

**October 7<sup>th</sup> 2024**

**To Mayor Mark Sager and Council:**

Tonight the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 60 would like to brief you on our current activities in the West Vancouver and our involvement in supporting the social fabric of this Community. The attached letter requesting a meeting with Council provides a general background to our operations and the challenges both financial and in membership numbers that we are now facing.

We continue to provide service to our veterans and serving members of the Military and Police. Attached are some news articles of two North Shore Veterans who have been honoured by Veterans Affairs Canada, and in particular Harry Greenwood who still comes to the Legion on a regular basis (assisted by his daughter), at age 99, where he is able to socialise with his many friends.

Also attached is a photograph of our Building which although containing an attractive English pub like setting and garden, suffers from age and requires ongoing maintenance and volunteer work. We are fortunate to have members skilled in carpentry, electricity, and plumbing who have saved us many thousands of dollars..

As previously mentioned we suffer from the vagaries of flooding from the adjacent Lawson Creek, which has occurred on several occasions. We would appreciate being able to discuss these issues with your Engineering Group to investigate any further remedial work that can be undertaken to avoid further incidents.

We have a very comfortable lounge and a beautiful patio/garden (maintained by volunteers), we also have a sizable meeting room and kitchen on the second floor which is rented out from time to time but is badly in need of refurbishment. We have established a business plan to expand our rental income through a complete refresh/renovation on this floor to attract new patrons and expand rental opportunities.

We are basically a member-based organisation, but guests and new members are always welcome. Membership is open to all and is a nominal \$75 pa (\$43 of this goes to Ottawa)

We are constantly looking at ways to attract new members and expand our social activities. Perhaps there could be opportunities for municipal partnering with the West Van Recreation Department?

Like many Legions throughout the Province, some of which have been forced to close or reinvent themselves through redevelopment partnerships, we must adapt to a changing social and demographic environment.

We are now embarking on planning our Remembrance Day Activities in particular our annual poppy campaign which takes around two months of organising and operating all carried out by volunteers and cadet and other youth groups.

The annual sum raised is between \$80 and \$100,000 and it is all used for supporting veterans and associated causes including veteran homes, equipment, hospitals etc.

No funds raised from the poppy fund or our bingo, meat draws etc. can be used to support operational expenses. We are reliant on volunteers and fund raising within the Branch. We do need more visitors and members to contribute to a positive financial and social environment and although we are a members club everyone is welcome to attend our regular socials, dinners and dances.

We hope that all of Council will visit our Branch during the upcoming season and maybe become regular attendees if not members !

Yours Sincerely,

Ron Beesley, President

Robin Hicks, Treasurer.

**September 7<sup>th</sup> 2024**

**To Mayor Mark Sager and Council:**

We are writing to request a meeting to bring Council up to date with the Legion and its operations in West Vancouver. The future presents many challenges for our continued existence in this Community.

This Legion was formed in 1919 and received its Charter on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 1926.

Our Mission is to serve Veterans, current serving members of the Military and RCMP, to promote Remembrance and to serve our Communities and Country.

Annually our Poppy campaign raises between \$80,000 and \$100,000. These funds are used to support Veterans through support to individuals and institutions such as hospitals and homes for seniors. We partner with the District in the Remembrance Day ceremonies and open the Branch to all on November 11<sup>th</sup> every year.

We also provide free meeting space to DWV Fire and Police Departments and to other Service Clubs. Our lounge provides a social meeting place for Community Events and for seniors to meet and socialise. There are many single seniors whose main social venue is this Legion. Also we have a regular following on weekends for bands, karaoke and bingo.

We are particularly grateful for the annual permissive tax exemption provided by the District, in fact we rely heavily on this benefit to operate. This brings us to outline some of the financial challenges which are threatening our business operations. Our financial problems arose during the Covid period when our lounge operations and fund-raising events suffered badly, volunteers were hard to find, and a long-time permanent staff member left. Our Legion was put under Trusteeship from 2000 to 2022, and we are still under supervision. Unfortunately, some financial irregularities occurred during this period and as a result the Branch was forced to borrow \$80,000 to repay \$40,000 for a CEBA loan and other statutory debts. ***We also owe DWV \$40,000 for metered water usage, accumulated over a three-year period from leakages we were unaware of.*** The Legion also suffers from occasional flooding incidents from Lawson Creek overflows and this year we had a major sewer break in our front parking lot.

We are now back in a positive operating environment hosting social events, with regular band music on Friday and Saturday nights and hosting a variety of other activities such as bingos, quizzes, golf tournaments etc. We also raise gaming money through meat draws and 50/50 draws which by law must go to local community groups and similar deserving causes.

We have a very comfortable lounge and a beautiful patio/garden (maintained by volunteers), We also have a sizable meeting room and kitchen on the second floor which is rented out from time to time but is badly in need of refurbishment. We have established a business plan to expand our rental income through a complete refresh/renovation on this floor to attract new patrons and expand rental opportunities.

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Like many Legions throughout the Province, some of which have been forced to close or reinvent themselves through redevelopment partnerships, we must adapt to a changing social and demographic environment.

We have further information on these topics but would prefer to discuss these at an in-camera session as it involves sensitive personal and financial data.

Yours Sincerely,

Ron Beesley, President

Robin Hicks, Treasurer.

# West Vancouver veteran recounts chaos of D-Day invasion 80 years ago



[Nick Laba](#)

Jun 6, 2024 5:58 PM

Updated Jun 10, 2024 10:22 AM

99 yrs old.



1 / 3 Harry Greenwood was a signalman on HMS Jaunty, a rescue tug, which sailed in the first wave of D-Day landings on June 6, 1944. | Nick Laba / North Shore News

[Listen to this article](#)

00:05:06

Eighty years after Allied forces stormed the beaches of Normandy, France, images of the invasion still flash through Harry Greenwood's mind like the flashes of a signal lamp.

Aboard HMS Jaunty, a rescue tug, Greenwood – who now lives in West Vancouver – was assigned to the first wave of D-Day landings on June 6, 1944.

Opening and closing the shutters of the ship's signal lamp, the 19-year-old communicated with other vessels and operations on the shore via a code that changed daily to avoid enemy detection.

The task of the Jaunty and other rescue tugs in the Second World War was to save the crews from damaged craft, and tow those ships away when possible.

"The beach master will signal: 'HMS Jaunty assistance required at Juno [Beach], such and such a point,' he said. "That meant that we were going up there because a ship had been sunk.

"So we go over there to try and get them out of the water, and try and get them back to land."

Even after all this time, Greenwood can't bring himself to recount much of what he witnessed that day.

"Because I'll just cry," he said. "I was watching them just die, suffering in fuel and oil, and stuff like that."

While he and thousands of other veterans are remembered for their valour that day, Greenwood remembers chaos.

"Every person had his own story because every person can only see what he was involved in," he said. "The guy who's coming off the beach, off the top of the craft and jumping into the water with a gun and running up on the beach – all he sees is a beach.

"He's not caring about who's beside, about who's in front of him, or what the hell is happening. All he says is, 'I'm getting the hell out of here.' And that's everybody's idea. Get to your point of safety," Greenwood said.

As the battle to invade German-occupied France raged in the sea and on land, the fight thrummed through the sky as well. In particular, waves of gliders – filled with troopers and heavy weapons – were towed in by warplanes and released above Normandy.

"That was murder," Greenwood said. "Half of them were killed, because the gliders just hit the ground and disintegrated."

One of the biggest screw ups that day was the decision to paint Allied planes with black and white stripes, the veteran said.

"That was for identification, but they didn't tell us – so we were shooting at them," mistaking them for German planes, Greenwood said.

## Greenwood immigrates to Canada, becomes outstanding citizen in West Vancouver

After remaining off the coast of France until November that year, the Jaunty returned to escort and rescue missions in the North Atlantic. Greenwood would continue to sail with the Jaunty in South East Asia following Victory in Europe Day in May 1945 before being discharged from service and returning to his native Scotland.

But coming home wasn't the welcoming jubilee you might expect. After several visits to offer condolences to families of friends who were lost, Greenwood found he couldn't continue.

"They look at you as if, 'What are you doing here? Why aren't you dead?'" he said. "That's a hard thing to do, for them to look at you talking about their son, when you look like their son."

"During wartime people don't realize how it destroys the fabric of society, and breaks up homes and breaks up marriages," Greenwood said.

The young man studied in Glasgow before immigrating to Canada in 1951. Greenwood first settled in Hamilton, Ont., working as an apprentice machinist and climbing the ranks as a union member.

After retiring in 1992, Greenwood and his wife moved to Squamish to be close to their only daughter. Eventually the couple settled in West Vancouver, where Greenwood has established himself as an exceptional contributor to the community.

For his efforts, which continue today at age 99, he's earned multiple honours, which include being named Super Trustee by the West Vancouver Memorial Library and Citizen of the Year by the West Vancouver Chamber of Commerce.

When he moved to B.C., Greenwood became a member of the Royal Canadian Legion, assisting veterans and their families, and holding executive positions within the organization.

Greenwood has also been honoured for his wartime service on numerous occasions, receiving the Legion of Honour Medal from the French government in 2014. He's travelled to Normandy several times, including the 75th anniversary of the landings on Juno Beach in 2019.

With eight decades to experience and reflect on the cost of war, Greenwood said he gets angry at the flawed diplomacy that leads to more death and destruction today.

"We have a government supporting Israel, with a nation supporting [Palestine]. How do you handle that?" he said. "War is a bad, bad thing and yet we still have idiots that want to go to war."

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# Veterans receive service commendations

Matthew Gilmour  
Sep 1, 2016 4:27 PM

*Now 99.*



Two North Shore veterans received official commendation from the veterans affairs minister on Monday.

At a ceremony in Richmond, Harry Greenwood of West Vancouver and Edmund Wu of North Vancouver, along with 12 others, were honoured by Minister of Veterans Affairs Kent Hehr for their outstanding service in caring for local veterans. It is the highest honour the ministry gives.

"It was humbling," said Greenwood. "Standing there with those guys, with all of our decorations, and to think, we were all just boys. We were all just boys."

His gracious and tireless commitment to the health and well-being of West Vancouver's veterans made Greenwood stand out, a ministry release stated. He joined the Royal Canadian Legion in

1992 and served on the executive committee for Branch 60 in West Vancouver in numerous positions, including first vice-president and chairman. Now as the branch Service Officer, Greenwood makes sure his members receive any and all services the Legion provides. In April, he was named West Vancouver's citizen of the year.

While serving in the Royal Navy during the Second World War, Greenwood saw battle on the Atlantic and the shores of Normandy as well as in Southeast Asia. In 2014, at the 70th anniversary of D-Day, he laid the wreath on behalf of the Canadian contingency at the Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery in Normandy. On that same trip, he was awarded the French Legion of Honour with the rank of Chevalier (French for "knight").

At 91 years of age, Greenwood said he's not slowing down any time soon. He plans to continue his work serving the North Shore's veterans, although he will now do so while proudly sporting his new lapel pin, a golden maple leaf resting on a red poppy.

A proud veteran of the British Hong Kong paramilitary Correctional Services, Wu is now an Active Member of the Army, Navy, and Airforce Veterans of Canada. He is the driving force behind many events that foster comradeship and support among veterans in North Vancouver.

With the Chinese-Canadian Military Museum Society, Wu continues to volunteer his time commemorating the contributions of Chinese-Canadian veterans of the first and second world wars.

Speaking about Monday's ceremony, Wu said, "It was a great honour."

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Fax: (604) 922-2659

[westvanlegion60@gmail.com](mailto:westvanlegion60@gmail.com)

**2024 EXECUTIVE AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

**President:** Ron Beesley - [rbeesley@westvanlegion.ca](mailto:rbeesley@westvanlegion.ca) - Mobile: [REDACTED] s.22(1)

**Vice President:** Steve Fitzpatrick - [REDACTED] s.22(1) - Mobile [REDACTED] s.22(1)

**Executive:**

Robin Hicks - [rhicks@westvanlegion.ca](mailto:rhicks@westvanlegion.ca) - Mobile: [REDACTED] s.22(1)  
Vanessa Horn - [vhorn@westvanlegion.ca](mailto:vhorn@westvanlegion.ca) - Mobile: [REDACTED] s.22(1)  
William Woods - [REDACTED] s.22(1) - Mobile: [REDACTED] s.22(1) 1 year term  
John Hart - [jhart@westvanlegion.ca](mailto:jhart@westvanlegion.ca) - Mobile: [REDACTED] s.22(1)  
Mark Polder - [mpolder@westvanlegion.ca](mailto:mpolder@westvanlegion.ca) - Mobile: [REDACTED] s.22(1)  
Meghan Polder - [REDACTED] s.22(1) - Mobile: [REDACTED] s.22(1)

**Automatic Executive Position: Immediate Past President:**

Stuart Evans - [REDACTED] s.22(1) - Mobile: [REDACTED] s.22(1)

**Appointments:**

Chaplain and Service Officer:  
Dal McCrindle - [REDACTED] s.22(1) - Mobile [REDACTED] s.22(1)  
Sergeant-at-Arms:  
Steve Cochrane - [REDACTED] s.22(1) - Mobile [REDACTED] s.22(1)  
Finance Chair: - Robin Hicks  
Bill Woods - Secretary

**Branch Executive effective August 20, 2024:**

President, Vice President, 6 Executive Members ( 3 of which are elected for 2 year terms in alternating years), Immediate Past President, Finance Chair, Secretary, Service Officer, Veteran Liaison (currently vacant). Steve Cochrane attends Executive Meetings Ex Officio as Deputy Zone Commander.

**Zone Representatives:**

We are allowed a maximum of 5 representatives. Next meeting is early June 2024

We can nominate up to 5 people to be our voting zone representatives.

## Standing Committees:

1. **Finance** - Finance Chairman(Chair), President, Secretary
2. **Membership** - Wendy Kennedy - wkennedy@westvanlegion.ca - Mobile s.22(1)  
s.22(1) Candiss Cox- candiss@westvanlegion.ca - Mobile s.22(1)
3. **Ways and Means Fund Raising** - Vanessa Horn(Chair)
4. **Bar Management Lounge Operations** - John Hart(Chair), Starr Mayo(Bar Manager) starr@westvanlegion.ca Mobile s.22(1), Meaghan Polder, Robbie Rees, Dave MacDonald, Doug Shwery.
5. **Sport** - Chair ?
6. **Building and Grounds** - William Woods (Chair), Joe Sutherland s.22(1)  
s.22(1) Graham Mackintosh s.22(1)  
Mobile s.22(1) Dan Rothenbusch s.22(1) s.22(1)
7. **Poppy and Benevolent Fund Administration** - Service Officer(Chair), President, Secretary and Finance Chairman.

**Bookkeeper:** Ria Exner - rexner@westvanlegion.ca, Mobile s.22(1)

**BCYukon Probationary Manager:** Steve Jeske steve.jeske@legionbcyukon.ca,  
Mobile s.22(1)

**Zone Commander:** Bev Croft - bev.croft@legionbcyukon.ca

## Banking Information

**Royal Bank of Canada**  
1705 Marine Drive  
West Vancouver, BC V7T1J5

Elaheh Nolan MA, Relationship Manager, Business Markets - North Shore & Hastings  
236-788-9840 e-mail elaheh.nolan@rbc.com

We have 4 accounts. General, Lottery, Gaming and Poppy. Signing officers, President, Vice President, Secretary and Finance Chair.

## TD Canada Trust

Kalla Warren  
Branch Manager  
1645 Marine Drive, West Vancouver, BC V7V 1J2  
604-981-5680 Ext. 250 kalla.warren@td.com  
We have 2 accounts. Signing officers, President and Secretary

## Insurance Information

Insurance Company: **Intact insurance**, in house council Talya Nemetz-Sinchein  
Insurance Broker: Axis Insurance, Patrick Gunning, Johnny Luu. Insurance is arranged by BC Yukon Command. We have a copy of our policy.

## Miscellaneous Contacts

Plumber: Reid ?, Robbie Rees, Budget Drainage s.22(1) Mobile s.22(1)  
Restoration Contractor: Nigel Malkin s.22(1)  
IT Consultant: Peter J. McGrath Peter@westvanlegion.ca s.22(1)  
Health Officer: Jennifer Flor, jennifer.flor@vch.ca s.22(1) Charlene Wood,  
charlene.wood@vch.ca s.22(1)