

Our History

History Of The Royal Canadian Legion

The Royal Canadian Legion was formed in 1926 with a membership of 50,000. The Legion's commitment to the Remembrance of those who gave their lives for peace and freedom, is as valid today as it was then.

- Legion is the largest of the many veterans Organizations in Canada with over 358,000 members
- Member categories—Ordinary, Associate, Affiliate; open to all Canadian citizens and Commonwealth subjects; app. 40,000 members of Ladies Auxiliary; Military Member-At-Large category for serving members of the CF
- Legion is non-profit, dues-supported, no financial assistance from any outside agency
- Since inception in 1926, Legion strives to secure adequate pensions and benefits for veterans and their dependants, dealing directly with Federal Government
- Major responsibility for the perpetuation of "REMEMBRANCE" in Canada through the Annual Poppy Campaign reminding Canadians of the 117,000 men and women who gave their lives in the wars and military missions around the world

Poppy funds collected are used for assistance to veterans, ex-service members and their families who are in need

Legion supports programs for seniors, community, housing, Long Term Care, youth, education, sports, Cadets, Guides and Scouts

History Of Richmond

Richmond began as a military settlement and today its veterans and members of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 625 continue to contribute to the well being of its citizens through community services and involvement.

Its men and women served valiantly in World Wars I and II. In honour of those who had served their country in war, the South Carleton Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion unveiled an honour roll in the Memorial Community Center in 1950. That building has since been demolished.

History Of The Richmond Legion

In 1973 Branch 625 of the Royal Canadian Legion, Richmond, received its charter. Originally there were 28 members. Members of the first Executive and Committee were:

President - Gordon Hotchkiss

1st Vice - Harry Thomas

Sec./Trea. - Lillian Jefferies

Sgt-At-Arms - John Pickett

Committee Members - R. Bradley - J. Rothwell - A. Pulfer

The charter members were Stan Banner, Robert Barkley, Roger Bourgeois, Honore Caron, Mary Christy, Stewart Christy, Roger Camphorn, Rita Crowe, Robert Crowe, Arthur Dickinson, John Dixie, Gordon Hotchkiss, who was the first president, Rick Jamieson, Frank Jefferies, Lillian Jefferies, John Lewis, William Moore, John Pickett, Albert Pulfer, Brent Robillard, Levi Robinson, John Rothwell, Roy Schmelzer, Richard Scoales, Shelly Spearman, Harry Thomas, Wayne Thomas and Shaw Wilson.



Besides its responsibilities towards veterans and their families, Branch 625 became actively involved in working with senior citizens by providing meals on wheels and a transportation service. In order to continue and enlarge on these services a hall of their own was needed.

In June 1976, the Richmond Legion purchased land on the Ottawa Street extension for its future Legion Hall. In 1980 the Legion Hall was build, officially opened in 1981 and in 1992 the mortgage was paid off.

BRANCH PRESIDENTS

Gord Hotchkiss 1973-1974
Frank Jefferies 1974-1977
John Harrison 1977-1979
Frank Jefferies 1979-1981
Bob Loverock 1981-1982
Denis Paproski 1982-1983
John Pickett 1983-1984
Lillian Jeffries 1984-1986
John Harrison 1986-1987
Hilda Moore 1987-1988
Brian Beyer 1988-1989
John Andrew 1989-1992
George Murphy 1992-1994
Norm Adams 1994-1995
John Pickett 1995-1997
Helen Cowick 1997-1999
Jane Louks 1999-2001
Bob Johnson 2001-2003
Maurice Lavoie 2003-2004
Hilda Moor 2004-2006
Mavis Lewis 2006-2010
Brian Goss 2010-2014
Jane Louks 2014-2018
Brian Goss 2018-2022

Ladies' Auxiliary

With the opening of the Richmond Legion Hall, the importance of a Ladies' Auxiliary was recognized. On 1 April 1981, 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.

Unfortunately the Ladies Auxiliary surrendered their charter in October 2018 but their contributions to the Richmond Legion Branch 625 will never be forgotten

LA Past Presidents:

Pat Loverock 1981-1982
Barb Bennett 1982-1984
Mavis Lewis 1984-1986
Cheryl Neuman 1986-1988
Mavis Lewis 1988-1993
Heather Murphy 1993-1997
Edna Monahan 1997 -2001
Shirley Beardsell 2001-2002
Joan Adams 2002-2005
Mavis Lewis 2005-2006
Joan Frost 2006-2008
Joyce Lavoie 2008-2010
Shirley Beardsell 2010-2015
Edna Monahan 2015-2018

Richmond Cenotaph

At the end of the Second World War, ex-servicemen returning to Richmond established a Patriotic Trust Fund, the purpose of which was to erect a cenotaph. However, this fund lay dormant and was finally taken over by the Richmond Legion when it was formed in 1973.

In 1976, the Legion attempted to build a cenotaph but had to abandon the idea. However, with the development of the Richmond Memorial Park by the Township of Goulbourn in 1988, the dream to commemorate those who had served during war, was realized. On November 6, 1988, the former Minister of Defence, the Rt.-Hon. George Hees formally unveiled the new monument. The following November 11th, more than 400 people attended the first Remembrance Day service at the cenotaph.

Fallen... Not Forgotten

The centre piece of the garden in front of the legion hall is the granite cross and accompanying engraved tablet. The engraved words "Fallen Not Forgotten" represents not just the fallen veterans that are honoured and remembered by legions world wide, but for the Richmond Legion it also invokes memories of the original monument at their cenotaph, which was destroyed by a micro-burst in 1998.

The cenotaph itself is located in the Richmond Memorial Park at the corner of Perth & McBean St, across from the Richmond Bakery. The monument at the cenotaph was rebuilt and the top of the damaged monument was taken to the legion hall and used to form the front of the garden wall. Both the cross and the engraving are readily visible from the street and is a visible reminder of our fallen.

