

**Minutes of a General Meeting
Held At Branch 92
Tuesday 14 March 2023**

Committee Members Present

1 st Vice President	Anne Parker
2 nd Vice President	Janet Gaylord
3 rd Vice President	John Beddows
Acting Secretary	Bill Beswetherick
John Robertson	Sergeant at Arms
Owen Fitzgerald	
Sharron Dorey	
Joanne Lancaster	
Chris Ormsbee	

Absent

Bob Howard and Shirley Howard (on vacation)	
Wes Rideout	Alf Read
Carla Nelson	Bruno Mathieu

Manager Ann DeWolfe

1st Vice President/Interim President Anne Parker

Anne raised the issue of the 14 February General Minutes and asked for comments and for a motion to approve. Motion made by John Robertson. Seconded by John Beddows. Carried.

Anne noted that the Branch continues to experience problems getting members to attend meetings despite her many E Mail reminders. Our by-laws require a minimum of 10 members to be able to conduct a General Meeting. There were 14 members in attendance for this meeting. She reminded members that the minutes of Executive and General Meetings are on the Branch website.

Anne Parker explained an issue with Sunday Brunches. We are being asked to allow children to attend our Sunday Brunches as a group. Everyone agreed to the plan. The 12 March Brunch saw many children attend with the result we had 140 people attend.

Finances Bill Beswetherick noted that our finances are OK, but some major expenses impact us. We benefited from a donation of \$6,000 from the Ladies Auxiliary but recently discovered that our February gas bill was \$1,619, or \$55 a day, double what it was last year at this time. Cardboard poppy

John Beddows suggested that the Branch could benefit by placing some of its General and Building Funds in short-term investments, especially because of current high interest rates. This suggestion will be passed to our Branch Treasurer.

Lottery There is \$10,967 in our Lottery Fund. We received a thank-you letter from the Gananoque Humane Society for our recent \$200 donation. We have a request for funds from St Joseph elementary school to purchase hockey sweaters. Bill Beswetherick made a motion to give the school \$400. Seconded by Owen Fitzgerald. Shirley Walker indicated the Ladies Auxiliary may also consider donating. Bill will pass to the LA a copy of the school request for funds.

PRO Janet Gaylord explained a programme from National Film Board of Canada in which we can show free movies in April. She is having discussions with the Gananoque Royal Theatre to use its facilities and with the Film Board on what movies to show. The films would be advertised as a fund-raising event. The Branch used to show Film Board movies here, but few attended. John Beddows asked for confirmation that the event would not cost the Branch. Janet stated the event would not cost the Branch and that any profits would go to an area charity. Motion to approve the concept was made by Janet. Seconded by Christina Gordon. The choice of film(s) to be decided by Janet.

The Branch is being asked to host a presentation by well-known Canadian historian Ted Barris on Friday 14 April. Our LA would be paid to provide a light-meal dinner before the presentation at the Branch, as was what was done about 4 years ago. Meal tickets for the event will be pre-paid.

Youth Education The Branch Website contains many photos of the results of the Remembrance Week Poster, Essay, and Poetry and the recent Public Speaking contest. Congratulation to the many children who participated and thanks to Youth organizers Joanne Lancaster and Sharron Dorey.

Bursaries Since 2005 the Branch has not funded bursaries at the Branch level but has sent Poppy Funds to the Provincial Bursary Fund. There was a discussion about again presenting bursaries at the Branch. Bill Beswetherick and John Robertson will seek clarification from Command on who can receive them at Branch and the financial limitation of the bursaries.

Poppy The Poppy Fund now stands at \$14,600. Bill Beswetherick noted that Ontario Command would not allow the Branch Poppy Fund to be used to donate to Operation Stress Campaign dog organizations which are not among the groups supported by Ontario or Dominion Command. The Branch Poppy Fund also cannot be used to finance the bi-weekly veteran coffee gatherings. These expenses must come from Branch Operating or Lottery Funds.

Bill noted that during the past two years this Branch has given Ontario Command Bursary and Homeless Veteran Funds \$9,000 and has spent only \$290 on Gananoque activities (Youth Education).

Sunday Brunches 140 people attended the 12 March Brunch.

John Robertson noted the problem some of our volunteer's face: At the most recent brunch, three of those doing the preparation before the meal started had an average age of 84. We need more volunteers to give these senior volunteers a rest.

Adjournment John Robertson made a motion at 7:48 pm to adjourn. Seconded by Owen Fitzgerald. Carried.

Anne Parker
1st Vice President

Bill Beswetherick
Acting Secretary