

BRANCH 76

QUALICUM BEACH, B.C.

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION



HISTORY 2006 TO 2016

Note: this is an abbreviated copy. Full copies are available for reference at the Branch.



Springtime Branch Cenotaph



Candlelight Ceremony Branch Cenotaph

PROLOGUE

Previous historical glimpses have, in the past, shown the difficulties of the early formation years, the financial shortages and even the prospect at one point of considering a union with Mount Arrowsmith (Parksville) Branch. But through it all the resilience of the members, including the strong support of our Ladies Auxiliary (formed in 1929) has succeeded in building on their strengths and dedication to the aims and goals of the Royal Canadian Legion, up to the year 2005 and beyond.

Historical glimpses are just that, highlights of the passing parade which, the writers hope, will trigger memories, smiles, perhaps some frowns and hopefully you will remember ‘that’.

Without the volunteers in Branch 76 many of the projects undertaken would not be able to be completed. To all of them a BIG THANK YOU. We can only hope that their support will continue and lead us into the next ten years to reach that magical number 100 years.

In order to continue the History of our Branch through the years the committee agreed it would be appropriate to commence this book with the year 2006 as the previous book was printed prior to the end of 2006.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Over the past several years it has been an honour to be a member of the Executive and a privilege to be the President for the past year and a half. Qualicum Beach Branch 76 is a very special Branch with many exceptional members who continue to ensure its continued success.

Branch 76 is blessed with a vibrant and energetic Ladies Auxiliary who continue to work hard to ensure the growth of our Legion. We also have an excellent core of Volunteers who never fail to amaze me how quickly they pitch in when called upon to assist with our many events.

I want to congratulate Branch 76 on this the 90th Anniversary. I am confident that the dedicated members of this Branch will continue to support our Veterans and the community. I look forward to many more years of service with the Members of Qualicum Beach, Branch 76.

President Don Taylor

85th ANNIVERSARY MURAL

Below are the thoughts of the students who created the Mural and what it meant to them.

Tyrell - First Section. My inspiration for my section of the piece is, I wanted to take you back to World War One. Struggling through the cold mud at Vimy Ridge and helping out each other through hard times I see Poppies poking out of the mud, peaking at the devastation of our world. Seeing our soldiers fight for freedom. The army with their foot soldiers and horse are depicted.

Joellenne – Middle Section. The meaning of my section of the mural was about World War Two. I was proud to draw the Victorian Cross, Ladies Auxiliary, ships from the navy and a poppy. I hope you see the meaning of our lost soldiers with the saying I placed on the mural. “Honour the dead and help the living.” I honored my great grandfather who served in the war by putting his name on the dog tags.

Matt – Third Section. The meaning of the things I put in my section were based on the Canadian peacekeepers currently stationed in Afghanistan. Also, to symbolize the good work they are doing over there. I wanted to include the children living in Afghanistan into my section because they are the future of what happens over there and that Canadian peacekeepers are having a good influence on them. My reason for putting the words, “pass the torch” were for the next generations in Canada and Afghanistan and to see what will happen in future years. The Veteran in the school gym just symbolized the respect people should have for those Veterans. The crosses at the bottom symbolize the Canadian and American peacekeepers and soldiers that have lost their lives in the war.



ON GOING EVENTS

2006 - 2016

In 2009 under the guidance of Comrade Bill Layman the Branch started holding a Pancake Breakfast in the garden. It commences on the first weekend in May and continues throughout the summer until the long weekend in September. With the Farmer's Market taking place on Veterans Way at the same time it is a great opportunity for the Branch to open up the garden area to the public and for them to see the work that is done at the Legion. Since 2009 and to the end of 2015 the total revenue taken in is \$38,357. By the end of 2016 Bill's goal is to reach \$ 40,000, well done Bill and the group of volunteers who work so diligently to make this the success it has become.



Bill Layman Pancake Master

The first New Year's Day Levee under the leadership of Comrade John Humphrey started on January 1, 2010. The Levee in Canada has been associated with New Year's Day since 1646, nowadays, municipalities, military establishments, and Legions hold receptions. It is a day when the Legion opens its doors to welcome the Community and to start the New Year off to a bright start. Over the years this event has gained momentum and is well supported by the Community. In 2013 the Town of Qualicum Beach and Qualicum Foods came on board assisting with the cost of advertising and the food, which is greatly appreciated by the Branch.



Past President Jack MacLean welcoming guests to the Levee

In 2014 the Branch assisted in the formation of the Qualicum Beach Pipe Band. The Band has grown since then and is sought after to perform at many functions held in the Town and at the Branch.



Qualicum Beach Pipe Band

As in the past the Branch is very supportive of many groups, organizations and events in the Community. The total amount of donations made over the last ten years can only be estimated, but it would be in the region of \$500,000. These are donations funded from the Branch Gaming Account, Poppy Fund and our Ladies Auxiliary.