

The Legion Quarterly Newsletter



Dr. C. B. Lumsden Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 74, Wolfville, NS

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A GRAND OPENING DAY IT WAS! September 12, 2024

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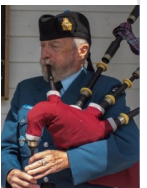
It has been said that a picture is worth a thousand words. That is exactly what it felt like with thousands of photos taken on our special Grand Opening day. Attending were people from across Canada and some from the USA.

We were delighted to have the Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Arthur J. LeBlanc and his lovely wife the Honourable Patsy LeBlanc join us for the ribbon cutting ceremony. He spoke with emotion about how much the Royal Canadian Legion means to so many, locally and Nationally.



The day started off with a Smudging Ceremony and a prayer from Glooscap First Nation Indigenous Veteran Mathew Connolly. The prayer spoke of those who will enter and leave our building today and in the future. They shall be loved & connected to each other.

The Vice-Regal Salute was played vibrantly by Pipe Major John Whidden. The salute was approved by Queen Elizabeth II in 1968. It is a musical greeting and a mark of respect. It is performed whenever the Lieutenant Governor attends an official event.



The celebration was conducted by Julien Lambert our Master of Ceremonies. He spoke eloquently in English & French as he announced each segment, guiding us through the day.

Our President, Donn Miles gave a warm welcome to all and reflected on what our Legion Branch 74 is all about. He spoke of the service his large family made, and how they suffered in different theaters of war. We should be mindful of why we are here and to remember the fallen.



Paul Murphy our 1st Vice President & Construction Project Manager told of how the struggle to get to this day was a big one. It involved many volunteer members. He spoke of working with our architects, the Harvies. He spoke of dealing with contractors, grant writing, inspections, and most of all the donations from companies and citizens alike, who gave their all to finish this magnificent building. **Continued on page 2**



Thank you.



Don MacCumber, President of Nova Scotia Nunavut Command proudly talked about how the Wolfville Legion Branch 74 is taking the lead as a model Legion, not only in Nova Scotia but across the country. The leadership of Branch 74 along with the determination to get things done is formidable. The scope of services offered is uncontested for a community like Wolfville.

President Jeff Paulin from Branch 11, Toronto, brought a party of four to our Grand Opening. Jeff spoke about the connection we have made, not only financially but in true Comradeship with each other. It will certainly be a long lasting relationship, plus they love visiting the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia. We were honoured that they made this visit.



The Honourable Kody Blois, Federal Member of Parliament spoke about the commitment the Federal Government and his office has made, and will continue to make to ensure that Veterans and their families have the support they need in our community. His long trip, delayed from Vancouver on the same day almost cause him to miss the ceremony. He said this is one important event he didn't want to miss.

The Honourable John Lohr, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, brought greetings from Premier Tim Houston and the Government in the form of a beautiful letter during a visit he made to the Branch. It is with regrets that he could not attend in person because the Legislature was sitting. John is the MLA for Kings North.



The Honourable Keith Irving spoke of how it was his pleasure to serve Kings South. It's very hard to put into words the feelings I have about leaving a job I have loved, he says. I will miss solving problems for citizens and advocating for improving services in Kings South. It's time to turn this responsibility over to the next generation of aspiring politicians who want to serve the citizens of Kings South.

The Stadacona Band Quintet was the musical feature for the event. It is one of six Regular Force Bands in the Canadian Armed Forces. They provide musical support for military and government functions throughout the HRM, Nova Scotia and are even tasked overseas to musically support CAF operations and represent Canada for significant events and commemorations.



The brass quintet lead by Petty Officer, PO2 Natalie Alcorn, is one of many ensembles drawn from within the core of the Stadacona Band who regularly performs in a concert band format on stage, and in a parade band format for ceremonies and events. All in attendance showed their love and appreciation.



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IN LOVING MEMORY OF DR. MICHAEL BAWTREE 1937 - 2024



On Saturday, August 24, 2024, Michael Bawtree died peacefully in his sleep, the day before his 87th birthday. Though his loss is felt keenly by his family and friends, his loss has been very hard on his loving Comrades at Branch 74, Wolfville. Michael was bigger than life itself and he made a huge impact on everyone at our Branch.

Born in Newcastle, Born in Australia, Michael moved to the UK when he was two – or, as he said, his parents moved and he just went along (probably the last time he ever just went along with something, rather than being the initiator!).

Michael was a young man when he joined the Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry in May 1956. As a 2nd Lieutenant, he served in Cyprus in 1957-58. During the Second World War, the Ox. And Bucks. L.I. was instrumental in the capture of Pegasus Bridge during D-Day in 1944. Michael wrote a one-man play about the event, "The Pegasus Bridge Show!", donating proceeds to The

Veterans Charity and still today his book is sold with all proceeds going to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 74, Wolfville, NS.

He moved to Wolfville in 1990 for a one-year contract to teach theatre at Acadia University. After two years, he became director of the Theatre Studies program and remained there until his retirement in 2003. Many who graduated from the program stayed in touch with him for the rest of his life.

He gave his energy and talents as a board member of the Wolfville Historical Society, helping to create events and summer programming. He spearheaded events for "1914 – War Comes to Wolfville", not to glorify war but to portray its impact on communities.

His final project was to assist with the renovation of the Dr. C.B. Lumsden Branch #74, Royal Canadian Legion building in Wolfville. An extensive project, he solicited the talents of architect Mike Harvie, who had transformed a 1920s hockey arena into a 514-seat thrust stage theatre in 1994-95 for the Atlantic Theatre Festival. The Legion building was transformed from one to three levels, with the upper named in Michael's honour in July, The Michael Bawtree Veterans Suite. It boasts the best views of Wolfville's dykelands out to the Minas Basin.

Dear Comrade Michael, we ask that you forgive our tears as we mourn your loss. Our sorrow knows no bounds. But we pledge to you today that here on in we will heed your call to not cry but to March On! We pledge to you today that we will indeed March On!



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IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME! by Paul Murphy, 1st Vice President

After 4 ½ long years of Renovations we finally get to enjoy the magnificent view of the Minas Basin. It is one of the most iconic views in NS, from the upper level Michael Bawtree Veteran's suite, the Pegasus Room.

Unfortunately many of our Comrades who were instrumental in keeping the Legion going until we could start this reclamation project have passed, such as Gordon Hansford, Hubert Sullivan, Bill Thomson, along with Comrade Michael Bawtree, who's vision along with several others, has helped to make this possible.

We have had many donations from the community to help us raise approximately \$200k for the 75 Fund, The Roger Prentice Library and the Counselling Fund. The Rotary Club of Wolfville has just initiated a fundraiser with a goal of \$400K to help us pay down the remaining debt. To contribute please etransfer RCOW via treasurer@rotaryclubofwolfville.org All monies goes directly to the renovation fund in the form of a grant.

A special thank you to Gordon and Helen Hansford, who donated \$65K. Wanda Murphy, Lawrence MacIsaac and Therese and Mike Harvey are gold sponsors who are a part of the monthly donation club.

We have had many companies provide Pro-bono services or construction material. The top of the list is Mike and Therese Harvey of Harvey Architecture whose tremendous effort provided all the architectural drawings, brought in three engineering firms and several other companies. We will be having an event in the future to properly thank each and everyone of them.

Thank you to Laurie Arnburg and Robert Turner of Access Contracting and their subcontractors who reconstructed our crumbling building along with Brooks Levy Construction who built and donated the work hours to complete the Bar in the Lower Level Sports Lounge.

This Legion is not just a bar it's a destination. Drop into the Lower Level Lounge, make your way up to the Library & Counselling room. Sip on a drink & enjoy the view from the Pegasus Room or the upper deck.

In 2018 we had 62 members of which 12 were veterans. We opened July 2024 with 168 members with 28 being veterans. Fast forward 8 weeks later and we now have 315 members with 78 being veterans.

The executive members, and many others, have put in thousands of hours over the past four years to make this happen, with over 55 work parties. We got it done and we sincerely thank you.

If You Build It, They Will Come. We hope our dances, karaoke, Sunday music concerts, sports, coffee socials, monthly breakfasts and all other coming events will be well attended.

Legion Kids

Big and Small

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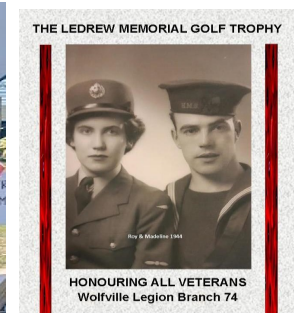
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FIRST ANNUAL LEGION GOLF TOURNAMENT - A BIG HIT AT ISLAND GREEN!

The first annual Wolfville Legion Branch 74 Golf Tournament was held on August 24, 2024 at Island Green Golf Club in North Alton. It was a beautiful day for a sold out tournament. The course was in spectacular condition and everyone said they had a marvelous time. The fundraiser made just over \$2000. We thank Island Green's Marty and Sherri for being such great hosts and to all of our sponsors for supporting this annual event. The LeDrew Memorial Golf award trophy which honours all Veterans, was presented to the winning team of Donald, Mark, Andrew and Graham who had the low score of 53. The second place team was Greg, Kyle, Phillip and Marty with one stroke difference at 54. Both teams were given Legion Gift Cards. Branch 74 gives a big shout out to the Volunteers that helped make this happen. Thank You!



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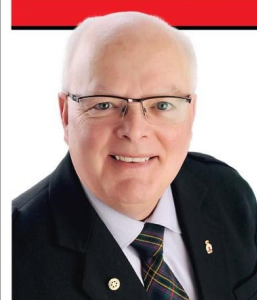
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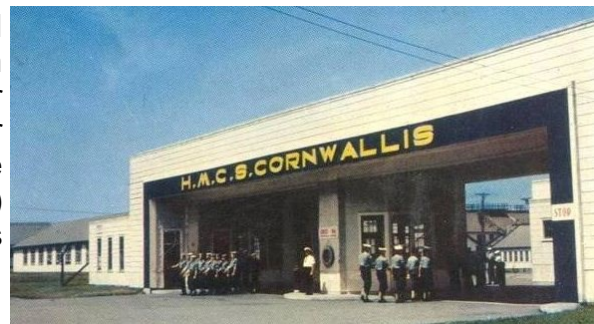
TELL A VETERANS STORY - From New Waterford eh!

by David "Kip" Hannigan

CFB Cornwallis once boasted a peak strength of over 11,000 officers and enlisted personnel and recruits during WWII. It was the largest naval training facility for new recruits in the British Commonwealth, in terms of personnel being trained.

CWO "Kip" Hannigan

The Dominion Atlantic Railway operated special troop trains to the base's station and also relied on scheduled passenger service, connecting with Canadian Pacific Railway passenger trains from Saint John, New Brunswick (recruits would then take a CPR passenger ferry across the Bay of Fundy to nearby Digby) as well as Canadian National Railways passenger trains at Truro and Halifax.



CFB Cornwallis continued in this role through to its closure in 1994, when the base was identified as surplus to the requirements of the shrinking post-Cold War Canadian Forces. The last recruit course 9426 graduated on August 18 that year, and the base officially decommissioned in May 1995.

In 1983 David "Kip" Hannigan was an instructor of new recruits at CFB Cornwallis, NS. He grew up in a small town, New Waterford, NS. As a Basic Training Instructor, he was committed to the demanding tasks of assisting and training recruits in completing their Basic Training.

Many recruits came in front of Sergeant Hannigan for various reasons. Whenever the Sergeant would find a name of a recruit from his hometown from his recruit list, he would call them into his office. He wanted to know their father's name to find out if he knew them or went to school with them.

One day he came across the name MacDonald. He said to his Master Corporal, "Hey send in MacDonald from New Waterford". The young recruit stood in front of him shaking in his boots, wondering what he did wrong to be up in front of the Sergeant. "What is your name and where are you from?" in a not so soft voice, demanded Sgt. Hannigan. Private MacDonald Sir, I am from New Waterford, Cape Breton Sir. What is your father's name private? He says John MacDonald Sir. Sgt. Hannigan continues...what are the last 3 digits of your Sin Number (Social Insurance Number), as was said in military terms, your sin number.

It was silent for what seemed like about five minutes. Sgt. Hannigan snaps...did you hear me Private, what are your last 3 sins? Awe... Gee... Sergeant I thought you were asking me about God and wanted to know what my last three sins were. With that, laughter broke out by everyone present and to his relief Private MacDonald was not in any trouble... (unless he really had 3 sins to confess).

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Welcome

315 NEW LEGION MEMBERS AND COUNTING!

We can't begin to tell you how proud we are that our membership is growing by leaps and bounds. We welcome everyone whether you have a military connection or not.

We offer friendship, respect, social events, a sports lounge, a Chaplain all in a stunning new venue. Contact Ted Cross, Membership Chair, tandcross@outlook.com or call 902-542-5869

FEEDING HUNGRY KIDS IN THE VALLEY



Valley After the Bell, is a program to feed hungry school children on weekends that operated out of the Wolfville and District Lions Club has set up shop in the County Fair Mall. The goal of the program, as stated by its founder, Kim MacDonald, a Horton High School teacher, is to provide students with food on weekends when they have no access to school-based breakfast and lunch programs.

"Food insecurity among students is real," she says. "Consider that one in every six students in the Annapolis Valley doesn't get enough to eat."

Working from this storefront, the volunteer organization plans to provide bags of food every Friday throughout the school year to roughly 110 students in eight local schools. Each bag will contain a dozen or so non-perishable food items and a few pieces of fruit.

If you want to help make a difference, you can make a monetary donation, volunteer your time, or donate single serving items such as canned tuna, canned ravioli, KD, 100% juice boxes, apple sauce, fruit cups, nut-free granola bars, etc.

You can drop by the storefront at County Fair mall, first store on the left when entering through the Coles entrance to drop off your donations. Store hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 11-1:00 and 2-4:00.

If you prefer, you can do an e-transfer at valleyafterthebell@gmail.com. Tax receipts will be issued.

If you wish to volunteer or would like more info, contact Gaëtane Archibald at 613 601-2319.

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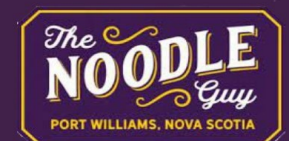


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