

**Minutes of a General Meeting
Held At Branch 92
Tuesday 12 November 2023**

Committee Members Present

Acting President	Anne Parker
Second Vice President	Janet Gaylord
Members	Alf Read
	John Beddows
	Owen Fitzgerald
	John Robertson
Acting Secretary/Treasurer	Bill Beswetherick

Committee Members Absent

Bob Howard
Wes Rideout
Shirley Howard
Joanne Lancaster

President Acting as President in the absence of President Bob Howard was 1st Vice President Anne Parker. Also absent was Secretary Treasurer Shirley Howard. There were 16 members in attendance.

Before the start of the General Meeting , Anne and acting membership chair Carl Duff, received two new members, David Massey and Kathleen Warburton, both swore allegiance to branch 92.

Anne Parker noted the passing of Zone Commander Rob Fernell. His obituary is on the Branch website. Anne also noted the passing of Nadine Henshaw. For many years she laid the Bereaved Mothers wreath at the start of each Remembrance Day ceremony. In Nadine's absence, the wreath this year was laid by Nancy Payne, the mother of Randy Payne, killed in Afghanistan in 2006.

The Branch and the town of Gananoque had a tremendous Remembrance Day ceremony compliments of the work of organizer John Beddows. Anne also noted the very successful Poppy Campaign organized by Poppy Chair Owen Fitzgerald. Owen later noted the great support he had received from many Branch members on Poppy Day, and especially appreciated the support he received from Alf Read in setting out and retrieving the many poppy boxes. Owen stated that on Monday 20 November he and other volunteers will be completing the counting of income from the offering of poppies and from poppy boxes.

The 12 November Brunch was a great success with over \$1,200 raised.

Anne Parker noted the minutes of Branch General and the previous Executive meetings are available on the Branch website. John Beddows put forward a motion to accept the minutes. Seconded by John Robertson. Carried.

Treasurer In the absence of Shirley Howard and our Manager Ann DeWolfe there was no financial report.

During the meeting, Charlie Burrige raised concerns about the future of this Branch as it consistently has been losing money over the past two years, even after the end of the covid shutdown. He recommended a financial team be set up to examine how the Branch can address the rising costs of operations and suggest ways to raise funds. He noted that his issue should be a top priority for the Executive and for all members. (Note from Bill Beswetherick - in October 2022 the Branch had \$119,144 in its General Fund and \$74,300 in its Building Fund. for a total of \$193,444. The financial statement for October 2023 showed the General Fund had \$101,407 and the Building Fund \$75,293 for a total of \$176,700 for a loss of \$16,744 over this 12 month period, even though the Branch receives major donations from the Ladies Auxiliary as well as funds it raised from meat draws and Sunday Brunches.) Charlie suggested that whoever is elected as 1st Vice President each year should preside over any Branch Finance Committee so that he or she would have a sound understanding of the financial situation prior to being elected President.

PRO Anne Parker read PRO Janet Gaylord's report in which she noted the excellent coverage the Branch has received recently in the Gananoque Reporter.

Youth The report by the Joanne Lancaster/Sharron Dorey Youth team had a very successful 2023 Remembrance Week poster, poetry, and essay contests in which many of the entries were put on the wall in the Web Room for Branch members and the public could view them on Remembrance Day.

Honours and Awards Bill Beswetherick note that the 2024 New Years Levee will start at 11 am on 1 January 2024 rather than 10 am as in the past so you can sleep in after attending the New Years dance on 31 December. Our MP, MPP, and the mayors of Gananoque and Leeds and the Thousand Islands have been invited to speak at the event in which the Gananoque and Area Food Bank will be named as the Gananoque 2024 Gananoque Honouree of the Year.

Lottery We have \$11,199 in our Lottery Fund. Bill Beswetherick made a motion to donate \$350 to the Christmas for Kids Toy Drive. Seconded by Alf Read. Carried.

Bob Howard made a motion at the 7 November Executive to make a donation of \$500 to the Gananoque Wheels of Care of which Shirley Walker is a volunteer driver. Bill Beswetherick seconded this motion. Carried.

The Remembrance Day ceremonies were well attended, with a tremendous crowd attending. John Beddows, the Remembrance Day organizer, made a motion to donate \$500 to the Queen's University Band to assist it in defraying the expenses it incurred in attending this event. Motion seconded by Owen Fitzgerald. Carried.

Bill Beswetherick put forward a motion to donate \$1,000 to the Gananoque and Area Food Bank. Seconded by Alf Read. Motion carried. Bill noted the donation would be made to the Food Bank at the 2024 Levee where it will be named as the Gananoque Honouree of the Year for its work in the community.

Bill noted that the Branch had received a request from the Gananoque Salvation Army for a donation to its Xmas Fund. Bill made a motion to donate \$350 to the Salvation Army. Seconded by John Beddows. Motion carried.

Poppy Owen Fitzgerald thanked the members who assisted him in having a very successful Poppy Campaign. At the next General Meeting, Owen will brief members on the results of the counting of funds raised during the campaign.

Service Officer Al Read observed that there are few veterans at the regular coffee gatherings at the Branch and suggested we open the event to include Legion Members. His recommendation was supported.

Manager in the absence of our Manager Ann DeWolfe, Bill Beswetherick noted the following events: Meat Draw Friday 24 Nov. Craft Fair 25 Nov. LA Xmas dinner 11:30 am to 1 pm. New Years Party with Neil Carter. Details to follow on these events. Levee 1 January 2024 starts with Meet and Greet at 11 am.

New Business The Ladies Auxiliary has invited all Executive Members and their spouses/partners to their Christmas Dinner to be held Friday 8 December. Refreshments from 5:30 to 6 pm. Supper at 6 pm. Please contact organizer Debbie Lloyd at 613-382-7736 during the day if you cannot attend.

Adjournment. Motion to adjourn by John Robertson at 8:12 pm. Seconded by Owen Fitzgerald. Carried.

Anne Parker
Acting President

Bill Beswetherick
Acting Secretary