

# The BC/Yukon Blazer

# September 2026

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### In This Month's Blazer:

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# Monthly Spotlight

## Celebrating the Legion Centenary: More Events at Legion Branches

On July 17, 2026, we marked the 100th Anniversary of The Royal Canadian Legion. To celebrate a century of service to Veterans, their families, and communities across Canada, Legion Branches across British Columbia and the Yukon organized special events, activities, and initiatives.

## Branch #17 Courtenay: Gala Banquet

On July 18, the Courtenay Legion hosted a Gala Banquet for the Legion Centenary. Local officials were invited to sit at the head table, including the mayor, the 19 Wing Commander, the First Nations Counsellor, and Courtenay counsellors. At the event, the emcee gave an overview of the Legion's history, and door prizes were donated. A silent auction was also held, with proceeds going to a local charity, YANA. Dinner consisted of roast beef, mashed potatoes with gravy, salad, and vegetables. Anniversary cake was served for dessert, and the event concluded with live music and dancing.



### Branch #61 Delta (Ladner): Two Commemorative Crosswalks



The Delta (Ladner) Legion held a very successful event on July 25, attended by over 300 people and supported by all three levels of government. The Delta Police Pipe Band opened the afternoon with an amazing concert. There were speeches from The Honourable Jill McKnight, Minister of Veterans Affairs and MP for Delta; Ian Paton, MLA for Delta South; and George Harvie, Mayor of Delta. Following this was the ribbon cutting for the new commemorative crosswalk.

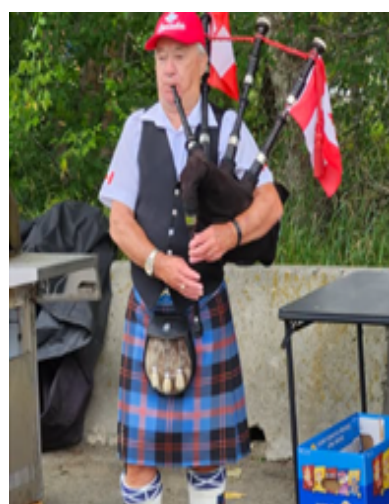
"We surprised one of our Veterans in the crowd by asking him to cut the ribbon along with the dignitaries – a fitting 92nd birthday surprise for Foster Richardson!" wrote Olwen Demidoff, Branch President. Hamburgers and hot dogs were served at the event, and displays showcased the Delta (Ladner) Legion, the Legion Foundation, and local organizations supported by the Branch. On August 29, a second commemorative crosswalk in North Delta was dedicated with a ceremony on site at the North Delta Social Heart. This was possible thanks to a generous donation by Phil Sutton of Sutton Road Markings in memory of his father, along with the City of Delta. The event was attended by The Honourable Jill McKnight and Delta Mayor George Harvie.

[Read More on the Delta Optimist](#)



**Branch #107 Chase: Canada Day Centenary Parade**

On Canada Day, the Chase Legion kicked off Centenary celebrations with a community parade. Local Veterans and members of the community were served free hot dogs and hamburgers with all the trimmings, along with chips, pop, and water. A table of colouring pages was set up for the kids, along with a gift giveaway table of toys, art kits, puzzles, and stickers. During the celebration, words were shared by Susan Murray, Branch President; David Lepsoe, Chase Mayor; Ward Stammer, BC MLA; and Mel Arnold, MP. Over 500 members of the public participated in the day's events, which were a huge success thanks to the help of over 30 volunteers.



### Branch #148 North Burnaby: Veterans Luncheon and Open House



On July 25, the North Burnaby Legion marked the Legion Centenary with a Veterans Luncheon, open house, and Western-themed celebration. "We had many members step up to volunteer their time at various times throughout the day," wrote Torie Spelling, Branch Social Coordinator. "We needed a village to execute the full day of events." The Veterans Luncheon included a piper and Colour Party, with a longtime member giving a reading of "In Flanders Fields." The open house was well-attended, and the Branch welcomed many new members. Children also enjoyed activities like colouring books and Poppy planting stations. "Our historical table was a perfect addition to the open house and was very informative," wrote Spelling. That evening, the Branch hosted a Western-themed celebration, where members enjoyed a wonderful meal, line dancing, and live music.



Branch #176 Billy Bishop / Kerrisdale: Two-Day Centenary Celebration

The Billy Bishop / Kerrisdale Legion was proud to celebrate the Legion Centenary with a memorable two-day celebration on July 17 and 18. On July 17, 2026, the 100th Anniversary of the Legion, the Branch hosted BC/Yukon Command's Centenary Celebration, welcoming Veterans, Branch Presidents, and dignitaries. "The official ceremony was both informative and inspiring, honouring the Legion's remarkable history while recognizing the volunteers, members, and community partners who continue to ensure its success for generations to come," wrote Billy Bishop / Kerrisdale Branch Executives. The following day, the Branch invited the public to a full day of family-friendly activities.

[Read More](#)



Branch #288 Westbank: A Fun-Filled Weekend of Slo-Pitch and More

Branch #288 Westbank marked the Legion Centenary in style. On July 17, Mayor Gord Milsom threw the first pitch for the slo-pitch challenge against Branch #69 Peachland. Despite the #288 cheerleading squad, Peachland reigned supreme and took home the President's Cup. Moving from the ball field to the Legion parking lot, West Kelowna residents joined Westbank for the Branch's first-ever street party. Party goers were treated to three live bands and food trucks. On July 18, the Branch transformed into a casino, with 70 guests gambling with "funny money." The evening capped off with a silent auction. On July 19, with no rest for the Centenary party planners, the best dart players competed in the Royal Rumble of Darts. Branch #288's Shannon Jenner won the women's title and Peachland's Branch #69, Erik Dejong, won the men's title. Shannon and Erik then went head-to-head in the grand championship with Erik coming out on top, earning the much-coveted Royal Rumble dart belt.



Branch #295 Chilliwack - Vedder: 80th Anniversary of the Cenotaph

On the weekend of July 17-19, in conjunction with the Legion Centenary, the Chilliwack - Vedder Legion hosted a rededication ceremony: Op GRANITE II, in honour of the 80th Anniversary of the All Sappers Cenotaph. Built during war time, the All Sappers Cenotaph is the primary memorial of the Canadian Military Engineers. It was unveiled on July 14, 1946 by the Governor General of Canada, His Excellency, Viscount Alexander of Tunis. 100 years later, dignitaries from all over Canada attended the rededication ceremony, including the Chief Military Engineer of Canada.



Upcoming Events:

Branch #7 Britannia and Branch #172 Esquimalt Dockyard's Open House

# CENTENNIAL OPEN HOUSE

## EVERYONE WELCOME!

**FREE BBQ**  
HAMBURGERS & HOT DOGS  
(WHILE SUPPLIES LAST)

**ANNIVERSARY CAKE**

**LIVE MUSIC**

**19+**

**NO MINORS**  
19 YEARS AND OLDER ONLY!

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2026**

11:00 AM

DOORS OPEN

12:00-3:00 PM

**FREE BBQ**  
HAMBURGERS & HOT DOGS  
(WHILE SUPPLIES LAST)

1:00 PM

WELCOME BY THE PRESIDENTS  
BRITANNIA BRANCH #7  
*and*  
ESQUIMALT BRANCH #172

1:15-3:00 PM

**CENTENNIAL CAKE CUTTING**  
**LIVE MUSIC**

JOIN US AT

**ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION**  
**ESQUIMALT BRANCH #172**

102-622 Admirals Road  
Victoria, British Columbia

DISCOVER HOW YOUR LOCAL LEGION SUPPORTS:

VETERANS

SERVING CAF & RCMP MEMBERS

YOUTH PROGRAMS

SENIORS

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Britannia Legion and Esquimalt Dockyard Legion will join together to celebrate the National Centenary with an open house on Sunday, September 20, the first day of Legion Week. The event will be held at Esquimalt Legion, at 622 Admirals Road in Victoria, BC. Plans include a free hamburger and hot dog BBQ, anniversary cake cutting, music, and welcoming remarks from Branch #7 President Keith Yow and Branch #172 President Jim Swanbeck. Displays will showcase information on the Poppy Campaign, the Legion Foundation, and how Legion Branches support Veterans and the community. Everyone is welcome!

Branch #291 Richmond's Street Banner Launch



## Branch #291 Richmond's Banner Launch Event

**Saturday, September 26th**

**1:00pm - 5:00pm**  
**Colonel Sherman Armoury**  
 5500 No. 4 Road  
 Richmond, BC V6X 3L5

All are invited to attend this special event, honouring the Veterans of Richmond, BC and commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Royal Canadian Legion.

Pictured above: Veterans from Richmond, BC. Louis Fontaine, Second World War Veteran and father of Ron Fontaine (left); and Bunkichi Hamade, First World War Veteran (right).

Approximately 400 people are expected to attend the event, most of whom are relatives of the banner nominees. Some are flying in from all parts of Canada to attend this special occasion. There will also be a ceremonial cake cutting, along with displays and information booths from not-for-profit community groups, historical societies, and the local cadet corps and squadrons.

- View Event Details
- Read the Story of the Richmond Street Banner 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+**

Pull tabs available while supplies last, at participating Legion and hospitality locations in BC.



### September

- September 2** - Second World War Ends (1945)
- September 3** - Merchant Navy Veterans Day
- September 7** - Labour Day - *Stat*
- September 8** - Battle of Medak Pocket (1993)
- September 10** - World Suicide Prevention Day
- September 11** - Attacks on September 11 (2001)
- September 17** - Operation Medusa (2006)
- September 13** - Firefighters' National Memorial Day - *2nd Sunday*
- September 18** - Military Family Appreciation Day - *3rd Friday*
- September 20** - Battle of Britain (1940) - *3rd Sunday*
- September 20-26** - National Legion Week
- September 21** - International Day of Peace
- September 27** - Police and Peace Officers Memorial Day - *Last Sunday*
- September 30** - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - *Stat*

### October

- October 1** - National Seniors Day
- October 4-10** - National Family Week
- October 10** - World Mental Health Day
- October 12** - Thanksgiving - *Stat*
- October 14** - Van Doos Anniversary (1914)
- October 17** - International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
- October 24** - Anniversary of the United Nations (1946)
- October 24** - Poppy Campaign Begins

Watch the National Centenary Ceremony

## September Branch Anniversaries



- Happy Anniversary to These Legion Branches!**
- #91 Prince Edward (Langford) - *Celebrating 99 Years!*
  - #92 Salt Spring - *Celebrating 99 Years!*
  - #140 Sechelt - *Celebrating 92 Years!*
  - #99 Sicamous - *Celebrating 87 Years!*
  - #210 Lake Cowichan - *Celebrating 80 Years!*
  - #249 Pleasant Valley - *Celebrating 72 Years!*

## Legion Membership

### Legion Membership Benefits: Deals & Discounts



Did you know that your Legion membership comes with special benefits? Here are just some of the ways you can make the most of your Legion Membership:

#### Renew for the Chance to Win a Ford F-150

Eligible members who renew for 2027 are automatically entered into the draw for a chance to win a Ford F-150! After renewing, eligible members also have two more chances to enter by shopping or donating.

#### Legion Member Benefits Package

The Legion has partnered with several organizations to offer unique benefits for members. Members can receive unique deals and discounts with Red Wireless, belairdirect, IRIS, Ultramatic, Canadian Safe Step Walk-In Tub Co., HomeEquity Bank, Arbor Memorial, BST Vacations (Blowes & Stewart Travel Group), Medipac Travel Insurance, and HearingLife. This year only, Legion members can also receive discounts off of select fares from VIA Rail.

#### MemberPerks®

MemberPerks® is included with Legion membership, giving members access to thousands of offers and deals at stores and restaurants across Canada, including national chains, local businesses, and online stores. New members can access MemberPerks® 30 days after their membership number has been issued.

#### More Benefits of Legion Membership

Legion members receive a paid subscription to Legion Magazine, and they also receive the Member Debrief Newsletter via email. Members have the opportunity to register for Legion Sports, including darts,



eight ball, and cribbage. Motorcyclists of the Legion can also join Legion Riders!

[Learn More: Benefits of Legion Membership](#)

## BC/Yukon Command Membership Report: September 3, 2026

- New Memberships in 2026: 389.08% (37,398 New Members) - *Welcome, everyone!*
- Paid Memberships in 2026: 152.38% (78,178 Paid Members)
- Renewals in 2026: 79.49% (40,780 Members Renewed)



Legion Foundation  
BC/Yukon Command



### Key Tags Coming This September

The Legion Foundation's annual **Key Tag Campaign** returns this September, helping protect your keys while supporting Veterans in need.

A minimum **\$20 donation** provides a set of three uniquely registered Key Tags. If your keys are lost, they can be dropped into any Canada Post mailbox and returned to you by mail.

Your donation helps fund programs supporting Veterans experiencing homelessness and food insecurity. Watch for Key Tags in your mailbox, or click the button below to request a set.

[Request Your Key Tags](#)

### Slo-Pitch Tournament Hits it Out of the Park!

Thanks to the incredible support of players, volunteers, donors and community partners, the First Annual Charity Slo-Pitch Tournament, held in Aldergrove, BC, over the August long weekend, **raised more than \$3,000** in support of the Legion Foundation BC/Yukon Command and programs supporting Veterans and their families.



The Foundation is especially grateful to tournament organizers Karen Hobbis, Cori Augustine, and their families, whose time, energy, and dedication helped make the weekend such a success. They also extend their sincere thanks to Aldergrove Branch #265 for generously providing tents, tables, chairs, and ice coolers, and to Molson for their unwavering support of Veterans and Legion Foundation Programs and for donating prizes for our tournament MVPs. **Most importantly, thank you to everyone who came out to play, volunteer, donate and cheer from the sidelines.** It was a fantastic weekend filled with fun, community spirit, and friendly competition, all while raising important funds to support Veterans and their families.

### Legion Foundation Seminar Series

### Wills & Estate Planning Seminar in Kelowna This September!



**FH&P**  
LAWYERS LLP

Seminar Presenter:  
Colin Flannigan  
Associate

## WILLS AND ESTATE PLANNING

Gain valuable insights on **estate and incapacity planning** so the right decisions are made when it matters most.



Wednesday,  
September 23  
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM



Kelowna Legion  
Branch #26  
908 Wilson Ave,  
Kelowna, BC



Tea, Coffee,  
and Snacks  
Provided

**FREE SESSION • ALL ARE WELCOME**

Come out to the Kelowna Branch #26 on Wednesday, September 23 at 10:30am for a **FREE in-person seminar** on wills, estate planning, and incapacity planning. Tea, coffee and snacks will be provided.

Presented by Colin Flannigan, Associate at FH&P Lawyers LLP, this engaging session will provide professional insights to help you plan for the future with clarity and confidence.

The Foundation's Wills & Estate Planning Seminar will also offer practical guidance to support important conversations with family and help ensure your wishes are understood.

[Click Here to RSVP](#)

## Peacekeeper's Memorial Parade and Ceremony: August 9, 2026



Pictured above: Dwight Grieve, BC/Yukon Command Vice President, lays a wreath at the Peacekeeper's Memorial Ceremony.



### Legion Provincial Golf Tournament

A good time was had by all at the Legion Provincial Golf Tournament. Held at Guildford Golf Course on July 6, a total of 50 golfers under sunny skies teed it up for wonderful game of golf. After the game, all came back to the Cloverdale Legion for a banquet dinner and prizes – everyone was a winner, as all golfers took home a prize (and some won two prizes!).

#### Winners:

**Men's Low Gross:** Wayne Goodwin of Branch #295 Chilliwack - Vedder

**Men's Low Net:** Norm Bickel of Branch #8 White Rock

**Ladies' Low Net:** Elaine MacDonell of Branch #88 Maple Ridge

**Team:** Dale Johnston, Gil Stetch, Tom Taylor, and John McNulty

**Ladies' K.P.:** Barb Lavoie

**Ladies' Long Drive:** Barb Lavoie

**Men's K.P.:** Kevin Jones

**Men's Long Drive:** Egon Hougaard



Pictured above: Elaine MacDonell,  
Ladies' Low Net Winner



Pictured above: Norm Bickel,  
Men's Low Net Winner



Pictured above: Wayne Goodwin,  
Men's Low Gross Winner



# Athletes Shine at Youth Track & Field Championships:

Letter by Megann VanderVliet, Chief Executive Officer of BC Athletics

British Columbia/Yukon Command and BC Athletics would like to congratulate the U16 and U18 athletes who proudly represented BC/Yukon at the Legion National Youth Track & Field Championships in Regina, Saskatchewan. Athletes from communities across British Columbia and Yukon came together to represent BC/Yukon Command with pride, demonstrating outstanding performances, sportsmanship, and team spirit throughout the Championships.

The BC/Yukon team had an outstanding weekend, earning **19 gold, 12 silver, and 13 bronze medal performances**, along with **six additional Top 5 finishes**. The team also celebrated two National Records:

- **Gursher Gabri (Surrey)** broke the **U18 Men's Hammer Throw National Record**
- **Maya Piesik (Burnaby)** broke the **U18 3000m Race Walk National Record**

Adding to the team's success, **Tanaz Aulakh-Kahlon (Delta)** was awarded the **Leroy Washburn Award for Top Female Athlete of the Meet**, following an exceptional three gold-medal performances, including a **Championship Record in the 400m Hurdles**.

A **special thank you** goes to all of the BC/Yukon Team Staff and BC/Yukon Command Chaperones, **Bob Underhill and Emily Cadieux**, for their tremendous efforts in supporting the team and helping our athletes perform at their very best throughout the weekend. We would also like to congratulate **Bob Underhill**, who was recognized with the **Kelly Smith Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service** — a wonderful and well-deserved recognition of his commitment to supporting these athletes and this event.

**Interested in supporting the next generation of BC/Yukon track & field athletes?** Please consider making a **tax-deductible donation** to help provide opportunities for young athletes to compete, representing our province and territory on the national stage.

Read More

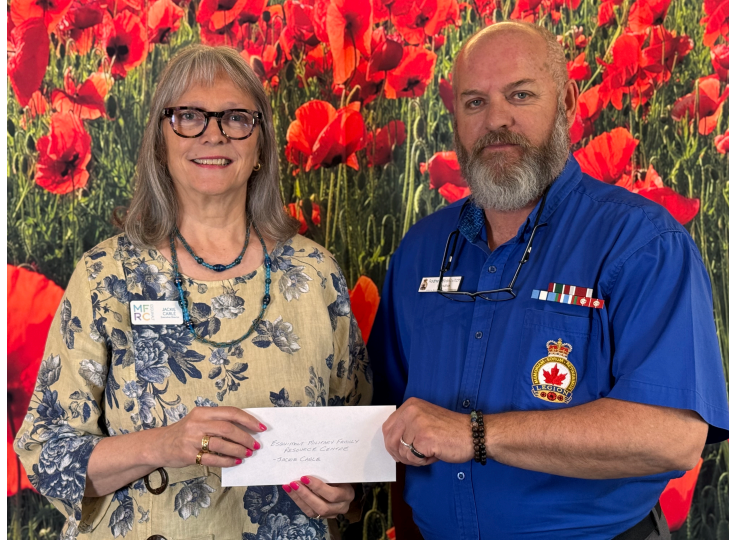


## Branch #127 Public Service Gives Back to the Community

On Wednesday, July 15th, the Victoria Remembrance Day Committee Poppy Fund held a SUE presentation to ten organizations that were able to attend: BC & Alberta Guide Dogs, Broadmead Care, Veterans Food Bank, CFB Esquimalt Military Family Resource Centre, Legion Manor, Veterans House Victoria, Veterans Transition Network, Wounded Warriors Canada, the Cadet Program, and 2843 PPCLI Cadets.



Pictured above: Bill Chisholm of Veterans Food Bank.



Pictured above: Jackie Carre of CFB Esquimalt MFRC.



Pictured above: Lauren Brown of the Legion Foundation, on behalf of Veterans House Victoria.



Pictured above: Levi Chapman of Veterans Transition Network.

## Branch #142 West Point Grey Congratulates Youth Remembrance Contest Winners

The West Point Grey Legion recently presented awards to students Chaelyn Han and Elyn Han, who both placed nationally in the 2025-2026 Youth Remembrance Contests. Chaelyn Han's Senior Colour Poster placed 3rd at the National Level, and Elyn Han's Intermediate Colour Poster placed 2nd at the National Level. Congratulations to both artists!



Pictured above, from left to right: Chaelyn Han, Poppy Chair Jim Laidlaw, and Elyn Han.



Pictured above:  
Art by Chaelyn Han.



Pictured above:  
Art by Elyn Han.

## Branch #210 Lake Cowichan Gives Building a Fresh Look

On September 19, 2026, the Lake Cowichan Legion will bring the community together for a complimentary BBQ, children's games, a beer garden, afternoon music bingo, and an evening dance. In preparation for these celebrations, 12 dedicated volunteers have worked tirelessly to refurbish, brighten and bring new life to the exterior of the Branch. To date, they have generously contributed an incredible 431 hours of volunteer work, including painting the entire exterior of the building. "For a small Legion with a modest membership base, we are extremely fortunate to have such committed volunteers," wrote Lara Lang, Branch Secretary. "A truly small but mighty group. It is amazing how much can be accomplished through their dedication, teamwork, and community spirit."



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

Branch Executives can email photos & stories to: [lindsay.petrie@legionbcyukon.ca](mailto:lindsay.petrie@legionbcyukon.ca)

by Friday, October 2, 2026!

## Memo Summary

### July

48.26 - Leave the Streets Behind Initiative - Q2 Survey

49.26 - Legion Week 2026 - Grant Applications Open

50.26 - Article III Branch Level Quarterly Reporting Q2 - 2026



51.26 - National Youth Remembrance Contests Update

52.26 - BCLC Pull Tab Incentive

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

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 sq̓əc̓i̓yaʔł təməxʷ (Katzie), sc̓əwaθənaʔł təməxʷ (Tsawwassen), Kwantlen, Á,LEŃENEŃ 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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Unit 503 - 17665 66A Avenue  
Surrey, BC  
V3S 2A7

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