

President's Message

Comrades,

This month has been hectic to say the least. We have seen an increased number of people visiting the branch and a small increase in new memberships, which is truly encouraging. We continue to look at ways to bring efficiency to our operations.

We recently have appointed Debbie Graburn as the interm Legion Manager and Tammy Archibald as Bar Supervisor.

The executive will continue to ensure that moving forward with our renovations the best results can be achieved with minimum disruption to daily activities.

I encourage you to attend our upcoming General Meeting 23 March at 2:00 pm. We will show that we are understanding financials and are taking steps to address issues.

Budget season is fast approaching, and I am hoping you will have some suggestions that will make your visits to the Branch even more enjoyable.

In comradeship,
Monique Petit
President

Congratulations to our early bird winners for renewing their Legion memberships.

Len Gendron, member for one year, prize chosen was Men's legion watch and to Jaylene Pickering-Churpka, member for two years, prize chosen was Legion \$50 gift certificate.

Photo by Char Peck

Right: Membership Secretary Mary Insley, presented Ladies Auxiliary member Sheila Dietzen her 15 year pin.



Photo by Char Peck

Monique Petit, Branch President, is presented with a \$5000 cheque from Ladies Auxiliary President Carolyn McLennan. Throughout the past 2 years, the LA held a number of fundraisers – Meat Pie Sales, Christmas Bake Sales, Silent Auction, Golf Tee Contest, Guitar Pick Contest, Poppy Basket Raffle, and November 11th 50/50 Squares. Participation in, and support of these activities is much appreciated.



Canada's mission in Afghanistan finished March 2014

Oct 7 2001 On the same day that the United States begins operations against Al-Qaeda and the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, Canada announces that it is prepared to contribute sea, land and air forces to America's Operation Enduring Freedom under the Canadian operation named OP APOLLO.

VAC Ottawa, ON – Canada's mission in Afghanistan ended 10 years ago. Today, we honour the more than 40,000 Canadians in uniform – including members of the Canadian Armed Forces, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and civilian police agencies – who served in Afghanistan, as well as hundreds of civilians and government officials from the Department of National Defence and Global Affairs Canada.

On this solemn anniversary, we acknowledge and thank the brave Canadians who proudly served our country in Afghanistan, including many Canadians who returned with enduring physical and psychological wounds. We will continue to do whatever it takes to support these brave Canadians and their families, who continue to grapple with the profound impact and legacy of Canada's mission in Afghanistan.

The mission in Afghanistan remains Canada's third largest military effort since the First and

Second World Wars. The combat phase commenced with Operation APOLLO in October 2001, as the Canadian Armed Forces deployed to Southwest Asia to join multinational efforts aimed at dismantling the Taliban regime and combating al-Qaeda.

Subsequently, Operation ATHENA saw Canadian Armed Forces Kabul, as part of the International Security Assistance Force, assisting the Government of Afghanistan with security, governance and development.

Later, our forces returned to Kandahar Province to operate a Provincial Reconstruction Team in the city of Kandahar and to provide combat forces in support of multinational efforts in southern Afghanistan.

In 2006, Canadian Armed Forces members experienced heavy fighting against insurgent forces, including during Operation MEDUSA that September. It was Canada's largest combat operation in over 50

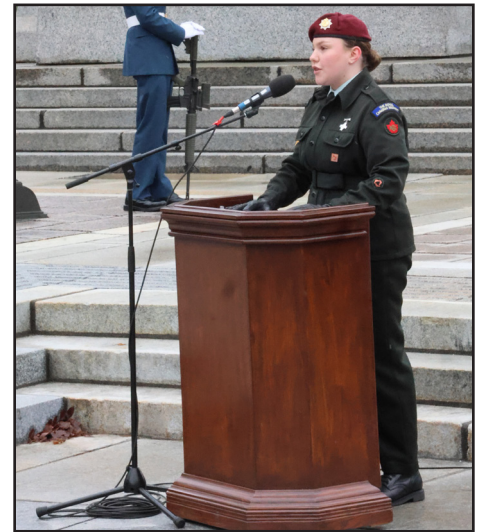


Photo by Glenn Miller

An Army cadet and recipient of the Memorial Cross gives the reply for the youth during the ceremony marking the 10th anniversary of Canada's withdraw from Afghanistan at the National War Monument.

years, with more than 1,000 Canadian, American, Afghan and other allied troops involved. Tragically, 12 Canadian Armed Forces members were killed during this hard fought effort.

In July 2011, efforts in Afghanistan shifted from combat to training Afghanistan's army and police force under Operation ATTENTION.

Alongside approximately 300 RCMP members, and provincial and municipal police officers, the Canadian Armed Forces worked to train, build and mentor the Afghan National Police Force. The Canadian Armed Forces continued these efforts until the end of our military mission in Afghanistan in March 2014.

Our ongoing support is driven by our deep connection to Afghanistan, including with those who served alongside us for over two



Photo by Glenn Miller

Members of the military past and present as well as the public gathered for the 10th anniversary of Canada's withdraw from Afghanistan 12 March 2012 at the National War Monument in Ottawa.

decades, our desire to serve the Afghan people, and their growing diaspora that has helped to strengthen Canada. In October 2023, Canada met its commitment to welcome at least 40,000 vulnerable Afghans since August 2021 and we will continue to bring Afghans to safety.

Today, let us honour all of those who served, and remember the 158 Canadian Armed Forces members who were killed serving their country, as well as seven Canadian civilians – a diplomat, four aid workers, a government contractor and a journalist – who died during the Afghanistan mission.

Throughout the mission, Canadian families played a vital role in supporting our troops overseas; their support continues to this day. Our thoughts remain with their families, and all those who have been touched by Canada's mission in Afghanistan.



Left-The South-West Asia Service Medal recognizes the participation of CAF members deployed or in direct support of the operations against terrorism in South-West Asia. The medal is awarded to those employed in direct support, and the AFGHANISTAN bar is added for those deployed into the theatre of operations.

Right-The General Campaign Star (GCS) is awarded to members of the CAF and members of allied forces working with the Canadian Forces who deploy into a defined theatre of operations to take part in operations in the presence of an armed enemy.

The GCS is always issued with a ribbon specific to the theatre or type of service being recognized, and each ribbon has its own criteria.



Thanks to our sponsors for making Superbowl 2024 a great success!



JOBE FAMILY

GLENN MILLER

LYLE WESBRIDGE



Photo by Deb Graburn
Legion staff wear their unique shirts in support of Team Legion during the Superbowl Sunday event. This was the second time being held and was well attended all while raising funds in support of veterans.

If you have any news or pictures of branch activities please submit them to the office manager.
Help make the newsletter interesting for all.



Photo by Glenn Miller
The Lethbridge Salute Our Veteran Project will be taking new applications until 30 June 2024 for display this fall. You can call Ray Romses 403 892 6351 or visit <https://lethbridgeveteransbanners.ca/>



Photo by Daniel Goselin
Daniel Goselin representing the poppy fund recently delivered cheques to the different cadet corps and navy league cadets in providing support during tag day helping to raise funds for the Poppy Fund and also at a variety of Remembrance events during the past year.

Ladies Auxiliary Corner



Throughout the past 2 years, the LA held a number of fundraisers – Meat Pie Sales, Christmas Bake Sales, Silent Auction, Golf Tee Contest, Guitar Pick Contest, Poppy Basket Raffle, and November 11th 50/50 Squares.

Participation in, and continued support of these fund raising activities is much appreciated. We look forward with our upcoming March into Spring Silent Auction.



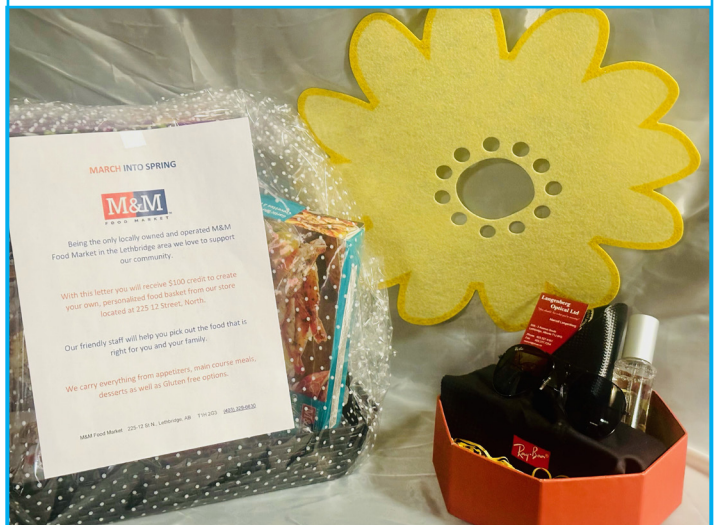
Photo Char Peck

The Ladies Auxiliary presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Deb Graburn center at their meeting March 5th for all the work she does for them.



A variety of prize packages from car detailing to golf packages to house cleaning to pasta night, suit cases, games, model plane, Legion gift cards and merchandise are just a few of the items available to bid on.

Sneak peek to our Yellow section that will contain items worth \$100- \$200. In addition will be a pink and blue section.



Check at the branch as items are added. Here an item just in time for spring. Golf package to Paradise Canyon for 4 (1 tee time) valued \$500 generously donated by Wesbridge Construction. Come see the items at the Legion.

Lethbridge Military Museum opens new temporary exhibit

Glenn Miller curated a new temporary exhibit that was unveiled 22 February featuring local soldier citizen William (Bill) Frame. He started his military career with the Lethbridge 25th Battery CFA before WW1. He was principal and cadet instructor of Gailbraith school when he enlisted with the Lethbridge 113th Highlanders and went on to have a distinguished service and life. The museum is open Wednesdays 12 to 4 pm with free admission.



Adrienne McLennan holds her fathers medals of William Frame surrounded by grandsons Bill and Kemm Yates to be added on loan to the temporary display.

Photo by Glenn Miller



Photo by Glenn Miller
Isabella Julyan Miller looks at the artifacts on display of William Frame. To watch the opening ceremony recorded by Erin Lucas, hover and click on the above picture .



Nation Flag Day was commemorated 15 February at the Legion by changing the National flag. Branch members look on as members of the RCMP Association changed the flag and greetings were brought from local dignitaries.

Photo by Glenn Miller



Photo by Jacquie McLean

Gary McLean left and Branch President Monique Petit right accept a generous donation of \$1500 to the branch from Manitoulin Transport representative Evertt Foster.



Photo by Glenn Miller

Veteran support is found on the west side of town at the Lethbridge Home Hardware where a coffee display near the tills stands in support of Veterans.

Canada still active part of the United Nations in Cyprus

Sixty years ago, Canadian peacekeepers joined the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus in response to fighting and unrest between Greek and Turkish forces that broke out across the Mediterranean island.

When fighting began in Cyprus, United Nations peacekeepers, including troops from Canada, became trapped in a war zone. They faced many challenges while trying to keep the fragile peace from shattering, and played a critical role as multiple ceasefires were negotiated and formal peace talks began. These negotiations led to the creation of a 180 kilometre "Green Line" that served as a buffer zone across the island, patrolled by United Nations



peacekeepers.

More than 36,000 Canadians have served on peacekeeping operations in Cyprus since 1964, including peacekeeping civilians acting, among others, as Head of Mission for UNFICYP Special Representative of the Secretary-General. Sadly, 28 brave individuals made the ultimate sacrifice in the service

of peace.

In addition, some Canadian peacekeepers continue to live with the physical and psychological injuries they suffered while there.

The last large deployment of Canadian peacekeepers left Cyprus in 1993, but a continuous Canadian presence - Operation SNOW-GOOSE - remains to this day. The operation is one of Canada's longest overseas military commitments.

On this anniversary, we recognize the high cost of this operation on the Canadian Armed Forces personnel who served there and honour their sacrifices and contributions to peace. Today, our thoughts are with them and their families that supported them.

Meat Pies will be available for pickup May 27. Look for the order sheets and costs in the near future.

Congratulations to our Early Bird Winners as mentioned on the front page.

A gentle reminder you can still renew your lapsed membership at the office, or call **1 855-330-3344** (8:30-4:00 pm EST).

Wednesday Special
11-8
2 can dine for \$30
2 Steak Sandwich with fries and garlic toast with a purchase of a beverage.

Check out the drink specials and watch out for the daily food specials.

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Happy Hour 4-7 \$5.25	Glass of wine \$5.25	4-7 Bucket of Beer 4 for \$21.00	4-7 1/2 carafe wine \$10.50 full carafe wine \$20.00	Pints all day \$5.25



Congratulations to Dennis Nay for winning \$175 "Guess how many Charms". He was close with 212 charms in the jar while the actual number was 213.

SATURDAY NIGHT KARAOKE

Bring the (grand)kids
April 20 May 18
7:00 pm

Presented by RAMB Industries

VETERANS COFFEE

Every Tuesday from 10-1200 at Lethbridge VAFB (242 12B St. N)