

Branch approves additional renovation cost at general meeting.



Photo by Glenn Miller

Members in attendance listen to the update and obligations of existing Government grant as it relates to the renovations, prior to voting. Members approved up to \$220, 000 for initial cost overruns to date of \$100,000 and to complete the remaining renovations.



Photo by Glenn Miller
Current condition of upstairs hall.



Photo by Kelsey Bly
Lynda Bly receives her 50 year medal from
Helene Gartner.



Photo by Glenn Miller
Caroline McLennan raises the New Flag
during the National Flag Day service on 15
February 2026 at the branch while Glenn
Henry looks on.

**** Please Note****
The Branch will be
closed 28 March



Super Bowl Watch Party!



National Flag Day



President Message

Seems like February is here and gone. This Executive Board had such a busy February with this being our third meeting held this month. We met on February 4th to review and approve our Centenary Committee budget and again on the 17th for the special meeting with regards to accessing funds to complete the up-stairs Reno program. A motion was passed to use up to \$220k from proceeds of our investments (see minutes of Special Membership meeting for complete details).

In the Branch we had Super Bowl Sunday kick off the month. It was well attended and many generous members and guests contributed to the successful draw prizes and 50/50 draw. We had a member host a Karaoke evening at no cost to the branch that was also well attended, approximately 50 people enjoyed Saturday night karaoke until 10:00pm.

Our annual Flag Day ceremony was held on February 15th which was also well attended by the Executive and a few members. We were honoured to have the President of the Ladies Auxiliary, Carolyn McLennan, raise the flag this year. I would like to thank the retired RCMP Veterans for their continued support for this event. Coffee and snacks followed in the canteen.

As most of you noticed we are moving ahead with completing the Reno in old office area. We need to complete this as soon as we can as so Wesbridge can

get the building permit signed off by the City so we don't incur additional permit fees. ElPro Elevators will be here to complete the elevator installation.

A huge thanks goes out to the demo crew (Sheila, Cal, Les, Gary and Gary, who came out last Saturday and holiday Monday to remove the walls and stairs.

I attended the Ladies Auxiliary meeting on February 3rd to discuss their situation with Command and our Branch. I have been quite busy of late and have not set a date for a meeting with the Ladies Auxiliary and the Board members but I am hoping for early March.

The last event of the month was to honor our Veterans of the Gulf War on Saturday, February 28th with a brief ceremony and wreath laying at the Cenotaph at 11:00am.

I will be busy this coming month with preparing for the Japanese Canadian Association dinner and organizing the construction in the canteen area and up-stairs Reno.

I encourage you to volunteer for the many jobs required to have a successful centenary year.

I am looking forward to seeing you all during another busy month in the Legion.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Martin
President



Branch 004 Lethbridge

Next steps in planning for Centenary Activities requires volunteers

Hello Comrades,

We, the General Stewart Branch #4 of the Royal Canadian Legion are celebrating, first the 100th birthday of the Royal Canadian Legion nationally, then the 100th birthday of our very own Legion branch here in Lethbridge.



To mark these grand events we plan to kick off with a pancake breakfast for one and all. Entertainment, craft fair and a toonie breakfast taking place on July 18, 2026 will require the help of some volunteers. Jobs like set up and take down, grocery shopping, pancake flipping, members for a color party, centenary regalia sales, coordination

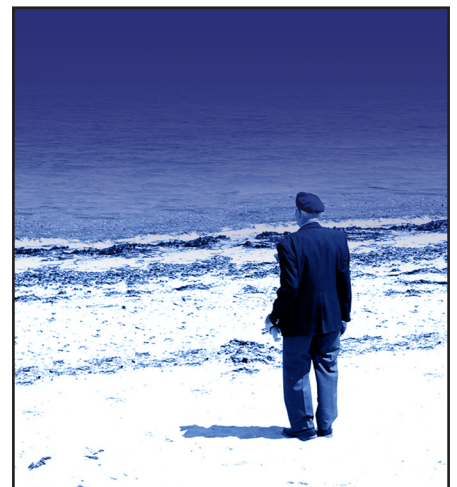
of the craft market are all opportunities to help us celebrate.

The second event is our very own Whoop-Up parade where we plan on decorating a Legion float and giving a free ride to some distinguished veterans and other Legion members. Our own President, Dave Martin, has been nominated for the role of honorary parade marshal. This will show our city who we are and what we have to offer.

Volunteers are again needed to plan, procure and decorate the float (trailer already donated). This event is leading up to the parade on August 18, 2026.

The culmination of our eventful celebratory year is a grand gala to be held at the Sandman Signature Hotel with a lovely buffet dinner, live and silent auction and the production of Jake's Gift, a multi-award winning Canadian play about a World War 11 veteran's reluctant return to Normandy, France for the 60th anniversary of D-Day.

For this event we need sponsorship coordination, table sponsor outreach, auction item procurement, coordination of a veteran's guest table, hall décor, ticket sales as well as donor recognition with table tents and signage.



This final event occurs close to our original charter signing for October 3, 2026.

Your centenary committee has done much of the groundwork to get these events up and running but without volunteers we, a small committee of six, cannot move forward. We ask for your support of time and talent. The executive board has soundly endorsed and underwritten the budget required to support these functions.

So far we have **one volunteer** from our membership, so activities are at risk of being **cancelled**.

Volunteer signup sheets are on the bulletin board on the north wall past the pool tables or speak to your committee chair.

Sheila Heinrich 403 393-6160 or
sheilaheinrich6@gmail.com

Remembering The Gulf War in Lethbridge and in Ottawa

A small ceremony took place at the Lethbridge Cenotaph to mark the end of the Gulf War.

There is only a handful of known Gulf War Veterans in the Lethbridge area. In attendance were Alan Mathieson and Marco Peglericci.



Photo Submitted

Members of the Royal Canadian Artillery were attached on all Canadian warships using the newly acquired S-15 Javelin Surface to Air Missile system.



Photo by Submitted

Local Gulf War Veterans Alan Mathieson and Marco Peglericci at the Lethbridge cenotaph.

Photo Glenn Miller

Treasurer Jennifer MacKay left of the Plaxton Busy Bees Fundraising Society to conduct their No Stone Left Alone field trip to honour veterans buried in Mountain View Cemetery from Tina McAlister and Dave Martin on behalf of the branch.

As part of the Government of Canada's commemoration of the 35th anniversary of Operation Friction and the end of the Gulf War was hosted on 4 March 2026, by Veterans Affairs Canada.

A short ceremony included a wreath-laying ceremony at the National War Memorial in Ottawa.



Photo by Glenn Miller

Gulf War Veterans gather after the ceremony for as group picture.

The Honourable Jill McKnight, Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence, were joined by Gulf War Veterans, Ali Alastad, Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of the State of Kuwait, representatives from The Royal Canadian Legion, and other dignitaries.



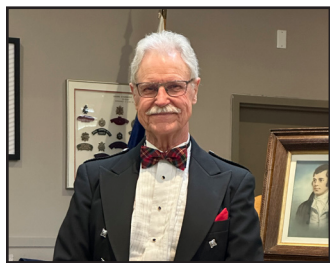
Photo by David Miller

Glenn Miller placed a wreath at the National War Memorial in Ottawa, during the ceremony marking the 35th anniversary of Operation Friction and the end of the Gulf War.

Legion in the Community

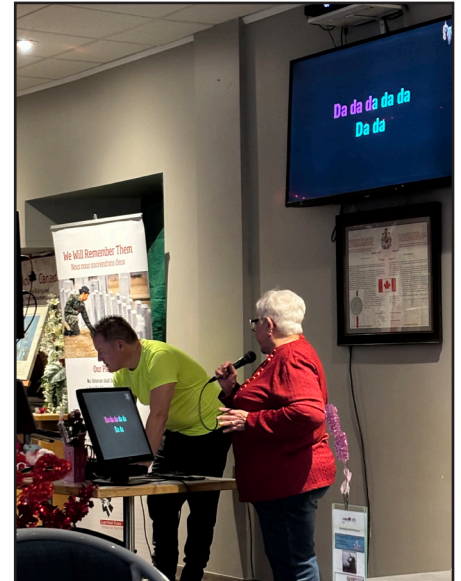


Robbie Burns Dinner returns and looks to grow next year



LA Certificates of Appreciation were presented by Helene Gartner to Joanne Cancilla left, for all of her help with the Silent Auction, setting up & taking down, bundling prizes and taking payments and pictures. Carol Milne above, is always ready to help, but we are especially grateful for her help with the Meat and Fruit pies. Right Joanne Cancilla, Carolyn McLennan, Helene Gartner, Carol Milne gather for a group photo.

Karaoke remains popular event



Diamond Forever A Celebration of **Neil Diamond**

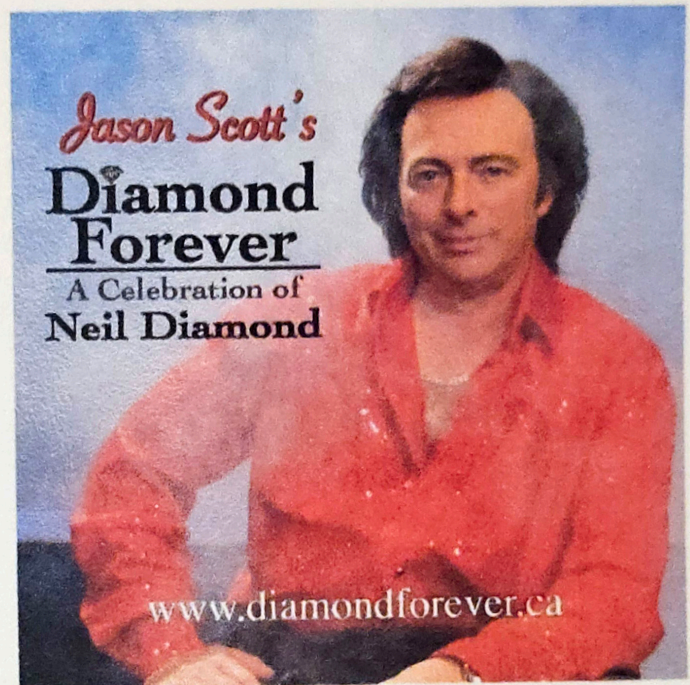
Saturday May 9, 2026

The Lethbridge Royal Canadian Legion

Show Ticket
\$35.00

"Chicken Cordon Bleu for Order"

ADMIT ONE 004
Ticket Nonrefundable





Branch Centenary Members Growing

New Branch members starting in January has grown to 122 and across Canada, we welcome just over 46 000 into the Royal Canadian Legion.

Lethbridge Military Museum set to open new temporary display in early April featuring local Airman Group Captain Andrew William Fletcher



Andrew William Fletcher, of Cardston, Alberta, Canada was born on 15th January 1915. He received his private pilots license at the Lethbridge Flying Club at the age of 18.

Fletcher joined the RAF on a short service commission in July 1935. He went to 5 FTS Sealand on 28th September and after training was posted to SHQ RAF Calshot on 20th July 1936 as an instructor on flying boats.

In July 1940 Fletcher was serving with 235 Squadron as 'B' Flight Commander. He was awarded the DFC (gazetted 22nd October 1940) and posted away in November 1940 to command 272 Squadron. He received a Mention in Despatches in January 1941.

In May 272 Squadron went to the Middle East and Fletcher led a detachment to Malta in mid-July. On the 28th he destroyed four SM79s and damaged two CR42s on the ground at Borizzo airfield, on the 30th he destroyed three SM79s on the ground at Elmas

airfield and on 28th September is believed to have shot down two enemy aircraft at night.

At the end of his tour in October 1941 Fletcher was awarded a Bar to the DFC (gazetted 31st October 1941) and posted away. He was released from the RAF in 1946, returned to Canada and went farming in Warner, Alberta.

Fletcher died in 1978 and is buried in Warner Alberta.

Watch for the official opening date on the Lethbridge Military Museum website and bring some friends to learn and explore more about this member of our southern community.



Battle of Britain Archive 2007

Above: Fletcher with his wife Ethel (nee Tenney), an army nurse, they married in 1943.