

BC/YUKON COMMAND
The Royal Canadian Legion

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August 4, 2026

TO: All Branches
For Information of Members of Command Executive Council

FROM: Bob Underhill, BC/Yukon Command President

SUBJECT: Passing of Gerry Vowles, Past BC/Yukon Command President

Memo 53.26

Comrades,

It is with a heavy heart I inform you that Comrade Gerry Vowles passed away on July 31, 2026. Gerry was a Past BC/Yukon Command President from 2005-2007, and a Past BC/Yukon Command Trustee from 2017-2019. Gerry also served as Treasurer of BC/Yukon Command for ten years from 1993-2003 and was a founding member of the BC/Yukon Legion Foundation.

Gerry had 47 years of service to The Royal Canadian Legion and was a long-serving Life Member of Branch #179 Grandview/Collingwood. Gerry also held dual membership with Branch #44 TVS.

He received many accolades, including the Legion's highest honours: the Presidential Citation, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Palm Leaf. He was also awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal, the King's Coronation Medal and the Minister of Veteran's Affairs Commendation for his service to the Legion.

Gerry served 28 years with The Royal Canadian Navy, retiring as a Chief Petty Officer 1st Class. Gerry was also known for his love of sports and was heavily involved in coaching youth sports including lacrosse, hockey, swimming, and water polo in his younger years.

Gerry will be remembered for his unwavering dedication to The Royal Canadian Legion, and BC/Yukon Command in particular. His positive influence on this Command will be felt for years to come.

If you or your Branch would like to send a card, please mail to the Command Office and the staff will ensure cards are forwarded to the family.

In accordance with Section 707 a. of the Rituals, Awards and Protocol Manual, please lower your flags to half-mast until sunset on Sunday, August 9th. More information regarding a memorial service will be made available once known.

We will remember him.