



CONTACT!

Volume 12 Number 3
March 2024

Tel: 613-591-5570
www.kanatalegion.ca

President's Report

At our March General Meeting the Membership Chair and I had the privilege of welcoming to the Branch several new Members. The enthusiasm felt that night by everyone in attendance was exhilarating, great to see.

Our Zone Spring G6 Convention was held at Branch 244 Perth-upon-the-Tay. And our District Spring Convention is being hosted at Branch 560 in Kingstons.

A fun filled evening celebrating St Patrick was enjoyed by all, excellent food great music provided by our own Jim Guillemette. I think we did St Patrick proud.

The next function is our Newfie Night, and unfortunately for some it's SOLD OUT.

We had two comrades receive very prestigious awards, **Comrade Brenda Grant** was the recipient of **The Governor General's Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers**. Recognized for her outstanding Volunteerism to the Branch and to the Community over the years. Congratulation, Brenda

I attended a Ladies' Auxiliary event, where **Comrade Betty-Ann Pollock** was very deserving the recipient of the **Meritorious Service Award**. The Ladies' Auxiliary and the Branch are very proud of her achievements. Congratulations, Betty Ann.



A reminder that at next month's General Meeting members will be electing next year's Executive. Hope to see as many of our members as possible at the meeting.

Yours in Comradeship,
Jim Hemlin

Poppy Campaign Report

Although the 2023 Poppy Campaign is now behind us, we must now plan for the 2024 Poppy Campaign, as experience tells us that it is never too early to start. Most members are probably not aware, but the annual planning and preparation for the Poppy Campaign is complex and complicated. The largest issue for the Campaign is that of insufficient volunteers. Without volunteers, the Campaign simply could not happen. In the 2023 Poppy Campaign we were fortunate to have dedicated volunteers. However, volunteers came close to burn out due to long shift hours and a lack of volunteer staff. Nevertheless, the Poppy Campaign volunteer team accepted all challenges and conquered them. Therefore, the 2024 Poppy Campaign team will address the volunteer issues and focus on acquiring sufficient volunteer numbers.

In 2023, volunteers were attracted and recruited from Branch members, the Branch Ladies' Auxiliary, friends of the Legion, Branch 638 Bursary Award recipients and their families and three of our four sponsored cadet units. Area and Table Captains also used personal ingenuity to ensure most locations were staffed. Since all members, on their membership applications, agreed to participate/volunteer on annual Poppy Campaigns, the Planning Committee will appeal for volunteers early in the 2024 Campaign. Hopefully, more members will volunteer if they are able to do so.

As a result of the 2023 Poppy Campaign, volunteers collected donations in the amount of \$137,087.57 which was promptly deposited into the Branch Poppy Fund.

Thank you to all volunteers whether they be planners, Area supervisors, Table Captains, administrators, financial personnel, cash counters, drivers, Poppy Box collectors, individual members, friends, families, Cadets and Bursary Award recipients. Thank you also to all store locations and merchants who welcomed us into their establishment during the Campaign. Above all, thank you to the Canadian public for their outstanding support of our Branch Poppy Campaign.

If anybody has been missed or not mentioned in the above thank you note, it is an unintentional oversight of the author and not the fault of the Branch. It has been an honour to work with such outstanding people.

Remember - it is the Branch that keeps the Legion alive.

Comrade Dennis Hearn
Poppy Campaign Chair



Honour a Veteran

In your family or a
Veteran friend with a
Cenotaph Memorial Stone

These existing stones are in front of the Cenotaph
on Village Green Memorial Park,
Colchester Square, Kanata

The stones are 6 x 6 inches in the ground, 4 lines of 12 characters
maximum per line and are available at
a cost of **\$150.00** each.



Applications are now available for the Cenotaph
Memorial Stones.



This is a great way to honour your family members and friends
who have served their country.

Available to all Veterans from all branches of the armed forces.



For more information and application form
Please call Moira Green

613-592-3376

Royal Canadian Legion, Kanata Branch 638, 70 Hines Road, Kanata, ON K2K 2M5

Annual Veterans Luncheon

Thursday
6th June 2024

Doors open at 11:00 am. - Lunch served at 12:00 noon



Each veteran is allowed to bring one family member/caregiver

If you would like to attend and you are not a veteran, you may still
sign up at a cost of \$25.00 per person.
Priority will be given to veterans.

Respond by: **Monday 27 May, 2024 to Ken Fleming**

kffleming44@hotmail.com or 613-965-6589



Royal Canadian Legion,
Kanata Branch 638,
70 Hines Road, Kanata, ON
K2K 2M5

Seniors Committee

Our weekly complimentary Coffee Time has continued to attract many new participants, including a couple who have expressed interest in volunteering at Legion events. Their names have been passed on to the appropriate coordinators.

Next month on April 1st we will be having a speaker from Solva Senior Services giving us information on the ABCs of planning for future eldercare.

We look forward to our regular get togethers and welcome anyone interested to join us for a couple of hours of fun every Wednesday from 9 - 11:30 am.

Joan Hemlin
Legion Seniors Chair

Honours and Awards

Award Nominations continue to be submitted, meeting the April 22nd deadline.

A reminder, a copy of the awards nomination form and a revised list of awards description and criteria 2023/24 was included in the January CONTACT, is available just inside the lounge to the left on the shelf, is on the legion website and was emailed to all Branch members the week of January 21.

A reminder, the annual Honours and Awards Presentations and Dinner is scheduled for Saturday 01 June 2024 at 4:30 p.m. reception, 5:00 p.m. Awards presentations, and dinner will be served after the awards presentations. Everyone is welcome. Further information / details will be announced closer to the date.

Should you have any questions, etc., please do not hesitate to contact one of the Honours and Awards Committee members. Keep those award nominations coming in!

Lorraine Lapensée, Chair
2023/2024 Honours and Awards Committee

Legion
Branch 638 Kanata

WALKING CLUB

ITS NO JOKE! WALKING CLUB
STARTS AGAIN ON APRIL 1ST

MONDAY TO FRIDAY STARTING APRIL 1ST
STARTING AT 70 HINES ROAD, 9:30 AM DAILY

Benefits of walking include:

- lowered blood pressure
- improved lungs
- burns calories
- builds strength
- reduce stress

Grab your water bottle and come on out!



EVERYONE WELCOME!

For more info, contact Ken Fleming

613-965-6589

Follow us on FB - @kanatalegion

Membership Report

In this reporting period, we are very pleased to advise the Branch membership that our membership now sits at **364** members. In addition, there are currently five new membership applications in process. Membership numbers fluctuate constantly due to transfers from or to other Legions, membership drives, renewal campaigns, lapsed memberships and, unfortunately, deaths.

As a result of our 2023 Early Bird Membership Renewal Campaign, which runs annually from September to November, and our normal membership attraction, recruitment and retention efforts, the Branch's membership drive for 2023 proved very successful. As a result of our efforts, at our last Zone Convention, Ontario Command presented Branch 638 with a 2023 Achievement Award in recognition of attaining 100% or more of the previous year's membership. The Achievement Award emphasizes that it is the Branch that keeps the Legion alive. Thank you to each and every member who contributed to this wonderful achievement.

Membership statistics determines the numbers of delegates our Branch is permitted to attend Dominion and Provincial conventions where our attendees can participate in, and influence, major decision making processes. Therefore, in addition to all the Branch operational costs covered by membership dues, your membership allows the Branch to have a say at provincial and national levels.

To date there are more than 50 Branch members who have not yet renewed their annual membership dues. In order for the Branch to continue its good works in the areas of support to Veterans, Veterans' families, the Seniors Community and Youth Education, you are urged to renew soonest if you are able.

At our 2024 March General Meeting, the President, Comrade Jim Hemlin, welcomed several new members to the Branch and presented them with their Membership Cards, their Kanata Branch pins and their Membership Category pins.

Membership Renewal Receipts

Members may collect their 2024 Renewal stickers and receipts from the bar when it is opened.

Last Post

Since January 2024, 13 treasured members of Branch 638 have passed on. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers. We will remember them. Lest We Forget.

Yours in Comradeship,

Comrade Dennis Hearn
Membership Chair

February Gaming Report



Bingo (4 Bingos)

Total Deposit to Bingo Trust	\$ 3,853.00
Total Expenses	\$ 1,340.40
Rent to the Branch	\$ 872.40
Building O&M (40% after expense)	\$ 1,005.04
Donatable Funds (60% after expenses)	<u>\$ 1,507.56</u>

This month Bingo has averaged 46 players every Sunday and we had a record attendance on March 24 of 55 bingo players and depositing approx. \$1,200 for the day.

Catch the Ace (4 Draws)



Total proceeds from draws	\$ 3,320.00
Total Expenses	\$ 332.00
Rent to the Branch	\$ 282.20
Building O&M (40% after expense)	\$ 531.20
Donatable Funds (60% after expenses)	<u>\$ 796.80</u>

Catch the Ace Jackpot is up over \$7,800 after Draw # 35.

Total DONATIONS (to Lottery Trust)	\$ 2,304.36
Total RENT	\$ 1,154.60
Total O&M	\$ 1,536.24
Total EXPENSES	\$ 1,672.70

Gaming Committee

Security Officer Report Improper Legion Hall Entry

I would like to remind everyone to be careful when entering the Legion. There are some 44 keys out there.

If your key lets you in the front door, it will also allow you to enter by any of the outside doors. We make a good amount of money from outside rental groups. These groups are entitled to privacy and uninterrupted meetings.

The back door is a loading zone and emergency exit. If you decide that you are going to enter by the back door, PLEASE make sure the hall is not in use. The same when entering the hall by the inside handicap door. If the door is closed. Make sure before you push the handicap button that the hall is not in use. It can be very disruptive to a group in the hall.

If this continues, one solution is to disconnect the outside back door entry locks. People would have to enter by the front doors to open the back doors.

Bob (No P) Thomson CD
Security Officer RCL638
613-831-8221

Kanata Legion Bursary Assistance Program 2024

June 1st Deadline

Open to students of:

- Ex-Service personnel or currently serving members of The Canadian Forces (Regular, Reserve & Merchant Navy) and their children and grandchildren
- Commonwealth war veterans & their children and grandchildren
- Ordinary and Life Members of The Royal Canadian Legion - children and grandchildren
- Associate members of The Royal Canadian Legion and their children only
- L.A. members and their children and grandchildren

Applicants who have graduated from or reside in the Kanata Area are given priority in the application process. Consideration is given to students who do not reside in the Kanata area, on the condition that funding is available.



The Bursary Program is designed to assist students entering or continuing their post-secondary education, including courses and programs of a technical and vocational nature, outside of and beyond secondary school. Approved bursary assistance is not based upon scholastic

standing but rather on the successful admission status to a post-secondary institution or successful completion of one or more years leading to a recognized degree, diploma or certificate.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE LEGION NO LATER THAN JUNE 1st, 2024 FOR THE UPCOMING ACADEMIC YEAR, SEPTEMBER TO AUGUST.

Mailing Address:

The Royal Canadian Legion
 Kanata Branch 638
 Bursary Committee
 70 Hines Road
 Kanata, Ontario
 K2K 2M5

Tel: (613) 591-5570

For an application please download directly from <https://kanatalegion.ca/bursary-program/>

Bonnie Oostlander
 Bursary Committee Chair
 613-592-0563

Youth Education Public Speaking

Thank you, Branch #638 - Kanata!

On Saturday, March 2, 2024, the Kanata Legion once again hosted the annual Zone G6 Youth Education Public Speaking Competition. If it weren't for the Kanata Legion freeing up space to host the Zone G6 Youth Education Public Speaking Competition, providing the volunteers to conduct the competition, a Colour Party for opening ceremonies, covering the costs of the luncheon and the Branch and Ladies' Auxiliary preparing the lunch, the Zone G6 Youth Education Public Speaking Competition would not have been possible. This Youth Education program is a wonderful opportunity for students to develop public speaking skills and confidence. As the Zone G6 Youth Education Public Speaking Competition Chair, a special thanks to Branch 638, the Ladies' Auxiliary and all the volunteers.

Every year the volunteers thoroughly enjoy listening to the students' presentations. The students truly are amazing how well they present their speeches.

Below are the results of the Zone G6 2024 Youth Education Public Speaking Competition. There were 20 students registered, divided in the following categories: Primary (6), Junior (9), Intermediate (5), Senior (0).

Primary 1st place:	Hailey Rickard "Feelings and Emotions"	Arnprior Branch #174
Primary 2nd place:	Benjamin Tanner "Reading Challenges"	Perth-Up-on-Tay Branch #244
Primary 3rd place:	Nathan Kruszelnicki "Potatoes"	Carleton Place Branch #192
Junior 1st place:	Julie Rickard "A. I."	Arnprior Branch #174
Junior 2nd place:	Henry Newby "Tips on Public Speaking"	Perth-Up-on-Tay Branch #244
Junior 3rd place:	Alianna Glendenning "Bottlenose Dolphins"	Carleton Place Branch #192
Intermed. 1st place:	Alice Cooke "Greek Gods -The True Story"	Arnprior Branch #174
Intermed. 2nd place:	Blaine McNicol "The Renaissance"	Lanark Branch #395
Intermed. 3rd place:	Kolden Foster "Crazy Things I've Heard"	Carleton Place Branch #192



Primary Competition, Grades 1, 2 and 3
 Marilyn Devlin, Past L.A. Zone G6 Commander and Perth Legion's Youth Education Public Speaking Chair



Junior Competition, Grades 4, 5 and 6



Intermediate competition, Grades 7, 8 and 9

The Zone G6 1st place winners of the three categories moved on to compete at the District G Competition on March 23 at the Chesterville Legion. I can't wait to hear if one of the Zone G6 competitors placed first!

Lorraine Lapensée, Chair
2024 Zone G6 Youth Education Public Speaking Competition

Ways and Means Committee

Our St. Patrick's Day Dinner and Dance was such fun. Thank you to everyone who got their green on and came out to celebrate with us. (See report by L. Lapensée.)

Upcoming Events

Trivia Friday April 5th 7pm start (\$10 per person)
Come out and test your knowledge!
Teams of 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6.

Newfie Night Dinner and Dance (sold out)
Thanks to everyone who purchased tickets.
We will see you **April 13th** where you will enjoy a traditional Jiggs Dinner and dancing with us.

Karaoke Night Friday April 26th 7pm start (\$5 per person)
Come prepared to show off your vocal skills or just have a great time hanging out singing along or dancing. We will be having some fun raising money for the food bank. Hope you can join us!

Sylvia Monette
Ways and Means Chair

Everyone was Irish ...

at the Kanata Legion's St. Patrick's Day Dinner and Dance!

Leprechaun and shamrock decorations and more set the Irish atmosphere! Guests wearing the Irish green as they read Irish blessings and sayings and tantalizing their taste buds with Irish Beef Stew, Soda Bread, Barmbrack (Irish Fruit Cake), they couldn't help but to feel a wee bit Irish!



Guests met the St. Patrick's quiz challenge and, in the end, learned more about St. Patrick and Ireland!

1st place winner of the ladies' costume contest was Ann!
1st place winner of the gents' costume contest was Dave!
Thank you, judges, Ken Major, Pat Cher, and John Cher!

It wouldn't be an Irish evening without the traditional Irish sing along songs lead by our own Jim Guillemette and bag piper, Brenda Grant, playing some Irish tunes i.e. Danny Boy! Later guests danced the evening away. All in all, the evening was good Irish fun!

A very successful evening thanks to the great turnout and our many volunteers! Special thanks to our Chief Chef, Gaëtan Chartier, and assistant cooks Ken Fleming and Anthony Ling, decorators, Sylvia and JP Monette, music entertainer, Jim Guillemette and bagpiper, Brenda Grant.



Branch Event Photos and Videos

Photos: <https://kanatalegionphotos.weebly.com/2024.html>
Video: <https://kanatalegionphotos.weebly.com/videos.html>

Walter Arksey
Branch Photographer

Ladies' Auxiliary

The Ladies' Auxiliary hosted a Special Award Presentation Tribute of the Meritorious Service Award for their founder and Immediate Past President, Betty Ann Pollock, on March 23. The Meritorious Service Award criteria was read to guests followed by the citation describing Betty Ann's outstanding service, dedication and commitment to the L.A. for over 32 years.

The Ladies' Auxiliary Immediate Past Provincial President, Debbie Olmstead, and the Ladies' Auxiliary Zone G6 Commander, Elaine Madore, together presented Betty Ann Pollock with the Meritorious Service Award plaque, medal, brooch, certificate and pin.

Karen McCrimmon, MPP for Kanata-Carleton member and a veteran of 31 years presented Betty Ann a Certificate of Appreciation with congratulatory words emphasizing the importance of recognizing women's contributions.

Jim Hemlin, Branch President, presented on behalf of the Branch a beautiful arrangement of flowers to Betty Ann, congratulating her on her Meritorious Service Award achievement.



Betty Ann expressed her appreciation and thanks to the guests for coming out to share in celebration of her MSA achievement. Her husband, George; daughters, Donna and Debbie, and son-in-law, Rob, were present to support and congratulate Betty Ann.

The Ladies' Auxiliary's Zone G6 convention is scheduled for Sunday, April 21, and will be hosted by the Smiths Falls L. A.

Two delegates and two observers will be representing our Ladies' Auxiliary at the Provincial convention scheduled for May 26, 27 and 28 in Newmarket.

The Ladies' Auxiliary will be hosting their annual Trinkets and Treasures on Saturday, May 4th, and wish to send out a request for item donations. See the nearby poster for details.

Wanted! Sunday Bingo Canteen volunteers to either work in the kitchen or at the canteen bar on the occasional fifth Sunday of the month, and/or to be a spare from approx. 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. We will train you. For further information, please contact Lorraine Lapensée at 613-831-8319.

Lorraine Lapensée
Ladies' Auxiliary
President



Betty Ann, Debbie Olmstead, Elaine Madore



Karen McCrimmon, MPP for Kanata-Carleton



Debbie Olmstead returns the map George Pollock provided her and Betty Ann with directions to their destination during Betty Ann's reign as Zone G6 Commander.



Branch President, Jim Hemlin, presents Betty Ann flowers of congratulations to Betty Ann.



Centre: Karen McCrimmon and Marianne Wilkinson



Comrade Brenda Grant was the recipient of The Governor General's Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers.

CONTACT! Submission Deadlines Due Sunday Noon

21 April
19 May

No newsletter in July, August
and December 😊

Lorraine Elmas
Editor

Lest We Forget 🇺🇸

Donations Required For The Ladies' Auxiliary Annual TRINKETS & TREASURES Indoor Sale

Clean out your closets, garages, storage sheds and please donate to the sale!

Looking for household items, books, toys, sports gear,
jewelry or any good quality item etc.

Please note: We cannot accept broken or dirty items, obsolete
electronics or tires. We also cannot accept large items like
furniture due to lack of storage space.

Questions, please call Sylvia - 613-986-3520
or email s_monette@hotmail.com

Donations can be dropped off at the Legion - 70 Hines Road, Kanata
From April 19th until the evening of May 3rd, 2024

Sale to take place on May 4th

Please call 613-591-5570 to ensure someone is there to receive the items.



SNACKS &
DRINKS
AVAILABLE
FOR PURCHASE

EVERYONE
IS INVITED
TO JOIN

RCL BRANCH 638
70 HINES ROAD, KANATA PRESENTS:

TRIVIA NIGHT

FEBRUARY 2ND 7:00-9:00PM
MARCH 8TH 7:00-9:00PM
APRIL 5TH 7:00-9:00PM
DOORS OPEN AT 6:00PM

**EMAIL LAKANATAEVENTS@GMAIL.COM TO
PRE-REGISTER YOUR TEAM
PRIZE FOR 1ST PLACE TEAM
\$10/PP, MAX TEAMS OF 6**

Sing Your Favorite Songs,
Hang Out With Friends &
Dance The Night Away

**RCL Branch 638
Presents:**

KARAOKE NIGHTS

\$5/pp-Pay at the door

Feb 16 7:00 - 9:00+
March 15 7:00 - 9:00+
Apr 26 7:00 - 9:00+

70 Hines Road
Kanata K2K 2M5

Snacks & Drinks
available for purchase
Doors open at 6:30 pm

Ongoing Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Bingo & Book Sale 12:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Functional Exercise 2:30 – 3:30	Euchre 7:00 p.m. Pickleball 1:30-3:30 p.m. indoors	Complimentary Coffee & Sweets 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.	Darts 7:00 p.m.	Fish 'N Chips & Book Sale 11:30 a.m.– 1:00 p.m. Cancelled March 29	Saturday Social in the lounge Noon to 4 p.m. Drop in for a visit! (closed March 30)
Walking Club meets at the Legion at 9:30 every weekday morning beginning April 1.						

- Tuesday Euchre - a fun league, and we will teach how to play. For info, call Gaëtan Chartier 819-639-9343 or Debby Holden 613-271-2993.
- Saturday Social in the lounge continues (No Open Mic in March)

Branch Executive and L.A. Executive Members and Positions

If you wish to get in touch with a member listed below, please phone the Kanata Legion office at 613-591-5570 and provide your name and contact information as well as the name of the person you wish to contact, and the subject.

2023-2024 Branch Executive

President	Jim Hemlin
Past President	Bill Molnar
1 st Vice-President	Mary Jo Gauthier
2 nd Vice-President	Denis Pelletier
3 rd Vice-President	Dennis Hearn
Treasurer	Nila Bronkhorst
Secretary	Brenda Grant
Poppy Chair	Dennis Hearn
Lottery Trust Fund	Mary Jo Gauthier
Veterans Services	Ken Fleming
Cadet Liaison	Dennis Hearn
Membership	Dennis Hearn
Poppy Trust Fund Chair	George Pollock
Leadership Development	John Beard
PR & Marketing	Bruce Judge
Branch Bursaries	Bonnie Oostlander
Chaplain	Rev. Canon Dr. William Prentice
Bldg. Grounds & Maintenance	George Royle
Sgt-At-Arms & Security & Housing	Bob Thomson
Sports Officer	Ken Fleming
Ways and Means Committee	Sylvia Monette
Legion Seniors Chair	Joan Hemlin
Volunteer Coordinator	Debby Holden
Youth Education	Brenda Grant

Other

Regulations & Website	Ann Ervin
Facebook	Sylvia Monette
Bar Manager	Mary Jo Gauthier
Foot Clinic	Betty Ann Pollock
Gaming/Lottery	Brenda Grant/Ann Ervin
Hall Rental	Andy Shinnan
Branch Archivist	Doug Rowland
Honours & Awards	Lorraine Lapensée
Kitchen Manager	Gaëtan Chartier
Newsletter Editor	Lorraine Elmas
Military Service Recognition Book	Terry Jacobs
Photographer	Walter Arksey
IT Computer	Walter Arksey
Cenotaph Memorial Stones	Moira Green

Ladies' Auxiliary

President	Lorraine Lapensée
Past President	Betty Ann Pollock
1 st Vice-President	Suzanne St. John
2 nd Vice-President	Debby Holden
Treasurer	Rosanne Birtch
Secretary	PJ Rose
Executive Committee	Bonnie Jessup
Executive Committee	Sylvia Monette
Executive Committee	Sheila Taylor
Sgt-At-Arms	Johanna Walters

CONTACT! is published monthly (except July, August and December) by RCL Branch 638 in Kanata, Ont. Views expressed in the newsletter are those of the contributors and are not necessarily those of the Royal Canadian Legion or Branch 638.

CONTACT! is edited by Lorraine Elmas.

lorraine_elmas@yahoo.ca (613) 882-1240