

## Ladies Auxiliary

With the opening of the Richmond Legion Hall, the importance of a Ladies' Auxiliary was recognized. On April 8 1981 the Charter was signed by Dominion Command and at a special ceremony held in the new hall, members were inducted into the newly formed Ladies' Auxiliary, Branch 625. Among the Legion dignitaries attending were District Commander, Rolly Ashman; President of the Ontario Command of the Ladies' Auxiliary, Teresa Archtenberg and Zone Commander for the Ladies' Auxiliary, Marg Featherstone. President Frank Jefferies congratulated Pat Loverock on her efforts to get the Auxiliary started and called the event a "memorable day in our Branch's history".

Members of the first Executive Committee were: President, Pat Loverock; 1st Vice President, Barbara Bennett; 2nd Vice President, Mavis Lewis; Secretary, Hilda Moore; Treasurer, Heather Murphy; and Sergeant-at-Arms, Shirley Beardsell.

Other Charter members were: Donna McRae, Joyce Lavoie, Carol Mains, Elsie Jamieson, Dorothy Marshall, Susan Bennett, Lisa Loverock, Bea McRae, Mabel Mann, Rosemary Satnik, Ina Bannon, Evelyn Pickett, Heather Bennett, and Marlene Dawson.

The Ladies Auxiliary was a very busy group of people for the next 37 years.

They were dedicated to the Legion and attended all the Branch, Zone, District and Provincial meetings, conventions, seminars and activities throughout the years. They also sent a representative to the Canadian American Veterans' Reunion Association meetings which were held in Canada one year and in the U.S. alternate years.

The Ladies Auxiliary took part in sports at Branch, Zone, District and Provincial levels playing darts, bowling, cribbage, shuffle board, euchre, 500 - you name it, they played it with much success and bringing laurels to the Richmond Legion for many years.

They hosted meetings, conventions, sports and seminars at our Branch as well as travelling all over the Province to attend meetings and participate in events. They provided catering services for the Branch events, meetings and hall rentals. They sent appropriate cards to members for illness, bereavement, birthday etc.

They put on Murder Mystery Night Dinners using members, friends and families in the cast. These nights were very popular and sold out quickly

They had a Fall Tea & Bazaar each year featuring baked goods, hand made crafts (knitted, crocheted, ceramics etc), a white elephant table (used items) and a giant raffle to name a few. Tea, coffee, sandwiches and desserts were served. We had to be careful when opening the doors due to the stampede headed to the baked goods table which had pies, cakes, cookies, squares - you name it all home made by our ladies!

Their activities meant that they contributed thousands of dollars to the Branch over the years.

Due to declining membership a very difficult decision was made to surrender the charter as of October 28, 2018. The small but hardy group of ladies were very willing to continue but were just unable to keep up with the manual labour required. It is a great credit to them that they had just 10 presidents over 37 years!

Most of these ladies were also members of the Branch and they continued to provide support, advice and their recipes to the Branch.

