

**Minutes of a General Meeting
Held At Branch 92
Tuesday 8 March 2022**

Committee Members Present

President	Ray Foster
Past President	Wes Rideout
2 nd Vice President	Bob Howard

Committee Members Absent

Anne Parker
Bev Miller
Ron Miller
Doug Johnston
Scotty Stoness

Members

Alf Read
John Robertson
John Beddows
Joanne Lancaster
Owen Fitzgerald
Sharron Dorey
Janet Gaylord
Bill Beswetherick
Ann DeWolfe

Secretary/Treasurer
Manager

President There were 17 members in attendance. Ray opened the meeting by presenting to Owen and Patricia Fitzgerald the Legionnaire of the Year Award which originally was to have been presented at the 2022 New Years Levee. Owen and Pat are great supports of the Legion in visiting veterans and members at Fox Run and Carveth Care Centre, in visiting sick and injured members at home, in assisting at Brunches and school judging contests, and in supporting many aspects of the Poppy campaign.

As of 21 Feb the Branch could open with 100% capacity and the need to show a vaccination certificate ended 1 Mar. The Ontario government has announced that the mask mandate will end 21 March.

There will be no District or Zone sports this year.

A reminder of Branch annual elections Tue 12 Apr. Anyone wishing to be elected must be nominated. We are electing a President, three Vice Presidents, six Executive Members, and a Secretary/Treasurer. The Ladies Auxiliary will provide Adjudicates to count any ballots.

Ray read out a notice of motion which stated "I give Notice of Motion that at the 12 April General Meeting we will be seeking permission from members to lease a corner of our parking lot to Bell Mobility to erect a communications tower". More details will be made available at the meeting.

Recently the Branch received a donation of \$9,850 from the Shorelines Casino. In 2020 it donated \$4,500 to the Branch. Although the Branch received government grants and many donations, it has gone almost two years without being able to raise revenue.

President Ray Foster reminded members of the 13 Mar Sunday Brunch and noted that the high cost of food likely will require us to increase the cost of meals. It is planned to have a special brunch on 8 May, Mother's Day. More details to follow.

Zone Convention 20 March in Westport will be attended by Gananoque Legion members of the Zone Council Ray Foster, John Robertson, Wes Rideout, Bob Howard, and Janet Gaylord. Also attending will be Shirley Howard.

The District G Convention is in Cornwall 22-24 Apr to which the newly elected President will attend. Gananoque may be asked to host the District Convention in October if it is decided to hold two Conventions each year. The issue as to whether to host the event will be decided at the 12 April General Meeting.

The Provincial Convention will be in North Bay 14-17 May.

Treasurer The branch has \$122,293 in its General Fund and \$74,200 in its Building Fund. For a total of \$196,493. We lost \$6,602 in January. Despite being closed our utilities were \$3,159 and our insurance \$1,051. During the two years we were almost completely closed out combined insurance and utilities costs were over \$27,000 each year.

We are eating up what we have gained though generous donations to the branch from companies such as Shorelines Casino, from individual and from government grants, but our current finances are solid. Hopefully soon we will be able to operate at full capacity and begin earning some revenue.

Veteran Services Alf Read noted he had worked on many files in the past 18 months of which two are still active. He briefly outlined some of the many files he is working on, but because of the confidential nature of the cases he cannot provide many details. He did note that at times the process to assist veterans often can be quite bureaucratic, especially when involving US veterans seeking benefits in Canada and vice-versa, but is improving. Alf also mentioned the issue that perhaps Gananoque needs to have facilities to look after homeless people and not just veterans.

Youth The Joanne Lancaster/Sharron Dorey team briefed members on the very successful Remembrance Week poster, poetry, and essay contests held despite the many covid restrictions. Many thanks to Joanne and Sharron for their work despite these many obstacles. Eight of the ten Gananoque submissions which went on to Zone G-2 won there, and one of those went on to District, where it placed third.

Honours and Awards The General Meeting on 10 May will include the presentation of awards such as service pins.

PRO Janet Gaylord noted that the Legion opposes any efforts made to make the National War Memorial an issue for political protests.

Rain barrel sale. The cut off for ordering barrels is 22 March. They will be delivered Friday 27

May 2022 and be available the next day 10 am to 2 pm. The Branch is teaming-up with the Knights of Columbus in Kingston in order to share the delivery truck. In addition to selling the barrels at the Legion, we will be setting up a sales area in a place such as the Lou Jeffries Memorial Centre parking lot at a time when the Horticultural Society has its spring sales. Most sales will be by pre-order, but we will order extra barrels based on what happened during the two previous barrel sales.

Lottery We have \$14,199 in our Lottery Fund. Bill Beswetherick made a motion to donate \$250 to Wounded Warriors Canada to sponsor a former Gananoque resident (son of veteran Jack Harding) on a bicycle tour of WW1 Canadians battlefields and war cemeteries. Seconded by Alf Read. Carried. Bill Beswetherick stated he had received a written request from Linklater School asking for support to establish two outdoor learning centers on the school property. Seconded by Joanne Lancaster. Carried.

Whenever the Cadet Corps is open, the Branch Lottery fund annually supports it with a donation of \$900 with additional funding from the Poppy Fund.

Poppy There is \$15,634 in the Branch Poppy Fund. Wes Rideout made a motion to donate \$1,000 to the Ontario Command Homeless Veterans Assistance Fund. Seconded by Shirley Howard. Approved. Wes made a second motion to approve \$1,000 to the Ontario Command Bursary Fund. Seconded by Shirley Howard. Approved.

Manager Ann DeWolfe noted there would be a St Patrick's party Thu 17 Mar 4 - 7 pm, a Meat Draw Fri 26 Mar, and a Euchre Tournament Sat 27 Mar which will include prizes and a small meal. During the meeting she announced that she had just received confirmation that the Branch had received approval for a \$10,000 Ontario Small Business Grant. We wait to see what we will receive in rebate for our utilities. A plumber will be in to replace/repair two broken toilets. They are an older model so this may take some time. Bill Beswetherick will meet with a plumbing company to determine whether our wastewater discharge pipes meet what is required by our insurance company.

New Business Wes Rideout noted an opportunity to publicize our Branch at a Township Trade Show in late April. We will investigate.

Adjournment. Motion to adjourn by John Robertson. Seconded by Wes Rideout. The meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Ray Foster
President

Bill Beswetherick
Secretary