



## Economic Development & Planning Committee

Thursday, December 22, 2011,  
immediately following the Public Meeting  
City Hall - Council Chambers

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### Committee Members

Councillor J. Baker , Chair  
Councillor T. Blanchard  
Councillor L. Bursey  
Councillor M. Kalivas  
Mayor D. Henderson,  
Ex-Officio

### Areas of Responsibility

Economic Development  
Planning  
Chamber of Commerce  
DBIA  
Heritage Brockville

Museum Board  
Library Board  
Arts Centre  
Tourism

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### **DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Royal Canadian Legion Brockville Ontario  
"To Promote Remembrance"  
Request for fee waivers

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# Royal Canadian Legion Brockville Ontario



Branch #96    180 Park Street K6V 2H5    613-345-0473

**The Royal Canadian Legion supports programs for seniors, community, housing, Long Term Care, youth, education, sports, Cadets, Guides and Scouts**

Our mission is to serve Veterans,  
which includes serving military and RCMP members  
and their families,  
**“To promote Remembrance”**  
and to serve our communities  
and our country.

## Background:

2012 marks the 85 anniversary of the Royal Canadian Legion. With changing demographics and the passing of many WW I and II Veterans, Legions across the country continue to struggle to exist and serve the communities in which they reside. Brockville Branch 96 is no exception!

With reference to the Legion mission statement, the most significant role the Legion plays is “To Promote Remembrance”. Remembrance for those who fought and died for the liberties we all enjoy today.

On November 5, 2011 a local group of citizens from the music-theatre community wrote and performed a Music Review entitled “Bless ‘Em All” A Tribute to the Veterans of WWII. This production was attended by 225 people and was sold out in 3 days. There were many disappointed people including veterans that were not able to get a seat because of the sold out venue.

The primary reason behind writing this music review was for the production to be used as a tool to promote Remembrance! This production was recognized by The Royal Canadian Legion as part of the 2011 Remembrance commemoration ceremonies leading up to November 11<sup>th</sup>. Thousand Island Secondary School Art and Technical students participated in this production by designing, painting and building the set for this production. This show was an overwhelming success and it achieved what it set out to do; promote Remembrance! The entire cast donated their time and the show to the Royal Canadian Legion and all profits from the show were donated to branch 96 to help them with the wonderful work they do in our community.

## Idea:

Due to the success and response from the public there have been many suggestions from the community to put this show on again, only this time at the Brockville Art Center for all to enjoy and to be used again as a tool to promote Remembrance.

This music review was originally written to be performed as a full blown musical with a cast of approximately 25 people and this is the show we would like to produce versus the 5 person troupe that just performed.

It has also been suggested that this show become an annual event.

The Royal Canadian Legion in partnership with creator of this production A.J. Benoit, The Brockville Theatre Guild, The Brockville Operatic Society, The Brockville Rifles and local businesses would like to invite the City of Brockville to become a “major” partner behind this project. We would like to request the city waive 2 costs associated with using the Brockville Arts Centre. These costs are rent and seat surcharge. **This is a one time ask!** We would like to use this initiative to kick-start an annual show for Remembrance week leading up to November 11<sup>th</sup>.

Next year and following years we plan on being self sufficient and rely only on funding from the general public through fundraising initiatives and donations. We would like to see the City of Brockville take a leadership role and encourage all Brockvillians to support this important initiative.

### **How it Works:**

The Theatre Guild in joint venture with The Brockville Operatic Society utilizing soldiers from the Brockville Rifles will perform this musical production. There would be 2 performances a matinee an evening show held on one day only November 10<sup>th</sup>. Both the T/G & the BOS will volunteer their time for this initiative and will not be seeking compensation. All proceeds from ticket sales will pay for the cost to put on this production i.e. set materials, costumes, props etc. All profit remaining after costs will be donated to The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 96 in order that they may continue to provide the good work they do in our community to include promoting Remembrance!

### **Benefits:**

The benefits realized from this initiative will:

- Promote Remembrance
- Assist the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 96 with their community initiatives  
(Most important the promotion of Remembrance)
- Realize a collaboration that spans across many key organizations within our city
- Provide entertainment value to the community at large
- Involve many young people who will be the ones that will carry the torch of Remembrance once our generation is gone.

### **Next Steps:**

City of Brockville to partner with The Royal Canadian Legion, The Brockville Theatre Guild, The Brockville Operatic Society, The Brockville Rifles and local businesses.

A.J Benoit will be the liaison between all organizations

I would like to close by saying it is the “**duty**” of all Canadians to do their part in which ever way they can to pay Remembrance and to educate the next generation the importance of doing so.

Thank you for considering this proposal.

Lest we forget,

A.J. Benoit  
On behalf of  
Royal Canadian Legion Branch #96