

COMMUNITY SERVICE

One of the aims of the CCM is to develop in youth the “attributes of good citizenship”. To that end, good citizenship is defined as “actively and purposely participating in your community”.

SERVICE GROUPS

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

By the end of WWI there were a total of 15 veterans’ groups and a number of regimental associations representing former service members in Canada. Despite their common goal of helping returned servicemen in need, their efforts were fragmented and largely unsuccessful. In 1925, an appeal for unity leads to the formation of the Dominion Veterans Alliance, out of which evolved The Canadian Legion of the British Empire Services League the following year.

WWII brought an influx of new demands. The Legion provided canteens, entertainment and reading material for those serving abroad and at home, as well as correspondence courses to help them out on their return to civilian life. But most importantly, from the onset of war, the Legion began to prepare for the returning troops. Financial compensation, clothing allowances, pensions, medical treatment, preference in the civil service, vocational training and land settlements were all routinely arranged and provided. To this day the Legion maintains a nation-wide network of professionals helping veterans, ex-service members and their families to secure the pensions and benefits to which they are entitled.

Although the Legion was founded to advance the cause of veterans, its grass-roots structure led naturally to community service. Almost every Legion branch in Canada is involved in one or more youth programs. It may be sponsoring a local hockey team, a cadet corps or a scout troop. It may be sponsoring youth leadership training or other programs that meet the needs of youth in the community. The Legion wants Canadian youth to know that the freedoms they enjoy did not come without a price. The Legion supports the cadet movement in Canada to promote leadership, fitness and the spirit of patriotism. It also supports the Legion Medal of Excellence, which many branches and commands provide to honour outstanding cadets.

Today, with over 450 000 members, The Royal Canadian Legion is the largest veterans-based community service organization in the country, contributing millions of dollars and voluntary hours to help Canadians, particularly veterans, seniors and youth. Most Canadians associate the Legion with remembrance ceremonies and activities perpetuating the memory of those who died in the two world wars and the Korean War. Probably the most widely known activity is the National Poppy Remembrance Campaign in which Legion members, friends and cadets distribute poppy emblems for donations to raise money for needy veterans, ex-service members and their families.

LIONS CLUB

Since 1917, Lions have served the world’s population through hard work and commitment to make a difference in the lives of people everywhere. With 1 436 487 members serving in more than 44 500 clubs in over 180 countries and areas, Lions Clubs International is the world’s largest service club organization. Canada alone has over 1900 clubs and over 49 000 members. Lions are recognized worldwide for their service to the blind and visually impaired. The club motto is “We Serve.”

Lions International objectives:

- To create and foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world.
- To promote the principle of good government and good citizenship.

- To take an active interest in the civic, cultural, social and moral welfare of the community.
- To unite the clubs in the bonds of friendship, good fellowship and mutual understanding.
- To provide a forum for the open discussion of all matters of public interest; provided, however, that club members should not debate partisan politics and sectarian religion.
- To encourage service-minded people to serve their community without personal financial reward, and
- To encourage efficiency and promote high ethical standards in commerce, industry, professions, public works and private endeavours.

ROTARY CLUB

Founded in 1905, by Chicago Lawyer Paul Harris and three business acquaintances, Rotary International is a worldwide organization of more than 1.2 million members, in more than 29 400 clubs in 160 nations. The objective of the Rotary Club is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

- the development of acquaintances as an opportunity for service;
- high ethical standards of business and profession;
- the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and
- the dignifying by each Rotarian of their occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
- the application of the ideal of service by every Rotarian to their personal business and community life; and
- the advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace, through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

A good example of Rotary's work is their partnership with the World Health Organization and the United Nations to immunize all the children of the world against poliomyelitis – the wild poliovirus. To date, a million volunteers mobilized by Rotary have immunized a billion children throughout the developing world. The goal of the Polio Plus campaign was to certify the eradication of polio by the year 2005 – Rotary's 100th anniversary. In 2005, Rotarians and partners celebrated the tremendous progress made towards polio eradication.

KIWANIS CLUB

The first Kiwanis club was organized in Detroit, Michigan, USA on January 21, 1915. A year later the Kiwanis Club of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, was chartered, and Kiwanis International grew rapidly into a leading service club in these two founding nations. In 1962, worldwide expansion was approved, and today Kiwanis clubs are active in every part of the world. The club motto is "We Build." There are more than 8500 Kiwanis clubs with more than 315 000 members in 82 nations and geographic areas.

Kiwanis' continuing service emphasis is called "Young Children: Priority One," which focuses on the special needs of children from prenatal development to age 5. Projects conducted as part of the "Young Children: Priority One" service emphasis involved \$14.3 million and 1.3 million volunteer hours.

In 1994, Kiwanis launched its first Worldwide Service Project, a \$75 million campaign in partnership with UNICEF to eliminate Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDDs) by the year 2000. IDD is rare in areas where iodized salt is used, but in other parts of the world, IDD is the leading cause of preventable mental and physical retardation. As many as 1.5 billion people are at risk, especially young children. In 2000, \$62 million was raised, and the goal of \$75 million was surpassed in 2001.

THE UNITED WAY

The United Way is a non-profit organization that works in partnership with community agencies and organizations. By bringing groups together to share experience and expertise, the United Way is working with others to improve community life. Each year the United Way collects millions of dollars needed for essential health and social services and programs. The money is carefully distributed to meet the greatest need in our community and a rigorous review process ensures that the money is spent effectively.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

The boys and girls club enhances the quality of life for children and youth by providing a safe and welcoming environment. It offers supervised activities, support and counselling for young people aged 6 to 18 years old. They also provide a social service for "at risk youth," and youth with special needs.

CEREMONIAL PARADES

It is important to participate in ceremonial parades to promote an interest in the Canadian Forces (CF), while simultaneously serving a role in the community. Ceremonial parades are a large part of Canada's military past, and provide a direct link to the community. It is important for cadets to fully appreciate the relationships between the unit/affiliated unit/CF and the community in which they live.

REMEMBRANCE DAY OBSERVANCES

Every 11th of November Remembrance Day is held to commemorate Canadians who died in the First and Second World Wars and the Korean War. The first Remembrance Day, originally called Armistice Day, was conducted throughout the Commonwealth in 1919. The day commemorated the end of the First World War, on Monday, November 11, 1918 at 11 a.m., the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. The symbol of Remembrance Day is the poppy, popularized by LCol John McCrae's poem *In Flander's Fields*.

BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC (NAVY)

The Battle of the Atlantic began September 3, 1939 with the sinking of the Montreal-bound passenger ship SS Athenia by a German submarine west of Ireland. One hundred and eighteen passengers and crew were killed, including four Canadians. Escort of merchant ship convoys was the RCN's chief responsibility during the Battle. The first convoy sailed from Halifax on September 16, 1939. The Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) began the war with 13 vessels and 3500 personnel, and ended the war with the third largest Navy in the world. Of the 110 000 members at the end of the war, all of whom were volunteers, 6500 were women who served in the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Services. The Battle of the Atlantic was considered to be won by the Allies in 1943, although this battle lasted the duration of the Second World War that, in Europe, ended May 8, 1945. The Battle of the Atlantic is celebrated on the first Sunday in May.

BATTLE OF BRITAIN (AIR)

The Battle of Britain parade is held in September each year to commemorate the Battle of Britain and honour the members of the Air Force who died in this battle and others. The Battle of Britain was entirely an air battle and was one of the most decisive battles in all history. During the autumn of 1940, the Commonwealth Air Forces defeated the German Luftwaffe. It is believed that Great Britain would have been invaded had the Battle of Britain

been lost. The Royal Canadian Air Force is proud of the active part it played in the historic battle.

Vimy Day (see video at <http://www.histori.ca/minutes/minute.do?id=14742>)

One of the greatest battles in Canadian history was the battle at Vimy Ridge, which began on 9 April 1917. Canadian bravery and valour led to the tremendous victory for the entire Allied Force and was considered the turning point of WWI. For the first time in World War I, all four Canadian divisions fought on the same battlefield. They were led by Sir Arthur William Currie, who was the first Canadian-appointed commander of the Canadian Corps. Currie determinedly kept the Canadian divisions together rather than having them mixed in with various British units. It was the first time the Canadians fought together, and they achieved a magnificent victory, sweeping the Germans off the ridge.

In 2003, the Government of Canada declared April 9 as "Vimy Ridge Day", to honour and remember the Battle of Vimy Ridge. Ceremonies take place at the Canadian National War Memorial in Ottawa, the Canadian National Vimy Memorial in France and other areas across Canada.

Warriors Day (see web site <http://www.thewarriorsdayparade.ca/>)

Although formally established as Warriors' Day in 1921, military parades and demonstrations have been an important tradition since 1879. Initially recognizing the importance of allocating a specific day to pay formal tribute to the Veterans of the Great War of 1914-1918, the Warriors' Day Parade ensures that ongoing tribute is paid to all ex-service men and women of Canada. Warriors day is typically held around the 20th of August on a Saturday.