

Royal Canadian Legion

Perth-Upon-Tay, Branch 244

26 Beckwith Street East, Perth, ON K7H 1B5

President's message to the membership

March 26, 2019 - The long miserable winter has at last passed us by and we are now looking forward to a warm spring and summer(?). The Branch has survived financially, even with increased operational costs that we all experienced. Parking lot snow removal and sanding for the month of January alone was \$1,875.00. This is just one example of maintenance not everyone is aware of.

"Catch the Ace" is a new fundraiser for the Branch and has been successful in raising funds for our needs. The Branch garnered \$12,740.00 from this, which was used for overall general operating costs. \$7,644.37 was put towards charitable organizations, community groups, schools and minor sports programs, to be dispensed as we see fit. The present **"Catch the Ace"** is slowly growing again and we hope it will attain the same popularity as the first.

The Branch will once again take part in the **Maple Fest, 27 April**, by providing a pancake breakfast in the auditorium from 8:00am to 11:00am. This will again be in conjunction with the Ladies Auxiliary. Obviously, volunteers are needed to make this a successful project. Last year we split \$2,000.00 between the two organizations and it would be great to do so again, maybe more. If you are available for several hours on the morning of the 27th to give a helping hand, contact Mary-Ann Haughian or Don Buker. They will accept your offer of assistance.

The Branch elections will be held on Monday, May 27th at 7:00pm. Ross Richmond, assisted by Gary Fournier, has been appointed as Nominating Chairman and is in the process of obtaining volunteers to run **your Legion**. All elected positions are open for nominations, President, First, Second and Third Vice-Presidents and five Executive Officers.

Any and all members in good standing who wish to be involved in a great organization that supports our community and our Veterans' Services, please advise

Ross. He is also accepting names of members who wish to serve on or chair all committees that form your Legion Executive.

Monday, 22 April is a Branch General Meeting and Ross will give a report on nominations he has received and all members will have the opportunity to nominate a member of their choice. Please ensure nominees are aware of what is involved in duties they will inherit as Executive Members.

I will not be returning to the Branch Executive. I believe I have more that fairly contributed to the Branch over the many years as a member. I don't wish to raise any alarms but will point out a reality. Ontario Command of the Royal Canadian Legion will not send "Trustees" to oversee Branch 244 operations, because there was a lack of interest from within 483 members to conduct Legion business as directed by Command Regulations. The first time the trustees were here is well known. The costs were prohibitive. We do not wish to be in that position again.

The bottom line is plain and simple. If you are unable to maintain your Branch Charter, you turn it in and close the doors.

We are very fortunate to be in the financial position we are in today, compared to where we were in January 2018, and that is because of the members who have come forth to assist in the Legion work.

I'm sure that with the positive contributions of all, we will continue to grow in many ways, financially and in community relations. Your involvement has never been in greater need than now. We know you are there. Please step forward and be part of the leadership team.

I can assure you that it is very discouraging to attend a General Meeting in the auditorium and conduct business on behalf of the Branch, with 20 members present and only 6 or 7 are not part of the Executive Committee. The fact that we don't have any great issues any more may be part of the attendance issue.

A small portion of our membership have registered their e-mail address with our secretary and receive updated information as it is sent. Many of you have computers and can access information from the Legion website that our webmaster uploads, just like what you're now reading.

As I stated in the beginning, spring is here with better days ahead in more ways than one.

Comments and statements in this letter are mine and mine only and are not to be considered in any way as an Executive statement.

I wish you all a happy, warm summer and look forward to seeing you in Branch 244 in the very near future.

Thank you for all your support in returning the Branch to what it once was and will continue to be.



Barry Boyce
President
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