

# THE BRANDON LEGIONNAIRE NEWSLETTER Legion

Branch 003, Brandon, MB

## JANUARY 2024 VOLUME XLIV : 1

January 1, 2024

Letter from the President

Dear valued Members and families,

I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for the incredible support we have received from you and our surrounding communities. Your generosity and commitment have made a significant impact, not only through our Poppy Campaign, but all that we strive to accomplish. It is inspiring to witness the unity and kindness that define our Legion community.

Your contributions whether big or small, have not only provided tangible resources but also created a sense of belonging and shared purpose. Together, we are making a positive difference in the lives of those we serve.

Thank you for standing with us, for your unwavering support, and for being the driving force behind the success of our community initiatives. We are truly blessed to have such a compassionate and caring community.

We look forward to another great year. Stay safe, keep well.

On behalf of your Brandon Branch 003 Executive

Thank you,

Fred Pritchard

President

RCL Brandon Branch 003



## Lest We Forget

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.

# You don't have to be a Veteran to join and make a difference

Whether volunteering, helping with the Poppy Campaign or simply supporting through membership dues, every member helps the Legion assist Canada's Veterans and their families, and plays a role in success stories like this:

“It was the Legion that started a series of interventions that ended up making a significant improvement in my life. I'm incredibly grateful for the Legion for everything that they did for me.”

– Lieutenant Colonel (retired) Tom Manley

## Legion partners with Calgary Grey Cup Committee to honour Canada's Veterans



### **The Royal Canadian Legion and the Calgary Grey Cup Committee join forces to honour Canada's Veterans at the Grey Cup Festival.**

Since 1948, a dedicated group of volunteers with the Calgary Grey Cup Committee (CGGC) have ventured across the country to promote Calgary's Western heritage and community spirit at the annual Grey Cup Festivities. This year saw a new tradition added to bring together the community



and honour Canada's Veterans.

The Calgary Grey Cup Committee and The Royal Canadian Legion joined forces to bring Western hospitality and Legion camaraderie to Grey Cup fans.

*Continued from page 3*

The inaugural “*Royal Canadian Legion – Calgary Grey Cup Committee 1st Annual Stampede Breakfast*” was a great success! Fans and visitors of the 110<sup>th</sup> CFL Grey Cup in Hamilton, Ontario were invited to a stampede style pancake breakfast, free of charge at the local Legion Branch 163 on November 16<sup>th</sup>. Hosted by the CGGC and the Legion, the event was an opportunity to recognize Canada’s Veterans, to help raise awareness about the work of the Legion and to encourage Canadians to get involved and support their local Legion Branch.

The Calgary Grey Cup Committee fired up the authentic Calgary Stampede griddles for pancakes with sausage, and a show steeped in western-style entertainment, including the time-honoured Grey Cup tradition... special guest Tuffy Nuff, the famous equine friend of the CGGC.



The CGGC hosted a VIP Reception later that evening where they performed a traditional “White Hat Ceremony” to honour two Canadians. Honourees Jack Gemmel, a Veteran, and Derek Moore, a son of a Veteran, were both white-hatted by City of Calgary, Councilor, Dan McLean. The White Hat Ceremony is considered the equivalent of bestowing the keys to the City of Calgary.

The evening included a performance by The Royal Canadian Legion Branch #163 Pipe and Drum Band. The Honourable Lois Mitchell, 18<sup>th</sup> Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, presented a donation to The Royal Canadian Legion.

### **A tradition in the making**

The Royal Canadian Legion is proud to partner with the Calgary Grey Cup Committee to support Canada’s serving and retired Veterans and their families. We look forward to continuing this tradition in Vancouver next year at the 111<sup>th</sup> Grey Cup in November 2024.

**Brandon Branch 003 Legion Executive 2024**

President: Fred Pritchard  
Past President: Cindy Stumme  
1st Vice President: Raymond Burgess  
2nd Vice President: Linda Wakefield  
Sgt-at-Arms: Bob Patryluk

**Executive Committee 2024**

2 year – Terry Shand, Barb Boycey, Steve Morrison, Brian Campbell  
1 year – R. Michael Hawkins, Maureen Hawkins, Linda Baker, Richard McDonald,  
Laura Hyrich

**LADIES AUXILIARY 2024 EXECUTIVE**

President : Maureen Farrant  
1st Vice President : Barb Roberds  
2nd Vice President : Linda Leckie  
Secretary: Betty Persian  
Sgt-at-Arms : Maureen McCormick  
Treasurer : Pat Simmons  
Membership : Barb Wood  
Funeral Teas/Houselady: Maureen Farrant

**Royal Canadian Legion Brandon Branch #3**

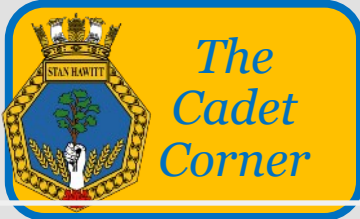
**560—13th Street EAST Brandon, MB R7A 7C1**

**OFFICE:** 204-728-5026 &/or office.admin@rcldb Brandon003.com Maureen McCormick

**Legion Branch Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/LegionBrandonBranch/> ...contact  
Laureen at Legion Lounge

**Legion Branch Website:** <https://www.brandonlegion.ca/> contact Maureen Hawkins

**Brandon Legionnaire Branch Newsletter:** contact Linda at mrs wakes@mymts.net to submit  
articles &/or pictures



**The Navy League of Canada, Manitoba Division, Brandon Branch**  
**Web: [www.mbnavyleague.ca](http://www.mbnavyleague.ca)**

**NLCC#4 Stan Hawitt**

[stanhawitt@mbnavyleague.ca](mailto:stanhawitt@mbnavyleague.ca)

**Navy League Volunteers Wednesday**

**Commanding Officer - SLt(NL)  
Charlette Fontaine**

**Executive/Training Officer - SLt(NL)  
Amanda Slashinsky**

**Supply Officer - SLt(NL) Melissa  
Slashinsky**

**Instructor - Mr. Pat Mosiuk  
Commander Clayton Kozak**



**Navy League Cadets & Officers celebrate the Christmas Season December 2023**



The **Navy League Cadet** program aims to help young Canadians learn life skills including citizenship, teamwork and self-discipline. Our programming is designed to help cadets become more aware of the world around them, become self-sufficient and confident in their own skills. Throughout their training, Navy League Cadets learn what good leadership looks like, how to work together, and how to overcome challenges. Youth leave the program with a genuine interest in their community's well-being and equipped with skills to become active citizens.

Royal Canadian Legion Dominion Command News archive—<https://www.legion.ca/>  
**December 14, 2023—Read how the Legion helped a Veteran access benefits through Veterans Affairs Canada**

We received a testimonial from a Veteran who, years after his retirement, developed hearing loss and tinnitus, and reached out to The Royal Canadian Legion for assistance in accessing Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) benefits. He agreed to allow us to share his experience.

Over the course of his 35-year career, the Veteran noticed his hearing levels had slowly depreciated, but not to the level where hearing devices were required. However, six years after retirement, he started to experience pain in the left ear and steady tinnitus. On getting his hearing checked, the audiologist recommended hearing aids and encouraged the Veteran to seek assistance through VAC to help cover the costs for hearing devices, which can be substantial.

After asking fellow Veterans who had received VAC benefits for advice on how to proceed, several colleagues recommended he contact The Royal Canadian Legion for assistance. This was his experience:

*"I was professionally dealt with by personnel in The Royal Canadian Legion from the very start and was connected to the Service Officer at the Nunavut Command Legion in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. I immediately gained a sincere appreciation from Ms. Lorena Forrest, who booked an appointment for me to come in and see her within a few days to start this process. She was very receptive and helpful right from the beginning. We filled out the paperwork that could be completed in her office, and then she briefed me very precisely and clearly on what I had to do on my own that might benefit me for assistance while being reviewed by Veterans Affairs. I filled out narrative reports, backed up with many facts and events that took place during my career, that may have led my hearing to depreciate over time. I wasn't convinced that the military was responsible for my tinnitus, which started up 6 years after my retirement, but I did mention some facts that I was involved in during my career that may have triggered it to happen over time as well. I also let it be known that I had no proof to justify that it was caused by the military.*

*I returned all necessary information back to Ms. Forrest within a few days, where she then compiled my paperwork into a file and sent it off to Veterans Affairs shortly thereafter. She advised me to be patient and that she would be in touch as soon as she heard anything. I was not expecting to hear anything back from her or Veterans Affairs for at least a few months, and quite possibly longer. (...) I received a call from Ms. Forrest less than a week later saying she heard back from Veterans Affairs and that they were accepting my file for assistance, both for hearing loss and for tinnitus.*

*I was completely surprised by how quick the review process took. I was very impressed with the professional demeanor conducted by Ms. Forrest, and I was more than appreciative of the timely response given by Veterans Affairs in their review and returning their decision. I could not have conducted the process of Veterans Affairs assistance if I hadn't been handled by experienced and helpful personnel, like I was, in The Royal Canadian Legion.*

(Continued from page 7)

*If you're a veteran who requires assistance covered by Veterans Affairs, do not hesitate to reach out to The Royal Canadian Legion and contact a Service Officer. I know first-hand that you'll be dealt with properly, professionally and in a helpful manner."*

If you or a Veteran or family of a Veteran you know needs support, the Legion's Veterans Services Department offers a wide [range of assistance, always free of charge](#). Canadian serving military, retired Veterans including RCMP members and their families can reach out to a Legion Command Service Office for assistance. [Contact a professional Service Officer](#)

### **National Notable Dates 2024**

The following are national days of relevance to The Royal Canadian Legion that raise awareness of an issue, commemorate a group or event, or celebrate something. Also included are national Legion activities. Branches may wish to promote these dates or organize related activities. Dominion Command promotes many of these dates through our social media channels. Selected commemorative dates may be promoted on significant anniversaries.

We encourage Branches and members to share Legion national messaging from our social media channels: [Facebook.com/CanadianLegion](https://www.facebook.com/CanadianLegion) [Twitter.com/RoyalCdnLegion](https://twitter.com/RoyalCdnLegion)  
[Instagram.com/royalcanadianlegion](https://www.instagram.com/royalcanadianlegion)

### **JANUARY**



- 1 New Years Day
- 27 Holocaust Remembrance Day
- Membership renewal reminder

## **ATTENTION CRIBBAGE PLAYERS**

Branch Sports Chair, Terry Shand has a callout to anyone who wishes to join the fun of a Cribbage get together, every **Wednesday evening** in the Legion Lounge

Registration at 6:30 p.m.

Play begins 7:00 p.m.







## Ladies Corner

Our December meeting had 15 members present. Our December get together started at 6:00 p.m. Supper included celebrations for our 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday year (2023).

The Early Bird Membership draw was won by Bev Harding. Donations were made to the Legion Christmas party and to Christmas Cheer.

**Ladies Auxiliary meetings in 2024 will be at 2:00 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month.** (January 2, 2024 meeting is in the lounge, although the Branch is closed.)

*Submitted by Betty Persian*

### PROTECTING OUR FAMILIES AND ASSETS

Designed for People who Expect

To Leave a Financial Legacy

Join us for an Education Seminar

Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 2:00pm

We will help you Navigate

Ways to reduce cost for estates

Tools to help organize estate paperwork

Tools for reducing delays and costs for estates and more ...

Pre-Registration is Required – Limited to 50 spots

Please reserve your seat by calling

Pat Simmons @ 204-727-4591

JOY BOWMAN

PRE-PLANNING SPECIALIST—CERTIFIED EXECUTOR ASSISTANT

## Calgary to host 2024/2025 Legion National Youth Track and Field



### Three-day competition for U16 and U18 athletes

OTTAWA, ON, 26 May, 2021 – Royal Canadian Legion Dominion President Thomas D. Irvine is pleased to announce the host city for the 2024 and 2025 Legion Nationals is Calgary, Alberta.

“It’s a huge commitment to host these games, and we know the Calgary games’ organizing committee and other dedicated volunteers will do an incredible job,” says Irvine. “Alberta and Northwest Territories Command along with Calgary and area branches are eager to welcome the athletes as well as coaches and officials from across the country.”

Competition will take place at Calgary’s Foothills Athletic Park as follows:

- 2024: 7-13 August (competition dates: 9-11 August)
- 2025: 6-12 August (competition dates: 8-10 August)

“We are pleased and proud to be named host of the Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships for 2024 and 2025,” says Calgary Track Council Chair, Ed Moore. “This event is the pinnacle of youth Athletics in Canada and we are excited to bring it to Alberta for the first time since 2005. We look forward to the highest quality competition and we promise a memorable event for all who participate.”

Other partners include Athletics Canada, Athletics Alberta, the Legion's AB-NWT Command, Calgary and area Legion Branches, the University of Calgary, where the Legion-sponsored athletes will be housed and fed, and Tourism Calgary.

"Calgary is thrilled to have been entrusted to host the 2024 and 2025 Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships," said Jeff Daniels, Executive Director, Sport, Culture & Major Events at Tourism Calgary. "These events are anticipated to jointly deliver over \$5 million in projected economic impact, along with far reaching community, grassroots sport, and legacy benefits. We are grateful to the Royal Canadian Legion and Athletics Canada for selecting Calgary and we look forward to welcoming these young athletes and their families to our city."

The 46<sup>th</sup> and 47<sup>th</sup> years for the event will see close to 1,000 athletes from across the country competing in Canada's only track and field championships for the under 16 and under 18 age categories. The world-class competition grew from Legionnaires' support and promotion of youth sports as a healthy activity to help children whose fathers or mothers were serving abroad or had served in the Canadian Armed Forces. The Legion later developed local, provincial, and national youth athletic programs, which now culminate in the games.

The Royal Canadian Legion sponsors hundreds of athletes each year, with the support of branches and provincial/territorial commands from across the country. Several hundred other youth join as open athletes. Many Legion alumni later go on to compete at the international level.

"We are so excited to take the games to Calgary and know the city will be a welcome host for the hundreds of young athletes that will meet to compete – and develop new friendships, one of the great legacies of these games!" says Legion National Sports Committee Chair and Dominion Vice President Brian Weaver. "We're really looking forward to working with our new hosts in 2024 and 2025."

The 2020 and 2021 games were cancelled due to the pandemic. Chosen cities typically host the games for two years in a row and the 2022 and 2023 Legion Nationals are scheduled to take place in Sherbrooke, Quebec.

- 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).



**For all your CATERING needs  
BIG or small  
Please call  
RC Legion Brandon Branch 003  
ATTN: Erich - Catering  
Phone: 204-728-5026**



**Our Branch is hosting a  
“Just For Fun” Bonspiel**

**January 27, 2024 begins at 9 am -Riverview Curling Club.**

**Pre-register your team by January 24, 2024 for \$200.00 entry fee includes curling, prizes & a roast beef dinner.**

**Extra tickets for dinner are \$20.00 per person**



**LEGION  
BINGO**

**THURSDAY EVENING**

**Doors open 5:00pm-Early Bird 6:30 pm**

**Regular 7:00 pm**



**BRANCH 003 Legion hosts every  
Friday & Saturday Nite**

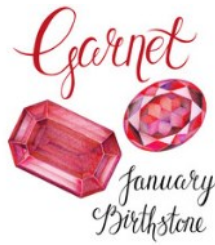
**Meat Draws - 50/50 - CHASE The ACE**

Join in the fun &  
excitement of a chance to  
win while supporting your



# January Facts &/Or FICTION?

January is associated with the color deep blue<sup>12</sup>. This color symbolizes the start of a new year and the feeling of renewal and fresh beginnings. The color blue represents calmness and serenity, making it the perfect choice for January, a month that is known for its cold and dreary weather<sup>1</sup>.



**The January full moon is also called the Wolf Moon; this dates back to some native cultural beliefs. Consequently, January was dubbed the wolf month. The most probable reason for this is that when these names were assigned, farmers used to hear the loudest howls of hungry wolves during January's full moon.**

Roman leaders of the earlier first programs believed that the Roman god Janus was born this month. In modern times, the Gregorian calendars have this month as the very first. The Roman god Janus is said to be the god of beginnings. This month in human history is named after the Roman god Janus, especially since it was accepted by most of the world as the first month of the year.



Do you know that the day right after the very festive New Year is considered the unluckiest day? People belonging to Medieval times believed that January 2 was not a good day to plan anything as it might lead to early or timely death or some other inauspicious events would follow. We can't be sure how many people still believe it, but it surely gave a reason to people everywhere to have a day off and relax after partying hard on New Year's Day.

**This cold month is full of historical events and full of interesting facts. January is also full of holidays and observances across the world.**


- New Year's Day: January 1.**
- World Family Day: January 1.**
- World Braille Day: January 4.**
- World Orphans Day: January 6.**
- International Programmers' Day: January 7.**
- Indian Republic Day: January 26.**
- Australia Day: January 26.**
- World Religion Day: January 17.**
- International Customs Day: January 26.**
- World Leprosy Eradication Day: January 31.**

**Dry January is observed by some of the people in the UK as a part of the movement to encourage people who want to quit drinking.**





# JANUARY 2024

SUNDAY	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Years Day Levee 1 to 4pm	2 LA meeting Legion Lounge 2pm	3 Cribbage Registration 6:30 Play 7:00	4 <u>Legion BINGO</u> Doors open 5 pm Early Bird 6:30 7:00 pm	5 <b>Meat Draw-50/50 - Chase The Ace 5:00 pm</b>	6 <b>Meat Draw 50/50 Chase The Ace 4:30</b>
7	8 Lounge Closed Branch Office Open 9-4	9 Branch Executive Meeting 7:00	10 Cribbage Registration 6:30 Play 7:00	11 <u>Legion BINGO</u> Doors open 5 pm Early Bird 6:30 7:00 pm	12 <b>Meat Draw-50/50 - Chase The Ace 5:00 pm</b>	13 <b>Meat Draw 50/50 Chase The Ace 4:30</b>
14	Lounge Closed Branch Office Open 9-4	16	17 Cribbage Registration 6:30 Play 7:00	18 <u>Legion BINGO</u> Doors open 5 pm Early Bird 6:30 7:00 pm	19 <b>Meat Draw-50/50 - Chase The Ace 5:00 pm</b>	20 <b>Meat Draw 50/50 Chase The Ace 4:30</b>
21	22 Lounge Closed Branch Office Open 9-4	23	24 Cribbage Registration 6:30 Play 7:00	25 <u>Legion BINGO</u> Doors open 5 pm Early Bird 6:30 7:00 pm	26 <b>Meat Draw-50/50 - Chase The Ace 5:00 pm</b>	27 <b>END of Month Meat Draw &amp; Meat Draw 50/50 Chase The Ace 4:30</b>
28	29 Lounge Closed Branch Office OPEN 9-4	30	31 Cribbage Registration 6:30 Play 7:00	 <p>Our Legions "Just For Fun" Bonspiel on <b>January 27, 2024</b> begins at <b>9 am</b> - Riverview Curling Club. The \$200.00 team entry fee includes curling, prizes &amp; a roast beef dinner. Extra tickets are \$20.00 available at the Legion Bar or Office.</p>		

**Branch Lounge Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 1:00 pm to 9:00 pm**  
**Thursday, Friday & Saturday 1:00 pm to 10:00 pm**

**Branch Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm**

Regular meetings of Ladies Auxiliary 1st Tuesday February to June & September to December at 7:00 pm in the Legion Banquet Hall