

## A Letter from the President

Greetings Comrades,

I am hoping that this finds you and your Families in good spirits, hale and hearty and looking forward to celebrating Christmas with your loved ones and Friends, whether it be in person by Facebook, by twitter, by phone (this is the only one I can do on my own) but Lynne is here to help me and god knows I need all the help I can get in the technology department so whichever way you decide to celebrate the holidays I hope it is one filled with Joy and Happiness and so from my Family to yours we wish all of you Merry Christmas, Joyeux Noel, Feliz Navidad, Buon Natale, Frohe Weihnachten, Feliz Natal, Vrolijk Kerstfeest, Craciun Fericit, God Jul, Vesele Vanoce, apologies to any I haven't mentioned and to everyone Happy New Year.

It would be amiss of me not to mention First Responders, Nurses, Doctors and all of the Medical Personnel for the fantastic job they are doing to keep this Pandemic under control, working extremely long hours face to face with the Virus and sometimes not always in friendly surroundings, we all owe you a great debt of gratitude for all your efforts under what must be very stressful conditions, my hat comes off to all of you, Thank you.

A lot of years have notorious events attached to them, example 1914 – WW1, 1918 – Spanish Flu, 1939 – WWII, there are a lot more dates with events attached to them but the point is that all of them have one thing in common, they all have ending dates, the Covid-19 Pandemic does not have an ending date but it will have one soon, vaccines are being manufactured as I am writing this and they are saying distribution will be starting before the end of the month so don't let it get you down, listen to what the Medical experts are asking you to do and I think that the taming of this beast will be sooner rather than later, if you are one of those who don't think the Virus is for real and are not going to follow the protocols that are being given to us that is your prerogative, Diamond Head Legion # 277 is following the rules, social distancing, wearing face masks when not seated, following the arrow for directions, staying at one table with no table hopping etc., if you don't want to follow these procedures, STAY AWAY.

It seems a long time since Covid-19 raised its ugly head and the Legion was closed on March 17, 2020 for two months, since that date I feel that life as we knew it will never be quite the same again, but the human mind is quite adaptable and we will get used to the changes that this Pandemic brings with it, and life will go on, so try not to worry (easier said than done) but try to maintain a positive attitude and to coin an old saying, "DON'T WORRY BE HAPPY", remember everything that has a beginning eventually has an ending and I feel that the end is nigh for this COVID-19 CRAP.

I would like to say a bit about the Legion and its Members and Visitors, firstly I wish to thank all of you for the effort that you are putting into following the Covid Crisis Regulations (I know it's painful at times) but you are really doing a great job and it all helps to make things a little easier, so keep up the good work.

MEMBERSHIP, a Legion is only as good as its Members, they have to be plentiful and willing to Volunteer, we have a good Core of Members who are also good Volunteers, but you can never

have enough, this is why I am asking that people who attend the Legion as Visitors give some consideration towards becoming Members, it may turn out to be the best move you could make, there are a lot of perks to be had by being a Member, check out the Legion.ca Website and see what you think, is it right for you? If so contact our Public Relation Officer at 604 898-3390 or enquire at the Bar.

This will be the last letter that you receive from me as President of Diamond Head Legion Branch #277, Dominion put out a memo that all elections be canceled in 2020 because of the Covid-19 Virus but Covid or no Covid I am going to be an exception.

I took over the Presidency in January 2017 for a year because nobody else wanted it, you can't have an Executive without a President and the next step if you cannot find anybody to take the job on, will be bringing in Trustees to run the place, I wasn't prepared to let that happen so I accepted the Presidency for what I thought would be one year (then someone else would Volunteer) yeah right.

I am just finishing my fourth year but it is my last year, I no longer have the desire or the energy to give the job all that it requires and if I can't give it 100% then I will give it nothing, it is time for someone else to take the Presidency over from me, someone who is a lot younger than me, someone who has different perspectives about running the Legion than I have. This does not mean I am leaving the Legion I will still be there albeit hiding in the corner, the Legion needs a new direction to follow there aren't as many Veterans around anymore so things will change and the Legion needs Presidents and Executives who can adapt to whatever may change along the way, I am 74 years old next Birthday and there are times when I don't even know what day it is, I am tired and not in the greatest of shape, so now it is time for me to step aside and enjoy some Arthur plus Family time.

As I said, there are going to be changes in the future of the Legion due in part to things like Covid-19, dwindling of Veterans and God knows what else, it's a sign of the times and whatever happens Legions and similar Organizations will have to go with the flow or go under, that is why I want someone who is capable of doing the job at hand, to do what I did 4 years ago, Volunteer to take up the reigns of the Presidency or face the prospect of being under Trusteeship, it's up to you. I KNOW THERE IS SOMEONE OUT THERE, JUST DO IT, MAKE MY DAY.

Wishing you all the Best of the Best.

In Comradeship                  President          Arthur McLain

PS. I have just learnt that the Restrictions that were due to come off on December 7<sup>th</sup> have been extended to January 8, 2021, not exactly what I needed to hear, once I had finished cursing and jumping up and down I managed to calm myself down and look at things realistically we have been living with Covid-19 for over 9 months another month won't be too hard to bear, by then the vaccines they are talking about today should be readily available by January 8<sup>th</sup>, I personally think that extending the restrictions into January are going to benefit us a great deal they are already showing a decrease in the number of new cases, my views are probably biased due to the fact I have had pneumonia 4 times in the last 2 years, I am happy to follow Dr. Bonnie's recommendations.

Stay Safe    Keep Calm (as best you can)

In Comradeship Art

And that's all she wrote Folks!!!!