

The 211 Annual Newsletter Bowser and Area Branch # 211



Hello Comrades

It is the time of year when the past year's Executive and myself, pass on information as to the progress of the Branch, over the year. I would like to say that we have had a successful year and are in good shape. Something I have heard though, is that new members are not aware they are invited to the General meetings. You most certainly ARE. This is the way to ensure you are all aware of what is going on, during the year and we really DO need your input and ideas of what we should do to promote the Legion. This is your opportunity to voice your opinions, yea or nay. These meetings are on the fourth Tuesday of each month and I hope with this information, we will see more of you at the meetings. As you are aware, the nominations for the coming year for the 2018 Executive are underway and we need some of you to step up and support the Branch. You

would be guided and supported, and not just thrown into the fire!

Please understand that the majority of the current group have been volunteering for up 20+ years and need a break (though we won't be gone!!) If no one does step up, be aware that the Branch could close which would be a huge loss for both the members and the community. We need you and we need you NOW.

We are almost on the brink of the Poppy Campaign and your help with that is desired as you pledged to do during your initiation ceremony. Please contact the Legion or Rick Nickerson or Mary Robertson to sign up!!

Thank you for your help and support during this past year. The support of the Veterans, their dependants and the community could not happen without you.

**Comrade Mary Robertson
President**

Notes from the Secretary

As my fourth year comes to a close as Secretary I would like to thank all those on the Executive, the Chairs, and all the members who give their time to make this Legion a success.

I am also looking forward to my new challenge as Secretary/Treasurer for Central Vancouver Island Zone.

The Branch has hosted many fun events throughout the year and next year will be fun filled as well with our annual events such as the Indy 211, Canada Day, etc.

Please remember that we wouldn't have a Legion without all these volunteers, so if possible consider giving your name for nomination when contacted.

**Comrade Wendy Anderson
Branch Secretary**

Treasurer's Remarks

Our Legion continues to operate with the support of volunteers. Thank you to all those who worked above and beyond this year with meal services, events and those who do all the tasks behind the scene. Your support with the lounge, meat draws and Friday supper certainly helps. Our bookkeeper Bev Sanders and the audit team have once again worked to assist the Branch to keep on track and adhere to Branch standards. The ever increasing costs for the essentials, maintaining an aging building, unexpected events and expenses can strain our financial earnings. As such we need to continue with cautious spending habits. Although at this time, we are a little behind last year's account balances, we are proactive with seeking ways to strengthen our situation through applications for grants to help with maintenance and other special purpose events. Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Legion for the past two years, as your Treasurer.

**Comrade Zoe Fiddler
Treasurer**

Ways and Means

Raising funds to cover Legion costs greatly depends on volunteers. Thank you to all those who stepped up, those who came, had lots of fun and supported with their \$. The year was brought in with a great party followed with St. Patrick's Day (in 2018 we will have a Robbie Burns night) excellent dining events, the plant sale, the craft fair (the Christmas fair is coming up soon) Our salute to 150 Canada Day/Family Day, garage sale, to name but a few. Don't be shy! Get involved! All suggestions are welcome.

**Comrade Zoe Fiddler
Ways & Means Chairman**

Gaming

We have applied for a \$25,000.00 New Horizons Grant to replace our existing Bar. We will know by the end of March 2018 if our application was approved.

We have also applied for a \$20,000.00 Gaming Grant through BC Lottery Commission. If we are successful in obtaining these funds, it will allow us to make more or larger donations to the Cadets and other local charities as well as Scholarships.

**Comrade Sandy Wardle
Gaming Chairman**

Notes from Honours & Awards

This years Award Ceremony was held September 17. Fifty-Two members were eligible to receive Year Pins from 10 years to 50 years service. Sadly some members could not attend. Their pins will be attached to their 2018 Membership Card. A highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of a Life Member Award to Rev. Brian Kirby. Ladies Auxiliary Pins were also presented at the ceremony.

Comrade Mel Wilson
Honours and Awards Chairperson

Notes from the Sports Chair

The Annual Golf Tournament this year played at Arrowsmith Golf Course was a great success once again. Everyone is looking forward to next year.

Our Quadrathon which consists of pool, darts, shuffleboard, and crib in the spring was also a sell out. A different format was used this year and it went over quite well. Our next Quadrathon will be held in November, so be sure to sign up early.

A valiant effort was given by Lantzville at the Horseshoe Tournament but alas Bowser was the winner again this year.

Ladies Pool and Crib held on Wednesday's have started up again, so if you're interested please come by the Legion and sign up.

Elections will be held in November so please consider signing up for a position on the Executive or as a Chair.

Norm Anderson
Sports Chair

1st VP Remarks

Comrades, another eventful year at the Bowser Legion with a handful of volunteers working their hearts out to ensure you have a successful Legion to attend. When the phone call comes, I hope you will step up and give us a hand so that we can continue to serve veterans, their dependants and the community. Your help will ensure that the Bowser Legion continues to be the "go to" Legion on Vancouver Island.

Comrade Rick Nickerson
1st Vice-President

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

Donations, Scholarships, Bursaries

This year to date we have donated \$6000 in scholarships and bursaries. There are three scholarships which are awarded each year to three students at Kwalicum Secondary in Qualicum Beach as well as two bursaries - one to Mark Isfeld and one to Vanier in Courtenay/Comox.

As well, we have supported four cadet corps this year with donations of \$2750. We also donate to various local groups.

The monies that we use for these scholarships and donations come from the gaming fund. Many thanks to all who have contributed so generously so that we can continue to provide this service in our community.

Comrade Carol Robertson
Donations Chair

The kitchen is open on Friday nights during the meat draw. Specials and a variety of sides are served. The following is the menu for November:

- 3rd Ham dinner, scalloped potatoes, veggies
- 10th Burgers and sides
- 17th Chicken wings and sides
- 24th Beef dip and sides

Sides offered are caesar salad, onion rings, french fries and yam fries.

The kitchen is manned by volunteers who provide a good meal and make every effort to keep the cost at an affordable \$10.00.

Come on out and enjoy a great meal while you are supporting your community at the meat draw!

Entertainment, Events & Activities

As always, this has been an active, busy year at Branch 211. Many volunteers made the following events (and some I've forgotten) fun and successful:

- + New Year's Dance
- + New Year's Day Levée
- + Annual Golf Tournament
- + 211 Indy Lawn Mower Rodeo
- + Canada Day/Family Day
- + Weekly and Giant Meat Draws
- + Legion Week Open House/BBQ/Poker Run
- + Veterans Appreciation Dinner
- + Remembrance Day Service
- + Poppy Campaign
- + Breakfast with Santa
- + The Annual Plant Sale
- + Garage Sale
- + Spring and Christmas Fairs
- + Special Prime Rib Dinner
- + 50's/60's Dance
- + Zone fundraiser steak dinner
- + Weekly Events & Tournaments

Thanks for the great ideas and for making them happen!

Ladies Auxiliary

The Ladies Auxiliary Bowser 211, would like to thank all volunteers for their help and support.

Our Membership is 48.

L.A. Funding comes from:

- Pie Sales
- Valentine’s Lunch
- Spring Fling
- Beachfest, Parksville
- Christmas Cakes
- Catering Events

We Support:

- Wounded Warriors
- Boomer’s Legacy Ride
- Tour de Rock
- B.C Yukon Command – Cockrell House
- Legion Foundation – Service Dogs
- Canadian Cancer Society
- 2 \$1,500.00 Scholarships KSS Qualicum
- 2 \$500.00 Bursaries

We are always ready to welcome new Ladies to our membership. Membership is \$20.00 per year.

Thank you to all those that support us in the community each year.

Mary Cochran

Nomination Committee

If you are able to spare some time to help out with Branch activities, we are encouraging all members to put your name forward for the upcoming year’s executive. No experience necessary, we are all ready to help. Please contact Evelyn Foot at 250-757-9778 or Arlene Evans at 250-757-8968.

House and Property

Two major improvements were made this past year. The kitchen was all but gutted and redesigned to be more efficient and easy to use. The layout was changed, new sinks and counter tops installed and all new cabinetry. The dishwasher and bank of coolers were replaced.

Norm Anderson laid new floors in the lounge and pool room.

George Cowley has been clearing brush at the edge of the big field.

Roz Lewis and Huli Segger have been maintaining the flower beds, and Neil van Bemmelen trims the hedges.

The hall heat pump overheated and blew a circuit, so the circuit and some breakers had to be replaced. The parking lots have new, more efficient lighting, and the main lot was re-gravelled. After the bathroom renos, a wall in the lounge needed to be drywalled; thank you to Jim Fiddler.

The small pool table was sold and replaced with a donated one. Some plumbing in the kitchen had to be up-graded. There is a search under way for replacement chairs for the

Friday Night Kitchen

The Friday night kitchen continues to be up and running. We have a dedicated group of volunteers but are looking for more people to lighten the load.

We are now having two set menus per month, Wings and Beef Dip. We change up the other Friday choices. The money we take in helps to allay the costs of running the Legion and those of us who participate in the kitchen are delighted to volunteer time and expertise.

Comrade Bill Robertson
Meal Service Co-ordinator

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.

PO Box 115, 7035 W. Island Hwy. Bowser, BC V0R 1G0

Fax: (250) 757-9220

Lounge: (250) 757-9222

Office: (778) 424-4472

Email: rcl211@shaw.ca

Membership Email: rcl211_1@shaw.ca

hall. A donated grill was installed at the outside cooking station.

The Tuesday work party also has scheduled chores and maintenance - sterilizing beer lines, ice-maker lines, cleaning the bar glass washer, emptying the kitchen fryer, changing the marquee, replacing light bulbs, setting up the hall tables and chairs for events and meetings, and all the other little jobs that are required to keep the Branch operating smoothly.

It has been another busy year and it is all down to the volunteers that show up faithfully (Norm, George, Jack, Lorne, Rick, Ben, Jim and Mel) as well as those who perform specific jobs for us - thank you everyone.

Comrade Bruce Charters

House & Property Chair
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.

Service Officer

Branch 211 was saddened by the passing of three of our Comrades this past year:

Comrade Don Lloy

Comrade Ed Ness

Comrade Jodi Silver

The public is familiar with the Legion's service for assisting families during their time of bereavement, but there are many other services that the VAC offers.

rehabilitation, career transition services, financial benefits, health benefits program, educational programs and disability programs are just a few of the services the Legion can offer our veterans.

If you are aware of a veteran who is in need of assistance, please contact me at 778-424-7520 or gillian.taccogna@shaw.ca.

Comrade Gillian Taccogna
Service Officer

Cadets

We support 5 Cadet groups in our Legion. I have had the privilege to attend their sponsoring committee meetings and ACR's along with Comrade Rick Nickerson. The Admiral Yanow Navy League Cadets, the Esquimalt Sea Cadets and the Beaufort Squadron Air Cadets are all located in the Parksville/Qualicum area, which has made it more feasible to attend special parade nights and functions. The Port Augusta Sea Cadets are in Comox and I was able to attend their ACR. We did not attend the ACR for the Army Cadets in Courtenay this year. I have had the privilege to see

Cadets as young as age 9 and up to 18 grow, develop and mature over the year. All of our Cadet Corps and Squadron have a great group of young people who are polite, respectful and desire to be the best they can be and contribute fully to the future of our country. This fall has seen an increase in young people joining Cadets which is a promising sign not only for the Corps, but also for all of us as the bright future of our country is in good hands with these tremendous young people.

Comrade Brian Kirby
Cadet Liaison Officer

Membership

The membership committee has worked extremely hard to retain the number of 2016 active members. Year-to-date, the branch is at 99 per cent recruitment based on December 2016 numbers -presently we are at 349 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 or alternately by cheque and please mail in your information or stop by during lounge hours. Remember Sept 1st to Nov. 30th is our 2018 Branch "Early Bird Campaign".

All members paying their dues during this campaign are eligible for the two free memberships for 2019 dues drawn on Jan. 1st 2018. The Dominion Command per Capita Tax for 2018 is \$40.11. The Branch membership fee for 2018 is \$55.00 for a single member and \$50.00 for partners living in the same household. As of January 1st 2018 the 2018 membership will be \$60.00 for all members. Note: a new plastic credit card type reusable card are being issued for 2018.

Branch 211 changed to a "Dominion Command Membership Program" in October 2013 and we are still working on trying to update all of our information. Currently, we are still working on the areas below. Please return this newsletter to the bar and write the following below.

- 1) Your name.
- 2) Your birthdate: Day, Month & Year. Presently we have only the year for some.
- 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: rc1211_1@shaw.ca

The membership committee will be in attendance on Remembrance Day to answer any of your questions, renew memberships and provide application forms.

Comrade John Gurak
Membership Chairperson

On November 11th each year the Legion carries on the long tradition of remembering the fallen, the Canadians who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Please join us at the Bowser Legion for the service. It begins at 10:30 AM.

