

A HISTORY
of
PRINCE EDWARD BRANCH #91
of the
ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
1927-1997

Commemorative Edition
September, 1997

PRINCE EDWARD BRANCH #91

Royal Canadian Legion

1927 - 1997



1997 RCL #91 Executive Committee

As per May 31, 1997



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Foreword

This Commemorative edition of the History of Branch #91 has been prepared by the Branch's unofficial historian, Cde Wallace Klages, to mark the Branch's 70th Anniversary on September 1 of this year.

Details concerning the Branch's earliest days have been obtained in conversations with Fred Oak, Ed Wulff and Howard Smedley, sons of three of the founding fathers. Other details have been gleaned from searches through Branch minute books; unfortunately, the passage of the years has also brought about gaps in the official record but Cde Klages has uncovered bits and pieces which are here recorded for posterity. The section covered for the years 1952 through 1956 provided by Past President Thos Panter although not extracted from our Branch Minute Book, is consistent with it.

Three score years and 10 have passed since the Charter was issued. During those years the Branch membership has progressed from a dozen persons occupying rented clubrooms in an old house but dedicated to fostering comradeship amongst veterans of World War I.

Now, after three and a half generations, the membership has clear title to a clubhouse which has an assessed value of over a million dollars whilst the membership has increased to about 1800 bods. Let us hope the present generation will continue in the tradition of service established those many years ago.



Harry Groom, President

September 1, 1997

Prince Edward Branch #91 Royal Canadian Legion

This History is being published to mark Branch 91's 70th Anniversary year. It is in three sections covering the periods 1927-1952, 1952-1956 and 1956-1977, respectively, plus an epilogue of more recent events.

In the mid-1920's, a small group of World War veterans living in the Colwood/Langford area applied for a charter to form a Branch of the Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League. In due course, Sir Percy Lake, President of the Dominion Executive Council, signed the desired charter authorizing Messrs Alex G. Mackie, Frank Smedley, George Cooney, A.E. Hall, L. Turner, L.G. Brown, E. Harper, M. Pimlott, B. Neal, H.P. Wolf(Wulff), R.B. Jeffrey, Dr D. Donald, Allan Edward Shields, A.E. Parker, and other qualified persons to constitute Prince Edward (British Columbia No. 91) Branch effective September 1, 1927. The name "Prince Edward" was chosen to commemorate the visit by His Royal Highness, Edward, Prince of Wales to the area that year.

Alexander Gowans Mackie, Langford Station postmaster and proprietor of Mackies General Store, appears to have been a leading spirit in the formation of the Branch for he is said to have advanced the first rent money on a frame house, long since demolished, set well back at the northeast corner of the Goldstream Avenue/Leigh Road intersection (back of Lynne's Little Elf Garden Centre) which served as the Branch clubhouse. The building was part of the extensive holdings of Lillian and Will Savory and became their dwelling when they vacated their residence, now the site of the Tri-Way Mobile Park on Spencer Road. Mackie became the first president of the fledgling Branch and served on the Executive Committee for eight of the next ten years; indeed, he was still serving in 1946 -- as Sergeant-at-Arms -- the year before his death on February 7, 1947.

Little is known of the Branch's earliest days but it appears to have been strong on entertainment. Financial records show a masquerade dance in early November of both 1930 and '31 as well as New Year's frolics -- such events calling for \$10.00 rentals of the Colwood Women's Institute Hall and orchestras running to \$65.00. There are no other records to be found for the period prior to 1933.

In 1933, Comrades Mackie, Smedley and Robert Johnson were appointed to form a Board of Trustees for acquiring, by purchase, the old LeQuesne Garage at 735 Island Highway which backed on the sunken garden behind the (present) Westwind Motel. A deal was struck for purchase of the property from Herbert Frank LeQuesne and Ernest Frederick, his

brother, and the second floor, which had been a dance hall, became the Legion Hall. Details of the transaction follow:

AND WHEREAS the vendors have agreed to sell to the purchasers and the purchasers as trustees of the Prince Edward branch of the Royal Canadian Legion as aforesaid, have agreed to purchase of and from the vendors the lands, hereditaments and premises hereinafter described, that is to say, -- Parcel "A" of lots "N" and "O" of section seventy-two (72) Esquimalt District, Composite Plan 2096 (see D.D. 55721 -I), also the right of way appurtenant thereto registered against Certificate of Title No 55725-I, as No. 51961-G, over a strip of land ten (10') feet wide being part of Parcel "B" and adjoining the whole length of the westerly boundary of the lands hereinbefore granted, together with all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging at or for the price or sum of Nine hundred (\$900.00) dollars of lawful money of Canada payable in manner and on the days and times hereinafter mentioned, that is to say:

The sum of Two hundred dollars (\$200.00) on the execution of this agreement, (the receipt whereof the vendors do hereby admit and acknowledge) and the balance as follows: The sum of One hundred Dollars (\$100.00) a year for seven (7) years, the first of such annual payment to be payable and paid on the 8th day of November, 1934, and thereafter an annual sum of \$100.00 until the balance of the purchase price is wholly paid. Provided always that the purchaser as trustees aforesaid may at any time before the said period of seven (7) years pay the balance of the purchase monies accruing."

By to-day's standards, those were quite liberal terms but in those "dirty thirties" it was a very great struggle to raise the funds needed to clear off the purchase price and carry on the Branch operation but the final payment was made in the summer of 1940. Any number of successes served to keep up morale. Those few members lost no time in applying what resources they had available in making whatever renovations they deemed essential to better fulfill their purpose and on February 5, 1934, the Executive Committee met for the first time in their new club rooms with Comrades President A.G. Mackie, Vice E.C. Parker, and D. Simpson, G. Bruce, and Fred Oak in attendance. The February 28th Annual Meeting saw the formal opening.

At that Annual Meeting, Mackie was re-elected as President, Rev A.M.

Acheson-Lyle, 1st VP, P. Wulff, 2nd VP, and D.F. Simpson, E.C. Parker, F. Smedley, G. Bruce and E.C. Gould as Executive Committee members. The auditor's report showed a debit balance of \$40.78 on the 1933 operation. The Annual Meeting also heard that the members were still working on renovations and that the Ladies Auxiliary had donated \$90.00 towards the building fund. President Mackie was hopeful that soon the Branch would have a credit balance.

On March 19, the members heard a report that \$300.00 would be sufficient to meet all outstanding expenses as well as to pay for much-needed improvements. Issuance of \$25.00 debentures to raise the needed funds was suggested and authority granted to have some printed and circularized. This effort at special financing appears to have been successful for at its meeting on February 14, 1939, the Executive voted to write a letter to Britannia thanking them for having cancelled the \$25 debentures that Branch held..

The first anniversary of the opening of the new Legion club rooms was marked by a birthday party. A supper served by the Ladies Auxiliary was followed by a musical programme and a session of bridge-playing, both contract and auction.

In view of the major project undertaken in the 1990's to develop honour rolls of sons and daughters of the Western Communities who lost their lives in WW's I and II, it is worthy of note that the General Meeting of April 1, 1935 approved a motion that: *"the honour roll now held at Millstream School House be put in a more safe place as at present the schoolhouse is not in use"*. The Secretary was asked to write to Mr Gregory and suggest that the honour role be passed to the Legion for custody.

More problems with the old building kept cropping up and the Executive Committee received a quote of \$46.00 in January '35 from the Sidney Roofing and Paper Company to lay a complete new roof on the clubhouse. The roofing company was requested to extend credit on the job and the matter was tabled. But the problem didn't go away, and the L.A. kept urging that action be taken on the roofing repairs. Finally, in August, a Roofing Committee was established and authorization given for an advertisement inviting tenders. The committee included two members of the Ladies Auxiliary. But nothing happened until March '42 when the Executive Committee discussed an estimate on renewing the roofing at a cost of \$17.35 for materials plus labour up to \$16.00. The decision to proceed at a suitable time was approved at the General Meeting that same night but the decision was not put into effect until September. Roofing repairs were completed in October.

In September '37, the Executive authorized a request to be made to the District Council for assistance in clearing the building fund and a grant of

\$100.00 was recorded in the May '38 minutes. The L.A. would help too. This must have been most cheering, for on October 2/37, a Special Meeting heard that the Branch would have a balance of \$00.06 when all bills would have been paid.

A garden party in July, 1937, in which the L.A. had been subsidized to the tune of \$5.00 had yielded a profit of \$145.00 so when at the May, 1938 meeting, Alice Mackie, L.A. President, spoke of having a joint (i.e., with the Branch) Gala Day and Fete on or about July 1st with children's sports and entertainment as well as stalls in which the main object was to raise funds towards paying off the debt on the hall, the idea was endorsed. The St. Aidan's United Church grounds were chosen as the site for the event the Secretary being authorized to spend up to \$25.00 for prizes, etc. A subsequent "smoker" was held on July 16 to which all members on the books were requested to come and bring a friend (and their own glass) to celebrate the success of the fete. It was repeated on July 5, 1939.

The Annual Meeting on February 19/38 endorsed the proposal that the L.A. and Branch hold combined meetings on the first Monday of each month. These, and the Branch and L.A. meetings which came to be held on the same night, fostered the practice of social gatherings and "smokers" following the adjournment of the business portion of the evening. A social evening to be held for prospective members was also recorded.

At the March 7, 1939, General Meeting, it had been decided that 50% of net profits from concerts and entertainments held jointly with the L.A. and the Branch should be shared 50/50 with the L.A. and that 50% of Branch profits should be earmarked for a building fund. The L.A. had already followed the practice of donating matching dollars. Then, on April 9, in a LeQuesne/Goodman motion, the matter was further clarified in a motion which included the requirement "that the the fund be started that night with \$2.50 from past concerts and that the Secretary start a special page in his ledger for the fund, the amount to be drawn from ordinary bank account never to be allowed to fall below Building Fund credit". Accordingly, when in June, the club held a Garden Party on the grounds of Mr and Mrs H. Grieve from which a profit of \$45.00 was realized, this was split with the L.A.. The Branch promptly credited their \$22.50 to the building fund and the L.A. followed suit.

Tombola was a regular feature as a fund-raiser during the thirties. Also concerts in the Colwood Hall under the joint sponsorship of the L.A. and the Colwood Community Association, with profits split 50/50. One such concert featured a 25-piece orchestra ! Movies were also regularly featured in the Legion Hall with children being charged 5 cents for admission and adults a dime. Card parties were to be held on the last Wednesday of the month, with a charge of 15 cents per player.

In November, 1938, the Branch accepted an invitation from Cde Rev E.M. Yerburch to attend an Armistice Service at St Matthews, Langford at 11:00 a.m. on November 13. The Legionnaires would assemble at the Post Office at 10:45 and all "returned men" were to be asked to attend the parade. The pulpit at St Matthews had been donated by the Legion but the inscription to that effect being in a very poor position for viewing, a request was to be made by the Secretary to have it moved a little higher. At the same meeting, it was agreed to ask for a wreath to be placed in the Legion Hall to-gether with the Roll of Honour and a Union Jack. It would seem that reference was being made to the 1914-1919 Langford Honour Roll which had been on display in Millstream School and which, in 1935, the Secretary had been asked to obtain from a certain Mr Gregory but the present whereabouts of which is unknown.

By late 1938, members were becoming disenchanted with the former LeQuesne Garage as a Legion Hall and on December 5, a committee consisting of Cdes Smedley, Jeffrey and Br Sec Maughan was struck to look into the possibility of building a new hall and getting help from the Federal Loan Act for this purpose. Cde Mackie proposed that in the meantime the doors downstairs facing the highway be fixed.

Minutes of the September '38 General Meeting show 9 members present; that figure was exceeded in October when 10 members showed up. At that October meeting, plans were set afoot towards fixing up rooms below the main hall and a committee consisting of F. Smedley, A. Mackie and W.H. Goodwin was struck. The following year, at the October Executive Meeting, it was agreed to rent office space on the ground floor to A.N. Brown, including the space already being occupied by Brown, at \$8.00 per month. The General Meeting approved the deal but the following month, the Executive Committee set the rental for office space at only \$5.00 per month, payable in advance ! At its July 20, 1940, meeting the Executive authorized the Secretary to make a new agreement with Brown in respect to the rental of rooms for offices "using his own judgment". The agreement must not have been entirely satisfactory to both parties for by the following summer the whole of the ground floor was available for renting.

In March of '41, the Executive approved the renting of the two front offices on the ground floor to S. Jessup at \$12.00 per month plus light and water, payable in advance; in April, he was given one month to vacate the premises ! Not to be deterred from realizing some revenue from the ground floor, the Executive then assigned identifying numbers to the rooms there, eight in all, and advertised them for rent at \$7.00 each per month.

At the November '42 General Meeting, action was set in motion towards having a portion of the ground floor renovated for use by the Ladies Auxiliary. Investigation brought forth an estimate that the work could be

completed at a cost of \$15.00 by a Mr Cunningham under the supervision of Ernest Jeffrey for the Legion. Work was still in progress in April '43. They didn't get around to considering improvements to the sanitary facilities until November of the next year, when the Executive got costs on the installation of two toilets and a septic field.

At the Annual Meeting on February 7, 1939, Annual dues were raised to \$2.50 as the per capita tax (had been taking) all the dues now. The same meeting voted to give the Secretary a \$10 honorarium to re-imburse him for expenses incurred in the line of duty. Also at that meeting, A.G. Mackie was nominated for the Dominion Command Medal or the Legion Meritorious Medal. He was presented with the Honourary Officers Medal (the forerunner of to-day's Meritorious Service Medal) with palm leaf in March at a joint meeting with the L.A. And at the same meeting, Mrs Mackie was presented with the L.A. Past President Medal -- an honour not lightly given in those days. On May 2, Cde Mackie was appointed the Branch's first Sergeant-at-Arms -- the position having been established at that meeting in response to a Command directive that Legion Ritual be carried out.

In 1934 the Executive Committee had drawn up a tariff of rentals to be charged for the use of the hall in which the rent for small parties and socials would be \$2.00, for small meetings and political \$3.00, for large meetings and dances \$6.00 and for political candidates and polling days \$10.00. The schedule appears to have been quite impractical with frequent requests approved for use at much lower rates, including one for its use for \$1.00 by St Matthews for a one-day parish vestry meeting. Finally, following a decision in December to let the Esquimalt Dramatic Club use the hall for three hours @\$1, for over three hours @\$2.00, (doing own janitoring) and @ \$3.50 if they put on a concert and use the kitchen, Padre Yerburch moved, seconded by LeQuesne that a comprehensive list of hall rental prices be drawn up at the next general meeting.

When, following the legalities connected with the signing of a deed to the property had to be dealt with in the fall of 1940, Comrades A.G. Mackie, E.R. Johnson and Wm Alsdorf were appointed to act as a Board of Trustees for Prince Edward Branch of the Canadian Legion *"for so long as each individually would remain a member in good standing in the Branch"*.

Work "bees" were frequent to repair and paint facilities inside and out. Special mention is made of the outhouses; and in 1937 the outside stairway (the only access to the main hall) was measured up to determine lumber needed for repairs. But apparently, the stairway didn't receive the attention it should have had and by the mid-forties, it was unusable and beyond repair. General Meetings now had to be floated throughout the community, although the Executive still met in one of the downstairs rooms.

By 1945, the Club was beginning to be concerned with the aesthetics of their Branch and the Annual General Meeting empowered the Hall Committee to erect a 15-foot flag staff in front of the Legion Hall. Later it was decided that the Red Ensign (the Canadian Flag in that period of Canadian history) would be raised on certain days, namely: VE-Day, Dominion Day, King's Birthday (June 9) and on other special occasions ordered by the Government. Also at half-mast when necessary. Sadly, though, in November they ruled that no more picture shows would be permitted because of structural weaknesses in the premises.

At about the same time, a suggestion was made that the Secretary write to Provincial Command asking their support in securing a hut from the Army's Colwood Camp (being phased out from its location in front of the present Juan de Fuca Senior Citizens Centre) to be set up as a new club room. The matter was pursued further at the December General Meeting and a motion approved that the incoming Executive Committee act as a Building Committee with instructions to bring forward a report on progress towards a new hall as soon as possible. In the elections held at that meeting, Trevor Norman was elected to be President for 1946 and Cde Norman continued in that position through 1947 and '48.

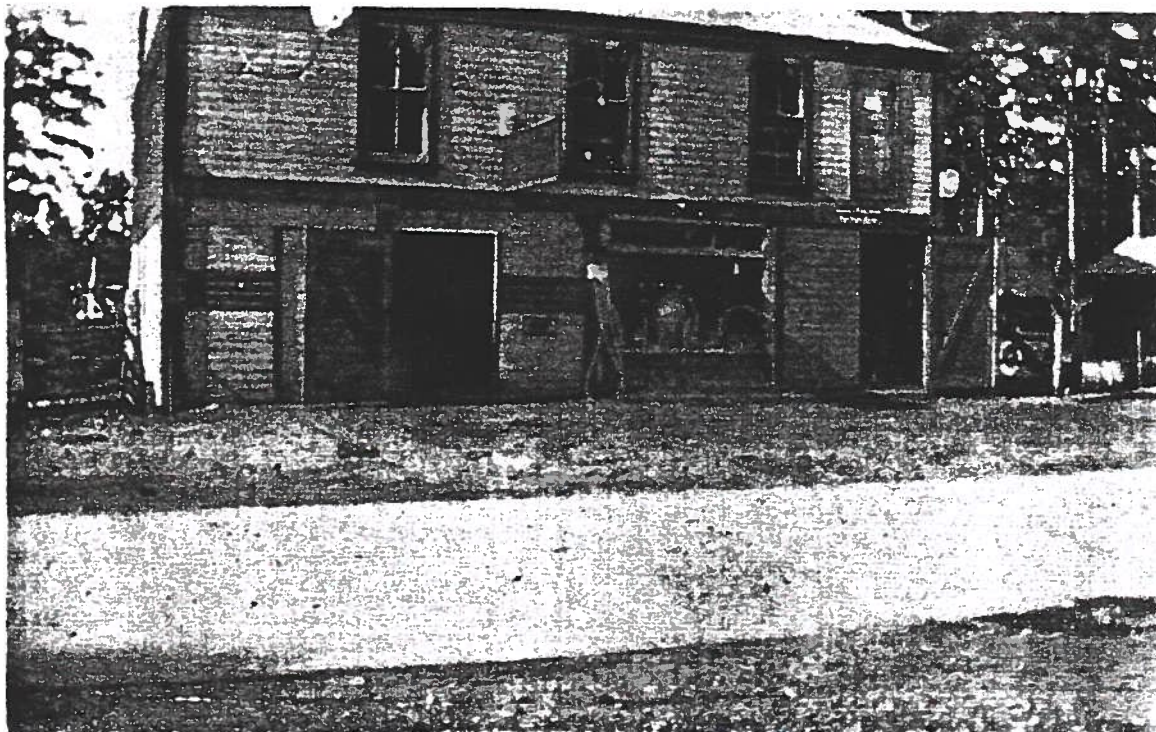
The General Meeting on November 6/45 had been a "red-letter" day in the life of the Branch, with 50 members present, including the 19 who were there for initiation that evening. Among the new members was Megan Williams, who was the Branch's first lady member. Cde Williams became the recording secretary for 1946 but we have since lost her to Branch #182, the Ex-Service Women's Branch. Although the rush of new members was short-lived, it served as a warning that there was considerable urgency in replacing the outmoded former garage-cum-dance hall and in 1946, a vacant lot at 948 Dunford Avenue was purchased in anticipation of developing a Legion Hall there.

The Goldstream property was put up for sale and, eventually, about a year later, on December 2, 1947, ownership was transferred to Homer and Elizabeth Barker, at a price said to have been \$1125.00. The former Branch #91 Legion Hall became known as the "Barker Building", later to be more precisely identified as #'s 741, 743 and 745 Goldstream Avenue to provide addresses for several businesses located there, one of which being Myrna (Barker) Harling's "Langford Beauty Shop" over what had been the LeQuesne Garage grease pit.

On April 25, 1972, the Barker Building suffered a disastrous fire which prompted Mrs Harling to accept a purchase offer on the property and the building was demolished to make way for the Westwind Plaza Hotel development. In the hotel complex, the hotel lobby occupies the approximate site of Branch #91's first permanent home .

A news item in the *Daily Colonist* dated February 8, 1947, provides an interesting glimpse of those troubled times in the history of Branch #91. It noted that prospects of securing a disused army hut to convert into clubrooms were more hopeful than had been reported by President Trevor Norman two months earlier to the General Meeting in Colwood Hall. Next meeting was to be in the Langford Women's Institute Hall. Shortly thereafter, the Branch did, in fact, purchase an army hut from the federal War Assets Disposal Corporation and it was moved to 948 Dunford Road where it has been transformed into what is currently the headquarters for the Juan de Fuca Cadet Youth Society (Beacon Hill Sea Cadets and Admiral Falls Navy League Cadets).

The anticipated rush of World War II veterans to become members hadn't happened. Most of the small group of active members were veterans of World War I and the Great Depression of the thirties; many were not in good health and were reluctant to undertake the changes and renovations needed to attract potential new members away from the amenities available at Victoria Branches. On the agenda for the meeting for the election of officers for 1952 was an item to consider surrendering the Charter.



LE QUESNE'S GARAGE 735 ISLAND HIGHWAY

Branch #91 in the Years 1952 through 1956 as Reported by Past President Thos Panter

In 1952, the Branch #91 Past President, Trevor "Pop" Norman worked in the office of the old RCN Magazine located on Wilfert Road (now the site of the Canadian Forces Supply Depot). He approached me one day at work and told me that at their next meeting, Prince Edward Branch planned on surrendering their charter. This was due to a shrunken membership and lack of interest. He told me that at recent Legion meetings there were too few Comrades present to form a quorum. "Pop" Norman asked if I would consider attending a meeting and bring along a veteran friend; possibly we might consider joining the Legion.

For my part, I didn't know there was a Legion Branch in the area. I lived in Colwood and any Legion people I knew belonged to Branches in Victoria., where "pub" facilities existed.

As luck would have it "Pop" Norman had a friend, Mr H. Williamson ("Willy") living near me who couldn't attend the Legion due to a lack of transportation, but he knew where the Branch was located. Prince Edward Branch was located on Dunford Road in Langford; hardly a well-travelled area. I invited Bill Patterson to join us. We invited Ken Robinson who invited another veteran. I believe Bruce Milburn, Ken Langrish, Alan Bodman, Tom McKay and Andy Foley completed the roster of new faces at the Legion that night. It is as well we were there, for on this, an "election of officers" night, the meeting once more lacked a quorum - to elect officers, surrender the charter, or indeed conduct any business.

The secretary of the Branch was a dear old dour Scot, a Comrade George MacGregor. He may have been old - certainly by our reckoning at the time, but he had a mind as quick as a steel trap. In those days, Branch secretaries could take your money and issue an "interim payment membership card" on the spot, and this he did with alacrity. The secretary had not seen so much money in a long while; some said he was smiling for the first time in their "memory".

When it came time for the election of officers we, the new "recruits" suggested the present executive carry on for another year or two, and elect a shadow executive to do the actual work, and to learn from the "pros". (I'm not sure we could have legally voted anyway). Theirs had not been an easy job, as we soon learned, and they deserved to be able to wear the laurels of their office without the cares and worries attendant on their positions.

The anticipated influx of members after World War II had been a non-event: it didn't happen! There were many reasons for this; not the least of which was that Branches in Victoria had amenities at hand that Prince Edward Branch dared not dream of.

The small group of active members were "old" and decrepit; with a few exceptions, such as Coms. Rory Fraser and Russ Beaton. "Old" to World War II veterans was to be in one's early sixties -- the age of our parents. Many, I fear most, of the members were in poor health. These men had endured the rigours of trench warfare, had known the terror of poison gas attacks, suffered shell shock and/or had been wounded. Some had trench feet; horrid ulcers on legs and feet that would not heal. Some were amputees, while others had to wear steel braces on their legs or use a mechanical claw in lieu of a missing hand. The "old guard" of the Branch had survived the great depression of the 1930's. This experience had resulted in a "complex" evidenced by a fear of change, and a thinly disguised hostile attitude, by some, to any new ideas. There existed an innate fear to "let go" of what little they had managed to realize after years of struggle. The "new recruits" were sensitive to the concerns of the old members and exhibited patience, and a caring that would be more difficult to find today. We too were products of the depression, and one of the marks of our generation was a respect for age. To this end the "old guard" was pampered and coddled.

Meanwhile, the army hut which the Branch had purchased earlier stood very much as it had been delivered, - in desperate need of repair and alteration. The building sat on concrete blocks and had never been set level. The "old guard" of the Branch were in no condition to undertake the necessary work, so a state of inertia prevailed. In retrospect, it is indeed a mystery, and defies explanation, as to why the Branch would purchase a building requiring so much work which they couldn't hope to undertake. Surely the "faith to move mountains" pales to insignificance when compared to that required to believe there would be a stampede of young veterans, complete with muscles, tools and money, to salvage their good intentions. Well, in a measure, their hopes were fulfilled on that fateful night that Prince Edward Branch #91 was re-born! We had lots of ideas, some tools, some muscle to transform ideas into reality: but lots of no money.

One of our first tasks was to level the building. An assortment of hydraulic jacks were assembled and set up. "Someone" was in charge. I think he was the chap with the whistle. Each time he blew his whistle we pumped our jack handles and up went the building a fraction of an inch. He must have known what he was doing for I do not recall a repeat of the evolution.

We had work parties every week; some could come for an hour or two, others for half a day. There was so much to do; partitions had to be removed inside, cleaning up, salvage, sorting etc, etc. Most of the new recruits were trying to build their own homes, so time was precious. I say "trying" because prior to the war we had no experience in the art of construction, and our Service training during the war had an opposite goal. We did turn out, however, all "instant carpenters" doing our best.

Our monthly meetings were well attended and a few new members were added to the ranks slowly but surely. Tom McKay, who lived nearby, was in

charge of the beer. He brought a dozen bottles and set them on the table next to a saucer containing four quarters (for change). Beer was 25 cents a bottle and one helped themselves. I don't think we ever lost a cent. Tea, coffee, sandwiches, cake, etc was free. The older Comrades who needed transportation were picked up and returned home "at a decent hour". The entertainment committee arranged who were to bring refreshments with an awareness of who was in a position to respond. There was always plenty and to spare, so we had to prevail upon some of the older Comrades to help us by taking the "surplus" food off our hands.

It was found that some of the older members of the Branch were not attending, because they found paying their dues a financial hardship. This was remedied "out of the pockets" of some of the "new recruits". The Branch did not pay! Our secretary was all smiles for incoming cash, but his heart became stone at the very thought of spending a dime. It was said that one would have to break his fingers to pry a penny from his fist. But I loved the old gentleman, - he was honest as they come.

As understudy to the Secretary-Treasurer, I became privy to the exact state of affairs in the Branch. My initial impression that there was a degree of confusion proved to an error. Chaos had taken over, was entrenched and was setting new goals for itself. What little money there was was safe - and all accounted for, thanks to Comrade MacGregor. Branch records were another story. My first sight of them left me with a singular emotion - despair! There was an ancient rusted typewriter and a couple of boxes; cardboard, wetted and disintegrating. I do not recall that there was anything worth salvaging. Much of it was obsolete printed matter and letterhead paper, - all water-damaged. There was no correspondence files or old ledgers, that could have shed some light upon earlier activities of the Branch. My mentor suggested that I should "take over" the secretarial duties of the Branch while he looked after the money. From the evil glint in his eye I should have suspected his generous offer to share his office. For a new secretary it was pretty much starting from scratch.

It was at this point that Comrade MacGregor confided a well-kept Branch secret - certainly a secret so far as the new members were concerned. For some time there had been problems within the Ladies Auxiliary to the Branch and the position had degenerated to a point that poison letters were being exchanged. This of course had negative repercussions within the Branch. The latest development was a threat to take the Branch to court. This unfortunate situation could no longer be ignored and was raised at the next meeting. It was decided to request that the L.A. charter be suspended for an indefinite period. This was duly arranged through the proper L.A. Command authorities, who, when presented with evidence concerning the problem, were amazed at the Branch's patience. I received two or three calls from former L.A. members who predicted dire consequences from the action the Branch had taken. The question was posed: "Where would Prince Edward Branch be without the Ladies Auxiliary?" The unfortunate truth of

the matter was "Nowhere!" It appeared that from its inception the Branch had sat on its hands and was completely dependent upon the L.A. not only for funds, but for almost everything else. The ladies in the Auxiliary were well-motivated, willing to work and did work - and for years the Branch seemed content to sit back and let them. This idyllic arrangement, so far as the Branch was concerned, might have endured had not personality clashes developed within the L.A.

Fortunately, the new members of the Branch were a new breed, in fair physical shape to work and were confident in their ability to prevail, with or without the L.A.

The task of raising much needed funds became part of the Entertainment committee. Their first sally into this unknown territory was a "Pot Luck" supper. Com. Tom McKay's wife gave invaluable catering advice as to what we needed. The wives of the members roasted the turkeys, baked the hams and made a variety of salads. "Chinette" plates were the order of the day, paper was rolled onto tables in place of cloth and, in general, much "making do" was required. The "supper" was a huge success. Whole families attended, some of the older members were brought as "guests" and the entire affair was a happy one. Things may not have been conducted with military precision, but "setting up" and "cleaning up" were accomplished in jig time. The "Glovers" (I believe) had come along and provided music for dancing. There wasn't a drop of liquor in the place, but from the "oldies" to the youngsters, everyone had a good time. I don't know that we made much money, but we had gained some experience and confidence, and had made a generous down-payment on good-will which paid high dividends in the months that followed.

The entertainment committee availed themselves of any excuse to organize a dance, a dinner or whist party. One of our members had been a cook in the Navy. He made the Irish stew for our St. Patrick's Day dinner and dance. St. Valentine's Day and Easter were occasions for family outings for dinner and a dance afterwards. Many young people (ten years of age and younger) made their debut on the dance floor at Branch 91 dances. The "oldies" were always included, were transported "to and fro" and seldom left without helping us to "dispose of the surplus" food. I recall one old couple who couldn't attend one night due to illness. They didn't live too far away, so two dinners were delivered - a sort of solo "meals on wheels".

The annual "Poppy Campaign" had for some years amounted to members of the L.A. stationing themselves at the bus stops in Langford and at Colwood Corners, to intercept passengers on the Veteran's Stage's twice daily trip to and from Victoria. On this first year without an Auxiliary, the Branch undertook a different approach. Through the good offices of Mr Ken Dillabough, we were enabled to procure an assessor's map of the Colwood/Langford area. From this it was possible to lay out routes in the more populated sections for Branch members to canvass. Each evening teams of three or four would go from house to house, flashlights in hand.

Many of the houses were some distance apart, but we covered our routes and collected more money for the Poppy Fund than ever before. Comrade George MacGregor knew happy days opening the cans and counting nickels, dimes and quarters.

For Remembrance Day, there was no special observance by Prince Edward Branch. Anyone interested attended the services sponsored by Branches in Victoria. Although this may have been satisfactory to some in the past, the practice disgusted the new membership, and it was decided that the following year we would have our own Cenotaph and service to "remember them".

To heighten the awareness of Remembrance Day and its meaning, we arranged a Legion church parade, which was announced both in St John's and St Matthews churches well in advance. Earlier we had asked the Reverend H. Jones (St Matt's) to be our Padre, and he proved a popular choice.

Today, I suppose the little "band of hope", which was the Prince Edward Branch church parade, would prove a source of some amusement. We were a handful of old codgers limping along, with a dozen or so younger veterans all in step, as we marched a few hundred yards to the church, medals shining and a-jangling. We were a motley crew: not everyone owned a beret, let alone the blue blazer and slacks which seems common to all today.

For all that, we made a decorous entrance to the church, the colours were "surrendered" at the altar, etc, all to the crisp quiet commands of Com Ken Robinson, who was in charge of the Colour Party.

Christmas at Prince Edward Branch was at hand. Most of the younger veterans had small children, so the Branch was about to experience another "first" - a children's Christmas party. There were, of course, all sorts of goodies for everyone. We had a candlelight carol sing. The children (supervised) had lighted candles, the lights were turned off, except for the Christmas tree, and carols were sung in this enchanted atmosphere. I believe it was on this occasion that many of us first realized that Com. Andy Foley had such a pleasing singing voice. A magician friend, Mr Art Curtis, provided some of the entertainment. Com. Tom McKay's son, Wes, provided some of the "props" - the magician took a wiener from Wes' ear! Tom McKay was our Santa and a huge success, of course. There were presents for all, plus a few extras we'd not expected, but for which a very competent committee had made provision. We had not forgotten the "oldies" in the Branch, they were indeed included. The magician teased Com. MacGregor about the size of the eggs he sold, "It takes thirteen to make a dozen", and Com Norm Elliot, an old bachelor, about a fictitious girlfriend.

The sick committee was a very active group. We received calls about veterans who did not belong to the Legion, from people we'd never heard of

before. The "word was out" that Prince Edward cared about veterans. The Sick Committee visited these people and found what out they needed, and referred the matter to the appropriate group within the Branch. Sometimes a work party was despatched to do what they could to help; for example, to split and pile a load of wood for a sick comrade, to repair a roof or harvest a crop of potatoes. Sometimes, it was a problem concerning Pensions and Welfare. Of these, very often it was found that local authorities had exhausted their efforts, at which time the Branch Secretary would short-circuit the procedure and contact Major General George Pearkes, V.C., in Ottawa, who had an ability to "get action". Prince Edward Branch was responsible for finally getting either a medical pension or medical entitlement for several veterans in the area. I don't recall that any of them were members of the Branch, but our goal was to help veterans, Legion members or otherwise.

Another first for Prince Edward Branch was a picnic, held at Milburn's at Esquimalt Lagoon. The affair was held in a field adjacent to the Milburn home. A friend of the Legion, Mr Bob Wishart of Colwood, arranged to get bales of bunting with which to decorate the area. Mr Floyd Adams, another friend, brought along his ponies for a children's pony ride. There were booths for hot-dogs, soft-drinks and chocolate bars, and there were various races and a baseball game. Each child had a strip of five tickets, each of which was good for a chocolate bar, a hot-dog or whatever. I can't believe anyone was ever short a ticket for anything - most everything was free!

For all the activities, work parties, service on committees and attending to their own personal affairs, the young veterans had not forgotten their intention to build a cenotaph to honour their fallen Comrades. Discussions as to what it should look like were influenced by Com George Speed's information that he knew of a concrete cross that "resided" in a ditch beside Craigflower Road by the golf course. The final design submitted to the Branch by the Executive was adopted. I'm not sure who drew up the final plans, but it could have been Com Brian Goodwin, who was a draftsman. Com George Speed was the concrete and masonry expert of the Branch, so he undertook the building of the Cenotaph.

By 11 November, 1953, the Cenotaph was finished, the front yard of the Branch was cleaned up and the gravel raked. The parade formed up at the Public Works building and marched along Dunford Road to the Branch. Piper Doug Porteous led the parade, Padre H. Jones, ably assisted by Rev J.A. Stewart, conducted the service. After the service, the Branch held an open house. There were refreshments for everyone, and a large number of friends availed themselves of the Branch 91 hospitality.

Each year, the parade became larger, as more people became aware of our efforts to honour our departed Comrades. The crowd attending the service grew also: the community was involved! One might hear a parent

explaining (in a hushed voice, to a small child), what was happening. The Fire Brigades from both Langford and Colwood marched as a unit, and contingents from the three Services participated. We even had a "Minute Gun" - an ancient 12-pounder field gun manned by a Naval Cadet Gun's Crew.

In 1954, it was decided that it would be fitting to have a veteran as a member of the Cenotaph guard. On this occasion, we were proud indeed to have Com. Andy Foley fill this role. I recall my heart swelling with pride as I watched the "mounting of the guard" and Andy performing the rifle drill like a professional. He had not forgotten: from the "Slope arms!" to the "Rest on your arms - Reverse!".

In 1955, the Flag Officer Pacific Coast (the Admiral at Esquimalt) sent an officer to represent him at our Remembrance Day service. The officer, Cdr. Ken Lewis, advised me later that ours had been one of the most moving November 11th services he had ever attended. During his "inspection" of the Veterans unit, Cdr Lewis was surprised to find one of our members wearing a Battle of Jutland medal, and our Comrade was pleased the Commander recognized it.

However large the parades became, we always had Piper Doug Porteous lead us. He was such a friend to Prince Edward Branch, who will ever be in his debt.

As part of our Remembrance Day programme, the Branch sponsored an essay contest at Belmont High School. The prizes were modest -- 25, 15 and 10 dollars -- we were not exactly a wealthy Branch. I may have forgotten to mention that there weren't many millionaires in our ranks. As a matter of fact, I don't remember even one. Prior to November 11th, the president of the Branch visited the high school, gave a short address, presented the awards and left an invitation for the students to participate in our Remembrance Day observances. Many did!

In the junior schools, a veteran, complete with medals, would visit each class, ensure every pupil had a poppy and explain the meaning of Remembrance Day Com. "Willy" Williamson, a born raconteur, had been in the Queen's 6th Dragoon Guards in South Africa and had some pretty "hairy" tales to tell. He was a great favourite.

Beginning in 1953, and again in 1954, the office of secretary-treasurer was assumed by a "new member"; by 1955, senior Branch offices were held by the "new guard" and with it some re-thinking on the matter of the L.A. By this time the Branch had been without an Auxiliary for almost four years and had survived; had even prospered. This would not have been possible had it not been for the help and support members received from their wives - at dinners, etc.

About this time hints were being dropped by these ladies that they could be more effective if organized into a Ladies Auxiliary. The necessary action was taken to have the charter re-activated - a happy day for Branch 91! This Ladies Auxiliary, however, was to be just that -- an Auxiliary! -- not a group intent (consciously or otherwise) on taking control of the parent Branch. What a marvelous group they were who comprised the new L.A. : Mary Slater, Patsy Patterson, Norma Goodwin, to mention a few. Their goal was to help the Branch, and this they did so very graciously. They were an energetic body and in no time at all were holding teas, having rummage sales and pursuing a variety of activities to raise money. In the meanwhile, the Branch continued on as before and, fortunately, did not allow itself to be lulled into a "Let Mabel do it" state of mind. Our new Auxiliary was a great help to the Branch and as a bonus added a little "touch of class" to our undertakings.

This pretty well exhausts my recollections of the years 1952 through 1956. They were happy years, filled with many hours of work and untold frustrations. The camaraderie we knew and the obstacles we overcame and successes achieved together made it all worthwhile.. We had inherited an old army hut that served us well during those formative years. The hut, however, was devoid of potential as a Legion Hall and for all the hours of effort expended on it paid scanty returns.



Prince Edward Branch #91, RCL, 948 Dunford Avenue

Prince Edward Branch #91 1957 through 1977

As membership grew, so club horizons widened, and in '58 a proposal to build a bowling alley and licensed premises facilities at an unidentified Goldstream Avenue location was given some consideration. However, a Special Meeting went on record for dropping the plan for purchasing the property "for the present" as it was beyond the club's means. The same meeting recommended investigating the purchase of more property on Dunford Avenue. Meanwhile, work continued on improving the existing facilities, with Al Bodman in charge of the debenture certificates for the building renovations. An addition was opened at the New Year's dance of December 1960 and an entry hall at the south end of the building was added in 1962.

Typical of the young Branch coming of age, the January 3/61 Executive meeting concerned itself with matters of dress and decided that the Branch numerals should be worn on the beret to the left of the Legion badge. The next month, they decided to discontinue the out-moded practice of marching on the colours at meetings -- henceforth the flags and colours were to be pre-posed. Purchase of a Branch seal was authorized in July '63 and in December, a decision was taken to retire the old colours .

Branch picnics continued to be held at the end of August rather than in July as were the earlier Gala Fetes. Tom Panter described the 1956 picnic which had been held in Milburn's field adjacent to Esquimalt Lagoon. Although they became annual events following a similar format specifically directed at children, the Branch kept an open mind as to the site; in 1963 and '64 it was at Sunny Shores with the Sooke Legion, in 1965, at Sooke Flats jointly with Metchosin and Sooke but then it was moved to the S.V.I. Ranger property on Happy Valley Road, until in 1994 the rental became prohibitive and the picnic venue was again re-located. This time, it came home to the Branch's "Back Forty" on Station Avenue.

With burgeoning membership -- in 1960, it was 60, 1962, 117, and by 1963, it had shot up to 178 -- a positive step was taken towards expansion when, at the April 15th Executive Meeting, Roy Bell, R. Harman, Cy Price, E. Simonson and Andy Foley were appointed to be a committee to work on plans for the purchase of a 240' x 120' lot known to be available at a reasonable price and construction of a building in which the Branch could operate a liquor lounge. They were charged to bring a report to a Special Meeting to be convened on May 13. The Committee proceeded to take out a 21-day option on a site at 761 Station Avenue owned by Walter Scotney.

The Special Meeting approved the Committee's proposal that the site be purchased at a price of \$4800.00 with options on adjoining property at the rear -- the total area being 3 acres, that the Dunford Avenue property be

advertised for sale, and that a building of approximately 5000 square feet be constructed at a cost of approximately \$30,000.00 to be financed through the sale of shares at \$100.00 each.

The whole project was to be administered by a holding company -- Royal Trust handled the sale of the debentures. Some legal problems delayed finalization but by mid-summer these had been resolved and on September 23, the building Committee were able to announce that a contract had been signed with Vickery Construction Ltd for the shell of what is now the lounge and games room costing \$17,208.00. By the October 7th General Meeting, all but three of the debentures had been sold. Sale of the Dunford property also brought some financial concerns. The deal with Foxcel Enterprises (Carpet Care) whose \$4500.00 tender had been accepted in December ended in the lawyers' hands in July 1969 but, eventually, the property was purchased by Myrna Barker Harling.

Nights and weekends, member-volunteers worked hard and long to finish the inside of the building into a hall plus a lounge area. The LCB granted a lounge license and on February 19, 1964, the Lieutenant-Governor of B.C., General George R. Pearkes, officially opened this present home of Prince Edward Branch (Pacific #91). A bronze plaque supplied by Mortimer's Monumental Works commemorates the opening. And in August, Bayliss Neon offered to install a lighted sign outside at a monthly rental of \$18.00. The cenotaph was moved from Dunford Avenue to a location now occupied by the auditorium by the Jogindar Lumber Co. The November 11 parade route was now changed to begin at the Masonic Hall on Goldstream Avenue then down Station Avenue to the Branch with Joy Gilham (now Newham) piping the way.

The first recorded church parade was on November 13, 1938, to St Matthews Church, Langford at the invitation of the Padre, Rev E.M. Yerburgh. All "returned men" were to be asked to attend with the parade forming up at the Post Office. The parade was repeated in 1941, '44 and '45; wearing of medals was expressly requested. A church service in Belmont High School auditorium on November 4/62, began a tradition of Remembrance Week church parades which now (1997) has settled on St Mary the Virgin church at Metchosin as the locale, the parade taking place on the last Sunday preceding Remembrance Day.

During its early days, the Branch made a point of organizing visits to local cemeteries each year prior to November 11 to decorate veterans' graves, a practice which has been abandoned -- even the grave of our founding father having been left unmarked, untended and forgotten.

The position of Secretary Manager was approved at the General Meeting in January '64, with commencement of duties apparently to co-incide with the opening of the new building for, on February 17, Cde F.A. Richards was hired to fill the position as well as to serve part-time at the bar, B. Milburn

continued as Recording Secretary, followed by Connie McMillan. When in June '67, Bruce Milburn was appointed Secretary Manager, he also assumed the duties of Recording Secretary.

All through the sixties, Cy Price Nites were annual features of the Branch social program. It was early in 1960 that Cy, proprietor of Price's Store, offered to donate articles for raffling to raise money for the Building Fund, on condition that the Branch would run the raffles. From this small beginning, Cy Price Nites developed to the extent they were moved to the Catholic Hall because it was larger; they raised many thousands of dollars which, in later years, were devoted to retiring debentures on the Station Avenue premises. In 1966, Cy requested that \$300 - \$400 of the expected revenue be devoted to setting up a Pensioners Exemption Fund for the benefit of older veterans who would find the \$2.00 raise in membership fees burdensome. Of the 47 members screened, 22 were deemed to qualify for the subsidy.

In the Great Canadian Flag Debate which raged in the mid-sixties, the Branch fought a losing battle with the Legion bureaucracy. The General Meeting in February '65 approved purchase of a "maple leaf" flag as soon as stock would become available. It also decided to erect a second flag pole to continue displaying the red ensign and at the same time, that the Union Jack would be retained in initiation ceremonies. Clarification was to be sought at the forthcoming Provincial Convention. Then a Special Meeting in July decided that a single flag pole would be erected at the cenotaph and that the red ensign would be flown in this place of honour from sunrise to sunset. The matter was resolved by a directive from Pacific Command in November -- the Maple Leaf Flag is to be flown at all cenotaphs on Remembrance Day. There was no prohibition placed on use of the red ensign, neither was its use anywhere or at any time encouraged.

With membership, including Fraternal Affiliates and the Ladies Auxiliary approaching the 1000 mark, expansion was once again undertaken and early in February, 1974, sod was turned for construction of an auditorium as an annex to the north of the existing building with a mortgage of \$250,000. An additional \$35,000 was borrowed to finish the basement. Renovation of the original building provided our present lounge, games room and improved kitchen facilities. The construction of the annex necessitated removal of the cenotaph and it was rebuilt in the Juan de Fuca Recreation Park adjacent to the Centennial Swimming Pool where it was dedicated on April 6, 1975.

That same year Frank Whipps donated a photo of his Uncle, Alex G. Mackie, to the Branch, an enlarged copy of which hangs in a prominent spot in the lounge .

In 1972, when it was learned that the Scotney property to the north of the Branch holdings was for sale, a committee was struck to investigate low

rental housing. Despite its "dire financial straits", in October 1976, the Branch managed to purchase the property in its move to sponsor building the low-rental housing now known as "Prince Edward Lodge".

In 1971, the Fraternal Affiliates were organized as an Auxiliary. They held their first meeting in November and in March of the following year received a set of club rules. The Fraternal Affiliates have added much to life within the Branch, particularly in the area of sports. They have also contributed generously to the Branch's financial well-being for in the period covered by this "history" they turned \$6,000 over to the Branch. In the same period, another interested group, the Ex-Service Women, donated \$4,850 .

Another tireless group within the Branch has been the Ladies Auxiliary. Records do not show when the "L.A." was first formed but there are frequent references to it as a viable operation which lent much-needed financial and moral support to the men as far back as 1934. Indeed, in 1939, Alice Mackie received the L.A. Past President medal; strangely, the charter currently on display in the Branch is dated May 19, 1977, with the notation that it replaces the original charter of November 17, 1955!

The ladies have never been content to operate simply as fund-raisers . In April '58, at a joint Branch/L.A. meeting, terms of reference for a bingo operation were concluded -- the men to operate the bingo and the ladies to provide "no host" refreshments. Unfortunately, the L.A. found it necessary to give up their bingos in June of 1971. True to their instincts as good housekeepers, the L.A. donated a meeting cover in 1961. And early in 1975, the L.A. introduced the ever-popular steak nights which are held on the second Friday of each month, the first having produced a profit of \$91.93. Sadly, the L.A. has struggled along in the doldrums since about 1992.

However, over the years, contributions made by the L.A. have been substantial. With current records only specific back to 1964, the L.A. is credited with having contributed over \$180,000 to-wards Branch operating expenses and programs between the years 1955 and 1991. And in the past 10 years the L.A. have donated an additional \$20,000 to community programs of their own. When in 1976, the Branch 1st VP, Hank Kasper, reported the dire financial straits the Branch were finding themselves in , the L.A. promptly voted \$3,000 to-wards the purchase of beer-dispensing equipment. The following year, 1977, the L.A. came through again with a \$6,000 donation to-wards the cost of paving the parking lot. A plaque to mark the Branch's appreciation is on display in the lounge.

Also in 1977, the L.A. donated the cost of the 50th Anniversary banquet!

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Epilogue Branch 91 Subsequent to 1977

The "dire financial straits" continued as the Executive discovered when, early in 1978, an application for a new mortgage was rejected because of \$12,500.00 in unpaid taxes. Again the L.A. produced a sizable donation to help clear up the situation.

In a series of moves in 1979, the three cottages located in the parking area and which had served as revenue producers in the form of rent as well as facilitating Branch programs such as the Poppy committee and sea cadet sponsorship were demolished -- one by fire in a Langford Fire Department exercise.

Membership continued to grow with the advent of Voting Associates and, with membership in the 1600 range, the abutting property on Aprell Place was purchased as part of a long-term plan for future expansion. Through the eighties, renovations continued. A snack bar operation was added to the kitchen facility, the "Back Forty" park laid out, the parking lot expanded, and the lounge area enlarged by the addition of a small dance floor "cribbed" from the auditorium .

As the nineties got underway, a vastly expanded scholarships program was added to the roster. Although the Branch appears to have contributed to the Sir Percy Lake Memorial Scholarship for many years, its commitment to the Pacific Command bursaries was less than enthusiastic. It had, however, approved a \$200.00 bursary fund for students within this community in February '68 and appointed its first Scholarship Officer in January, 1969. In November of that year, bursary certificates were presented to Margaret Bodman, Nicolene Andrews and Jean Rolston.

By the spring of 1990, a \$100,000.00 scholarsip/bursaries trust fund had been accumulated from the Branch share of lottery ticket sales. The annual interest-earnings were allocated to the award of two scholarships to students graduating from our local senior secondary school. An unspecified number of bursaries -- limited only by the extent of the monies available each year -- were also approved for individuals wishing to improve their academic or vocational standings. The first of the scholarships, the Alexander Gowans Mackie Memorial Scholarship, was presented by the Scholarships/Bursaries Committee Chairman Wallace Klages, to Jacqueline Tenhove at the Belmont Awards night in June 1990; as well, a runner-up scholarship of \$1000 was presented to a second student, Tara Dunning. At the same time, 16 - \$500.00 bursaries were presented from the same fund. That year all the bursaries were to grade 12 graduating students but since then others have been given to adults seeking to upgrade their education.

In 1991, the Cenotaph which had been rebuilt adjacent to the Centennial Swimming Pool in the Juan de Fuca Recreation Park was again relocated to what, it is hoped, will be its permanent location and it was again rededicated on October 6. The setting behind the pool, though beautifully suited to "remembrance", unfortunately became a quagmire almost every year at the time of the November 11 Remembrance Ceremony.

In 1991, Hank Kasper donated the yardarm style of flagpole which now graces the front lawn of Branch #91, and ramrodded its erection, to give greater latitude in the flying of flags to mark special days or events as the occasion develops; normally, these being the Union Jack, the Canadian Flag and one other.

October 2, 1994 saw the culmination of an extensive research project which had spread over several years; that was the day on which an Honour Roll listing local residents who had lost their lives on "active service" in World Wars I and II was unveiled. As well scrolls listing the names of men and women of Colwood, Langford and Metchosin who had enlisted in Canada's armed forces in those wars were put on display. Later, these were mounted on a "Wall of Remembrance" specially constructed in the lounge for the purpose.

Over the years, the Branch's founding father and his wife, the L.A.'s first president, lay in unmarked and forgotten graves but 1990 saw the beginning of a search to rectify this situation. After several years, the search ended where it began -- in Hatley Memorial Gardens. On June 26, 1996, a grave marker provided by the Last Post Fund was unveiled and dedicated to the memory of the Branch's founding father.

The Branch #91 commitment to a Legion Seniors program, which has come to the fore in the nineties, is minimal. Following the General Meeting on April 7, 1969, a room in the basement had been furnished to serve as the Branch Library and Games Room for WWI veterans and a key was provided for security of the games and books stored there. The room very obviously was unsuited to the purpose and has fallen into disuse.

An enthusiastic group of seniors, not necessarily Legion members, carpet bowl in the auditorium on Tuesday and Thursday mornings on carpets supplied by the Sports Committee of the Prince Edward Lodge across the parking lot from the Branch. As well, regularly-scheduled darts and shuffleboard play complements the Branch sports program. Dorothy Cockrell's "Qwik Piks" sextette of musicians recruited from the seniors community and made up of herself and husband, Jack, Grace Hawkins, Tony Stone, Vern Wilcox, Orville Speed and Jack Drysdale have proven to be a popular band with a good following at the monthly Sunday tea dances, at seniors facilities and at Legion functions from Sooke to Sidney.

PRINCE EDWARD BRANCH #91 PRESIDENTS

1927-1929	Alex G. Mackie	1966	G. Andrews
1930	Robt A. Pennington	1967	Andy Foley
1931-35	A.G Mackie	1968-69	J. Austin
1936	Rev Acheson-Lyle	1970	Ed A. Anderson
1937	Frank Smedley	1971-72	Jim Swain
1938-39	Wm Alsdorf	1973-76	Jim Mayzes, Jr
1940-41	Ernest F. LeQuesne	1977	Bernard C. Stevens
1942-45	F.J. Day	1978	Allan A. Gray
1946-48	Trevor Norman	1979	T. Al Gallupe (to June)
1949-50	-	1979-80	Leo Benesh
1951	N. Elliot	1981-82	Charles J. Laban
1952	R.H Sanders	1983	Hugh Sangret
1953-54	Ernest Jeffrey	1984-85	Roy Flatman
1955-56	Thos P. Panter	1986-87	Wilf Beck
1957-58	Al Bodman	1988	Karl Kavanaugh
1959	W. Patterson	1989-90	Glen Kellington
1960	Bruce Milburn	1991-92	Bent Lidemark
1961	R. Bell	1993-94	Loran Benoit
1962-64	Andy Foley	1995-96	L.P.(Jack) Cockrell
1965	(S.E. Campbell (to March) (Albert Atkins	1997	Harry Groom

Ladies Auxiliary Presidents since 1955

1955, '56	Mary Slater	1974	S. Furber
1957, '58	M. Watt	1976, '77, '82	Vye Schaap
1959	Norma Goodwin	1978	F. Scott-Polson
1960	R. George	1979, '80	E. Scharpe
1961	M. Douglas	1983, '84	Georgina White
1962	E. Harris	1985, '92	Jean Johnson
1963, '64	Mary Anderson	1987	Linda Thorpe
1965, '66, '81	Lucy Green	1988, '89, '90, '91	Norma McAuley
1967, '68, '70 '71, '72, '73 '75, 81	Pat Darley	1993	Pat Jamieson
1969	M. Vigar	1994, '95, '96	Roberta Urton
		1997	Doris Aikman

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Prince Edward Branch #91, RCL, in 1977

**Prince Edward Branch #91
Locations**

1 Savory House	-	1927 - 1933
2 LeQuerne's Garage	-	1934 - 1947
3 948 Dunford Road	-	1946 - 1963
4 761 Station Avenue	-	1963 - 1997





Branch #91, 761 Station Road, February 16, 1964

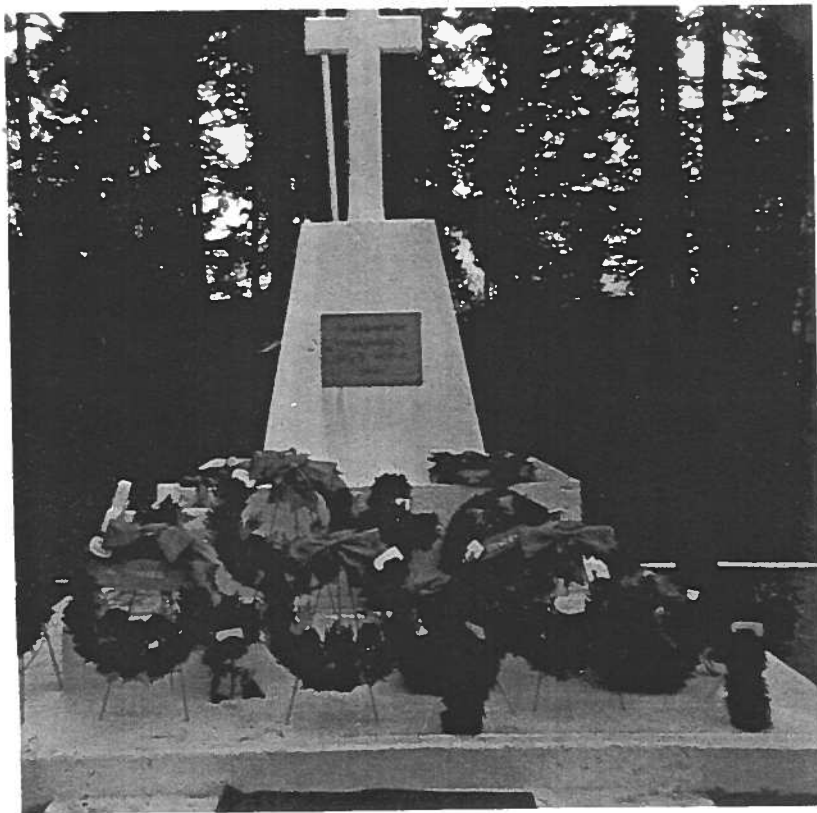


SOD TURNING FOR NEW WING, 1974

From the left: (Executive members) Tom Bone, Bruce Milburn, Jim Mayzes (with the shovel), Harold Ferguson, Construction Superintendent, Bank Loans Manager, Frank Quiring



Burning the Mortgage, January 29, 1972



Cenotaph at 761 Station Road



Cenotaph Unveiled at Juan de Fuca Park, April 6, 1975



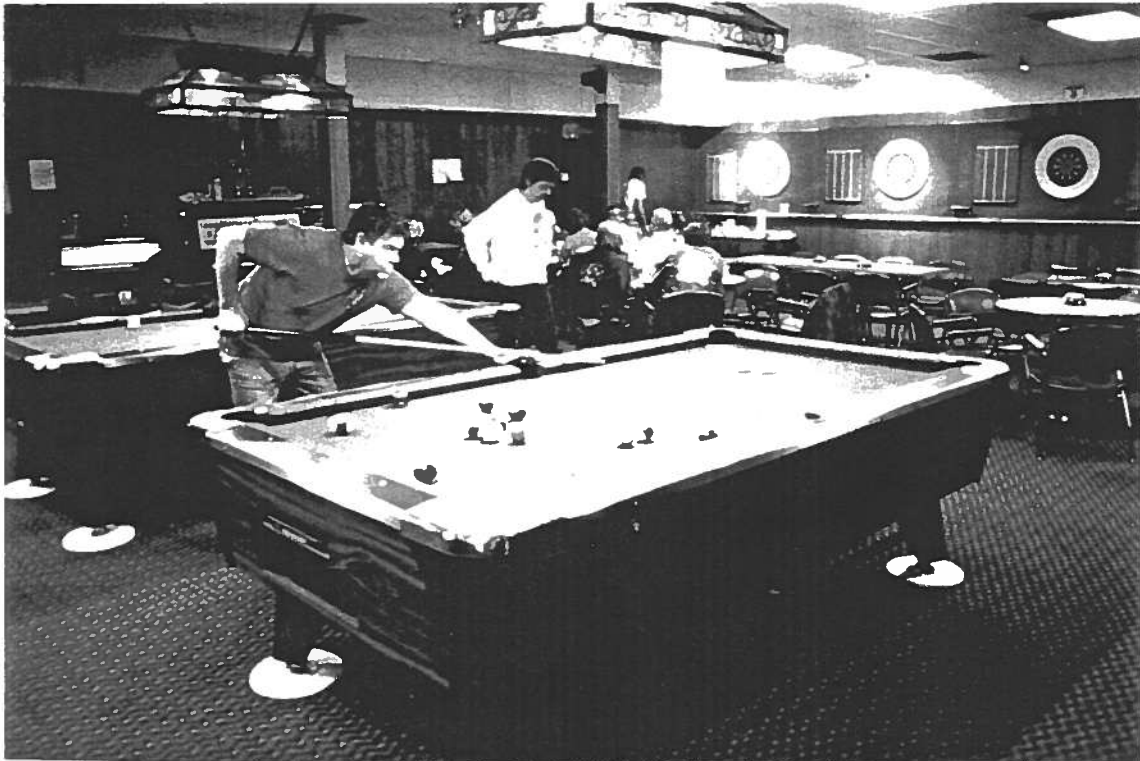
Relocated Cenotaph at Juan de Fuca Park, October 6, 1991

The following table shows the results of the experiment. The first column is the number of trials, the second column is the number of correct responses, and the third column is the percentage of correct responses. The data shows that the percentage of correct responses increases as the number of trials increases, suggesting that the subject is learning the task.

Number of Trials	Number of Correct Responses	Percentage of Correct Responses
10	5	50%
20	12	60%
30	18	60%
40	25	62.5%
50	30	60%
60	35	58.3%
70	40	57.1%
80	45	56.25%
90	50	55.56%
100	55	55%

The data shows that the percentage of correct responses starts at 50% for 10 trials and increases to 60% for 20 trials. It then fluctuates between 55% and 62.5% for the remaining trials. This suggests that the subject is learning the task and improving their performance over time.





"All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy"
Sports are the "in" thing in the nineties



Prince Edward Branch #91, RCL, 1997

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