen at Waddington's also managed to add:

1. A playing token, containing a small magnetic compass
2. A two-part metal file that could easily be screwed together
3. Useful amounts of genuine high-denomination German, Italian, and French currency, hidden within the piles of Monopoly money!

British and American air crews were advised, before taking off on their first mission, how to identify a 'rigged' Monopoly set – by means of a tiny red dot, one cleverly rigged to look like an ordinary printing glitch, located in the corner of the Free Parking square.

Of the estimated 35,000 Allied POWs who escaped, an estimated 1/3rd were aided in their flight by the rigged Monopoly sets. Everyone who did so was sworn to secrecy indefinitely, since the British Govt. might want to use this highly successful ruse in still another, future war

The story wasn't declassified until 2007, when the surviving craftsmen from Waddington's, as well as the firm itself, were finally honored in a public ceremony.

It's always nice when you can play that 'Get Out of Jail' Free' card!

Some readers of this story are probably too young to have any personal connection to WWII (Sep. '39 to Aug. '45), but this is still an interesting bit of history for everyone to know.

From Jack Lemyre

I miss the good old days...when you could actually have an opinion without offending somebody.

**Apparently one of the symptoms of covid-19 is having no taste?
Looking back on my exes i think i've been infected for years..**

Hope this story is true.

Richard, (my husband), never really talked a lot about his time in Viet Nam, other than he had been shot by a sniper. However, he had a rather grainy, 8 x 10 black and white photo he had taken at a USO show of Ann Margret with Bob Hope in the background that was one of his treasures.

A few years ago, Ann Margaret was doing a book signing at a local bookstore. Richard wanted to see if he could get her to Sign the treasured photo so he arrived at the bookstore at 12 o'clock for the 7:30 signing. When I got there after work, the line went all the way around the bookstore, circled the parking lot, and disappeared behind a parking garage. Before her appearance, bookstore employees announced that she would sign only her book and no memorabilia would be permitted.

Richard was disappointed, but wanted to show her the photo and let her know how much those shows meant to lonely GI's so far from home.. Ann Margaret came out looking as beautiful as ever and, as second in line, it was soon Richard's turn.

He presented the book for her signature and then took out the photo. When he did, there were many shouts from the employees that she would not sign it. Richard said, "I understand. I just wanted her to see it." She took one look at the photo, tears welled up in her eyes and she said, "This is one of my gentlemen from Viet Nam and I most certainly will sign his photo. I know what these men did for their country and I always have time for 'my gentlemen.'"

With that, she pulled Richard across the table and planted a big kiss on him. She then made quite a to-do about the bravery of the young men she met over the years, how much she admired them, and how much she appreciated them. There weren't too many dry eyes among those close enough to hear. She then posed for pictures and acted as if he were the only one there.

That night was a turning point for him. He walked a little straighter and, for the first time in years, was proud to have been a Vet. I'll never forget Ann Margaret for her graciousness and how much that small act of kindness meant to my husband.

Later at dinner, Richard was very quiet. When I asked if he'd like to talk about it, my big, strong husband broke down in tears.. "That's the first time anyone ever thanked me for my time in the Army," he said. I now make it a point to say 'Thank you' to every person I come across who served in our Armed Forces.

Freedom does not come cheap and I am grateful for all those who have served their country.

If you'd like to pass on this story, feel free to do so. Perhaps it will help others to become aware of how important it is to acknowledge the contribution our service people make.



Carol Brown	02-Apr
Terry Fish	02-Apr
Gerry Blair	06-Apr
Jack Lemyre	12-Apr
Clara Baker	14-Apr
Pat Laninga	16-Apr
Bill Cook	20-Apr
Sharon Murphy	27-Apr
John Olsen	26-Apr
Betty Brown	09-May
Iain Clogg	10-May
Donald Buck	11-May
Carolyn Becking	17-May
Rick Rabb	17-May
Joan Frost	22-May
Mavis Lewis	25-May
Gisele Moore	25-May
Don Hall	30-May
Jim Gleason	01-Jun
Wendy Ryan	04-Jun
June Craig	07-Jun
Susan Grant	10-Jun
Josee Levesque	18-Jun
Shondra McLean	18-Jun
Johnny Villeneuve	18-Jun
Patricia McGrath	19-Jun
Keith Thurrott	30-Jun

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RICHMOND LEGION BR 625 REOPENING

Following the Framework for Reopening our Province and the City of Ottawa Bylaws, Br 625 RCL Richmond is opening for selected venues only.

Entrance to the hall will be from the front, main door and exiting from the west side door. Masks must be worn on arriving and while exiting and any time you are leaving your seat.

All persons must sign the daily Log with your name and phone number printed beside your signature. PLEASE NOTE: TEN MAX IN THE HALL!

Coffee Hour will be on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 10 am. Please call Jane Louks at 613-838-3244 to reserve a seat.

Exercise classes have resumed and are from 9:00.to 9:50 am Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Changes are made by the Province daily so please keep an eye on our website or contact a member of the executive (names and numbers are on page 2) with any questions.

COVID-19 RICHMOND LEGION OPENING RULES

Admission to the Branch Facilities

1. On entering the Branch from the front, main door, you must wear a face mask until you are seated at your table and every time you leave the table. When leaving the Branch, exit from the Westside door.
2. You must use the sanitizer on your hands at the front door.
3. All members and guests must sign the log sheet when you enter and print your name & phone number beside your signature.
4. Only you and your spouse/partner or your personal bubble (10 maximum) can sit together.
5. Only one (1) person in the washroom at a time.
6. Always remember to ``Physical distance ``.

PLEASE NOTE: the 10 person limit means that a TOTAL of 10 people are allowed in the hall at the same time no matter who is in your bubble.

President Brian Goss & executive committee



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Phone 613-838-2644
Website: www.richmondlegion.ca

