



THE MAPLE LEAF

MAY 2021 EDITION

Newsletter of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 270 Coldwater

(705) 686-3388 • 2 Michael Anne Drive, P.O. Box 89, Coldwater, ON, L0K1E0

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LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARDED

It's been a while since Branch 270 Coldwater nominated one of its members for a Legion Life Membership, an honour that recognises Legion outstanding service after 10 years of continuous membership. So, congratulations to our Immediate Past President and Poppy Chairman, Comrade Betty-Jean Murray, for being awarded that honour.

A member of the Legion since 1981, Betty-Jean joined the Executive of Branch 270 Coldwater as Poppy Chairman in 2016, and continued to serve at various Executive posts since. Throughout that period, she displayed exemplary dedication to the wellbeing and the advancement of the Coldwater Branch and the Royal Canadian Legion.

In addition to her regular committee duties, Comrade Murray served as a member of a Command directed Board of Management that oversaw the activities of the branch from November 2016 to January 2018. She eagerly represented Branch 270 at several events outside the branch, including Zone, District, Provincial, and Dominion conventions, and marched in local parades as well as the Warriors Day Parade in Toronto. She often volunteered to represent the branch at a Legion booth during the Coldwater Fall Fair. In 2017 she was awarded the Branch Service Medal in recognition of the significant level of service she performed over and above the requirements of her office duties.



Branch 270 Past President, Comrade Betty-Jean Murray, was awarded a Legion Life Membership.

Elected Branch President for the 2018-19 term, she continued to serve as Poppy Chairman, all while coaching a new volunteer in the role of Youth Education. She also served - and is still serving - as District 'E' Secretary, and Zone E4 Seniors Literary and By-laws & Resolutions Chairman. In recognition for her contribution at various levels, she was awarded the District 'E' Legionnaire of the Year Award in 2018.

Beyond excelling at performing the various duties she was appointed to, Comrade Murray has shown a tremendous amount of initiative, spearheading new projects and activities such as the Seniors Literary Competition.

Overall, Comrade Betty-Jean Murray's outstanding contribution to the Coldwater Branch and to the Royal Canadian Legion has been far above what can be expected of any member, and is well worthy of recognition through a Life Membership.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings everyone!

Another month with little or no face-to-face. I don't know what I could say about this pandemic that hasn't been said already. Another month, another lockdown. So, I'm going to leave it at that.

And I'm not going to list all the things that WON'T happen this month.

What I will tell you is that, even though the bar and the club room are closed, your Executive is still hard at work and keeping the place in top shape. Several badly overdue repairs were done during the closure, thanks to federal and provincial grants that were applied for before the pandemic and that came through at the right time. Members of the Executive continue to meet - virtually - twice a month, and bills get paid. And speaking of the Executive, this month marks the completion of our second year in office, for a term that should have been one year. So, I want to thank the members of the Executive for accepting to stay on at their post, especially through the obvious challenges of the time. Thank you all!

Normally we would be having an election on the first Sunday in May, and the newly elected officers would officially take over their duties on June 1st. Of course, it won't happen this month, as the current Covid status does not allow a gathering the size we need to run an election. When will be allowed to? Your guess is as good as mine. But I hope we won't have to wait another year.

In the meantime, I want to thank Comrade Rick Morse, who has accepted to take over the post of Branch Secretary/Treasurer for the next term. Rick brings in much experience in that field since he made a career in the Canadian Armed Forces in the administration world, first as a clerk and eventually supervisor and manager. Thank you Rick for taking this on.

Finally, I want to congratulate Comrade Betty-Jean Murray for being awarded a Life Membership. Some of her accomplishments are mentioned on the front page of this issue, but much had to be left out for lack of space. You can blame the editor – me. Congratulations Betty-Jean!

In closing, I hope we can see each other in person soon, on our patio, or inside the club room for a Friday night fish & chips. For now, please stay safe, wear your mask, wash your hands, AND GET YOUR SHOT!

Yours in comradeship,
Norm Marion, President



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Wayne Tutt, Membership Chairman
Good day Comrades. Our membership is at 209. Life 3, Ordinary 38, Associate 112, and Affiliate 56.

Congratulations to Betty-Jean Murray who has been awarded a Life Membership. Betty-Jean has been a Legion member for 40 years. She has held many positions, including Secretary, Treasurer, Youth Education, Branch President, and Poppy Chairman.

For those of you who have not renewed your 2021 membership, you may send a cheque for \$60.00 to Coldwater Legion P.O. Box 89 Coldwater, ON. L0K 1E0. You will then receive your sticker to be placed on the back of your membership card. Thank you all for your membership. Hope to see you soon.

SICK & VISITING REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Betty-Anne Burnie, Sick and Visiting Chairman

I have been keeping in touch with those I know are ill or not well. If there are any issues that require my attention please let me know. Home phone (705) 686-3270 or email bburnie6@hotmail.com.

THE MAPLE LEAF

The Maple Leaf is the award-winning newsletter of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 270 Coldwater, published each month in the first week of the month. It is primarily an internal communication tool through which the Branch Executive and Committee Chairmen disseminate information and report to the membership on their respective activities. Opinions expressed in feature articles are those of the writers and do not imply endorsement by the Branch or the Legion.

Committee reports and pre-arranged articles must be received no later than the 21st of each month in order to be published in the following month's issue. Please submit by email addressed to: Branch PRO – Maple Leaf at branch270@rogers.com.

GENERAL MEETING

Due to the COVID-19 virus pandemic emergency, **General Meetings are suspended until further notice.** Branch General Meetings normally take place on the fourth Wednesday of each month, from September to June, in the upstairs hall at 6:30 p.m.

POPPY REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Betty-Jean Murray, Poppy Chairman & Immediate Past President

The Poppy Fund account stands at \$7,789.53 at April 29, 2021 after having processed the Poppy Fund donations to the usual RCL charities. Again, there are no outstanding payments for the Poppy Fund.

SERVICE OFFICER REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Randy Rice, Branch Service Officer
Comrades, the following information concerns support to Veterans and families, and may be of interest.

Item 1. The Royal Canadian Legion supports the Army Run which is conducted annually and this year will be virtual, details available at:

<https://raceroster.com/events/2021/39476/canada-army-runvirtual-2021course-de-larmee-du-canada-virtuelle-2021>

Item 2. The mental health commission of Canada provides services and programs to VETERANS and their families, this also includes as VETERANS members of the RCMP. Information is available at:

sparks@mentalhealthcommission.ca

Item 3. The Royal Canadian Legion Ontario COMMAND is committed to the Wounded Warriors of Canada program. Information is available at:

<https://woundedwarriors.ca/our-programs/ptsd-service-dogs/>

SPORTS REPORT

We are still looking for someone to take over the duties of Sports Officer. Please contact the Branch office if interested, 686-3388, email: branch270@rogers.com.

TREASURER REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Norm Marion, President

I am pleased to report the General Account stands at \$58,129.51 as of April 29, 2021. This amount includes funds received from the Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant and the New Horizons for Seniors Grant, both of which are to be spent on specific repairs such as the roof and the HVAC system. However, all accounts are paid up to date and we have one monthly payment remaining on the roof.

As of April 29, 2021, the Building Account stands at \$16,703.

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Norm Marion, Public Relations Officer

LEGION MAGAZINE: Two more branch photos were accepted for publication to the Legion Magazine. They will appear in the July-August issue. Those are photos of Comrade Carol Baird with her Legionnaire of the Year plaque, and me with the Vimy Ridge wreath at the Cenotaph.

ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER: I am still looking for someone to take over the duties of keeping track of advertisement in the Maple Leaf, collecting payments as they become due, and recruiting new advertisers as required. This was handled by our good friend Rosalie Pratt until she passed away in December. Please see me if you're interested or know someone who might be.

JOKE OF THE MONTH

A linguistic philosopher made the claim that there is no language in which a double positive implies a negative during a lecture.

To which someone responded, "Yeah, yeah."

Quote of the Month

"You always pass failure on the way to success."

- Mickey Rooney, Actor

ENTERTAINMENT/WAYS & MEANS

Submitted by Comrade Carol Baird, Entertainment/Ways & Means Chairman

I forgot in the last report to thank everybody for the Legionnaire of the Year award. I was very humbled by the award and totally surprised. It was a great honour. I look forward to the future with the Branch.

The bottle drive in the first round did \$11,650.00, our goal was \$12,000.00. It was close. This round the bottle drive is at \$6,888.40. Our goal is \$10,000.00. I feel we will surpass that. I can't thank everybody enough for all the support. When we started the drive I was hoping to do a few thousand dollars. I am so grateful as are all the other members of the executive. Hopefully we will be out of this lockdown soon and back to the new normal.

Whatever that is.

SENIORS LITERARY COMPETITION

Submitted by Comrade Betty-Jean Murray, Seniors Literary Competition Chairman

Saturday, May 1, 2021 is the deadline for filing a submission for the Seniors Literary Competition and, incredibly, we have received 84 entries so far compared to 29 last year. This new program offered for seniors is being well accepted and we have received several letters of thanks from writers who have had little opportunity to venture very far during Covid. They are grateful for this distraction. This year we have received entries from as far east as Ottawa, west as far as London, north-west to Kincardine and north to Huntsville. We are happy to recognize the value of this new program and thank those who have taken part and those who have been behind promoting it and making it a success. Well done, everyone and THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

On another note, I thank you the members and the executive for recognizing my many years of working on behalf of the Royal Canadian Legion and all of our Veterans with my new designation of 'Life' Member. At this time, words cannot sufficiently convey my thanks but please know I truly appreciate the tribute.



Work is now completed for the lighting project at the Cenotaph. Much work has been done by Branch members in the past few years to make the Cenotaph area more inviting and accessible.

YOUTH EDUCATION REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Marg Murphy, Youth Education Officer

Before providing the final results of the Posters and Literary Competition for students for the year 2020, I would like to comment on the co-operation we always receive from teacher Jennifer Viherjoki. Without her support we would not be able to continue to host this competition for the students and, judging by the numbers of entries we receive each year, the students really enjoy it and appreciate the opportunity to take part in what they know might generate some Christmas spending money for them. Our heart-felt thanks goes out to Ms. V for always 'hanging in there' with us for this event no matter how difficult it becomes. I cite this past year as a perfect example. Thank you Ms. V for always supporting us even when it is an inconvenience for you and this year must have been. As always, our most sincere thanks to you!

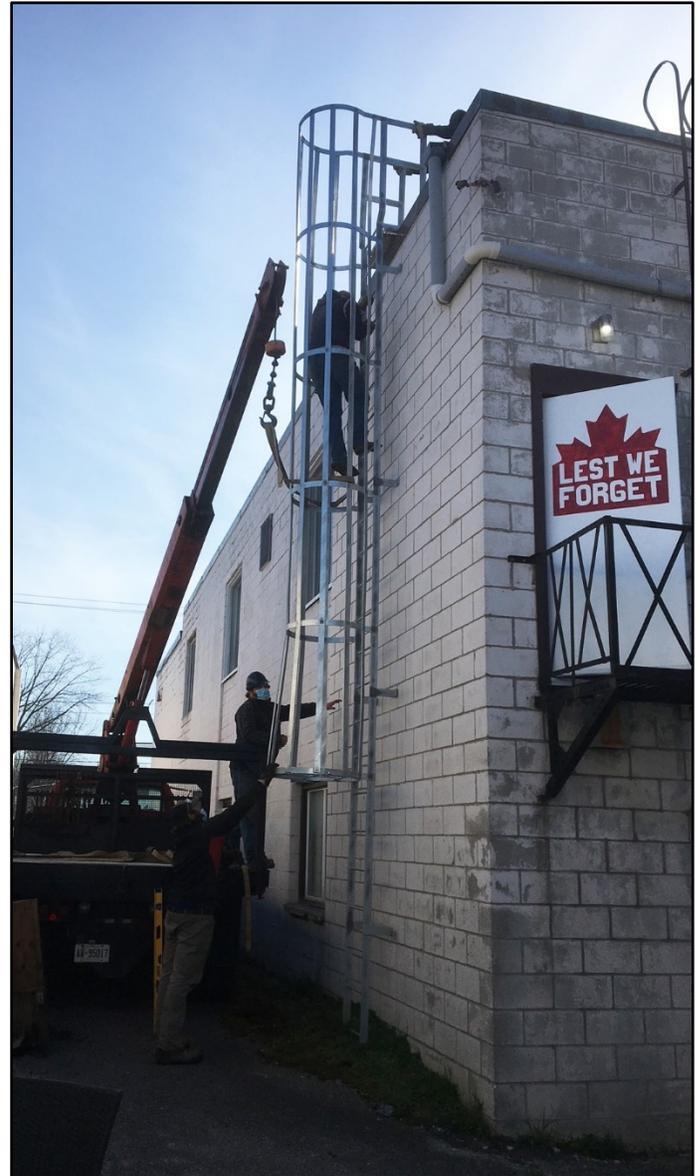
I am pleased to report that all students' Remembrance Posters and Literary Competition submissions have been returned to the schools and at Coldwater P.S. the citations and monetary awards will be given to the appropriate students when school is back in the building. The year 2020 was difficult for the students but we happily share with you that Coldwater Public School teacher Ms. V. came through as usual and quite a few students provided entries at Branch level. The Youth Education Committee at Branch 270 agreed to manage the competition at Zone E4 level so the students from the surrounding communities were not denied the annual anticipation of having their entry move up to the next level. The final results were that at Zone E4 level, Brody Carpenter placed 2nd for his Intermediate Colour Poster and Jack Straw placed 3rd for his Intermediate Black & White Poster.

Again, at Zone E4 level Kartik Chhabra placed 1st in the Intermediate Poetry competition, to go on to the District E Level where he placed 3rd; Christine Bailey placed 1st in the Zone E4 level Intermediate Essay competition, to go on to the District E Level, however, did not place in the top three there. We congratulate these students and thank all those students who took part in the competition.

Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions, the Public Speaking competition was not able to be held again this year. Hopefully all will be well by winter 2022 and the Public Speaking event will be able to continue once again. Thank you students and Ms. V!

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS REPORT *Submitted by Comrade Randy Rice, Sergeant-at-Arms*

BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC: Commemoration of Canada's longest battle, the Battle of the Atlantic, takes place on the first Sunday in May each year. This year I am honoured to be laying the wreath on behalf of the branch on Sunday May the 2nd.



In addition to the electrical work at the Cenotaph, the installation of our new, up-to-code, roof access ladder was completed last month. Fabrication and installation was done by Old Tymer Welding.

BRANCH HISTORIAN REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Norm Marion, Branch Historian

MILITARY SERVICE RECOGNITION BOOK: More submissions for Ontario Command's Military Service Recognition Book (MSRB) were sent in the past two weeks, for a total of 30 so far this past month. More will go next week, as I am just waiting for review and signatures. If you have relatives or friends who served in the military and resided in Ontario at some point in their lives, we can get them in the next edition of the MSRB. Just get in touch with me: norm.marion@amtelecom.net or (705) 686-3941. I would be happy to help you submit your story and photo, if available. You can see below a sample of a local submission that will appear this fall in Vol. VIII MSRB.



FOR MILITARY SERVICE RECOGNITION BOOK:

MEET ROSE DEVERE WORRELL

Rose De Vere Hiltz/Worrell, UE, was born near the village of Coldwater, Ontario, on September 18, 1920. She was the eldest child of Orley Lovelace and Eva Spencer. Rose enlisted in the Canadian Women's Army Corps on August 4, 1942, regimental number W2616. She achieved the rank of sergeant and served as a basic training instructor in Kitchener, Ontario. She also served overseas at No.2 Canadian Tobacco Depot, a Canadian military postal facility located in Slough, England. Rose was discharged on

February 12, 1946. After the war she married her second husband Henry Worrell Jr. and together, they raised four children. Rose was a member of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 270 Ladies Auxiliary, serving as its President in 1950. She became a Ham Radio operator (VE3 AJN) in 1970 and became the first Canadian to be Net Manager of the International Traffic Net. Rose received a commendation from U.S. Senator Barry Goldwater for her services in relaying messages to the Pentagon during the Grenada Crisis in 1983. She was proud of her United Empire Loyalist roots and received her official Loyalist status (post nominals "UE") on her 90th birthday. Rose passed away at her home in Coldwater on September 15, 2013.

THIS MONTH WE REMEMBER THE

BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

The Battle of the Atlantic was Canada's longest military engagement of the Second World War, lasting from September 1939 to May 1945. This battle was fought by the men and women of the Canadian Merchant Navy, the Royal Canadian Navy and the Royal Canadian Air Force. More than 4,600 courageous service men and women lost their lives at sea.

Canada's role in the Battle of the Atlantic was large and significant. Starting from a tiny base of ships, aircraft and personnel, and an infrastructure of meagre proportions, Canada became one of the foremost Allied powers in the Atlantic war. By 1942, Canada was able to carry a major share of the defence of North American waters and, at the same time, was Britain's principal partner in the defence of trans-ocean convoys. By 1944, Canadian forces had developed the strength and capability to provide a significant contribution to the British and Americans in other theatres of the war.

Source: Veterans Affairs Canada



THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION RESPONDS TO FEDERAL BUDGET 2021

Strong investments in Veteran well-being, Defence and Security welcomed

OTTAWA, ON, 19 April, 2021 – The Royal Canadian Legion is pleased to see this year's budget not only contains a critical focus on pandemic support and recovery, but also outlines a range of investments that will prove beneficial to Veterans and their families.

"Given the needs arising due to the pandemic, we were not expecting this much welcome investment in our Veteran community and we are very happy to see our Veterans have not been forgotten," says Dominion President, Thomas D. Irvine, CD. "We look forward to working collaboratively with the federal government and all partners to provide support wherever we can."

FOCUS ON VETERAN MENTAL HEALTH. Veterans' mental health will be a major focus with \$150 million in immediate funding to Veterans Affairs Canada for a new program. It will cover mental health treatment costs for Veterans with a range of diagnoses, while they wait for their disability benefit applications to be processed. The Legion is pleased with this outcome, as we have seen the toll that wait times have taken on Veterans. The strain on mental health has been further exacerbated by the pandemic.

REDUCING THE BENEFIT APPLICATION BACKLOG. The budget provides \$29 million to allow Veterans Affairs Canada to retain personnel who are working to combat the current massive backlog of benefit applications, something the Legion helps Veterans complete.

ENHANCEMENT OF VETERAN AND FAMILY WELL-BEING FUND. The investment of \$15 million over three years for Veterans Affairs Canada to expand and enhance this fund, is welcome news. Projects will include supporting Veterans post-COVID-19, related to homelessness, employment, retraining and other health challenges. The Legion has been pushing for improvements in all of these areas.

REDUCTION IN VETERAN HOMELESSNESS. \$45 million over two years, will allow Employment and Social Development Canada to pilot a program aimed at reducing veteran homelessness, a key Legion priority. Under the program, rent supplements and support services such as counselling, addiction treatment, and help finding a job will be included. Another priority for the Legion is improving transition services for Veterans, and we hope this pilot program will help strengthen knowledge about what works.

COMMITMENT TO LONG TERM CARE. We are pleased to see a 3 billion dollar commitment to Long Term Care, in particular, an additional \$90 million in funding for a Stay at Home Wellness Program to ultimately benefit our Seniors, including Veterans.

FIGHTING MISCONDUCT. We applaud new funding for the Department of National Defence to help with legal costs for formal complaints related to misconduct, in addition to new resources to work on eliminating sexual misconduct within the military. There will be new external oversight mechanisms to bring greater independence to the processes of reporting and adjudicating sexual misconduct in the military, a crucial element expressed by Veterans the Legion has served.

PROTECTING HEALTH AND SAFETY. We welcome new and ongoing funding to ensure that Canadian Armed Forces members receive timely access to health care. Further investment to pilot online and in-person peer support groups for CAF members and Veterans who have experienced sexual misconduct during their service is a crucial commitment. The groups will be tailored to military experience.

DEFENCE AND SECURITY. The budget provides significant funding for defense spending including needed dollars for equipment such as fighter aircraft and a new frigate. The Legion believes our military requires the best and most modern tools to do the job. We are pleased to see a commitment to modernize NORAD, which helps detect and defend against threats to our continent. Further support to sustain existing continental and Arctic defense capability is also positive news. In addition the budget provides for higher Canadian contributions to NATO's common budget and military activities.

For more information on the full list of Legion priority areas, please visit:

<https://www.legion.ca/advocating-for-veterans/advocating-for-change>

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LADIES AUXILIARY

Submitted by Comrade Anne McArthur, President of the Ladies Auxiliary Branch 270



May has arrived and what a beautiful beginning to it. The grass is growing and the leaves are starting, truly, "April showers bring May flowers."

We are still not able to have any gatherings of more than 5 people. This means that we cannot hold our annual elections, again this year.

I have contacted everyone on the previous executive, and they have decided to hold their current positions, until we can hold elections. We still need a 1st Vice President so if any of the current executive members are interested, please let me know. Thank you to everyone that has agreed to stay. We are here to help our Veterans.



Our account currently has a working balance of \$3,625.52. There are no sports events being held due to COVID. Our banquet hall has been extremely lonely with no events being held. We hope that things will turn around soon. Remember that the Branch is still doing the bottle drive, so if you have empties help support them by dropping them off.

Hoping everyone stays well.

Stay safe: Maintain social distancing, wear a mask, wash your hands and stay home as much as possible.

"Never give up, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn." - Harriet Beecher Stowe

Anne McArthur
LA President
Branch 270 Coldwater

REMEMBER YOUR FOODLAND RECEIPTS!

Getting frustrated that branch activities are on hold, and you can't help the branch?

Looking for ways to contribute?

One simple way is to save your Coldwater Foodland receipts and drop them off at the branch whenever you stop by. Ladies Auxiliary member Jane Lauder will take them to Coldwater Foodland for cash.

Help Jane help the branch. Bring in your receipts!

Thank you to all who helped with, or contributed to the annual Legion

Poppy Campaign

- Poppy Funds are there to:
- help our Veterans
 - promote Remembrance
 - and assist our community





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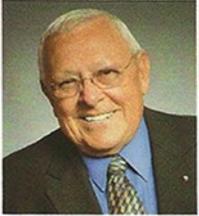
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INTRODUCING MEMBER JULIA MANNING

By Comrade Rosalie J. Pratt [From a 2020 interview]

Comrade Julia Manning has a family history richly peppered with military experiences. Her grandfather was in the trenches in the Great War; at age seventeen, her father served on Lancaster Bombers as a navigator and bomb aimer; an aunt on her paternal side, served as a Wren (Women's Royal Naval Service); her mother joined the air force on her eighteenth birthday; a grandmother nursed burn victims on the European front and for this service she was honoured with a dinner at Windsor Castle by the Late King George VI and the Late Queen Mother Elizabeth. Julia's paternal great-grandfather served the British government in India. Notably he was brother to the 5th Earl of Cathcart, George Cathcart.

Comrade Julia first became acquainted with the Royal Canadian Legion in 1976 and quickly became involved in 'Legion Life' by volunteering her time in the development of the community's children's minor soccer teams. Then there was the assisting with serving at the various events.

In 2010, life issues led to transfer her membership to our Branch. Since that time, when asked to assist at one-off events, Comrade Julia has stepped up to the plate. One of her most recent behind-the-scenes assistance was in the designing, marketing and advertising of the successful fund-raising campaign for our Branch Literary Group. Her efforts and expertise allowed our Branch to sell 50% of the tickets almost instantaneously.

This knack for creating, promoting and selling very specifically ordered product was nurtured at a young age when she worked for a bespoke tailor. She learned that there is a huge difference between off-the-line, made-to-measure and bespoke work, the latter being extremely specific and made to satisfy the most stringent buyer requirements.

At 18, with her young family in tow, Julia immigrated to Canada. In 1981 she put her skills for recognizing fine detail to use and launched her advertising company.

Today, Comrade Julia, grandmother to nine children and great-grandmother to one grandson looks forward to fulfilling her dreams of travel. With the current pandemic situation, Comrade Julia satisfies her wanderlust by staying in touch with friends and family.



Comrade Julia Manning first became acquainted with the Royal Canadian Legion in 1976 and quickly became involved in 'Legion Life' by volunteering her time.

Until recently, she has volunteered at other organizations and is known for her activism when working on local affairs for the betterment of the community.

Comrade Julia stands ready to work on new initiatives at the branch, and would welcome the opportunity to work alongside other members. Our Comrade shared that life is all about communication and people, and right now, she would not change anything.

Closing the interview, Comrade Julia shared, *"Community and family support is the primary key to happiness."*

We thank you for volunteering, Julia!

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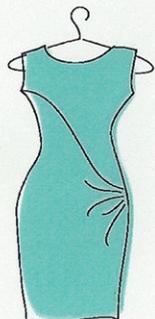
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Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Wear a Mask & Stay Safe Everyone!

2
CLOSED
Battle of the Atlantic Sunday 

3
CLOSED

4
CLOSED
Bistro open for take-out only

5
CLOSED
Bistro open for take-out only

6
CLOSED
Bistro open for take-out only

7
CLOSED
Bistro open for take-out only

8
VE-Day
CLOSED
Bistro open for take-out only 

9
CLOSED
Mother's Day 

10
CLOSED

11
CLOSED
Bistro open for take-out only

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CLOSED
Bistro open for take-out only

13
CLOSED
Bistro open for take-out only

14
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Bistro open for take-out only

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Bistro open for take-out only

16
CLOSED

17
Victoria Day
CLOSED 

18
CLOSED
Bistro open for take-out only

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CLOSED
Bistro open for take-out only

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Bistro open for take-out only

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Bistro open for take-out only

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CLOSED

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J. des Patriotes
CLOSED

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CLOSED
Bistro open for take-out only

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Bistro open for take-out only

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CLOSED

31
CLOSED