

THE BRANDON LEGIONNAIRE



Branch 003, Brandon, MB

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2021 VOLUME XLI : 3



TO ABORIGINAL WAR VETERANS IN CANADA AND TO THOSE THAT HAVE FALLEN
This monument is raised in sacred and everlasting honour of the contributions of all Aboriginal Canadians in war and peacekeeping operations.

<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/national-aboriginal-veterans-memorial>



*They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun,
and in the morning,
We will remember them.*

Lest We Forget

107th Timber Wolf Battalion



The 107th (Timber Wolf) Battalion, [Canadian Expeditionary Force](#), known officially as the 107th (Winnipeg) Battalion, was an infantry battalion established during the [First World War](#). After it arrived in Britain, the unit was converted to a pioneer battalion and served on the Western Front in France and Belgium. It was later absorbed into an engineer brigade. About half the unit's soldiers were [Indigenous](#) Canadians.

Information taken from—<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/>

Alexander Dunn, VC



Alexander Roberts Dunn, VC, army officer (born 15 September 1833 in York, Upper Canada; died 25 January 1868 near Senafe, Abyssinia). During the Crimean War, Lieutenant Dunn was the first Canadian ever to be awarded the Victoria Cross (VC), the highest award for bravery among troops of the British Empire.

More information at—<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/>

Arrival of the War Brides and their Children in Canada

Between 1942 and 1947, the Canadian government brought 47,783 "war brides" and their 21,950 children to Canada. Most of these women were from Great Britain, where Canadian forces had been based during the Second World War. Although the voyage and transition were difficult for many war brides, most persevered and grew to love their adopted homeland.

BRANDON BRANCH #003 ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

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<https://www.brandonlegion.ca/>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Royal-Canadian-Legion-Branch-003-Brandon-MB/>

Brandon Legionnaire Branch #003 Editor - Linda Wakefield please submit articles or pictures to mrswakes@mymts.net

LEGION NATIONAL NEWS



Cancelled: 45th National Youth Track and Field Championships

Annual event eclipsed by COVID-19 pandemic for second year

OTTAWA, ON, 2 March 2021 – The Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships have been cancelled for the second year in a row, due to the pandemic. The 2021 event was originally scheduled to take place in Sherbrooke, Quebec from August 6-8.

“We know it is disappointing for many youth and coaches who have continued to train and anticipated that perhaps the games could go ahead this year,” says Dominion President Thomas D. Irvine, CD. “Unfortunately, we had to make this decision since we remain in the midst of a pandemic and the safety of all participants is our priority.”

Event partners have been made aware of the joint decision by the Legion’s Sports Committee and the Dominion Executive Council, to hold off for another year.

“It is with great sadness that we decided to cancel, however it’s our responsibility to protect our youth,” says Brian Weaver, Dominion Vice President and Sports Committee Chair. “We knew they might be some of the last to be vaccinated, and large gatherings are still not advised or permitted. We sincerely thank all of our Provincial Commands, our sporting partner organizations and communities across Canada for their collaboration to date.”

The annual sporting event attracts 700-1000 competitors in the under 16 and under 18 categories and is the only youth national track and field championships of its kind in Canada. Athletes compete in a wide range of running, jumping and throwing events.

Chosen cities typically host the games for two years in a row and next year’s 2022 Legion Nationals are scheduled to take place in Sherbrooke, Quebec as well. Due to two years of cancellation, Sherbrooke will host the following:

- 2022: Sherbrooke, QC, 3-9 August 2022 (competition dates: 5-7 Aug)
- 2023: Sherbrooke, QC, 9-15 August 2023 (competition dates: 11-13 Aug)

More information about the [Legion Nationals](https://legionnationals.ca) can be found at [LegionNationals.ca](https://legionnationals.ca).

More information related to the pandemic situation and the Legion’s response can be found on our [COVID-19 page](#).

History of the National Championships

The Royal Canadian Legion, through the efforts of thousands of Legion volunteers, has been organizing and coordinating the National Youth Track and Field Championships for 42 years in support of Canadian youth and our communities. This national championship, funded by the Legion and generous support from our partners, gives young Canadians 17 and under a chance to compete against the best, develop confidence and better understand the diversity of other sports-minded youth across Canada.

WHY DOES THE LEGION SUPPORT YOUTH TRACK AND FIELD?

The Legion's national youth athletics program has come to be regarded as one of the best in the country. In fact, many of our former participants have gone on to international and Olympic success. Through the success of this program, many youth have been taught the value of leadership, teamwork, and many more skills necessary both on and off the playing field. We have been able to encourage many characteristics that can come from working in a team environment, as well as being exposed to a variety of cultures across Canada. It is through our sports program, youth education programs and other youth initiatives that the Legion helps strengthen the younger generation and the future of Canada.

1950S – IT ALL STARTED WITH ONE BRANCH

The Legion's interest in Track & Field extends back to the early 1950's. During the early years, the Ontario Legion Hydro branch, No. 277, with the leadership of the late Bob Saunders, chairman, Ontario Hydro, and the late George Duthie, manager of the sports department, Canadian National Exhibition, sponsored the former Canadian Olympic Training plan. The Hydro branch sponsored a series of projects to provide financing for this program, including invitational track meets and big name performances. The success of this program prompted the branch to forward a resolution to the 1956 Dominion convention of the Legion held in Vancouver, requesting, and receiving, the Legion's dominion-wide support of the Olympic Training Plan.

1957 – THE LEGION BEGINS CONDUCTING NATIONAL ATHLETE'S CLINICS AND TRAINING CAMPS

In 1957 The Royal Canadian Legion entered the national track and field scene, when it undertook to finance The Canadian Olympic Training Plan. From 1957 to 1961, the Legion conducted national athletes' clinics in Toronto, with each province being invited to send a team of selected athletes and coaches.

For the initial four years, the program was under the direction of coaches Franz Stampfl, Don Canham and Dave Rankin. During that time, more than 700 athletes, and a number of coaches attended the clinics, each culminating with track and field meets at The Canadian National Exhibition.

In 1962, the federal government awarded a grant to the Legion in support of the first Canadian National Clinic for track and field coaches at Guelph, Ontario (this support continued until 1969). The 1962 clinic was under the direction of world-renowned Geoffrey Dyson, former British national coach, with John Disley, John Savidge, Denis

Cullum, French coach Jacques Bergougous and nine well-known Canadian coaches assisting.

In addition, four summer and three winter training camps were held, which were attended by a total of 475 young track and field athletes.

At the conclusion of the 1962 coaches' clinic, Geoffrey Dyson accepted the position of the Legion's sports training program coordinator for a 5-year period. During this tenure, more than 1,300 coaches received the benefit of the program, with an additional 2,500 coaches receiving training at provincial and regional clinics.

1963 – THE LEGION DEVELOPS SOME OF THE FIRST TECHNICAL PERIODICALS ON TRACK AND FIELD

In 1963, the Legion recognized the need for Canadian technical periodicals on track and field. As a result, **COACHING REVIEW** and **THE TRACK AND FIELD ANNUAL** were produced. This program, made possible by the unique organization and resources of the Legion, combined with the support of the federal government, passed into history in 1969, when the Fitness and Amateur Sport Directorate of the Department of National Health and Welfare advised that, as a result of a study of policies and guidelines relating to grants under the Fitness Act, no further federal financial support would be available.

1975 – THE FIRST CANADA-WIDE TRACK AND FIELD MEET WAS ORGANIZED

From then until 1975, the existing track and field programs only went to the provincial level. In 1975, a Canada-wide pilot track and field meet was conducted at Waterloo, Ontario. It was such a resounding success that a second national meet was held in Edmonton, Alberta, in 1976, which also proved to be a great success. The two pilot camps showed that there was a need, and that young Canadians certainly gained from the experience.

1977 – THE LEGION FUNDS NATIONAL TRACK AND FIELD

In keeping with the Legion's commitment to our youth, funds were allocated for National Track and Field camps starting in 1977. Funds are still being allocated, with planning of future camps commencing five years in advance. Since 1977 the Legion has invested millions of dollars to hold national annual track and field camps to provide training and competition at the national level for young track and field athletes. The camps provide these youths opportunities to mix with other athletes, coaches and chaperones from all parts of Canada.

In addition to a national commitment, local Legion Branches, in concert with their Provincial Commands, bid for the right to host this event. The following locations have hosted the event:



- 1977 – Oromocto, NB
- 1978 – Peace Garden, MB
- 1979 – St. John's, NF
- 1980 – Saskatoon, SK
- 1981 – Hamilton, ON
- 1982 – Oromocto, NB
- 1983 – Ottawa, ON
- 1984 – Halifax, NS
- 1985 – Saskatoon, SK
- 1986 – Sudbury, ON
- 1987 – Calgary, AB
- 1988 – Quebec, QC
- 1989 – Victoria, BC
- 1990 – St. John's, NF
- 1991 – Toronto, ON
- 1992 – Calgary, AB
- 1993 – Saskatoon, SK
- 1994 – Ottawa, ON
- 1995 – Winnipeg, MB
- 1996 – Sherbrooke, QC
- 1997 – St. John's, NF
- 1998 – Prince George, BC
- 1999 – Sudbury, ON
- 2000 – Calgary, AB
- 2001 – Sherbrooke, QC
- 2002 – Sherbrooke, QC
- 2003 – Kitchener/Waterloo, ON
- 2004 – Sudbury, ON
- 2005 – Edmonton, AB
- 2006 – Burnaby, BC
- 2007 – Oromocto, NB
- 2008 – Sherbrooke, QC
- 2009 – Sherbrooke, QC
- 2010 – Ottawa, ON
- 2011 – Ottawa, ON
- 2012 – Charlottetown, PE
- 2013 – Langley, BC
- 2014 – Langley, BC
- 2015 – Sainte-Thérèse, QC
- 2016 – Sainte-Thérèse, QC
- **2017 – Brandon, MB*******
- **2018 – Brandon, MB*******
- 2019 – Cape Breton, NS
- 2020-Cape Breton, NS



To Our Branch #3 Members

Do You Remember When?



The Royal Canadian Legion

Brandon Branch No. 3

560 - 13th Street East, Brandon MB R7A 7C1
Phone: (204) 728-5026 Fax: (204) 725-1676

January 13, 2020

Member Name
Member Address

Dear Member:

The time has come to seriously think about what the Legion Branch on 13th Street East & McTavish Avenue has stood for over the years. It is important for everyone to realize that it is not "just a building", but rather our Legion Home. For forty-nine years, it has served our Veterans, our Members and our Community with the shelter and the warmth of a home. And now the building needs a new roof. Together, we can ensure that our Legion home is prepared to welcome and shelter the next generation of Veterans, Members and our Brandon community.

We are writing to ask you to support the Legion's "Raise the Roof" project, as the roof has reached the end of its useful life. There are many areas where rainwater and melted snow leak through the roof and into the interior of the building. The existing roof can no longer be patched and needs to be replaced during the summer of 2020 to avoid any further damage.

As a first step to fundraising we are reaching out to you, our membership, requesting a donation to help with the cost of replacing the roof. The amount that we will need to raise, after potential grant monies are applied for, will be approximately \$70,000. Donations can be mailed to the Legion address, dropped off at the office, lounge or banquet hall. Boxes will be available to leave your donation. An e-transfer option is also available: use the question - Biggest fundraiser? Answer - poppy. Please notify the office by email at Office.Admin@rclbrandon003.com

Please include your name and address and indicate if you would like to be recognized on the slip enclosed.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office at 204-728-5026.

Kindest regards,





"Raise the Roof of Our Legion" Campaign began in January 2020. Those who could donated, and here it is March 2021 and our building has a new roof.

A final financial report is not available, at this time. The reason being that a few finishing touches are required and the final inspection has just occurred. Therefore, the figures will be published in the April issue of this newsletter.

It was our amazing Legion members who stepped to the plate and gave generously to kick start this enormous project... "Thank YOU"!

A crew of professionals from Holt Steel Erectors lead by Erik Holt installed a 12" roof thermal system provided by Behlen Industries. The pictures below shows the process, but take a drive by and check it out!



