

Welcome everyone to 2023

I would like to take a moment to recap the happenings from 2022 and thank the tabled officers along with the executives at large and the appointed positions for their hard work and dedication, they provided to support a successful year for our Legion. There were many challenges as we began our year together. The main one was of course getting our members and legion activities back into our legion after the very long period of COVID.

We managed to do that. As restrictions began to be lifted, we brought back our Meat draws. We encouraged our crib, darts and pool players to return providing them with our COVID safety plans and maintained strict guidelines outlined by the health authorities to ensure everyone's safety within our Legion. We introduced Tuesday night burgers providing our members the opportunity to gather and enjoy an evening where the cooking was a tribute from our kitchen volunteers.

Our July 1st celebration was the first in many years where our legion and patio were full to capacity. With so many legion members, dignitaries and members of our community attending, there were definite signs that we are nearing a new normal, where once again we can all come together and enjoy what our Legion has to offer.

As well, we were honoured to celebrate our late Queen's 70th Jubilee at our Legion this past August. This event was also well attended with a full capacity to our patio and legion. Unfortunately, this celebration was short lived as her majesty passed away a short month later.

Along with these celebrations we managed other accomplishments this year.

Our entire downstairs portion of the Legion received a fresh coat of paint earlier this year. I thank Cde Cindy Pleasance for taking charge of this event and organizing the many volunteers that accomplished this huge undertaking.

During the 1st quarter of the year our executive managed to obtain close to \$30,000 dollars in government and local district grants. \$25,000 was slated for our kitchen renovation. This project is now complete and I am pleased to report it was done under budget. Originally requested \$50,000 dollars and when the dust settles, we will have paid out just under \$40,000 dollars.

All in all, it's been a good year.

At this time, I want to thank my 1st and 2nd vice presidents for their input and support in 2022. Cindy and Earl will both be stepping down after this term is over and I thank them both for all they have contributed.

I Thank our Treasurer and Finance Chair, Kathy Stanton. Who spends many hours noticed and unnoticed in the office or at home making sure we keep our financial interests at balance. I am pleased to announce she will be with us next term.

Our Secretary, Joan Mezzatesta. Joan has spent the last three years in our office as secretary and has used her previous expertise to bring our administrative criteria to its highest level. Joan will be stepping down on December 31st and she will be missed in the office. We thank you Joan for your many years of service.

Our Past President, Frank Mezzatesta. I have been fortunate to have Frank at my side over this past year. He has been a great mentor and has done an excellent job in Honour and awards and cadet liaison. I'm happy to say Frank will remain as our Past President in 2023.

I am very pleased to acknowledge the accomplishments of our Executive:

Our Bar Manager Therese Heck. An outstanding job this year managing our bar and keeping our members hydrated and our bar stocked. Our Bar income this year was over \$40,000 with over \$21,000 in profit. Great job Therese and I'm pleased you will continue as our Bar Manager in 2023.

Let's put our hands together for Cde Barry French our Poppy and Bursaries chair as he has again organized a great Poppy campaign in 2022. With the assistance of his mall Captains and the many tables volunteers this year's campaign brought in over \$60,000 dollars. Great job Barry!

Thanks to Cde Barry Ostrand for getting our Legion sporting events going again. The return of our Annual Golf Tournament and Grey Cup game was welcomed back and well attended. Barry has also arranged for Branch 257 to host the 2023 Zone Crib Playdowns to be held February 11th and 12th. Job well done Barry. Barry will be taking a well-deserved break from the executive next year and we thank you for your many years of service to our Legion.

I would also like to acknowledge the following:

Our Sgt at Arms – Doug Slowski

Service Officer - Anne Marie Smith, who is stepping down for 2023.

Our Padre – Robert Hutchison who will be taking over the duties of Service Officer and Veteran's Advocate.

To our Chairman - Gary Peters.

To our Special Committee Chairs: Jim McEwan, and Gary Peters and Vicki Jones, who will be my right hand as 1st Vice President for 2023.

Thanks to the many volunteers, bartenders, money counters et al, that have contributed so much of their time and effort in assisting all of us in keeping our Legion strong and accomplishing our mission. I look forward to your continued support for the new year.

2022 has been an interesting and rewarding year for me. I Thank all of you for your support and I am looking forward to the opportunity to serve you as President in 2023.