

POPPY FUND CAMPAIGN 2020: A RECORD YEAR

We have completed our 2020 Poppy Campaign which ran from October 30 to November 11 this year.

My wife, Sue, and I joined the Legion last fall to play darts, by June this year I was asked to be the Poppy Fund Chairman. Everyone told me it was going to be 'easy, fun and doesn't take much time'. Not having been directly involved with the Legion previously, I believed them and quite frankly had this naïve idea that the Poppy Campaign involved a few Veterans standing around at the NSLC or the hardware store and a few people spreading poppy donation boxes around to the rest of the merchants.

As it turned out of course, it wasn't an 'easy' task, but everyone, encouraged by our Executive, was extremely supportive. Donn Miles helped me organize what was left over from previous years and to order what we needed for the campaign. Volunteers came forward to distribute the poppy boxes and wreath sales to our merchants. Another group of volunteers manned the only table we were able to have this year, which was at Home Depot. The support of the Volunteers made it a relatively 'easy' task: we had fun doing it and the time flew by.

Over the last few years typically the Poppy Campaign raised in the order of \$11-12,000 annually. This year we surpassed \$16,000!

This is particularly gratifying when we consider the hurdles we faced this year, made so much more challenging by the Covid situation. It is comforting to be able to respond more fully to the anticipated increased level of requests for assistance from our Veterans, their families and our community.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the support from within our ranks, the executive and membership, and of course for the generosity of our merchants, various levels of government, University and schools, and the public who all contributed to making our Poppy Campaign such a success.

Peter Tatrallyay, Campaign Chair

MEMBERSHIP CONTINUES TO GROW

2017: 61 ----- 2020: 140!

The foundation of any successful organization is its members. Over the past 3 years we have seen a steady growth of 30+ new and transferred members to our Branch each year. Through growth there also comes new ideas, new energy and new demands. We have seen a tremendous increase in volunteers at the executive level and people helping out at events and work parties. There is still room for growth in membership, ideas and volunteers within our Branch. Join us: you won't be disappointed.

Paul Murphy, 1st VP, Membership Chair

A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON TO ALL!

1945-2020

75

YEARS YOUNG!

NEWSLETTER

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REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY PRE-TAPED AND BEAMED ACROSS THE INTERNET

For the first time in the Legion's 75 years, there was no live Legion Remembrance Day ceremony in Wolfville in 2020: COVID-19 had seen to that. But this did not mean that this day, the most important one in the Royal Canadian Legion's calendar, was not commemorated. In consultation with Acadia University, the Executive Committee decided to arrange for a shortened version of the ceremony to be pre-taped, and beamed out online on November 11th.

The Committee was aware that the usual ceremony, which for years has taken place at University Hall in Acadia University, was a popular event attended by hundreds of people, and they knew that if a public event was held there would be no way of handling the crowd and keeping them socially distanced. So we accepted the kind invitation of our president Donn Miles, to hold the event in the grounds of his home, with a splendid German howitzer (captured by Canadian forces in WW1) to serve as a background. Donn put together a fine setting, with wreaths and helmets. Chaplain Lawrence

Legion 

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MacIsaac conducted the ceremony, assisted by Acadia's Chaplain Dr. Marjorie Lewis. University President Dr. Peter Ricketts read *'In Flanders Fields'*. Acadia student Luke Henderson sounded the Last Post and Reveille. Legion member John Whidden piped the Lament. President Donn Miles spoke the Act of Remembrance. Behind the camera for the taping was Legion member (and Acadia staff member) Terry Aulenbach, who was also responsible for the subsequent editing. The ceremony was attended by Kody Blois M.P., Keith Irving MLA, Oonagh Proudfoot (Deputy Mayor of Wolfville) and by members of the Executive. Refreshments following the event were generously provided by Donn and June Miles.

The taped event was made available on Remembrance Day on Facebook, on Eastlink and on the Wolfville Legion's website. News of it was picked up by the CBC, and also by CTV, who interviewed 1st VP Paul Murphy in the morning. CTV also included a brief view of it in their national coverage that evening. The Legion received many compliments on the quality of the broadcast, for which we must thank Terry's professionalism.

The names of all those institutions, businesses and individuals who purchased wreaths for the occasion were read out at the ceremony by our Poppy Fund Chair, Peter Tatrallyay, and the wreaths were displayed outside the Legion building on Remembrance Day, on stands built by our President Donn Miles. Donn, 1st VP Paul Murphy and Terry Butler also laid a wreath that day on the grave of Dr. 'Bill' Lumsden M.M., for whom our Legion is named.

LEGION BUILDING REMAINS CLOSED - BUT A LOT'S GOING ON!

Our Legion building has now been closed for nearly nine months, coinciding with the arrival of COVID-19 into Canada. We have been able to take advantage of the forced cancellation of many of our normal activities by turning the building over to Laurie Arnberg of Access Contracting (and former member of the West Novas), who was awarded the contract to deal with some urgent remedial work, which had to be completed before we could commence on our renovations proper.



Up in the Air

On the very first day Laurie discovered that our 1912 building (which started life as a Baptist Tabernacle) was built partly on rubble, with no foundation on most of the west side. The only solution was to raise the entire building 16 inches, to rebuild the west wall, and to insert 12 inches of concrete blocks.



Re-building the west wall

Will Richie of Aylesford single-handedly accomplished the raising, to the amazement of us all, but our beloved home was up in the air for many weeks before finally landing again on a solid foundation. Part of the west wall was left open so that the remains of the old concrete floor could be removed. It will then be sealed up, and with luck the basement will no longer leak - probably for the first time in a hundred years. Plumbing for the new kitchen and bathrooms will then be laid, before a new floor is put down. And the basement will be 12 inches higher, making it more spacious and inviting.

It is hoped that the building will be turned back to the Legion towards the end of January, with the basement infrastructure complete, but with the room still just an empty shell. The Executive then plans for themselves and the membership to do as much of the finish work as they are able.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Donn Miles
 1st VP: Paul Murphy
 Sergeant at Arms: Kip Hannigan
 Secretary: Susanne Winters
 Chaplain: Lawrence MacIsaac
 Service Officer: Jim Price
 Past President: Michael Bawtree
 Committee Chairs:
 Poppy Fund: Peter Tatrallyay
 Finance: Michael Bawtree

Membership: Paul Murphy
 Building and Property: Terry Butler
 Sports: Beth Jordan
 Rentals: Darlene Hannigan
 Member at Large: Paul Allen