



In This Month's Blazer:

Legion Week 2026

National Legion Week returned from September 20-26, 2026. Over 20 Branches took part this year, hosting a variety of open house events, spreading the word about the Legion's mission, welcoming new members, and honouring Veterans and volunteers. Thank you to every Branch that participated this year!

Branch #20 Nakusp: "A Very Successful Week!"

From Thursday through Saturday of Legion Week, the Nakusp Legion hosted a variety of events and activities. On Thursday, the Branch organized a Shuffleboard Tournament with the opportunity to win team prizes. On Friday, members and guests were invited to enjoy live music by the Liz Blair Project. On Saturday, the week's events concluded with a community BBQ.



"We had a very successful week," wrote Rhonda Tooley, Branch Chair, Ways & Means. "It was wonderful to see so many people from our small rural community come out and have fun, and we're pleased that a few new members joined us as well."

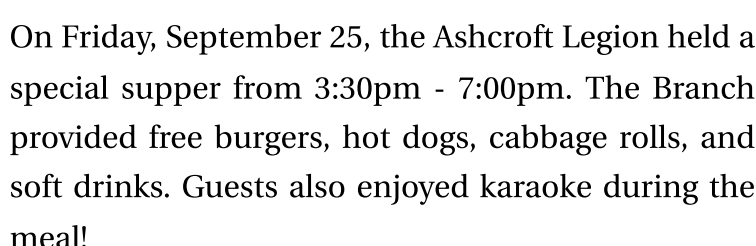


Branch #107 Chase: Paint & Sip, Lasagna Dinner, and More

The Chase Legion kicked off Legion Week on Sunday with sliders, in conjunction with the local Lion's Club Car Show. The Branch then held a Paint & Sip on Wednesday, hosted their first Monthly Member Appreciation Day on Thursday, organized a Lasagna Dinner on Friday, and offered a free Community BBQ on Saturday. The events were enjoyed by members, the community, and the many (and appreciated) volunteers.

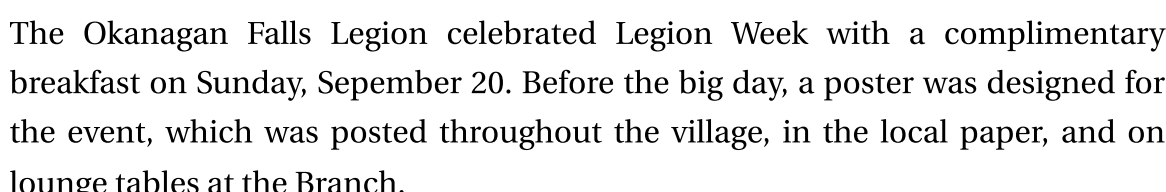


Branch #113 Ashcroft: Legion Week Supper



A total of 75 members and guests came for dinner that evening, and 15 members renewed early for 2027.

Branch #227 Okanagan Falls: A Complimentary Breakfast



That Sunday, 93 guests enjoyed a delicious breakfast at the Branch. The Okanagan Falls Legion welcomed four new members who signed up that day, with one volunteering to do the meat draw.

Branch #200 Westbury

Branch #200 Westbank.

Article by Nicole Belanger, Branch President

On Sunday, September 20, Branch #288 Westbank welcomed community members and special guests to an open house in recognition of National Legion Week. City Council representatives, including the Mayor of West Kelowna, joined attendees in planting poppy seeds at the entrance to the Branch parking lot. Children participated in a colouring contest, with the winning artwork selected for permanent display inside the Branch. Service dogs from Pacific Assistance Dogs Society of Kelowna were another highlight, delighting visitors throughout the event. Guests also learned about the Legion's programs, responsibilities, and ongoing contributions to the community. Attendees enjoyed a complimentary BBQ and live music performed by a local band. At the conclusion of the day, one fortunate visitor won a Legion-themed gift basket valued at approximately \$300.



On Friday, September 23, the public enjoyed BBQ ribs, homemade cornbread, and coleslaw as ten of the area's finest rib makers competed for "Best in Show." Three respected independent judges — the Mayor of West Kelowna, the Vice President of Gorman Bros Lumber Ltd., and the President of the West Kelowna Chamber of Commerce — carefully assessed each entry for taste, texture, and appearance. The winner received \$300, while the second and third place finishers received \$200 and \$100, respectively. Comrade John Hopf generously sponsored the event, supplying the ribs, prize money, trophy, and medals. The week-long celebration concluded with Comrades Necole Belanger and Dennis Bell presenting the Westbank Branch with a metal art piece by local artist Terry Girard, commemorating the 100th Anniversary of The Royal Canadian Legion. All donations gathered during this week, amounting to \$1,000, were forwarded to the Legion Foundation BC/Yukon Command in support of the "Leave the Streets Behind" program.



Proud to Support the 100 Year Anniversary




Available as of June 15th while supplies last, at participating Legion and Hospitality locations in B.C. Must be 19+ to play.






When you gamble, use your **GameSense 19+**

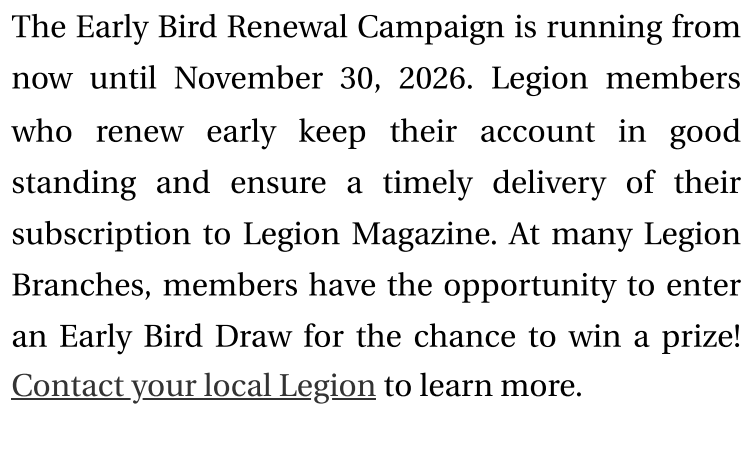
Important Dates



The image shows three smooth, light-colored rocks resting on a dark, textured surface. They are surrounded by numerous bright red poppy petals. The rock on the left is painted with a green poppy flower and the words 'LEST WE FORGET' in black capital letters. The middle rock is painted red and features a white dove with its wings spread, holding an olive branch, with the words 'Lest We Forget' written in a cursive script. The rock on the right is painted white and also features a white dove with its wings spread, holding an olive branch, with small red flowers scattered around it.

November 1 - Announcement of National Silver Cross Mother
November 5-11 - Veterans' Week
November 8 - Indigenous Veterans Day
November 10 - Passchendaele Ends (1917)
November 11 - Remembrance Day
November 11 - First World War Ends - Armistice Day (1918)
November 14 - Birthday of King Charles III (1948)
November 18 - Battle of the Somme (1916)
November 25-27 - National Unity Conference (1925)
November 30 - Birthday of Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae (1872)

#94 Cariboo (Quesnel) - *Celebrating 99 Years!*
 #142 West Point Grey - *Celebrating 92 Years!*
 #172 Esquimalt Dockyard - *Celebrating 82 Years!*
 #213 Blue River - *Celebrating 80 Years!*



December 19, 2026 are also automatically entered into the draw for the Legion 100 Win Big Giveaway!

December 28, 2026

- Paid Memberships in 2026: 156.71% (81,446 Paid Members)
- Renewals in 2026: 79.93% (41,018 Members Renewed)

Early Bird Renewal Letter



Resources for Veterans' Week: November 5-11, 2026



Free learning resources for Veterans' Week are now available from Veterans Affairs Canada! Materials include booklets and newspapers for students aged 5 to 18, bookmarks, Veteran recognition cards, and a poster designed by Chaelyn Han of British Columbia, who won 1st Place in the Senior Colour Poster category of the 2024 National Youth Remembrance Contests. To receive your order by Veterans' Week, please order before October 23, 2026. Please also note that stock is limited.

[Order Learning Resources for Veterans' Week](#)

National Aboriginal Veterans Day Ceremony

Sunday, November 8, 2026 in Vancouver, BC

9:00am - 10:00am: Open Ceremony

10:00am - 10:30am: Honour March (Main and Cordova to Victory Square Cenotaph)

Wreath Laying Ceremony: 10:45am - 1:00pm



2026 Dominion Convention

This past August, Legion members from across the country attended the 50th Dominion Convention. Together, they celebrated the Legion Centenary, welcomed the newly-elected Executive Officers, and helped shape the future of The Royal Canadian Legion. We extend our congratulations to Val MacGregor, who is now serving as Vice President of Dominion Command for her 2nd term.



Photo Credit: Legion National.



Photo Credit: Amber Stewart, Executive Director, Legion Foundaiton BC/Yukon.

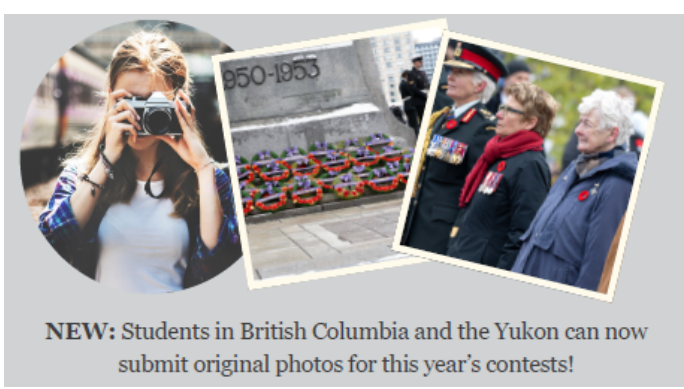


Photo Credit: Pete Pearson, Poppy Chair, Branch #266 Valemount; and Cadet.

At the convention, BC/Yukon Command was represented by a total of 132 delegates: 131 delegates from British Columbia, and one delegate from the Yukon. Together, we brought back five resolutions, three of which were passed. Read more about this year's Dominion Convention by clicking the button below. A Post-Convention Report will be distributed to Branches once available.

[Dominion Convention 2026: Recap](#)

Youth Remembrance Contests: 2026-2027



NEW: Students in British Columbia and the Yukon can now submit original photos for this year's contests!

The 2026-2027 Youth Remembrance Contests are now underway! School packages have been sent out, information on this year's contests has been distributed to Legion Branches in Memo #63.26.

The new **Photography Contest** is open to students in Grade 4-12 in British Columbia and the Yukon.

This category, at the Provincial Level only, gives students an opportunity to submit an original photograph related to Remembrance. For more information on the 2026-2027 Youth Remembrance Contests, please click the buttons below.

[For Educators: Youth Remembrance Contests Page](#)

[For Legion Branches: Branch Corner Resources](#)

The Annual Ride to Support Veterans Returns

The Annual Ride to Support Veterans was founded by Harvey P. Truax, Bill McGuire, and Greg Hill in 2010. After a two-year pause during the COVID-19 Pandemic, the 14th Annual Ride was held on Sunday, August 30, with 15 riders participating. The day began in Castlegar, where the Ladies Auxiliary served breakfast. Riders then travelled through Nelson to the Salmo Legion for refreshments before continuing to the Trail Legion for lunch. From there, they returned to Castlegar. More than \$6,000 has been raised to-date, with proceeds going to the Legion Foundation to assist Veterans in need.



Branch #162 Lytton Rebuilds

Article by Craig Thomson, Immediate Past President, BC/Yukon Command



In the summer of 2021, a devastating wildfire swept through the Village of Lytton, located in BC's Fraser Canyon. When the smoke cleared, the town was a smoldering pile of rubble throughout, including Lytton Branch #162 of The Royal Canadian Legion. All that was left of the 93-year-old building was a brick chimney, and the town's cenotaph on the corner of the property.

It took five years, lots of blood, sweat, and tears,

a lot of red tape, changes to a contractor, and other hidden expenses and hurdles. But on September 12, 2026, the Grand Reopening of Branch #162 took place, celebrating the opening of a new building and a new era for the community. The Lytton Legion's reopening brings the first restaurant and licensed lounge to open in the community.

This could not have occurred without the dedication and determination of the Branch Executive over the past five years. To say they had an uphill battle is an understatement. It would have been so easy to decide

not to rebuild the Branch in this community of 200, but the Executive were determined to keep the Legion's legacy alive. Now, the Branch has almost 100 members, and they look forward to growing even more.

The Lytton Legion is back, serving meals and refreshments to locals and contractors. Thanks to the Lytton Legion, the village of Lytton is well on its way to rebuilding. To all involved, especially Sheila McGuire and her Executive, congratulations and Bravo Zulu!



Branch #210 Lake Cowichan Celebrates Legion Centenary and 80 Years of Community Service

Article by Lara Lang, Branch Secretary

On September 19, Lake Cowichan Branch #210 proudly marked two very special milestones: the 100th Anniversary of The Royal Canadian Legion and the 80th Anniversary of Branch #210. The community celebration featured a complimentary BBQ, generously prepared and ran by volunteers from the Lake Cowichan Fire Department, while Lake Cowichan Community Services provided children's games and entertainment. Guests enjoyed a beer garden and outdoor Music Bingo. Town of Lake Cowichan Mayor Tim McGonigle joined Branch #210 Lifetime Member Lola Sinclair to officially open the celebration and recognize this important milestone in the Branch's history. In preparation for the anniversary, Branch #210's small but dedicated group of volunteers spent countless hours refurbishing, repairing, and painting the entire Legion building. Those same volunteers worked tirelessly behind the scenes and throughout the event to ensure the celebration was a success — a wonderful example of the volunteer spirit that has helped keep Branch #210 an active part of the community for 80 years.



Branch #257 Seaview Centennial (Lantzville): Honours & Awards

During an Honours & Awards presentation, the Seaview Centennial (Lantzville) Legion recently awarded their longtime member, Wendy Forsyth, with Life Membership. Branch President Vicki Jones was also presented with the Legion's 100th Anniversary Commemorative Stamp by Lantzville Post Office workers Sandra Camp and Rachel Sullivan.



Pictured above: Branch President Vicki Jones presents Life Membership Award to Wendy Forsyth.



Pictured above: Lantzville Post Office workers, Sandra Camp and Rachel Sullivan, present Branch President Vicki Jones with the Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Stamp.

Want to see your Legion Branch in the next newsletter?

Branch Executives can email photos & stories to: lindsay.petrie@legionbcyukon.ca by Friday, November 6, 2026!

Memo Summary

- August**
- 53.26 - Passing of Gerry Vowles, Past BC/Yukon Command President
 - 54.26 - Wildfire Disaster Relief Fund
 - 55.26 - Reminder: BCLC Pull Tab Incentive
 - 56.26 - Deadline for Poppy Orders is September 1st
 - 57.26 - Gerry Vowles, BC/Yukon Command Past President - Celebration of Life

- September**
- 58.26 - Legion Foundation BC/Yukon Command Homelessness Program
 - 59.26 - Notice of BC/Yukon Command Annual General Meeting
 - 60.26 - Call to Host 2027 & 2028 Provincial Sports Playdowns - Deadline Extended
 - 61.26 - OSI Special Section Programs
 - 62.26 - Presentation of the First Poppy
 - 63.26 - National Youth Remembrance Contests

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 s̓qəciy̓aʔɫ̓ təməxʷ (Katzie), sc̓əwaθənaʔɫ̓ təməxʷ (Tsawwassen), Kwantlen, Á,LEÑENEÇ ŁTE (W̱SÁNEĆ), 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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