

RCL Branch 263 General Meeting – June 23, 2015
2015 BC/YUKON Command Convention Report

The Convention was held in the Ramada Inn at Abbotsford BC on June 5th, 6th & 7th, with Paul Howard, Gloria Howard, Murray Mandley & Evelyn Mandley attending.

The workshops were held on Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and were well attended and extremely informative.

The Parade Assembly and Wreath Laying Ceremony were held at the Abbotsford Cenotaph from 4:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. The Opening Ceremony and Welcome Reception were held at the Ramada Inn starting at 6:30 p.m.

The Convention Business Sessions started at 8:30 a.m. each day. Our first speaker was Roger Girouard, Rear Admiral (Ret`d) and Command Honourary President. He spoke about the Legion`s commemoration of veterans and service to the community.

Next up to the podium was **Dominion Command President Tom Eagles** who presented his vision for the Legion nationally. Angus Stanfield accepted the 2014 Bert Garrett Award on behalf of BC-Yukon Command, which is awarded for the highest percentage increase of new and reinstated members in Dominion Command. After an emotional plea for aid to Veterans in the Caribbean, Comrade Eagles asked for donations to the RCEL. Roughly \$24,000.00 was raised.

Past Command President David Sinclair spoke about assisted-supportive living complexes, how to get funding and get projects underway.

The election of officers took place over the day`s session with the following being elected for a 2 year term:

President	Marc Tremblay
1 st Vice President	Glenn Hodge
Vice Presidents	Val MacGregor & John Scott
Treasurer	Jim Diack
Chairman	Dwight Grieve

Reports of the Various Standing Committees were presented to the delegates over the 2 day period.

Membership: From 2014-2015 our Command has lost 8,000 members from non-renewal. Winners of the **One By One** campaign were Cloverdale Br. 06 with 482 new members and Gulf Islands Br. 84 with 950 members. Prizes for the most new members recruited by a member were as follows: 1st place Member of branch 134, 2nd and 3rd went to members of branch 88.

The **Executive Director** updated the delegates on some of the issues faced by the office staff and executive officers during 2014. The next convention is the Dominion Convention which will be held in St. John`s NFLD. The next BC Yukon convention will be decided by a survey of ALL branches.

The **Veterans Transition Programme** was discussed and The Legion Foundation is looking for any programmes you may know about that require funding and serve veterans or their families' needs.

The **Branch Advisory** is currently caring for 22 branches in the following categories:

Full Trusteeship	6
Probationary Management	6
Flagged for assistance or review	10
Branches removed from care in past 6 months	15

In the next term the Branch Advisory will be looking at ways to assist branches more directly with operational advice, intervention, and guidance.

Our last guest speaker of the day was **Ron Shore of 147 Airwolf Cadet Squadron** talking about the Airplane Creek Memorial being built in the Fraser Valley. Abbotsford Airport was used as a training base for bomber crews heading for the South Pacific, Malaysia and Singapore during WW 2. Lancaster bomber #KK241 crashed shortly after takeoff from the airport in 1944, all 11 members of the crew were lost in the crash. The crash site was marked by a small stone cairn at a remote mountain side near Airplane Creek (Mt Cheam). On a visit to the site the Air Cadets found the cairn overturned and decided to "put things right". They recovered parts of one engine from Airplane Creek, which will form a part of a new Memorial in Thompson Park at Abbotsford to be unveiled September 6th. The crash site is far too remote for relatives to visit. Part of the 3 piece Monument has been donated by the mason who will do the work as his way of thanking the Canadian Military for helping protect his family while they were still living in Bosnia. Command, through the Legion made a presentation of \$22,000.00 to complete the project. The recovered engine will be an integral part of the Monument, which will now be at a place where family may visit.

Resolutions Passed:

Past Officer Bar – Maintenance to 2016 Dominion Convention

Past Officer Bar – Sick & Visiting to 2016 Dominion Convention

Poppy Pin Keepers – Command to lobby Dominion Command to change supplier and Provide poppies with large keepers

Executive Professional & Ethical Behaviour: All employees of BC-Yukon Legions to sign the same statement of intent saying they will live up to the same ethical and Professional standards that are required by the executive of the Royal Canadian Legion (applies to Command and Branches)

Annual Income Assessment Poppy Fund: To change from September 30th balance assessment of 15% to an annual income assessment and that the rate for 2015/2016 be set at 4.5% and that the annual income assessment be recommended by the Ways and Means Committee and approved at each BC/Yukon convention.

Good and Welfare: The 45th annual Legion Provincial Golf Tournament will be hosted by Cloverdale Branch #6 from Friday July 24th to Sunday July 26th, 2015.

Details of the convention will be published by Command in the 2015 Convention report and will be available to all members via the Command website.

In Comradeship

Evelyn Mandley, Paul Howard, Murray Mandley & Gloria Howard