



CONTACT!

Volume 12 Number 4
April 2024

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

President's Report

Last month once again was very busy and productive, and that is a good thing.

Catch the Ace is I believe at an all-time high. Some lucky person will become very happy.

Our Newfie Night was very successful. Hats off to the organizers and all the dedicated, hard-working volunteers who made it so.

There are two special committees, with no easy task: A Generator committee to determine the size of generator required to power up all or a portion of the Legion and staying within a restricted budget; secondly, a Renovation committee to determine the best use of the space available in the office and storage of necessary items used for ongoing events.

Elections were held at the General meeting 17 April 2024. Here are the results.

President:	Mary-Jo Gauthier
1st Vice President:	Dennis Hearn
2nd Vice President:	Denis Pelletier
3rd Vice President:	Gaëtan Pierre Chartier
Secretary:	Brenda Grant
Treasurer:	Nila Bronkhorst
Sergeant at Arms	Ken Fleming
Chaplain:	Bill Prentice
Executive Committee	Walter Arksey
	John Cher
	Ann Ervin
	Norm Legault
	Sylvia Monette
	Sue Mclean

Congratulations to all the newly elected and Thank-you to those comrades who let their names stand.

Yours in comradeship,
Jim Hemlin

Honours and Awards

On behalf of the Branch Honours and Awards Committee, many thanks to those who submitted award nominations. The Committee will be reviewing the submissions in preparation for the annual Honours and Awards presentations and dinner on Saturday, 01-Jun-2024. Award recipients will be contacted as soon as possible.

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.

Lorraine Lapensée, Chair
2023/2024 Honours and Awards Committee

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.

Legion

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

GROUP 1: Class Members with a current payment relationship with VAC

If you are a Class Member with a current payment relationship with VAC and are currently receiving disability pension benefits from VAC or are a survivor of a person who received disability pension benefits from VAC, a Claim is not necessary. You will automatically receive your settlement payment from VAC by direct deposit or cheque later this year.

GROUP 2: Relatives or Estates of Class Members and Class Members who do not have a current payment relationship with VAC

If you are a relative or Estate representative of a Class Member, or a Class Member without a current payment relationship with VAC, you must submit a Claim in writing by **March 19, 2025**.

You may submit a Claim online to the website of the Administrator, KPMG, at:

<https://veteranspensionsettlement.kpmg.ca/> (the "Settlement Website").

KPMG also has established a dedicated call centre to address general inquiries and help claimants complete Claim forms. Please call 1 (833) 839-0648 if you need assistance.

You may also visit the Administrator's FAQ page at the above website.

Published at the request of Comrade Ken Fleming:

UPDATE: Notice of Settlement Approval Hearing

\$817 Million Pension Miscalculation Class Action Settlement
Approved: Next Steps for Class Members

We are pleased to announce that the Federal Court has approved a Settlement to resolve the *Manuge v Canada* class proceeding. The proceeding deals with the alleged underpayment of certain disability benefits administered by Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) and paid to members and former members of the Canadian Armed Forces and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and their survivors ("Class Members") between January 1, 2003 and December 31, 2023. The estimated value of the Settlement is at least \$435 million and up to \$817 million, depending on the total number of eligible Claims received.

The Settlement affects over 330,000 Class Members and provides that Class Members and their eligible relatives or estates will receive a one-time payment of approximately 2% of the total amount of affected benefits received between January 1, 2003 and December 31, 2023.

IMPORTANT: THERE ARE TWO PAYMENT GROUPS CREATED BY THE SETTLEMENT. WHICH GROUP ARE YOU PART OF?

Help Spread the Word

If you know of relatives, beneficiaries, or estate representatives of Class Members we encourage you to let them know there are time limits on making a Claim and that they can get answers and help with the Claims process by visiting the Settlement Website (<https://veteranspensionsettlement.kpmg.ca/>).

Seniors Committee

This past month has seen several new faces attending our weekly coffee time and it's so nice to see. Our speaker scheduled for April cancelled due to an unforeseen health issue but has rebooked for May 1st.

The Functional Exercise program offered by Maureen Rodrigues continues to be very popular and the Sports Committee's daily walking program is now being offered again Monday to Friday starting at 9:30 am.

We welcome everyone to ongoing events and if anyone has any suggestions for activities, please let one of our committee members know.

Joan Hemlin
Legion Seniors Chair

Membership Report

Membership dues are assessed or levied annually by all Branches of the Royal Canadian Legion. Often members do not realize that these annual dues are based on amounts determined by Dominion Command and Provincial Commands, District HQ and Zone HQ.

Once these are assessed individual Branches, in conjunction with higher authorities, determine the amount required to manage the Branch. Recognizing the impact upon members and their decision to remain a member, higher authorities and Branches are reluctant to increase annual dues too frequently. As such, annual rates are set several years in advance.

Due to some questions /queries the Membership Chair receives, I thought I would provide a brief synopsis of membership costs breakdown. Members may review these by accessing the Dominion Command (legion.ca) site and click on Branch rates. Any discrepancies between the published rates and what is written here are my fault and not the error of our higher authorities.

Annual Membership Dues Breakdown

Branch 638 annual membership dues remain at \$60.00. The distribution breakdown of the annual membership is as follows:

Dominion Command = **\$34.87**.

Dominion Command retains \$23.87 per member and forwards **Ontario Provincial Command \$11.00** per member.

Branch portion = **\$25.13** per member.

District HQ and Zone HQ then assess, or levy, a small percentage fee for each member. District assessments are slightly larger than Zone assessments. These are done annually around the end of January and based upon total **new and renewed** members. Hence, the Branch retains approximately \$20.00 out of the \$60.00 annual membership.

As a result the Branch must have an active membership strategy in place in order to **Attract, Recruit and Retain** members. In order to achieve goals, Branches conduct Early Bird Campaigns, forward renewal reminder emails to members and conduct telephone reminder campaigns. Membership efforts are on-going constantly throughout the year. They are not a once a year event.

I hope our members find this information interesting and informative.

Comrade Dennis Hearn
Membership Chair

From the *Legion Dispatch* 04 April 2024

The Dispatch is the Legion all-branch newsletter. See the Legion website for more information.

Ongoing automated renewal outreach campaign

The automated renewal outreach has commenced, with Canada Direct reaching out to about 18,000 members who have yet to renew their memberships. Through advanced predictive dialing technology, a pre recorded message will advise members on the steps to renew their Legion membership. For direct assistance or to renew over the phone using a credit card, members have the option to connect with an Agent. Should a member miss the call, a voicemail will be left, prompting them to consider renewal.

This renewal initiative is slated to run through the end of May.

Additionally, we've dispatched direct mail renewal reminders to 36,000 members, encouraging them to renew their memberships.

March Gaming Report



Bingo (5 Bingos)

Total Deposit to Bingo Trust	\$ 4,143.00
Total Expenses	\$ 1,581.25
Rent to the Branch	\$ 666.75
Building O&M (40% after expense)	\$ 1,024.50
Donatable Funds (60% after expenses)	\$ 1,536.75

This month Bingo continues to average 46-50 players every Sunday and we are depositing approx. \$1,000 per Bingo.

Catch the Ace (5 Draws)



Total proceeds from draws	\$ 4,240.00
Total Expenses	\$ 420.00
Rent to the Branch	\$ 360.40
Building O&M (40% after expense)	\$ 678.40
Donatable Funds (60% after expenses)	\$ 1,017.60

Catch the Ace Jackpot is up over \$9,100 after Draw # 39.

Total DONATIONS (to Lottery Trust)	\$ 2,554.35
Total RENT	\$ 1,027.15
Total O&M	\$ 1,702.90
Total EXPENSES	\$ 2,005.75

Gaming Committee

Sergeant at Arms' Report

The Battle of Atlantic service in Almonte is Sunday the 26th of May 2024. It is the first full service since before COVID in 2019.

We have not sent a Colour Party since 2019, so we will be there this year. It is always a good show and nice reception, Splice the Mainbrace.

Our last Battle of the Atlantic veteran was Bert Fox. I think he was the last Battle of Atlantic veteran to attend the Almonte service.



Canadian sailors aboard HMCS Prince Robert line up to splice the mainbrace in celebration of V-J Day.

John Robert (No P) Thomson CD
Sgt at Arms RCL638 Kanata
613-831-8221

Security Officer Report

I would like to remind everyone that we have a Lost and Found Box. It is located in the Coat Room by the mirror at our Legion.

If something is found, left in the legion, that is where it should go. If valuable, for example a purse, phone and so on, in the office. Left items should be protected. I believe for the most part we are good at protecting things. However, there have been a couple of events that I feel where we have failed. Eventually the Lost and Found Box contents will be examined and if the owners can't be determined, purged.

I would like to discuss the Mailboxes in the office near the door. Only authorized people should be using them. That is, checking **your own mail**. People shouldn't be rifling through them. Unfortunately the office door has to be left open when the office is in use, so anyone can have a look at the items in the mailboxes. Don't leave anything valuable in them.

John Robert (No P) Thomson CD
Security Officer RCL638 Kanata
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

Ways and Means Committee



Newfie Night - Ann Ervin and Brenda Grant

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our first Newfie Night. It was a memorable evening with delicious food, joyful laughter, remarkable music and dancing. A special thank you to all our volunteers who worked tirelessly to make this event a success, your efforts did not go unnoticed.

Upcoming Events

Get ready to belt out your favourite tunes and have a great time at our Karaoke event on Friday, April 26th, 7PM. Don't miss out on the fun!

Sylvia Monette
Ways and Means Chair

CONTACT! Submission Deadlines

Due Sunday Noon

19 May
23 June

No newsletter in July, August
and December 😊

Lorraine Elmas
Editor

Lest We Forget 🌸

IT Photo Corner

The [Veteran page](#) on the Photo Website now has over 450 pictures of Veterans and Members.

Election Night [Photos](#)

We have a 50 inch TV on wheels that you can use to show pictures, videos or a presentation to your group using a computer and HDMI.

Our sound system supports Bluetooth so you can play your music from a cell phone or computer.

Photo Website: <https://kanatalegionphotos.weebly.com/>

Walter Arksey
Branch Photographer

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+

Legion 🌸

70 Hines Road
Kanata K2K 2M5

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

Ladies' Auxiliary

As a friendly reminder, the Ladies' Auxiliary will be hosting their annual **Trinkets and Treasures Sale** on Saturday, May 4th, 2024. We welcome donations of items of good quality which can be dropped off between April 19th until the evening of May 3rd. Please refer to the nearby posters for further details or contact Sylvia Monette.

Wanted! **Sunday Bingo Canteen volunteers** to work either in the kitchen or at the canteen bar when there is a fifth Sunday of the month and/or to be a spare as needed on a Sunday from 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. approximately. We will train you. For further information, please contact Lorraine Lapensée at 613-831-8319. An opportunity to support the Ladies' Auxiliary, the Branch, Sunday Bingo, Veterans, and our Community all at once!

Lorraine Lapensée
Ladies' Auxiliary President



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.



Published at the request of Comrade Ken Fleming:

Understanding the Experiences and Needs of Care Partners of Older Veterans

Are you a care partner to an Older Veteran?
If yes, we want to hear from you!

Complete a 40-minute online survey where you will be asked questions regarding your carer role and how it has impacted your health

This survey will be an opportunity for you to:

1. Share your experience of being a care partner for a Veteran.
2. Share your own needs as a Carer.
3. Recognize your role as a Carer.

<https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/FQ8NS2F>



Contact:

Annie Robitaille, Principal Investigator,
arobitai@uottawa.ca | 514-887-1065

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.	Saturday Social in the lounge Noon to 4 p.m. Drop in for a visit! Open Mic 1st and 3rd
Walking Club meets at the Legion at 9:30 every weekday morning beginning April 1.						

- Tuesday Euchre – a fun league, and we teach how to play. For info, call Gaëtan Chartier 819-639-9343 or Debby Holden 613-271-2993.
- Saturday Social in the lounge - Open Mic the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month

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