

Branch member recognized for efforts promoting Remembrance

Kathie Carlson joins a select group of two other General Stewart branch members who have been formally recognized for their outstanding volunteer contributions made as individuals in service of Canadian Veterans.

Kathie is a daughter of Hong Kong Veteran Leonard B Corrigan.

She has been involved in promoting and education their contributions during the second world war in Legions and within school divisions giving presentations to students.

Kathie has been involved in the Hong Kong board in a variety of positions for many years.

Over the past few years Kathie was involved in the planning of the national commemoration event held in Ottawa recognizing V-J

Day.

Last year she joined her sisters in sponsoring a Lethbridge Veteran Banner in hour of their father Leonard Corrigan.

In April 2001, the Governor General authorized the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation to formally recognize such Canadians.

The Governor General Warrant states the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation be "...awarded to individuals who have performed commendable service to the Veteran community and/or individuals who represent commendable role models for their fellow Veterans."

The Commendation is awarded annually to deserving recipients.

Congratulations Kathie!



Photo by Glenn Miller
Kathie Carlson wears her insignia of the Minister of Veterans Affairs Accommodation while holding her certificate signed by the Minister.

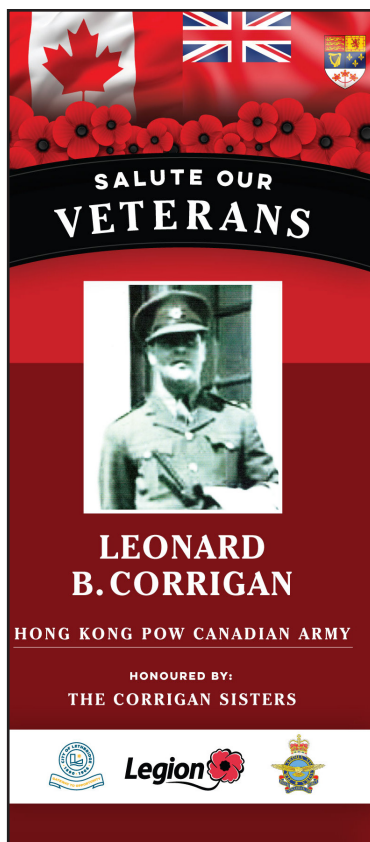


Photo by Glenn Miller
Kathie Carlson left conducted the 2020 Hong Kong Veteran service at the Lethbridge Cenotaph to remember and keep alive their contributions.



Photo by Glenn Miller

Cards for Veteran's across Canada were delivered from Veterans Affairs Canada.

The Branch Kitchen will start offering for the month of February daily supper specials.

Note: Lunch specials will be posted in the canteen.

4-7 pm \$19.95 Supper Special 1 Feb 26

Tues

**8oz Chicken Cordon Blue \$
Mixed Vegetable
Soup**

Wed

**6 oz Roast Beef Dinner
Mashed Potatoe, Vegetable**

Thur

**8 oz Batter Fish in a Cream Sauce
Vegetable, Rice**

Fri

**2 x 4 oz Veal Parmansan
Vegetable, Rice**

Sat

**Fried Chicken
Fries, Vegetable
Soup or Salad**

Super Bowl Watch Party!



**8 Feb Doors open at 3:00 pm
Games Squares \$2 and \$5
Raffle Prizes and 50/50**

**Come out to enjoy
Karaoke
14 Feb 7:00 pm**



**National Flag Day
Ceremony at Branch
15 Feb 11:00 am**



***Special Meeting*
17 Feb 6:30 pm**

**To withdraw
\$200 000 to complete
Renovation Project**

The Gulf War remembered

More than 4000 Canadian Armed Forces personnel served in the 1990–1991 Gulf War as part of a 35-nation coalition to liberate Kuwait, marking a significant, proactive role with naval, air, and medical forces.

Operation Friction involved CF-18 fighters, naval task groups, and a field hospital, with no direct combat fatalities,

The first is Captain (Retired) Kathy Wallocha who flew Sea King helicopters. She was the first female pilot in a war zone.

Along with the major system upgrades to the ships, six Bofors 40 mm anti-aircraft guns were fitted - two on each ship. Originally designed for anti-aircraft defence, they were employed for surface mine and small anti ship destruction capabilities, as well as being useful for boarding operations.

These were the type of guns used in Europe to protect the Canadian Airfields during the Cold War.

Two members of the Royal Canadian Artillery Air Defence community serving in the east coast at the time, were also connected. During their careers both have also served in the local militia unit in the 18th Air Denfence Regiment,

now since rerolled as the 20th Independent Field Battery. After they retired they both aslo served in the Lethbridge Police Service.

Warrant Officer (Ret') Marco Pagliericci was attached to support battery at the Royal Canadian Artillery School. Based on his unique qualifications at the time, he initially was scheduled to train navy personnel for 5 weeks on the use of the 40mm Bofor gun.

He was then attached to HMCS Athabaskan fulfilling other training and evaluation of the Task Force in Nuclear Biological and Chemical warfare and heavy and medium machine gun use on ships. He would later go on to train the next rotation of personnel.

Bombardier (Ret'd) Shawn Davis was one of three nine-man detachments from 119 Air Defence Battery, equipped with the newly acquired Javelin low level surface to air missile. These detachments were deployed on the three Canadian ships.

In December 2025 Canada recognized Gulf War Illness, often referred to as Gulf War Syndrome. It is a widely used term that refers to a range of unexplained symptoms experienced by veterans of the 1990-91 Persian Gulf conflict, in which more than 4,000 Canadians served, according to the federal government. Southern Alberta has three known Gulf War Veterans who have connections with the Royal Canadian Navy.

Common symptoms of the illness include chronic fatigue, persistent headaches, joint and muscle pain, memory and concentration issues, sleep disturbances, and gastrointestinal problems, according to VAC.

Persian Gulf veterans with this diagnosis, or those who may have experienced symptoms not previously accepted as Gulf War Illness, are encouraged to reach out to VAC through their MyVAC account, by email or by phone to have their case file assessed."

Gulf War veterans can email PR@lethbridgelegion.ca to be added to our area list of Veterans who served in the Operation Friction.



Photo Legacy Lodge

Legacy Lodge Vice President Jeff Bell and Site Director Chelsey Smith of receive a cheque from Poppy Chair Gary McLean for the purchase of a bladder scanner and a rolling vital signs machine. Seated is Eleanor Maier, Veteran and longtime Ladies Auxiliary member of the General Stewart Branch. This is part of the Poppy Trust Fund charitable programs and services it delivers in the community.



The public is invited to a wreath laying ceremony at the Cenotaph February 28 at 11:00 am.

Volunteers recognized for volunteering to conduct Branch Casino

Volunteers met the challenge of manning 4 shifts from 19-20 Jan at the Lethbridge Casino. This is our largest branch fundraising event. The branch would like to thank and recognize all who contributed their time in making this such a success.

We will know in the spring how the branch proceeds will be.

This money is restricted funds and is spent in accordance to

our authorized categories such as



administration and operations for example.

Our volunteers were Susan Andrews, Lou Antal, Tammy Archibald, Deb Cook, Gary Cook, Cal Heinrich, Sheila Heinrich, John Marta, Dave Martin, Gary McLean, Jacquie McLean, Jim McLean, Pat McIntosh, Doug McLaughlin, Rick Patterson, Linda Sinclair, Linda Stoddard and Lori Vos.



Photo by Glenn Miller

Immediate past Poppy Chair Gary McLean presents a certificate of appreciation on behalf of the poppy committee to Life Member Ted Hryciuk, who has been involved on the poppy committee since 1988 in a variety of positions.



Photo by Glenn Miller

Poppy Chair Gary Cook presents a certificate of appreciation to immediate past chair Gary McLean for his long time leadership and contributions to the Poppy Committee.



Photo Glenn Miller

All sports continue to see large participation from members who come out to enjoy some comradery. Above thursday evening Cribb and saturday afternoon Jitney Darts.

**** Please Note****

The Branch will be closed 28 March

Salute our Veterans banners receives donation

Ms. Jean Miso of Toronto has made another donation as a Bronze sponsor to the Branch Lethbridge Salutes Our Veteran Project.

This year we are honoured she has chosen our project again and recently made a \$500 donation. She has been a bronze sponsor for the operational cost of the program since the first year of the project. Money goes toward website costs and associated hanging costs of the banners annually across the city.

Jean Miso has authored several books about our Canadian Armed Forces:

Warrior and Nations (2023)
In Their Words (2018)
Legacy and Tradition (2016)
Vimy! Valour! Victory! (2016)
Their Duty, Our Pride (2012)
We'll Never Forget (2010)

She also prepared *N'oublions jamais* (2014), a French translation of *We'll Never Forget*, for francophone Canadians. Her first five books contain original music on compact disc.

The *Rainbow* (2020), a bilingual book in Plains Cree and English was passed orally to Jean by James (Smokey) Tomkins. He asked Jean to be the new keeper of the story on his passing.

In 2014, Jean's "We'll Never Forget" became the official theme song for the Juno Beach Centre in Normandy, France. Jean sang a bilingual version of her song at Canada's official ceremony for the 70th anniversary of D-Day. The lyrics were inspired by the memory of her grandfather Acting Sergeant E.M. McKenzie, MM, who fought

in the First World War and earned the Military Medal.

On July 25, 2017, Jean was made an Honorary Ranger of the 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group. Jean has received two commendations for her books and songs.

On October 6, 2014, she received the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation from the Honourable Julian Fantino.

On June 19, 2012, she received the Land Force Central Area Commander's Commendation

Ontario.

She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in music composition, a Bachelor of Arts in psychology, a Bachelor of Education, and a Master of Education in curriculum studies.

During the 2025 season 161 banners were proudly on displayed across the city in several locations.

To find out a veteran biography, or to donate to support operations, you can visit the Salute Our Veterans [website](#) and click on the Banner Location tab.

Banners are \$275 and applications for next year are being accepted until 30 June 2026.

This is a great way to honour a veteran and leave a legacy.



Photo Glenn Miller

Banners being installed at Martin Brothers by DA Electric staff.

from Brigadier-General Fred Lewis, MSM, CD.

Jean became the Honorary President of the Last Post Fund, June 18, 2020, for a two-year appointment.

Jean was educated at York University and Brock University in



Photo by Glenn Miller

Jean Miso signing her latest book *Warrior and Nations* while in Apeldoorn, Netherlands in May 2025 as part of the 80th anniversary of the commemoration events of V-E Day and Liberation of the Netherlands. The book was made available to visitors for the temporary Indigenous Liberators display hosted at the Freedom Museum in Groesbeek.



Branch 004 Lethbridge

Your Centenary Committee consists of Committee chair - Sheila Heinrich, HL-Col Dory Rossitor, Glenn Miller, Cal Heinrich and Kim Martin and Brad Martin.

They are excited to launch some activities throughout the year, leading up to our signature Gala Fund-raiser 3 October. To reach Shelia you can contact her by phone 403 393-6160 for any questions.

Slogan

Growing our Legacy of Remembrance and Support

Vision

Our vision for The Royal Canadian Legion's Centenary in 2026 is to inspire all Canadians to stand with us in honouring Remembrance, supporting Veterans, and building stronger communities.

Together, we will celebrate 100 years of volunteerism, while continuing our proud legacy of honour, advocacy and service to community and country — carrying it forward for the next century.

Mission

Our mission for 2026 is to present a year-long, multi-faceted campaign that not only inspires Canadians to join the Legion and support our efforts, but also deepens our connection to the sacrifices made by Veterans.

By celebrating our 100 year legacy of service and

volunteerism, strengthening relationships with Veterans and communities, and promoting Remembrance, we aim to ensure the Legion's success and Canada's continued support of Veterans and Remembrance for generations to come.

Objectives

Our objectives for the Centenary are to:

- increase positive awareness of the Legion and our work
- educate Canadians on the importance of Remembrance
- strengthen our relationship with Veterans
- engage with and thank members
- recruit new members
- generate increased revenue from all sources
- increase Poppy Fund donations

A Call to Arms

A briefing of events and need for volunteers will take place Feb 13 prior to the meat draw, to gauge the level of support we can muster and answer questions. For without volunteers, many of these events will not be able to take place.

With just under 1000 members living in our branch area, a shift of 4 hours at an event may all that be needed to ensure events are successful.

We owe it to our original 15 charter members and all those who have since volunteered, to ensure the objectives can be met. Our branch has helped build our community and for that, it a Legacy worth remembering and protecting.

Join us in welcoming our new Branch Centenary Members



Aria Aarsen
Daniel Brand
William Buckle
Stanley Carley
Dwayne Cowley
Lowell Davidson
Yolanda De Kreek
Janet Donaldson
Kirsty Ellingson
Vennesa Eves
Gary Farley
Karen Flintoft
Darren Fortier
Edna Foster
Maurice Gagnonn

Ezio Gardin
Mary Gray
Michael Hindle
Shannon Johnson
Janet Jones
William Jones
Darrell Karbonik
Laura Koole
Michael Lawson
Darren Lee0
Heather Maclean
Kimberly Martin
Alison Martin
David May
Sandra Mcneely

Ali Morle
Karen Murphy Lee
Terrence Price
Brian Ross
Cathy Rosset
Nicholas Scattergood
Pete Schauerte
Andrea Seeman
Derrick Smith
Richard Stalker
Teresa Stalker
Kristine Shairp
Mitchel Thibault
Richard Wadham
Alan Woodroffe



Legion Centenary Medal at left will be available for \$35. Please place your order at the branch office by 13 Feb.



Thanks go out to Executive member Les Androkovich who has donated to the branch, a 100 year Centenary silver \$20 coin from the Royal Canadian Mint. It is on display in the office cabinet. For more information on the complete set of coins produced for the Centenary click [here](#).

President Message

Welcome back everyone as we are now in our Centennial Year! I would just like to thank those who worked the Casino event last month and to Gary Mclean for organizing it.

Our first Century event was the Robbie Burns dinner. It was well attended and a very enjoyable evening. Compliments go out to Comrade. Kaminski for organizing this and I hope we are able to continue this tradition in the coming years as I heard many compliments regarding this event. There was a very nice write up in the Lethbridge Herald on Tuesday's paper.

This month we have, Super Bowl Sunday and Flag Day.

I've been busy with a bunch of housekeeping items throughout this month. We are now back to ordering our beer from BDL, Tammy and Andrea have been working

together on the ordering system.

Welcome to Penny Brauer as a new assistant to Chef Gary in the kitchen as of January 7th. We may be in for a few treats as she is very fond of baking.

Andrea Seeman in the front office has been working hard in getting the office functional and progressive. I am very pleased of her abilities and look forward to see what she has in mind for our branch going forward.

We have Bobbie Menzak reinstated as Sports Coordinator. We have 1 member heading to Command 8-Ball singles and 2 going to participate in Commands single 8-ball pool.

A huge welcome to our new Centenary members!

Cheers,
Dave Martin
President

Branch Charter reveals some history

The Royal Canadian Legion was formed through the merger of several Veterans' organizations, with the Great War Veterans Association (GWVA) as the most prominent. Founded as the Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League at the Unity Conference on November 25–27, 1925, it aimed to support Veterans, advocate for their rights, and promote Remembrance. Incorporated on July 17, 1926, it became a distinct Canadian organization, a date now recognized as the Legion's official anniversary. Our charter was dated 8 October 1926 and reveals some unique

history. The embossed seal is of that of the British Empire Service League of the time. It consists of 15 Charter members, including BGen Stewart.

The Lethbridge School Division reached out to the veterans organizations to have a school named after a veteran. Both the ANAF and Legion selected to put forward BGen Stewart's name.

At the provincial legion convention in 1951, a special tribute was paid to honour Brig General Smith by naming the branch after him.

A hand written addendum in red ink was made onto the charter in

the left top corner making official the name to be the General Stewart Branch No. 4 on 9 April 1951.

The Canadian Legion came into existence 17 July 1926. In 1959, "British Empire" was dropped from its name, and in 1961, following royal consent, it became The Royal Canadian Legion.

To view the Charter, it is located across from the office door. It contains the original 15 names that were the first members of the branch and name change.

If you are related to any charter member or know someone who is please have them contact us at the branch pr@lethbridgelegion.ca

Joseph Henderson Bell
James Henry Carter
Alastair Ian Brander
Walter Thomas Henry Cripps
Alfred Kane

Robert Laing
William Linning
John Kerr
Gordon Edwin Reber D.C.M.
Brig. General John Smith Stewart
C.M.G., D.S.O.

Alfred Telford
Percy Michael Turnbull
Charles Waters
Frederick John Webb
Frederick Charles Williams

