

THE BRANDON LEGIONNAIRE NEWSLETTER



Branch 563, Brandon, MB

APRIL 2025 VOLUME XLV : 4





Front Page—<https://www.warmuseum.ca/firstworldwar/history/after-the-war/remembrance/vimy-memorial/>

Vimy Ridge in northern France is Canada's largest overseas national memorial

The Memorial

Situated on land granted by France to the Canadian people, the memorial towers over the scene of Canada's most recognizable First World War engagement, the Battle of Vimy Ridge, fought from 9 to 12 April 1917. The imposing structure was designed by Walter Allward, one of Canada's most famous sculptors, whose commissions included the national memorial commemorating Canada's participation in the South African War (1899-1902).

Allward began work on the Vimy memorial in 1925 and completed it 11 years later at a cost of \$1.5 million. It is adorned by 20 allegorical figures representing faith, justice, peace, honour, charity, truth, knowledge, and hope. A key figure, "Canada mourning her fallen sons," speaks to the country's wartime losses. The Vimy Memorial is inscribed with the names of 11,285 Canadians who were killed on French soil and have no known graves.

The Legacy

The Vimy Memorial was unveiled in July 1936 to a crowd of more than 100,000, including 6,000 Canadian veterans who had traveled overseas for the ceremony. The Memorial survived the Second World War, despite fears that German forces would destroy it after France's surrender. Adolf Hitler visited and was photographed at the site in 1940. Since the Second World War, there have been several formal, and countless informal, Canadian pilgrimages to the Memorial and the 91-hectare park of Canadian trees and shrubs surrounding it.

In 2007, after several years of extensive restoration work, the Vimy Ridge Memorial was unveiled to dignitaries and several thousand Canadian visitors. It is the principal site of Canadian remembrance and commemoration overseas, and one of the most widely recognized symbols of Canada's military past.

Brandon Branch 003 Legion Executive 2025

President: Fred Pritchard
Past President: Cindy Stumme
1st Vice President: Raymond Burgess
2nd Vice President: Steve Morrison
Sgt-at-Arms

Executive Committee 2025

2 year – Richard McDonald, Debbie Burgess, Linda Wakefield, *Lynne White
1 year – Barb Boycey, *Bea Eggleston
* Initiated February 11, 2025

Ladies Auxiliary 2025 Executive

President: Maureen Farrant
1st Vice-President: Barb Roberds
2nd Vice President : Melissa Bryden
Treasurer: Pat Simmons
Secretary: Betty Persian
Sgt-at-Arms: Barb Roberds
Membership: Barb Wood
Publicity: Melissa Bryden
Sick & Visiting: Linda Biel



**Royal Canadian Legion Brandon Branch
#003**

Phone 204-728-5026

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/>

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

**26TH FIELD REGIMENT, ROYAL CANADIAN ARTILLERY-
XII MANITOBA DRAGOONS MUSEUM & FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM (FOMI)**

Present

VICTORY 45

44TH ANNUAL VIMY & BEYOND FUNDRAISER

“VE DAY 8 MAY – VJ DAY 2 SEPTEMBER”

80TH ANNIVERSARY

Saturday, 12 April 2025

Brandon Armoury 11th Street Door

5:30pm for 6:30pm Dinner

No Reserved Seating

Chinese Food with Cash Bar

Choir, Pipes & Drums, Auctions, 50/50 Draw

RSVP by Tuesday, 7 April 2025

204-724-7530 or Email: 26fomi@gmail.com

Please remit payment by Tuesday, 7 April 2025

Cheque made out to FOMI

1116 Victoria Ave., Brandon MB R7A 1B2

E-Transfer: **1116fldmuseum@gmail.com**

\$25/PERSON

Virtual Vimy via Zoom

Register: **26fdregmuseum@wcgwave.ca**

Museum will be Open

ALL PROCEEDS DIRECTED TO MUSEUM



Please Note the above poster was copied in part from www.swmanitobagenealogy.ca

Image of poster below submitted by George Haggerty

The Battle of Atlantic National Commemorative Service



The Battle of Atlantic 1939-1945

Brandon Armoury

1116 Victoria Avenue

04 May 2025 @ 1100 hrs

**To commemorate those who paid the ultimate sacrifice and served their country.
Royal Canadian Navy, Royal Canadian Air Force & Merchant Navy during the Battle of Atlantic.**

Sponsored by Army, Navy & Air Force Veterans Unit #10 Brandon

Light refreshments will be served following the service.





Ladies Corner

Our March meeting had nine members present. Motions were made to donate to Neelin Grads and Provincial Bursaries. We also placed orders for Legion pens, Ladies Auxiliary earrings and Poppy earrings. These will be available for sale upon arrival. Reminder that the Easter quilt will be drawn on Saturday, April 19 during the meat draw.

Submitted by Betty Persian



The graphic is split into two main sections. The left section has a teal background and features a white dandelion with seeds blowing away. The text 'I support' is written in a cursive font above the dandelion. Below the dandelion, the words 'STRONG Military Kids STRONG' are written in a large, bold, sans-serif font, with 'Military Kids' in a smaller, cursive font in the middle. At the bottom of this section, it says 'Shilo Military Family Resource Centre'. The right section has a light purple background. It features a teal t-shirt hanging on a wooden hanger. The t-shirt has a white dandelion graphic and the words 'TEAL UP' in bold, sans-serif font. To the left of the t-shirt, the text 'GET YOUR TEAL ON!' is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Below this, it says 'Teal Up shirts & coins will be available to purchase at your local CANEX starting in April!'. Further down, it says 'Or purchase your Teal Up apparel and keepsake items online by March 19 & have it delivered right to your door by April 1!'. At the bottom left of this section, there is a globe icon and the website 'www.tealup.ca'. At the bottom right, the hashtag '#TealUp' is written in a bold, sans-serif font.

April is recognized as "Month of the Military Child", an initiative to recognize Canadian Military Children and their resiliency.

Military children are like dandelions as they can put down roots almost anywhere and are impossible to destroy. Just like dandelions, military children can adapt easily and bloom everywhere the wind carries them. Military children are resilient!

This year, we encourage everyone to wear teal on Monday, April 28th to show military children we know they are strong and resilient. #TealUpForMilitaryKids!

Learn More: [Teal Up](#)

#TealUp Day for Military Kids (April 28, 2025)

April 28th is recognized as "Teal Up Day" to bring awareness to Month of the Military Child and give Canadian Military Children a day of celebration.

Teal Up Day is celebrated on the last Monday of April, encouraging everyone to wear teal to show support for military children. The campaign began in April 2021 in Shilo, Manitoba, inspired by the U.S. "Purple Up" celebration. Shannon Chapman and Stephanie Laviolette from the Shilo Military Family Resource Centre initiated this idea to give Canadian military children their own special day.

The color teal was chosen to represent all branches of the Canadian Military: blue for the Air Force, green for the Army, and blue/white for the Navy. Since its inception, Teal Up has expanded to over 40 locations across Canada.

Learn More: [Teal Up for Military Kids | CFB Shilo Facebook](#)



**The Navy League of Canada, Manitoba Division,
Brandon Branch Web: www.mbnavyleague.ca**

NLCC#4 Stan Hawitt

stanhawitt@mbnavyleague.ca

Navy League meets Wednesday 6-8:30 pm

At RCLegion Brandon Branch #003 560—13th St East

Commanding Officer - SLt(NL) Amanda Slashinsky

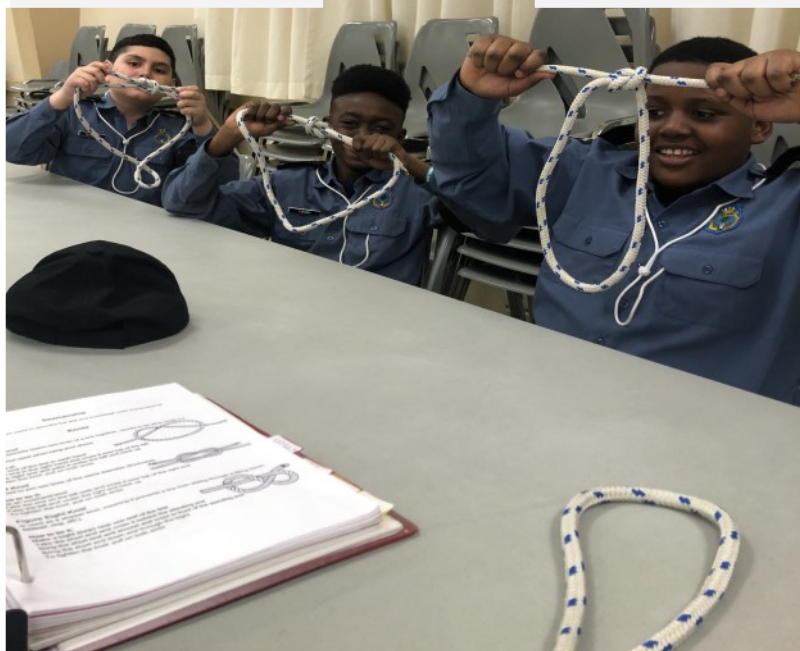
Executive Officer / Supply—SLt(NL) Melissa Slashinsky

Instructor - LtCdr (NL) Clayton Kozak

Instructor—Mr. Johnathon Gerry

Instructor—Flight Sargent Jackson Sylvester

Rope Work Seamanship is an important part of Sea Cadet training and it all begins with basic knots. A knot is: Used for anything that is not a bend, splice or hitch A hitch is: Used to secure a rope to a spar, ring or hook A bend is: Used to join two ropes together



Did you know that in the days of sailing ships the mark of a good seaman was his ability to work with rope? With the passing of the tall-masted sailing ships, the amount of rope required onboard vessels today is greatly reduced



Beach Wear Theme Night March 26th



The **82 Brandon Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron** is a youth organization based in Brandon, Manitoba. They offer a variety of activities including citizenship, leadership, aviation studies, and physical fitness training. [The squadron meets on Friday evenings from September to June, and is open to youth aged 12-18¹².](#)

[The 71st Battery 2520 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps \(RCACC\) in Brandon, Manitoba, is part of the national youth program sponsored by the Canadian Forces and the civilian Army Cadet League of Canada¹².](#) This program aims to develop leadership, citizenship, and physical fitness among youth.

The **Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps (RCSCC) Swiftsure #60** in Brandon, Manitoba, is a vibrant and active group. [The cadets participate in numerous community events, such as the Brandon Winter Fair and Remembrance Day services². They also engage in various training programs and activities, including seamanship and leadership development².](#)

NEWS

The Vimy Foundation Announces the recipients of the 2025 Vimy Pilgrimage Award

March 20, 2025 – The Vimy Foundation

The Vimy Foundation is proud to announce the youth recipients selected to participate in the 2025 Vimy Pilgrimage Award. This prestigious educational program provides Canadian youth, ages 15 to 17, with the opportunity to explore historic sites and participate in the annual Vimy Pilgrimage, which brings Canadians to France to pay their respects at the Canadian National Vimy Memorial.

From April 3 to April 10, the selected students will travel across France and Belgium, visiting key First World War sites, museums, cemeteries, and battlefields, including Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial and the In Flanders Fields Museum. Throughout this immersive program, students will engage deeply with history and gain a greater understanding of its lasting impact.

This program not only fosters historical awareness but also equips students with transferable skills and unique perspectives that will serve them in their future endeavors.

The Vimy Foundation extends its gratitude to The Estate of Mildred and Tom Irvine, The Jon and Nancy Love Fund at The Toronto Foundation, The Whitmer Trudel Charitable Foundation, The Jaclyn Rosevear Fund at The Fiera Capital Foundation, The Peter Cundill Foundation, The MacDonald Stewart Foundation, and other generous supporters for making this experience possible. We also thank our travel partners: the Randhawa Group, Ellison Travel & Tours, and Aeroplan.



MATTHEW OWEN-HUNT

I'm really looking forward to the VPA. I'm sure I'll learn so much more about the First World War and the sacrifices made by the people who volunteered to serve our country. I'm also hoping that it will help me to encourage my community to commemorate those who served.

Winnipeg, Manitoba

JOSEPH LECLAIR

Over the course of this program I expect to grow in a deeper understanding of Canadian contributions in the First World War. I am excited to meet and collaborate with interesting people from all over Canada. I expect not only grow in my understanding of the First World War, but also grow as an individual in ways that will impact me for the rest of my life.

Steinbach, Manitoba



VIMY PILGRIMAGE AWARD



PRIX DU PÈLERINAGE DE VIMY



VIMY PILGRIMAGE AWARD



PRIX DU PÈLERINAGE DE VIMY

Maguire names 30 recipients for King Charles III Coronation Medal

Written by Betty Sawatzky Tuesday, Mar 04 2025, 1:23

Brandon, MB – Larry Maguire, Member of Parliament for Brandon-Souris, today announced the names of 30 Westman residents who will receive the King Charles III Coronation Medal.

Media Release - March 3, 2025

Created by the Sovereign and administered by the Chancellery of Honours, the medal marks the coronation of King Charles III, which took place on May 6, 2023. The medal is awarded to outstanding individuals of all ages and from all walks of life who have made a difference in their community and/or province, or who have attained an outstanding achievement abroad that brings credit to Canada.

“Late last year, I put out a call for Westman residents to nominate those in our communities whose contributions have bettered the lives of those around them and helped build our communities, province, and country,” said Maguire. “My office received dozens of nominations of individuals who have made positive impacts in a wide variety of fields such as education, health care, sport, community service, and beyond.”

Sylvia Barr
Giselle Beaupré
Chad Berry
Douglas Carmichael
Lorna Cowan
Liana Dearsley
Frederick Michael Fisher
Sean Fisher
Kerselin Fumier
Carolyn Gwyer
Racquel Halland
Grant Hamilton
Bradley Hayward
Reinhold (Ron) Helwer
Whitney Hodgins

Myrtle Hudson
Len Isleifson
Darryl Jackson
Tamara Kavanaugh
Kimberly MacKenzie
Elizabeth (Betty) Minshull
Enid Pottinger
Peter Reiss
Deanna Rexe
L.G. (Jerry) Sayer ***Veteran & Legion Brandon
Branch #3 Member
Bruce Tascona
Donald Thomson
Donna Todd
Shawn Wood
Petro Zaliskyy

“Whether through community service, volunteerism, or as dedicated professionals who go above and beyond in their workplace, Westman residents have a proud tradition of stepping up to make our communities a better place,” said Maguire. “These recipients truly embody what it means to be Canadian. Congratulations and thank you for all you do!”

Recipients will be recognized in 3 ceremonies in Virden (1) and Brandon (2), taking place on March 10 and 11. More information on the medal can be found at www.gg.ca/coronation.

Note: Article taken from : <https://discoverwestman.com/assets/westman/main-logo-9073239f3ffd13973a7b3a571a63c2f1f4af47ce398d272cb1e0de3aa3a8f330.svg>

What's Happening In & Around The Branch !



On Sunday March 30, 2025
Brandon Branch #3 hosted
the MB & NOW
Command—District #3
Annual Convention for
2025

Provincial Command
President Ernie Tester (L)
is pictured installing newly
elected District 2 President
Chris Flood; to his right is
Secretary / Treasurer
Connie Wilson; Dale
Champigny District 2-
Chairman; Branch #3
President Acting Sgt-at-
Arms Fred Pritchard.



**MP Larry Maquire honours 30 recipients
of the King Charles III Coronation
Medal in Brandon on March 3, 2025.**

Congratulations to Veteran L.G.
(Jerry) Sayer, a 63 year member of our
Legion Brandon Branch #3.; and to Grant
Hamilton proudly displaying his
grandparents treasure purchased in
England during Queen Elizabeth's
Coronation on June 2, 1953.





CAUTION!

Ben Weibe Construction Crew
AT WORK



Royal Canadian Legion Brandon Branch #3

Pages from History



/ Rear left to right; Bill McKenzie, Bert Dunham, R. Biggs, Bill Goodwill, Mac McKaig, Jack Bennett, Front row; George Flay, Gordon McKay, Bert Horobin, Ray Munson



Royal Canadian Legion
Branch #3 President
Marion Ferguson 1971-73



LEGION BINGO

THURSDAY EVENING



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

Regular 7:00 pm



For all your CATERING needs

BIG or small

Please call

RC Legion Brandon Branch 003

ATTN: Erich - Catering

Phone: 204-728-5026

**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

Facts &/Or FICTION?

Aries

March 21 to April 19



Taurus

April 20-May 20



Election Fact or Fiction

You can read a lot of things about elections online. Some of them are true. Others, not so much. And what's true for one election might not be true for another. It's always best to check what the rules are for a particular election with the organization that runs it. For federal elections, that's Elections Canada!

Facts about April in Canada^{1345.}

Calgary averages about 21 cm of snow during a normal month, and its biggest-ever snowstorm occurred on April 26, 2003, when 32.2 cm of snow fell on the city¹.

April is known for its blooming flowers, unpredictable weather, and vibrant spirit of renewal².

The name April has a rich history, tracing back to ancient times with multiple theories surrounding its origin².

In Halifax, Nova Scotia, the wreck of the Atlantic occurred in April 1873, resulting in the loss of 546 lives⁴.

April 8 is celebrated as the birthdate of Buddha, and April 9 is a holiday dedicated to celebrating unicorns⁵.

Baseball begins its season in April in the US and Canada⁵.

The first Earth Day was celebrated in 1970⁵.



Full Moon (Pink

Moon): Occurs on April 12, 2025, at 8:22 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT), which corresponds to April 13, 2025, at 00:22 Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).

For the best view of this stunning spring Moon, head to an open area and watch as it rises above the horizon. At this moment, it will appear larger than usual due to the Moon illusion and take on a beautiful golden hue!

Elections Canada has created a tool called [ElectoFacts](#) to help people figure out if what they see online about federal elections is accurate. This tool would be a great reference for classroom discussions during the federal election, when students might encounter misleading information online.

APRIL 2025

SUNDAY	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Ladies Auxiliary Meeting 2 pm Games Room ¹	Cribbage Registration 6:30 Play 7:00	Legion BINGO ³ Doors open 5 pm Early Bird 6:30 7:00 pm	Meat Draw 50/50 Chase The Ace 4:30 pm ⁴	Meat Draw 50/50 Chase The Ace 4:30 pm ⁵
⁶	Lounge Closed ⁷ Branch Office OPEN 9-4	Branch Executive Meeting 7:00 ⁸	Cribbage Registration 6:30 Play 7:00 ⁹	Legion BINGO ¹⁰ Doors open 5 pm Early Bird 6:30 7:00 pm	Meat Draw- 50/50 - Chase The Ace 5:00 pm ¹¹	Meat Draw 50/50 Chase The Ace 4:30 pm ¹²
¹³	Lounge Closed ¹⁴ Branch Office OPEN 9-4	¹⁵	Cribbage Registration 6:30 Play 7:00 ¹⁶	Legion BINGO ¹⁷ Doors open 5 pm Early Bird 6:30 7:00 pm	¹⁸  Good Friday	Meat Draw 50/50 Chase The Ace 4:30 pm ¹⁹ Irish Stew 7pm Ticket Required
²⁰	Lounge Closed ²¹ Branch Office OPEN 9-4	²²	Cribbage Registration 6:30 Play 7:00 ²³	Legion BINGO ²⁴ Doors open 5 pm Early Bird 6:30 7:00 pm	Meat Draw- 50/50 - Chase The Ace 5:00 pm ²⁵	Meat Draw 50/50 Chase The Ace 4:30 pm ²⁶ End of the Month Meat Draw
Easter Sunday ²⁷ 	Lounge Closed ²⁸ Branch Office Open 9-4	²⁹	Cribbage Registration 6:30 Play 7:00 ³⁰			

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 September to June