

At the Westbank Legion, November began with several members signing up to do Poppy tagging ahead of the annual Remembrance Day Ceremony in West Kelowna. The Branch's Colour Party also made an appearance at the Westwood Retirement Home Remembrance Day Ceremony, and again at the city parade a few days later.

That month, the Branch also hosted their 3rd Annual Long-Term Care Home Veterans' Christmas Dinner. Each year, Veterans and spouses of deceased Veterans are invited to this special holiday event. The dinner, sponsored by Gorman Bros. Lumber Ltd, welcomed honoured guests such as Captain John Senez, a Second World War Veteran; Gord Milsom, Mayor of West Kelowna; JoAnn and Lonny Kubas, Founders of Heart to Home Meals; and Nicole Arkle of Gorman Bros. Lumber Ltd. During his speech, Mayor Milsom expressed that he, his council, and the Westbank community "are extremely proud of all who wore a Canadian Armed Forces and RCMP uniform and who served our country." He also recognized the contributions of family members, stating that their support "has been and continues to be so vital."



Veterans were treated to Christmas carols by MASK (Musicians and Singers Kelowna), and Santa presented Christmas gifts to every guest. Guests also participated in a raffle for a queen size Poppy blanket, knit by Mrs. Michelle Rutledge. The blanket was won by Margerite Harmata, a Royal Canadian Air Force Veteran.

At the end of the month, the Branch hosted their Annual Chili Cook-Off, where eight cooks competed for the title of 2025 Chili Champion. Determined to be a repeat champion, Comrade Fae McMath tried to scare off her competition by wearing her crown and bringing her trophy from last year. But the winners, beating McMath's "Sassy Salsa Symphony" by just one vote, were Petula and Denise Pettman with their chili, "Bean There Burned That."

The Westbank Legion had an eventful year in 2025, reporting a new membership total of 714 members (175 new), popular weekly events, highly successful fundraisers, and generous donations to the community. To read more about the Westbank Legion's Year in Review, click the button below.

Westbank Legion - Year in Review 2025



Pictured above: Necole Belanger, Vice President, presents Veteran Margerite Harmata with Poppy blanket.



Pictured above: Petula and Denise Pettman, 2025 Chili Cook-Off Winners.



Pictured above: Fae McMath, 2024 Chili Cook-Off Winner.

## Branch #293 Alberni Valley in November

In November, the Alberni Valley Legion awarded a 50 Year Medal to Legion Member Harold Malcolm Kraus. The medal was presented by Roy Buchanan, Branch President, and Willem Groeneveld, Sergeant at Arms.

That month, members of the Branch also paid a special visit to the gravesite of a First World War Veteran. Roy Buchanan and Tim Murphy, Sergeant at Arms, saluted the gravesite of a fallen soldier recently discovered at the Catholic Cemetery on Falls Street. A wreath was laid on the headstone, dedicated to Pte. William F. Clark, 7th Battalion, C.E.F. Clark was born in 1897 and enlisted in Port Alberni in 1915. He was killed in action in May of 1916. Legion members learned that Clark's body was never repatriated, and the gravestone was raised in Clark's memory by his family.



Pictured above, from left to right: Roy Buchanan, Branch President; Harold Malcolm Kraus, Legion Member; and Willem Groeneveld, Sergeant at Arms.



Pictured above: Roy Buchanan, Branch President (front) and Tim Murphy, Sergeant at Arms (back) salute the gravesite of a First World War Veteran.

## Branch #295 Chilliwack-Vedder Honours Veterans with Streets of Valour Program



Pictured above, from left to right: Banner of Sgt. Roy Fraser, held by Carol Marleu and Harv Westringh of the City of Chilliwack; banner of LAC Warner Hockin, held by Hockin's son and grandson; and banner of Major Lynn Doucette, held by Bill Higdon, Branch President, and Krista Smith, Immediate Past President. Photo Credit: John Guntner.

From mid-October to mid-November, the Chilliwack-Vedder Legion supports Veterans through the annual Streets of Valour Program. On October 18, 2025, banner presentations to family members took place at All Sappers Memorial Park in Chilliwack, BC.



Photo Credit: John Guntner.

The next day, the Chilliwack-Vedder Legion held their annual Veterans Dinner. Sergeant Roy Fraser and his wife, Lee, were presented with Roy's banner for this year's the Streets of Valour project. The banner was presented by Immediate Past President Krista Smith, along with three members of 147 Airwolf Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron.

After the dinner, Mr. and Mrs. Fraser were escorted outside to look at the new banners, including Roy's, flying from the roof of the Branch.

## Want to see your Legion Branch in our next newsletter?

Ask a Branch Executive to email [lindsay.petrie@legionbcyukon.ca](mailto:lindsay.petrie@legionbcyukon.ca) with photos and stories you'd like to share in the next edition of the BC/Yukon Blazer!





**Donation Offer: War Books**

A member of the community wishes to donate their collection of war books to interested Legion Branches. The collection includes 120 books, with volumes on WWI, WII, and up to the Korean War. To inquire about the collection, please contact [info@legionbcyukon.ca](mailto:info@legionbcyukon.ca).

**Items for Sale**

A member of the community also wishes to sell an original print of Winston Churchill from 1943, along with a set of four books all written by Winston Churchill. For further inquiries, and to make an offer, please also contact [info@legionbcyukon.ca](mailto:info@legionbcyukon.ca).

**Memo Summary**

**November**

- 64.25 - Poppy Campaign Update #4
- 65.25 - Remembrance Day Message from the Prime Minister
- 66.25 - 2025 Military Service Recognition Book - Available Now
- 67.25 - Branch Centenary Logos Update
- 68.25 - Legion Commercial Banking Package - Survey
- 69.25 - Ladies Auxiliary Membership Renewal 2026
- 70.25 - Upcoming Branch Executive & Service Officer Training

**December**

- 71.25 - Poppy Assessment and Statement Deadline Reminder - January 31, 2026
- 72.25 - Centenary Updates - Membership, Media Kit & Giveaway
- 73.25 - Reminders: Portal Closure and Per Capita Tax Increase
- 74.25 - Legion Magazine Update: 2026 Submission Procedures
- 75.25 - Command Office Holiday Closure

[Download Memos from Branch Corner](#)

**The BC/Yukon Command acknowledges it carries out its work on the traditional territories of Indigenous nations throughout British Columbia and Yukon.**

We pay our respects to the Elders, past and present, descendants and custodians of these lands. We honour the knowledge keepers and the continuing relationships with Indigenous peoples in BC that develop through our work together. The BC/Yukon Command is grateful to the sqəciyaʔł təməxʷ (Katzie), scəwaθenaʔł təməxʷ (Tsawwassen), Kwantlen, Á,LENENEŁ ŁTE (WSÁNEĆ), Semiahmoo, S’ólh Téméxw (Stó:lō), and Cayuse, Umatilla and Walla Walla First Nations, on whose traditional territories we operate our main office.

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