

# The 211 Annual Newsletter Bowser and Area Branch # 211 The Royal Canadian Legion



## Hello Comrades

As one year closes and another starts, we take the time to reflect on the past year and the positive steps taken. Our washrooms are complete, with one minor deficiency to be rectified. The Ladies were successful in obtaining a sizeable grant for the kitchen renovation, and it will be complete by October 15th, 2016. It is a wonderful upgrade to a now commercial grade facility. This will entice more people to make use of it by renting, or by employing the Branch to cater events. The Friday night cafe is generating some much needed revenue.

This year we had by far the most hall rentals for weddings, celebrations of all sorts, RDN information meetings and so on. This generates some of the funds required to pay the bills and maintain the upkeep of the aging building.

As you will see also, our gaming fund is in a positive position, which allows us to support service and charitable groups in the community. This reflects the members and guests who support our meat draws.

Our various events have been relatively well attended and the volunteer hours extreme which takes a toll.

The other area that requires your participation, is your involvement on the Executive team itself. We work very hard and unfortunately, as with most volunteer organizations, some leave the work to the few, causing possible burn out. We would like this not to happen at Branch 211 and hope that you will consider standing for the election process in November. Remember, our meetings are the fourth Tuesday every month, except for July, August and December. Please try to come and make your thoughts known to the right people at the right time. Just a reminder to consider saying "Yes" when the Nominating committee calls on you. We are only as strong as our Membership allows.

See you soon at Branch 211

**Comrade Mary Robertson**  
**President**

## Secretary

I have enjoyed my time as secretary even though this year proved to be quite a challenge, so as my third and final year as secretary comes to an end I would like to thank past and present executive for their support and assistance when needed over the years. I would also like to send a special thank you to Zoe for doing my secretary duties this year when I was unable to do them.

Take care and I wish everyone health and happiness.

**Comrade Wendy Anderson**  
**Secretary**

## Donations, Scholarships, Bursaries

We are doing well in our gaming fund so far this year. To date we have awarded \$5,250 in scholarships and bursaries to deserving graduates. We have supported our various cadet corps as well. In addition, we have made donations of over \$4,000 to various local groups. Thank you to everyone who has contributed so generously to allow us to provide this support.

**Comrade Carol Robertson**  
**Donations Chair**

## Service Officer

Branch 211 was saddened by the passing of seven of our Comrades this past year.

Our fallen Comrades:

Doug Corvall	Alec Courqin
Herb Frande	Wayne Morrison
Norm Wilson	Irene Taylor-Vercleyen

Apart from assisting families during their time of bereavement, there are other ways in which the Legion can be of assistance. Veterans are eligible to apply for a disability pension and the war veterans allowance, which is a program that ensures a qualified person receives the maximum permissible income. Our veterans independence program offers services to help veterans

remain in their home. There are treatment benefits available as well; glasses, hearing aids and dental, to name a few.

As Service Officer, I am here to assist you with any question you may have or assist you with the paperwork required by Veterans Affairs Canada.

If you are aware of a veteran in need of assistance, please contact me.

Phone: 778-424-7520

email: [gillian.taccogna@shaw.ca](mailto:gillian.taccogna@shaw.ca)

**Comrade Gillian Taccogna**  
**Service Officer**

## Treasurer's Remarks

Thank you for the opportunity to serve Branch #211. The months have flown by this year but I can honestly say it's been a very interesting and personally rewarding time. Thanks to Bev Sanders' guidance and support the job became less daunting. Thank you also to our audit team who worked to ensure the Branch meets with Commands Standards. They gave us a healthy report which emphasized we are on the right track and maintaining good conduct. With ever rising operational costs, maintenance and unforeseen events that occur, the Branch needs to continue cautious spending. We are in better shape than other Legions, although our revenue is down from last year, we are managing to keep our head above water. Think about fund raising ideas and stepping up to volunteer it can reduce our costs and help the Branch to flourish in the year ahead.

**Comrade Zoe Fiddler**  
**Treasurer**

## Gaming

Without all the usual "where did the year go???" another year has gone.

The Gaming account remains robust. This is directly influenced by the number of people who attend and the LA for their great meals at the Giant Meat draws and those who provide meals on Friday. It all helps!

**Comrade Robert VanSickle**  
**Gaming Chairman**

## Entertainment, Events & Activities

This past year has been very busy, beginning with ringing in the New Year with a great Rock'n'Roll party to the tunes of "Identity Crisis."

With fundraising activities, dances, dinners, lawn tractor races, craft, plant and garage sales, and a number of other great events a great deal of fun was had through the year.

**Comrade Neil Van Bemmelen**  
**Entertainment Chairman**

## Ways and Means

A lot was accomplished this year in raising funds for Legion costs.

A great big thanks to all involved.

**Comrade Robert VanSickle**  
**Ways & Means Chairman**

## Friday Night Kitchen

We have a number of volunteers who faithfully help out in the kitchen to provide dinners on Friday evening. It is our pleasure to do this work together but we could always use more volunteers! We have had quite a break recently due to kitchen renovations which the Ladies Auxiliary has most graciously funded. It was much needed. We should be back in business by October 21st so come on by for a good meal and comradeship on Fridays. We do make a little money providing this service which helps pay our Legion expenses.

**Comrade Bill Robertson**  
**Meal Service Co-ordinator**

## Kitchen Volunteers

Steve Lombardo  
Zoe Fiddler  
Vanessa Hill  
Marilyn Seaman  
Darlene Phillips  
John Gurak  
Sherry Sparrow  
Carol Cannon  
Wendy Anderson  
Rick Nickerson  
Bill Robertson

Sue Dorn  
Jim Fiddler  
Ted Seaman  
Leigh-Anne Mehan  
Peter  
Paulette Gurak  
Trish Nickerson  
Arlene Evans  
Gillian Taccogna  
Carol Robertson

## Nomination Committee

If you are able to spare some time to help out with the Branch activities, we are encouraging younger, energized members to put your name forward for the upcoming year's executive. No experience necessary, we are all ready to help. Please contact Paulette Gurak@250-757-8333 or Sue Dorn @ 250-757-2082.

## Notes from Honours & Awards

Our 2016 Honours and Awards ceremony was held Sept. 18th. We Honoured 29 Legion members and 6 Ladies Auxiliary members with years of service pins. We also presented this year's Legion and Ladies Auxiliary executive with Past Officers medals. For those who could not attend to receive your pin, it will be available with your 2017 membership.

**Comrade John Gurak**  
**Honours and Awards Chairperson**

*All members are encouraged to attend General meetings which are held on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 7 PM.*

## Ladies Auxiliary

The Ladies' Auxiliary (LA) is a group of women and men who do a lot of volunteer work in the community as well as provide support to the branch.

The LA provides local schools with two scholarships each year and donates regularly to almost twenty local non-profit groups. To help raise money for these donations we have fundraisers like the Valentine's Luncheon and the Spring Fling. For fundraising, the LA also caters private events, provides a supper for giant meat draws, provides lunch for memorial services and many branch events, and are currently in the process of making 400 Christmas

cakes. Fundraising efforts include Parksville BeachFest Ambassadors and twice yearly pie sales.

The LA is pleased to provide Boomers Riders and the Wounded Warriors a resting spot and they always request our homemade cookies!

This year our efforts have resulted in receiving a grant for much needed kitchen upgrades. Work will be completed just in time for the busy Christmas season!

Thank you, Ladies, for all your work!

**Kathleen Wagstaff**  
**Ladies Auxiliary President**

## House and Property

It's been another busy year!

The four new bathrooms were completed in the spring and a celebratory "Thank You" Dinner was held for everyone who volunteered their time, skills and labour.

The interior emergency lighting and exit signs were overhauled and improved; the exterior parking lot and exterior lighting are being upgraded; the patio drapes were repaired; and kitchen renovation consultations began.

The air conditioning for the lounge gave us a bit of trouble for a while, then the thermostat was replaced and the roof unit tuned up.

The vacuum cleaner needed parts; the bar storeroom ceiling was replaced; the unused chimney in the kitchen was demolished and removed; and due to damage caused by a break-in, some exterior doors needed replacing.

All the while, the Tuesday work party continued to deal with regular chores and maintenance; cleaning the beer lines; sterilizing the glass washer; changing the marquee; lawn and garden care; setups for events and meetings; dripping taps; leaking taps; changing lightbulbs; emptying the deep fryer; washing the kitchen floor; and taking recycling to the depot.

None of this would happen without the Tuesday crew - Jack Ellington, George Cowley, Norm Miklic, Lorne Erickson, Ben Evans, Rick Nickerson, and others who drop in to help.

A big thank you to you all.

**Comrade Bruce Charters**  
**House & Property Chair**

On November 11th each year the Legion organizes a Parade and Service in order to carry on the long tradition of remembering the fallen, the Canadians who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

We remember by forming up and marching, as they did. We have a moment or two of silence and prayers, as they did.

We lay a wreath at the cenotaph, a token of remembering the fallen, as they did.

Wear your Poppy with pride as a symbol of Remembrance – showing that we remember the sacrifice and honour those Canadians who made it.



## Communications Info:

**Wendy Anderson**, our Branch Secretary, manages our Voicemail and e-mail.

**John Gurak**, our Membership Chairperson, manages our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Events-at-the-Bowser-Legion-br211/368799556487>.

**Koreen Gurak** manages our Web Site at [www.rcl211.ca](http://www.rcl211.ca).

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Lounge: (250) 757-9222

Office: (778) 424-4472

Email: [rcl211@shaw.ca](mailto:rcl211@shaw.ca)

Membership Email: [rcl211\\_1@shaw.ca](mailto:rcl211_1@shaw.ca)

## Membership

The membership committee has worked extremely hard to retain the amount of 2015 active members. Year-to-date, the branch is at 92 per cent recruitment based on December 2015 numbers - presently we are at 343 members.

For those members who are not able to get to the Legion to renew, we encourage you to call the lounge and renew by Visa or MasterCard. Please mail in your information or stop by during lounge hours.

Remember Sept 1<sup>st</sup> to Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> is our 2017 Branch "Early Bird Campaign".

All members paying their dues during this campaign are eligible for the two free memberships for 2018 dues drawn on Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> 2017. The Dominion Command per Capita Tax for 2017 is \$38.86. The Branch membership fee for 2017 is \$55.00 for a single member and \$50.00 for a second member living in the same house.

Branch 211 changed to a "Dominion Command Membership Program" in October 2013 and we are still working on updating all of our information.

Currently, we are updating the areas listed below. Please return this newsletter to the bar and write the following in the space provided below.

1. Name
2. Your birthdate: Day/Month/Year. Presently we have only the year for some members.
3. Your e-mail address and phone number
4. Anything that may have changed since you last updated your membership information.
5. Do you want the Legion magazine (Yes) or (No)

You can also reply by sending us this info to:

RCL 211 Membership e-mail: [rcl211\\_1@shaw.ca](mailto:rcl211_1@shaw.ca)

On Remembrance Day, Fri. Nov 11<sup>th</sup>, the membership committee will be in attendance to renew memberships and answer questions. We will have application forms available to recruit new members, etc.

**Comrade John Gurak**  
**Membership Chairperson**

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## Did you know?

All meat draw profits are given back to our communities through Donations to Non-Profit Groups, Scholarships and Bursaries.

Meat Draws are held at the Legion on Fridays at 5 PM and Saturdays at 4:30 PM

Please follow our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Events-at-the-Bowser-Legion-br211/368799556487> or Eyes on BC or "What's On" in the Parksville Qualicum Beach News.