



# ANAVETS

Issue 1/03

Dominion Command Newsletter, Ottawa, Ontario

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### Special Points:

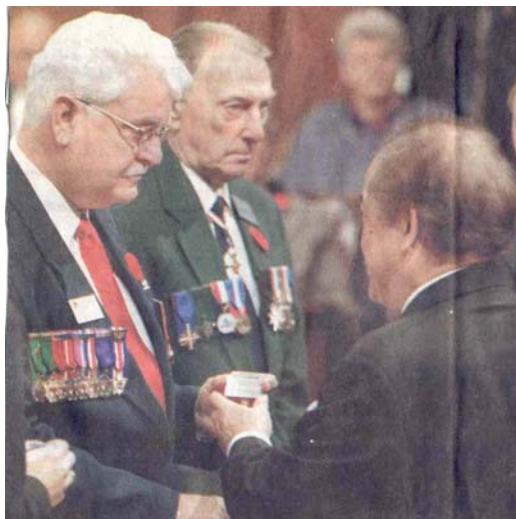
- Canada Honours Cassels
- List of Units Getting Bigger
- Budget 2003
- Getting Recognized
- Leadership

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## CANADA HONOURS ANAVETS' DOMINION PRESIDENT CASSELS

Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation 



**Bob Cassels receives his well-deserved Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation from Minister of Veterans Affairs Dr. Rey Pagtakhan 7 Nov 2002 in the Senate Chamber on Parliament Hill.**

Since serving in uniform, many of Canada's Veterans have continued to provide outstanding service to their country, their communities, and their fellow Veterans. To formally recognize those contributions, the Governor General has authorized the creation of the *Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation*.

(See additional details on next page)

### The Nomination ...

A member of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of "The Canadian Guards" during the late 1950's and early 1960's, Mr. Cassels served Canada both at home and in Germany. During 2000 he commenced his second term as Dominion President of the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada (ANAVETS), a position he was first elected to fill during 1990. He has worked diligently on behalf of the organization and its Veteran constituency since 1972, receiving numerous accolades for his efforts. He also played an important role in the negotiations to obtain compensation for Canada's Merchant Navy Veterans in 2000-2001. Mr. Cassels presently serves on the Youth Development Committee of ANAVETS as well as the Veterans Affairs Canada 'Canadian Forces Advisory Council. As part of his work with ANAVETS, Mr. Cassels participates in most Veterans Affairs commemorative pilgrimages to overseas battlefields. Mr. Cassels has contributed in an exemplary manner to the care and well-being of Veterans and to the remembrance of their contributions, sacrifice and achievements.

## CANADA HONOURS CASSELS (Cont'd)

The presentation of the Commendation took place in the Senate of Canada and was part of fifth annual Ceremony of Remembrance to mark Veterans



Week 2002. Bob did not know of his nomination in advance and thought that he was just coming to Ottawa to negotiate enhanced benefits for Canada's veterans in a meeting with the Minister. **SURPRISE BOB!**

The Commendation consists of a certificate, a lapel pin for civilian wear and a bar for wear with decorations. The design is a gold maple leaf resting on a red poppy, a flower long associated with the sacrifices of war, with the Royal Crown on the top of the pin.

The *Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation* is worn below official decorations on its gold bar. It can be worn on veterans' blazers, formal wear etc. on occasions when it is appropriate for medals to be worn. The lapel pin may be worn at any time on civilian dress.



### Nomination Process

Any Canadian may nominate a veteran for the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation.

Nomination forms are available at District and Regional Offices of Veterans Affairs Canada. Nominations will be reviewed annually by the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation Selection Committee.

**Let's go ANAVETS and nominate some of our deserving veterans!**

## Membership — Remains ANAVETS # 1 Priority

Since the fall of 2001, membership has been ANAVETS number one priority and it is paying off. Thanks to the good **work** many of you are doing, ANAVETS membership has stopped the major downward landslides of the 1990s and overall reduced our reductions to a trickle in comparison. The 2002 membership results are in and they confirm what was agreed upon at Convention 2002; i.e., that membership must remain ANAVETS' number one priority or we will cease to exist in the future. Overall, in 2002, ANAVETS' membership dropped **472** or **2.2 %**. This is a considerable improvement over the 7-10 % drops of the 1990s, but it is not good enough. If we continue to drop at the modest rate of 2.2 % each year, then we may be without a full-time Dominion Office within five years and more Units will close. If the rate of reduction should be greater (you can do the math), even more difficulties are ahead. Executives and members at all levels must continue taking appropriate (read more aggressive) action to improve our membership numbers. We know that there is nothing we can do to stop aging and dying and that we must continue to renew our Association without forgetting our past. Therefore, it is obvious that our future lies with Canada's younger folks, getting them to join our Association and just as important, **retaining them** as productive lifetime members.

Last year, the Membership Committees, under Vice-President Noel Hillier, did good work and came up with ideas worth implementing. The mantle of Vice President Membership has been passed to Ken Henderson and he and VPs Chuck Byron & Bob Mooney are hard at work following up on the suggestions put forth at the Convention. There are some tough choices ahead if we are to walk that fine line between maintaining traditions and

becoming a more progressive organization that will appeal to today's and tomorrow's youth. We do not have a monopoly and the younger generation has other veteran associations to join if we do not meet their needs. We need to remember and respect our past, but not be stuck in it to the detriment of the Association and its members. We need to adapt to the changes going on about us. We made big strides towards this end at our last Convention. It would be great if we could increase our membership by having other veterans groups join ANAVETS, but the likelihood of this happening is very low. Maintaining or **retaining** or better yet, increasing membership is vital to our survival. To do so, we will have remove or soften what may be seen as "barriers" to our membership growth.

*Paying special attention to  
first year members can  
convert them into productive  
lifetime members*

### Some thoughts:

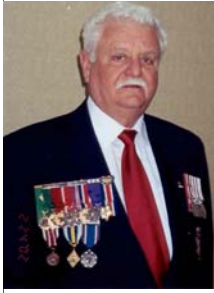
Where membership has increased in the past year, it is because of the leadership and an aggressive approach to membership. Every meeting by leaders at all levels must involve membership discussions and actions. Are you doing that in your

Command and Unit? Poor leadership and disharmony in a unit can greatly damage membership levels. Are you doing all you can to create a vibrant and harmonious unit? Who wants to belong to a unit where there is considerable disharmony and infighting going on. Get rid of the trouble makers. Elect leaders that are not dictatorial and are able to compromise to keep harmony in your unit. Involve and engage all members....make them feel important and wanted.

**SPEAK OUT ! Let's hear from you on this issue.**

**(See Page 6 for a list of Units that increased membership in 2002)**

## President's Message



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to congratulate all of the units who, in the last year, have placed a high priority regarding their membership. As published in this newsletter, you will see that many of our units have increased their membership and some are at their highest level in the past five years - keep up the good work!

This year is going to be very busy for Dominion Command, as we have formed two new committees. The first committee consists of three Dominion officers and five members from Provincial Commands who are presently working on the Dominion By-laws, amending any duplication that has occurred and to better organize the sections. This task will also entail recommending changes that are required to update the by-laws that cover the dominion, provincial

and units. The Committee is expected to complete this project by June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2003, with the results to be sent to all the members of the board for discussion at the September meeting of the board of directors'. Vice- President Sam Crowshaw has been appointed to chair this committee.

A second committee, Chaired by President Gord Marsh of B.C. has been appointed to look after Dominion priorities and planning. This committee is tasked with what direction we, as the Army, Navy & Air Force Veterans in Canada, should be doing as we head into the future. For example: How to increase membership along with the membership committee (retention and ways to attract new members) Ways that we can attain more exposure for our association (as far as the press and the people across Canada are concerned) I know that you, along with me, will give our support to the members of these two newly formed committees.

In closing, I would like to wish all the members of the Army, Navy & Air Force Veterans in Canada all the best in the year 2003.

Bob Cassels

## Dominion Command Holds Annual Reception In Ottawa

President Bob Cassels, ably assisted by Vice-President Ken Henderson, Secretary-Treasurer Jack Arseneault, and Administrative Assistant Deanna Fimrite, hosted 45 members of the veterans' community at the Army Officers' Mess on Thursday, 13 February. The purpose of the relaxed gathering is to allow the President of ANAVETS to thank the veterans' community for their support throughout the year. It also provides an informal setting to discuss many of the issues with which all members of the community are dealing.

Among those present was Minister of Veteran Affairs, Dr. Rey Pagtakhan, his Executive Assistant George Christidis, VAC's Deputy Minister, Larry Murray, Verna Bruce, Brian Ferguson plus a few others from

VAC. Senator Michael Meighan (Chair of the Senate Committee on National Defence and Veteran Affairs), ex-Senator Orville Phillips, Legion President Allan Parks, and Legion Secretary Duane Daly.

Representatives attended from other veteran groups such as two of the Peacekeeping Associations, the RCAF Association, Government House, All of the Cadet Leagues, Conference of Defence Associations, Commonwealth War Graves Commission, and Canadian War Museum.

The atmosphere was cordial and it was apparent that everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. See pictures located later in this paper.

## Regalia News

We have lots of stock ready to send to you as soon as we receive your order. A **new price list** is being sent to you shortly giving you the adjusted prices.

We still have some 2003 pocket calendars are in stock now so get your orders in right away. Hurry & get your orders in for our **new pad portfolios** with the gold ANAVETS' crest. I am sure you will be impressed with the quality and looks. Price: \$25 each. We should have the 60 year pins within two weeks !

See the exciting **new Full Dress Package** in the attachments we have put together. Remember our goal: For orders received by 1200 hours we do everything possible to get the order out the same day and usually do if it is in stock.

See info on our **preferred clothing supplier**, Aero Mode, found elsewhere in this newsletter.

You can also find our complete list of inventory and prices on our web site at [www.anavets.ca](http://www.anavets.ca)

## In Memoriam



WE SHALL  
NOT FORGET

It is with deep sadness that I inform you of the passing of the following members of ANAVETS:

### Lois Margaret Matthews (27 Oct 2002)

Award of Merit & Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal

### Gerald Belrose (20 November 2002)

- Past President of Angus, ON Unit

### Samuel Clark (5 February 2003)

- 2003 Recipient of Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation. Resident of Woodstock, N.B.

### Gordon Hyslop (6 January, 2003)

- 1st President Unit 365—Barrie, Ontario



## Nova Scotia Issues "Veterans" Licence Plate

A legion president from New Glasgow has received the first Nova Scotia licence plate manufactured especially for veterans.

Fred Mombourquette received the licence plate, Feb. 11, from Peter Christie, Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations and Bill Langille, chairman of the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs during a ceremony at the Normandy Branch of the Legion in New Glasgow.

"The veteran's licence plate is one of the ways that we say thank you to those people who have served us, protected us, and honoured us in uniform," said Mr. Christie.

Mr. Mombourquette is the president of the Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command of the Royal Canadian Legion and a veteran of the Second World War.

"The veteran's licence plate is one of the ways that we say thank you to those people who have served us, protected us, and honoured us in uniform," said Mr. Christie.

To qualify for a veteran's plate, an applicant must have served in the Canadian Armed Forces or with an allied service for three years. If the applicant served in a theatre of war, with NATO or on a United Nations peacekeeping mission, the three-year time limit is waived. Applications must be certified by the Legion before a plate can be obtained from the Registry of Motor Vehicles.

Veteran's licence plate applications are available from Access Nova Scotia Centres and Registry of Motor Vehicle offices and from some branches of the Royal Canadian Legion. They are also available on the Access Nova Scotia Web site at [www.accessns.ca](http://www.accessns.ca). Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations charges \$5 to exchange a driver's existing licence plate for a veteran's plate. This fee is only charged when the plate is issued; standard permit fees will apply for future renewals. The Veteran's Licence Plate program was announced in Halifax in November 2002. To date the legion has approved about 500 applications.

In NS, Veteran Plates are available to "any person who has honourably:

- served for a minimum of three years (may still be serving) in the Canadian Armed Forces, or the armed forces of another Commonwealth country or of a wartime ally of Canada or another Commonwealth country,
- served in the Merchant Navy or Ferry Command during wartime;
- served in a theatre of war as a member of the Canadian Armed Forces, or the armed forces of another Commonwealth country or of a wartime ally of Canada or another Commonwealth country, or
- performed NATO service or a peacekeeping mission as a member of the Canadian Armed Forces OR the Royal Canadian Mounted Police."

This was the initiative of the NS Legion Provincial Command. **I believe it is a great idea and would urge all ANAVETS' Provincial Commands to consider approaching their Provincial Governments to create a "veteran" licence plate for their province.** Too, it would be nice to have the Provincial Governments authorize ANAVETS to certify that an applicant is a veteran.

## Local Veteran Recognized for Lifetime of Service to Comrades

**Woodstock, NB** – On behalf of the Honourable Dr. Rey D. Pagtakhan, Minister of Veterans Affairs and Secretary of State (Science, Research and Development), Andy Savoy, Member of Parliament for Tobique-Mactaquac paid special tribute to Samuel Clark, a Second World War Veteran. Mr. Savoy presented Mr. Clark with the *Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation* in a private ceremony at his home.

"Mr. Clark is richly deserving of this honour. A strong advocate for Veterans, he has devoted almost 40 years of his life providing support and assistance to ailing Veterans and their families. In addition to his distinguished wartime service to his country, Mr. Clark has dedicated himself to ensuring that those who sacrificed so much for us would receive the utmost care and support in their hour of need," said Andy Savoy in presenting the Commendation Award.

Samuel Ervin Clark of Woodstock, New Brunswick was a Second World War Veteran. Mr. Clark and his wife have been managing the Woodstock Veterans Home for thirty-nine years without any remuneration. Despite being blind in both eyes, Mr. Clark fulfils his duties to the utmost and with unfailing good humour. As Chairman of the Woodstock Veterans Home, Mr. Clark attends to the needs of the staff and boarders, ordering food and supplies, attending to repairs and taking care of the Home's financial affairs. Through his tireless devotion to the care and well-being of Veterans, his commendable work to protect their interests and his remarkable generosity of spirit, Mr. Clark has set an outstanding example of selfless service for others.

Mr Clark was nominated by ANAVETS for this prestigious commendation. See the picture of his ceremony and a newspaper article in the attachments. It is with much sadness that I must inform you Mr Clark passed away 5 Feb 2003, about two weeks after he received this commendation.

Approval for the creation of the *Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation* was granted by the Governor General in 2001. It is awarded to individuals who have contributed to the care and well-being of Veterans, or to individuals who have contributed in an exemplary manner to the remembrance of the sacrifices and achievements of Veterans. The *Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation* consists of a bar, typically worn below official decorations on a recipient's blazer, a lapel pin for civilian wear and a certificate.

## Veterans' Care Needs

Dominion Command has been very active over the past year meeting with personnel of Veterans Affairs Canada to enhance veterans' care needs and benefits. You will recall that in late 2001 ANAVETS, in concert with the Legion and NCVA, withdrew from talking to and negotiating with the staff of Veterans Affairs until there was a more cooperative and willingness to advance the enhanced proposals being put forward by the veterans' organization.

In January of 2002, Dr Rey Pagtakhan was appointed the new Minister of Veterans Affairs and attitudes began to change. He met with all three Veterans' Groups within two weeks of taking over. He was open, honest and willing to do whatever he could to help veterans. He agreed to meet at least four times a year with the President and staff of the major veterans' groups.

After this initial meeting, work began in earnest on seven proposals that would benefit significantly our veterans. The Dominion Secretary-Treasurer met several times with VAC staff over the past year as refinements were made to the proposed policy changes. The President and Secretary-Treasurer met at least four times with the Minister and his senior staff as the refinements were discussed. VAC staff and the Minister demonstrated a keen desire to have veteran organizations' input into the policy changes. We are in the final phase of preparing the policy changes and expect to have those changes announced by the mid-April 2003. I would prefer to await the official announcement on the changes, but they would include enhancements in the areas of disability pensions, long-term care for Allied Veterans, increased POW compensation, Education Assistance, and VIP for spouses.

## New VAC Advisory Committee 60th Anniversary of D-Day Landings

The Minister of Veterans Affairs has created an Advisory Committee to Assist in the commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of D-Day Landings on 6 June 2004. The committee held its inaugural meeting in Ottawa 21 October. The committee consists of Richard Rohmer (Chairman), Charles Belzile (Battle of Normandy Foundation & RCL), Cliff Chatterton (NCVA), Jack Arseneault (ANAVETS), and Doug Clorey from VAC as secretary. Deputy Minister Larry Murray is an ex-officio member. The next meeting will be held in early March. Eventually, once things become more organized, we will be seeking names of ANAVETS' members who landed on Juno Beach on 6 June 1944.

## LIST OF UNITS THAT INCREASED MEMBERSHIP IN 2002

The following 29 units increased their membership in 2002. Congratulations and well done to all of you. You're obviously working hard at your membership and it is paying off! Take a bow! :)



Unit Name & Number	City, Command
Vernon Unit #5	Vernon, BC
North Vancouver Unit #45	Vancouver, BC
Penticton Unit #97	Penticton, BC
Steveston Unit #284	Richmond, BC
Pompier Unit #314	Burnaby, BC
Matsqui, Unit #315	Mt. Lehman, BC
Windsor, Unit #30	Windsor, Ontario
Stratford, Unit #261	Stratford, Ontario
St. Mary's, Unit #265	St. Mary's, Ontario
Cornwall, Unit #342	Cornwall, Ontario
Lambeth, Unit #345	London, Ontario
Ottawa Valley, Unit #396	Carleton Place, ON
Orillia, Unit #400	Orillia, Ontario
Prince Albert, Unit #222	Prince Albert, Sask.
Moose Jaw, Unit #252	Moose Jaw, Sask.
Maple Leaf, Unit #287	Saskatoon, SK
Alexander of Tunis, Unit #2	Calgary, Alberta
Grande Prairie, Unit #389	Grande Prairie, AB
Glace Bay, Unit #246	Glace Bay, NS
Citadel, Unit #373	Halifax, NS
Bras D'Or, Unit #381	Bras D'Or, NS
Quebec, Unit #33	Québec, Québec
Magog, Unit #203	Magog, Quebec
Montreal East, Unit #308	Montreal, Ouebec
John Osborn VC, Unit #1	Winnipeg, Manitoba
Fort Garry, Unit #60	Winnipeg, Manitoba
Rockwood, Unit #303	Winnipeg, Manitoba
Thompson, Unit #388	Thompson, Manitoba
Woodstock, Unit #95	Woodstock, NB

Let's all agree to follow the example of the above units and work diligently and effectively to incorporate the idea of increasing membership as our number one priority in our volunteer work and play at ANAVETS. As our friend on the right says, "YOU CAN DO IT !"

Wouldn't it be great next year, if we were able to list all ANAVETS' Units as having increases! We can do it!

*Note: 43 of our units decreased in membership in 2002*

The following 17 units not only increased their membership in 2002, but also have achieved their highest membership level in five years. This is a fantastic achievement! I would suggest that these leading units may be able to provide some super tips to the rest of the units on how to increase and sustain membership. Articles from any of these units to the editor would be greatly appreciated. Let's hear from you.....stick your chest out and be proud! You are obviously doing many things correctly. Tell us about it and keep up the excellent work! Congratulations!



Unit Name & Number	City, Command
Thompson, Unit #388	Thompson, Manitoba
Rockwood, Unit #303	Winnipeg, Manitoba
Fort Garry, Unit #60	Winnipeg, Manitoba
John Osborn VC, Unit #1	Winnipeg, Manitoba
Quebec, Unit #33	Quebec, Quebec
New Waterford, Unit #217	New Waterford, NS
Citadel, Unit #373	Halifax, NS
Bras D'Or, Unit #381	Bras D'Or, NS
Alexander of Tunis, Unit #2	Calgary, Alberta
Moose Jaw, Unit #252	Moose Jaw, Sask
Prince Albert, Unit #222	Prince Albert, Sask
Orillia, Unit #400	Orillia, Ontario
Ottawa Valley, Unit #396	Carleton Place, Ontario
Lambeth, Unit #345	London, Ontario
St. Mary's, Unit #265	St. Mary's, Ontario
Matsqui, Unit #315	Mt. Lehman, BC
Penticton, Unit #97	Penticton, BC



## NOTES OF INTEREST FOR VETERANS

### U.S. AWARD FOR KOREAN VETERANS

The U.S. Department of Defense is awarding a Korean War Veteran service pin to all who served in the conflict for 30 days or more between June 25, 1950 and July 27, 1953. Qualified veterans should contact Les Peate of the Korean Veterans Association, 8 Mooreside Private, Ottawa, ON, K2C 3P4. A fitting recognition considering this year marks the 50th anniversary of the end of the war.

### VAC PILOT PROJECT

The VAC Minister recently announced a Telehomecare Pilot Project for Prince Edward Island from 2003 to 2006. Telehomecare will use telecommunications technology to provide care, instruction and education to patients in their own homes.

The equipment allows a two-way audio-visual interaction and transmits data and graphics to permit remote nursing staff to monitor patients' vital signs. The knowledge gained is expected to be transferable to other regions of Canada in the future.

### ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES FOR ALLIED & CANADIAN VETERANS

VAC is improving services to our Canadian veterans residing permanently outside of Canada and Allied veterans residing in Canada. As a result, VAC's Foreign Countries Operations (FCO) will become a Centre of Expertise and all aspects of the Canadian and Allied Veteran health process will be streamlined directly through FCO, using Atlantic Blue Cross Care to reimburse clients and providers.

In addition, VAC is changing the process for the reimbursement and payment of Health Related Travel to veterans and providers. This is intended to improve processing time for travel claims, thereby reducing the time the veterans are out of pocket for these expenses. From the veterans' perspective, they will continue to contact their District Office regarding all aspects of Health Related Travel. The only obvious change will be that the reimbursement cheques will be issued by Atlantic Blue Cross Care.

The above changes are effective 3 February, 2003.

### Dutch "Thank You" Medal

The Netherlands Embassy reports that the project of the Dutch "Thank You" Medal was an over whelming success. Over 20,000 were issued to Canadian veterans. The project ceased on 1 January, 2003 and no further applications will be considered.

### Music Listeners to Get It In The Ear !

The Society of Composers, Authors & Music Publishers (SOCAN) will be approaching the Federal Government's regulatory body, the Copyright Board of Canada, on 25 Feb 03 to ask for fee increases. If approved, this would effect the fees that our units pay to SOCAN each year. It is the law of Canada that royalties must be paid for the use of copyrighted works. Once the royalties are established by the Copyright Board, all Canadians must pay them. Our only recourse is to take their decision to court. Such decisions have been tested in the courts, but were upheld. See the alarming article in the attachments.

### Long-Term Care Symposium

Veterans Affairs Canada is responsible for providing institutional care for eligible veterans and civilians. Long term institutional care may be provided in VAC's only remaining departmental facility, Ste. Anne's Hospital, Ste. Anne-de-Bellevue, Quebec, or in designated veterans' beds in provincial or community-based facilities.

As part of its responsibility for long term care for veterans, VAC held it second National Long-Term Care meeting to share best practices and advances in elder care in the areas of dementia, palliative and respite care. The symposium was held in Victoria, BC on 19-20 November, 2002. Representatives attended from the provincial ministries of health and the major veterans' organizations. Vice-President Ken Henderson attended on behalf of ANAVETS and his report can be found in the attachments.

## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

### GETTING RECOGNITION

How many of you out there have been upset because when dignitaries or other ordinary Canadians mention veterans or veterans' organizations and the Army, Navy & Air Force Veterans in Canada is not mentioned or understood, or confused for our comrades over at the Legion? Personally, I have experienced this numerous times in the past 15 months with this organization and have heard from many of you with your stories of frustration. Allow me to sound off and perhaps generate some discussion on this topic which hopefully, will lead to some useful corrective actions.

To start off, I believe we have to accept that in this very large country of Canada, we are located in less than 70 towns and cities out of the 5600 municipalities, cities, towns, hamlets, villages, settlements in Canada. Thus, we have to accept that, given the above, there are many Canadians who have never heard of ANAVETS or met a member of our Association. Our major competition is located in approximately 1600 and they have the National Poppy Campaign and nationally televised ceremony at the National War Memorial which helps with their recognition. The only way we are going to improve this situation is to become bigger in membership size and start up new units in many more communities and/or create an idea that would give us the national exposure of the Poppy Campaign. Is this possible or likely to happen?

One of the key principles in getting recognized is to present a consistent image at all times across our great nation. Here, I find two problems: one, is that we have two commonly accepted names for our Association. Many use ANAVETS and many use ANAF as our short name. I can attest that this is confusing to those outside the organization. Within the past year, I was honoured to lay a wreath for ANAVETS here in the nation's capital. After the ceremony, I was approached by a member of parliament and he asked me what ANAVETS was as he had never heard of it before. When I explained what we were and that we were also known as ANAF, he said, oh, there is an ANAF in my hometown. ANAVETS has vets in it and is a word you can say. ANAF has been around longer. You decide. But we should be consistent across the country.

Just like the car rental agency AVIS used to say about its competition, when you are in second place, you have to try harder. I think that many of us have been trying harder to get ANAVETS recognized for the great things we do for Canadian Veterans and our communities. Certainly, there are occasions when

we get a chance to be front and centre and to obtain some needed publicity and to promote our cause. Many of you do a super job at this. There are however, other times when we miss opportunities. One such example is when a member was asked to make a major presentation on our behalf in front of a very prestigious audience, he showed up in his Legion uniform. Thus, the picture of that important ceremony will not be used by ANAVETS. This is not a unique situation. There have also been examples sent to Dominion Command of articles of Remembrance or other important ceremonies whereby the only people in the picture were Legionnaires or if they were in the ANAVETS uniform, they were identified as Legionnaires! **It is obvious that we have to do a better job of selling ourselves.** We need to ensure that newspapers and television people know who we are and report on us accurately.

Another point worth mentioning is that there is no money at Dominion Command for publicity. Unless memberships fees are increased to give us more working money, there will not be any national publicity campaigns. One small advertisement is one limited circulation magazine costs \$700. Our national budget? \$500 ! I can assure you we are well-known at the national level because of President Cassels, VP Ken Henderson, and the Dominion Staff. We do our best to attend meetings, liaisons, ceremonies, and as many functions as we can. VAC certainly know of us as **ONE of the BIG THREE**, the other two being the RCL and NCVA. Many of our communities where we are located know of our wonderful efforts. Look at Barrie, Ontario. This past year they donated \$120,000 to their community. They maximize their publicity by making all the donations during one big evening event. If you want to receive your donation, you must attend the function and you must be prepared to publicize it. They don't have any problem getting a huge attendance and the recognition they so rightly deserve.

Perhaps, one area where we may be able to do more is at the Provincial Level. Is your Provincial Command taking every opportunity to involve the newsmakers and politicians in many of our functions? Remember, they are always looking for opportunities to have their picture in the paper or on TV. Give them the opportunity and you will receive more recognition for your efforts.

Enough for now, **Care to comment ?**

## FEDERAL BUDGET 2003 ANALYSIS

### Impact on Veterans

Finance Minister John Manley has said that in Federal Budget 2003, the Liberals are investing 'in the needs of individual Canadians, their families, and their communities.' He also said in his budget speech that Canadians must never forget the courage and sacrifice of our veterans. In that regard, the budget did increase funding for Veterans Affairs Remembrance Programming.

Minister of Veterans Affairs Pagtakhan commented the following: "It (the Budget) is very exciting and reflects the commitment of government to Canadians." "I would call it a real budget for social equity and a real caring budget for Canadians, because we now have the fiscal capacity to deal with the social priorities of Canadians."

Health care has a big impact in a country with a rapidly aging population, and it was also the biggest budget expenditure. The Government is making a \$34.8 billion investment in health care over 5 years, \$17.3 billion of that within the next three years.

Upgrades in the Medicare system will benefit all citizens, but seniors in particular, can expect to benefit from improvements in home care, one of the priorities of a \$16-billion chunk of the funding earmarked for home care, primary care and catastrophic drug coverage.

Some people believe that the reform of the primary care system is a step in the right direction and the long term care or home care is part of what we need to unblock the acute care beds in the hospitals.

Retirees on a fixed income may also benefit from the government's plan to expand the list of eligible expenses for the medical expense tax credit, at a cost of \$20 million per year. The budget also reported the Canadian Pension Plan (CPP) fund should now last into the next 50 years.

Nothing in the budget appears to have jeopardized the seven veterans improved benefits that ANAVETS has been pursuing. We expect an announcement from the Minister of VAC within two months.

### Impact on National Defence

John Manley's increase in the defence budget by \$800 million in fiscal year 2003-04 is encouraging. This amount will be added to the defence budget base making it possible to lessen the rate of the deterioration of the capabilities of the Canadian Forces (CF).

The Minister of National Defence, John McCallum, is to be credited for his efforts in securing this additional funding for the Canadian Forces. He has openly declared that the Forces' programme is bigger than its budget.

The Conference of Defence Associations (CDA), nevertheless, believes more needs to be done. The \$800 million offered in this year's budget, although welcome, is less than what

the CF requires to prevent further deterioration of capabilities. As noted by the Auditor-General and in the CDA Institute's recent report, A NATION AT RISK: The Decline of the Canadian Forces, achieving that goal requires between \$1.3 billion and \$1.5 billion per year to be added to the budget

base. In essence, for Canada to pull its military weight and to protect our national sovereignty, the government needs to inject a minimum of \$ 500 - 800 million dollars a year into the military's budget base, to what the Finance Minister announced in his budget. The CF will also require annual increases to adjust for inflation to stop the deterioration of the Forces' capabilities. By this, CDA is not advocating new capabilities for the Canadian Forces.

Consequently, CDA sees it as a survival or bridging budget. In this vein, we are pleased to hear that the Government will undertake a review of Canada's Foreign and Defence policy for Canada. To be of any use, however, this review must be completed in the very near future, hopefully in 2004, and would result in a Defence White Paper. Such a White Paper should be accompanied by a business plan incorporating a financial commitment from government to implement the White Paper. Otherwise, there is a risk that our tax dollars will be misspent on a military programme that will not be best suited to address Canada's security and defence needs.

Richard J. Evraire  
Chairman CDA

**ANAVETS is a member of the Conference of Defence Association (CDA) and supports the above position.**

## ANAVETS Has Joined As A Community Partner To Support This Centennial Celebration of Powered Flight.

There is no cost involved and our logo and name will be associated with all national activities...good free publicity. All Commands and Units should fire up their "air" members and use "full throttle" imagination to see what ANAVETS can do to recognize the 100th Anniversary of Powered Flight. Other Community Partners include: Canada's Air Force; Canadian Space Agency; Canadian Forces Snowbirds & Air Cadet League of Canada. Let us know what you are doing out there please and thanks.

**altitude**  
**IS EVERYTHING**  
A Canadian Celebration of 100 Years of Flight



On December 17, 1903, the Wright brothers initiated what is now a rich history of world aviation. With the dawn of the centennial upon us, it is important that Canadians coast to coast join together in recognizing our achievements in aviation that will continue to inspire us for the next hundred years.

### Two of the Sponsors Include:



#### Dr. Roberta Bondar

"As the centennial of flight rapidly approaches, it is important that we as Canadians join together in recognizing and celebrating the achievements of our country in the field of aviation. Altitude is Everything is a commemoration of our past and an invitation to our future as we prepare to embark on the next 100 years of flight."

#### General (Ret'd) Paul Manson, O.C., CMM, CD and ANAVETS Member at Large

Beginning with the first flight of the Silver Dart, aviation has become a vital element of Canadian life. Canadians, for reasons related no doubt to geography, climate and a certain pioneer spirit, have taken to the air with ease and skill, to the point where the need to fly is a deeply embedded component of the Canadian character. From the earliest experiments, through two world wars, in bush flying and the development of great airlines and general aviation, we have come to love the sky as a highway and playground; it is as much a part of Canada as is the land and the water.



Visit the Altitude is Everything web site at <http://www.altitudeis.com> and learn more about all the activities and programs.

### Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada

[www.anavets.ca](http://www.anavets.ca)

"The Army, Navy & Air Force Veterans in Canada are proud to be a Community Partner in the Altitude Is Everything Project celebrating 100 years of powered flight. Maybe it is because we are a huge young country and our people full of spirit and adventure that flying has been such a vital part of our history and everyday lives. Our all members, and particularly the ex-air force ones, will do everything we can do help Canadians recognize this important milestone."

## WE ALL CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

**Hope for the future may be constrained by the past but it is liberated by optimism. The optimism that drives the future is found in the people who, while observant of the lessons of the past, refuse to become mired in it. The organization's success depends upon each person doing his or her share with their commitment and expertise.**

## Some Humour

### Singing In Church

A Minister decided to do something a little different one Sunday morning. He said, "Today, in church, I am going to say a single word and you are going to help me preach." "Whatever single word I say, I want you to sing whatever hymn that comes to mind."

The pastor shouted out, "Cross." Immediately the congregation started singing, in unison, "**The Old Rugged Cross.**"

The pastor hollered out, "Grace." The congregation began to sing, "**Amazing Grace, How Sweet The Sound.**"

The pastor said, "Power." The congregation sang, "**There is Power in the Blood.**"

The pastor said, "Sex." The congregation fell into total silence. Everyone was in shock. Everyone began nervously to look around at each other, afraid to say anything. Then all of a sudden, 'way from in the back of the church, a little old 87-year-old grandmother stood up and began to sing, "**Precious Memories**" !!!

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## Be Positive

(found written on a wall)

- Keep your **thoughts** positive  
Because your thoughts become your **words**
- Keep your **words** positive  
Because your words become your **actions**
- Keep your **actions** positive  
Because your actions become your **habits**
- Keep your **habits** positive  
Because your habits become your **values**
- Keep your **values** positive  
Because your values become your **destiny**

## Understanding Leadership

**Poor leadership results in a dysfunctional organizational culture, a lack of focus, and a lack of trust in senior leadership that has driven many people to make the decision to leave.**

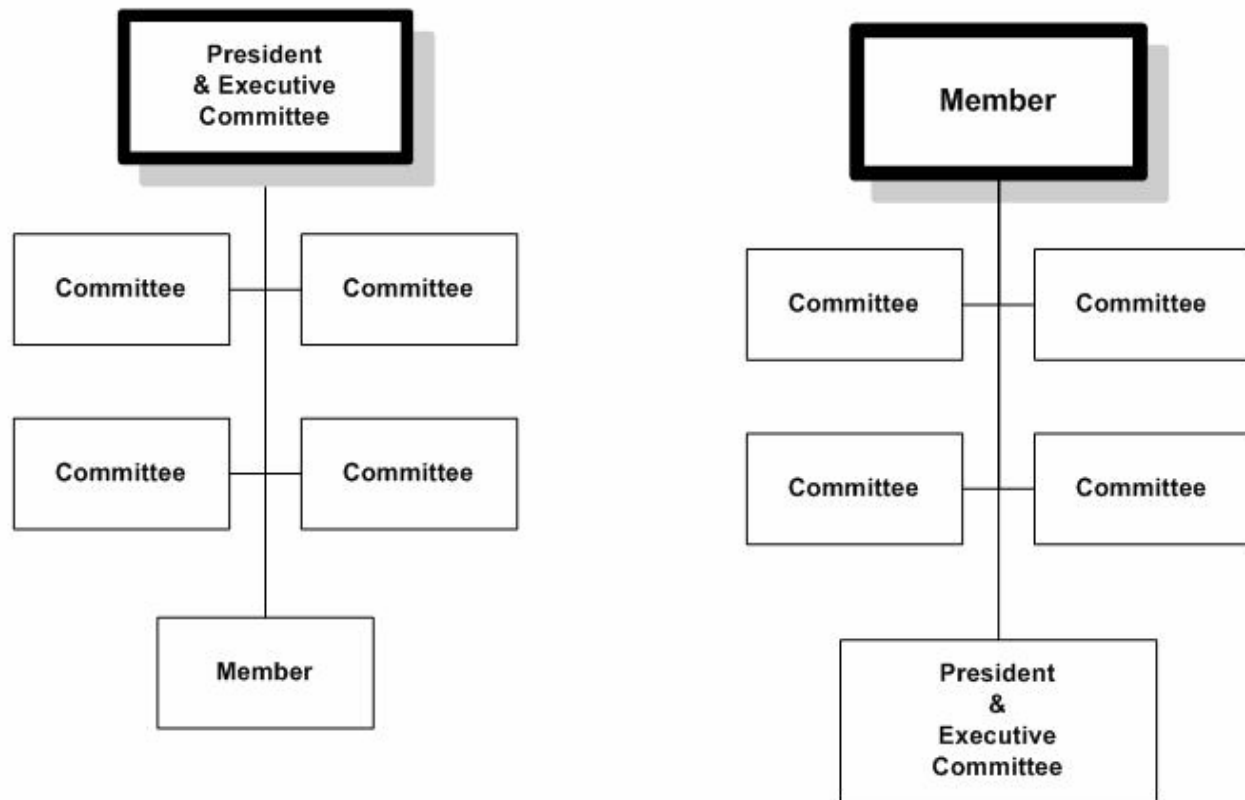
Each individual develops an idea of leadership, and there are as many definitions and descriptions of the term as there are people who write and speak about it. Most agree that leadership is an influence process with defined relationships between leaders and followers. Getting things done through others implies a process where people work together to achieve shared goals and aspirations.

The first thing that differentiates leaders from others is that they have a *vision* for the future. Leaders have an ability to "see" and place matters in perspective. Such vision is not made up of daydreams but rather the goals of an organization and its people. The vision becomes the focus for the leader's and followers' commitment, drive, and energy. Followers often feel a sense of energy and excitement simply by being associated with their leader. However, successful leadership entails more than just having a vision and being committed to it. The vision must be shared, and the leader must be skilled in communicating.

The climate of an organization can be sensed by talking with people, observation, and feeling the sense of spirit and energy that is expressed through word and deed. How people treat each other and what they say and do tell us a great deal about the leader. Often, we can then anticipate the responses of the followers to the leader. In a sense, this is the "personality" of the organization. Effective organizations reflect confidence and optimism. Organizations in trouble communicate fear and uncertainty. Leadership style sets the stage, and we believe it is the major influence on climate. Put simply, the leader's behaviour sets the tone and creates the climate. If the leader is an effective communicator, there will be openness and candor in organizational information exchanges. When a leader has integrity and communicates her or his values, the organization will reflect strong values. A leader who works hard and sets high expectations will create a climate where people give their best; they know what it takes to be superior. When leaders stand by their people and allow them to make mistakes as learning experiences, the organization will be characterized as innovative and risk-taking.

Take a look around. You members are the ones who do the nominating and electing. Are you electing leaders who are the right leaders for the right time? The future is found in the leaders who, while observant of the lessons of the past, refuse to become mired in it.

## Leadership - A Matter of Perspective !



The above diagram illustrates the normal hierarchical organization chart found in most organizations. Unfortunately, it is often how some of our leaders at various levels view themselves and this often affects their attitude and behaviour. They find themselves asking, **“What do ‘I’ want to do and how do ‘I’ want to do it?”** The spectrum of leader who views himself in this way may range from a dictatorial type all the way to a benevolent one. In some cases, they may begin to think that they are the most important person in the organization (no matter what the level). Sometimes, they may start to act like dictators and may try wielding unbridled power in their organization if they can get away with it. They may use intimidation, humiliation, coercion, discrimination or whatever it takes to get their way. They may surround themselves with “yes’ people who will bow to their demands. Normally, if such a leader takes over and is able to stay in office for a lengthy period, the organization may suffer in many ways and particularly, in membership numbers and quality.

The above chart illustrates how a leader might better view his/her position in the organization.

He sees the member as the most important person in the organization and the person who is really the “boss”. Given this view of himself, the President’s attitude and behaviour is one of asking, **“What do the members want and need and how can I go about ensuring their needs are met?”** He then sees his job as one of finding out what the members want and need, putting the right people in place to assist him (executives & committees), training these people to respond to the members and then leading these people in a meaningful way with a positive and enthusiastic manner. He never takes undue advantage of his position and feels privileged to be appointed by the members to this honoured position of President.

## LEADERSHIP — A MATTER OF CHOICE— THE MEMBERS' CHOICE !

Given that there are many Provincial Conventions and Unit elections on the near horizon, I thought I would try to generate some discussion and thinking throughout ANAVETS about what type of leaders we want and need at all levels at this crucial time in our history.

Selecting a leader is not an easy decision. It should not be a popularity contest. Deciding who would be best, given the particular situation the group is facing at the time, is a serious responsibility for all members. Nominating a friend or drinking “buddy” or the most senior may not do the individual or the organization any good. If he/she is not capable, committed, a leader, that is, not the right person for the job, their life and that of the organization in which they are President can become one of total stress and frustration (and we all tend to take that home to the family). Nominate a person who you think is competent, has the professionalism, decision-making ability, desired personal values, demeanour, training, background, knowledge, commitment, desire, time, ability to communicate, and will work as a colleague in an executive group for the betterment of “all” members, not just his/her buddies. Different type of leaders should be elected when their style of leadership best fits the situation at hand. There are no cookie-cutter solutions to leadership challenges, and there are no shortcuts to success.

What is a leader? There are many definitions, here is one. **Leadership is influencing** people—by providing purpose, direction, and motivation—while **operating** to accomplish the mission and improving the organization. Leadership starts at the top, with the character of the leader. In order to lead others, you must first make sure your own house is in order.

Influencing means getting people to do what you want them to do. It is the means or method to achieve two ends: operating and improving. But there's more to influencing than simply passing along orders. The example you set is just as important as the words you speak. And you set an example—good or bad—with every action you take and word you utter. Through your words and example, you must communicate purpose, direction, and motivation. Purpose gives people a reason to do things. When providing direction, you communicate the way you want the mission accomplished. You prioritize tasks, assign responsibility for completing them (delegating authority when necessary), and make sure your people understand the standard. People

want direction. They want to be given challenging tasks, training in how to accomplish them, and the resources necessary to do them well. Then they want to be left alone to do the job. Motivation gives subordinates the will to do everything they can to accomplish a mission. It results in their acting on their own initiative when they see something needs to be done.

We should want to be led by leaders of character who are good role models, consistently set the example, and accomplish ANAVETS' mission while improving their units/commands. We should want a cohesive organization of high-performing units characterized by the warrior ethos. *A good leader will strive to create a climate in which each member can find personal meaning and fulfillment.*

Competent, confident leaders tolerate honest mistakes that do not result from negligence. The pursuit of excellence is not a game to achieve perfection; it involves trying, learning, trying again, and getting better each time. This in no way justifies or excuses failure. Even the best efforts and good intentions cannot take away an individual's responsibility for his actions.

The leader of character and competence acts to achieve excellent. He/she should have the following **values**: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honour, integrity & personal courage. **Attributes** required are: mental, physical & emotional. **Skills** necessary include: interpersonal, conceptual, & technical know-how. The leader must be able to **Influence** (communicate, decision-making, motivate), **Operate** (plan, execute, & assess), and **Improve** (develop, build & learn). ANAVETS needs good leaders at this critical stage in its history. **It is up to you members to do your part...elect the best overall leaders !**

*Just as the diamond requires three properties for its formation—carbon, heat, and pressure—successful leaders require the interaction of three properties—**character, knowledge, and application**. Like carbon to the diamond, character is the basic quality of the leader. But as carbon alone does not create a diamond, neither can character alone create a leader. The diamond needs heat. Man needs knowledge, study, and preparation. The third property, pressure—acting in conjunction with carbon and heat—forms the diamond. Similarly, one's character, attended by knowledge, blooms through application to produce a leader.*

## Aero Mode Promotion - ANAVETS' Preferred Clothing Supplier

Our preferred clothing supplier has agreed to a **“Baker’s Dozen” special promotion on Jackets** for all ANAVETS units for the three months of **March, April & May 2003** only. So get your orders in early! After that, no freebies, but you will still be able to order the jacket & sweater.

The jacket is a coach windbreaker black nylon with the crest of “Army, Navy & Air Force” embroidered in a half circle over the unit number and can be seen below. Price is \$31.00 and there are no oversize charges.

**Buy 12, get one free!**

The sweater is a “V” neck blue and made of Piltro. Price is \$33.00 and again, there are no oversize charges. Buy 12, get one free! The order form is available in the attachments (mail-out only). This is an excellent opportunity to obtain quality clothing at a very good price and at the same time advertise your membership and unit.



Aero Mode continues to provide quality clothing to ANAVETS' members at reasonable and affordable prices. Orders are filled in a timely manner to the satisfaction of all customers. Orders are made direct to Aero Mode and shipped directly back to the unit, eliminating any middle-person. See the advertisements in the attachments for further details.

### Additional Mail Out Items

Be on the lookout for additional important information being sent out under separate cover from Dominion Command to the Provincial Commands and Units. Included in the package will be the 2003 Regalia Stores Price List; the latest amended copy of the Dominion By-Laws; and the Guide to Association Awards. The Provincial Commands only will also be sent the Membership and Per Capita Tax Report for 2002.

### Attention All Units (Wanted— Police and Firefighters)

Resolution # 44 was passed at ANAVETS' last convention in September, 2002 authorizing the acceptance of police and firefighters with three consecutive years of service to join ANAVETS as ACTIVE members. This includes professional and voluntary members of those two honoured professions. **Given this, why not write your local police and firefighters and ask them to join us. Those in B.C. are doing so. Well done B.C. !!!**

## The Five Dysfunctions of a Team

There is a model proposed by author Patrick Lencioni that is both interesting and worthy of reflection by each of us. According to the author, there are five dysfunctions that any “leader” or management team at any level must tackle before “the team” can operate successfully. They are:

1. **Absence of Trust** (Invulnerability)
2. **Fear of Conflict** (Artificial Harmony)
3. **Lack of Commitment** (Ambiguity)
4. **Avoidance of Accountability** (Low Standards)
5. **Inattention to Results** (Status and Ego)

He postulates that a team can only function effectively if the leader and members tackle each dysfunction in turn. Understanding and overcoming the first sets the stage for addressing the second and so on.

He points out how a collection of experienced and very capable individuals who should succeed, don't because they are unable to drive the organization's progress due to a lack of cooperation, communication, and commitment to common goals. I'm sure you all have experienced similar frustration in at least one organization in your professional or personal lives.

**Absence of Trust**— Often it is the fear of being vulnerable that prevents us from putting our trust in others. Trust, however, like in a good marriage, must be present in spades if the team is to function effectively. Team members need to rely on one another and trust one another. That is what any successful military unit has and what we need to ensure we have at all levels in ANAVETS.

**Fear of Conflict**— There are people who prefer to avoid conflict and will remain silent on an issue even though they may disagree with others or the President or chairperson. Sometimes this is the result of the individual's personality and may be combined or result from the leader being a dominant and coercive leader. Such action only creates artificial harmony, when in fact, there exists considerable dissension beneath the surface. A leader who surrounds himself with “yes” people is really inhibiting genuine discussion and creative thinking that is so necessary in a successful organization.

**Lack of Commitment**— This results in ambiguity

in the team or organization. Each team member might be working on a different set of goals or pulling in a different direction from others. To succeed, the team must agree on a common set of goals and everyone on the team must then commit fully to the agreed common goals.

**Avoidance of Accountability**— We all must accept responsibility for our actions or lack thereof and accept that we must be held accountable to “the team” and to our members. These factors, if not present, will surely result in low standards for the organization. Low standards can result in such things as less rewarding challenges to the members and team, poor financial records leading to financial difficulties, and poor maintenance of our facilities. Accumulatively, such things add up to less members and the eventual demise of the organization. Set high standards, accept responsibility for your actions and be prepared to be held accountable at all times.

**Inattention to Results**— Money may be the husk of many things, but not the kernel. It brings you food, but not appetite; medicine, but not health; acquaintances, but not friends; servants, but not faithfulness; days of joy, but not peace or happiness. The highest use of capital is not to make money, but to make money do more for the betterment of life. Some leaders' desire for greater status or their oversized ego sometimes create a “fog” in their minds as to what is really important in our Association. The devil is in the details. Think it out and pay attention to results. Do they differ from what you wanted and is it necessary to adjust our programs or goals? Don't let your ego or status as leader or chair go to your head. You do not have a monopoly on good ideas. It matters not where the idea comes from, but whether or not it is a good idea.

I would recommend you take a look in the mirror and a review of your team...are you or your team experiencing any of these dysfunctions? If there is evidence of any of these dysfunctions, are you prepared to do what it takes to eliminate them so that you and your team can function together successfully for the betterment of ANAVETS and most importantly, its valued members? **Remember, to succeed, you need to cooperate, communicate and commit to common goals.**

## Command and Unit News — “Making a Difference”

Thank you once again to those who have shared their news with the Association. See attached the clippings that we have received about the wonderful things you great people are doing out there to “make a difference” and to make your communities a better place to live. Thank you also to those many units who sent us their latest copy of their newsletter. It is so great to for us at Dominion Command to have an understanding at what is going on out in the “field” at our units. A huge thank you from Deanna and me.

Since we have a scanner and computer it would be appreciated if you send in copies of the original photos. It makes for much better reproduction. Many did, thanks!

Our people do so much to make a difference. Please let us know of their outstanding work so we can share it with the whole Association. They deserve recognition..



Ladies Auxiliary of Unit 365 Barrie, ON, made a donation in Dec 2002 of **\$70,000** to the parent Unit. This was a proud moment for all! Neil McKinnon accepts on behalf of Unit 365.



President Norm Hall of Windsor, ON, Unit 30 and Colour Sgt Ian Hunter leads Remembrance Ceremony at the Cenotaph. Unit 30 has conducted the service at the cenotaph since 1920 on 11 Nov.



VP Bill Wonnacott (left) arranged to have Lt-Gov of BC, Iona Campagnolo (centre) present ANAVETS members with their Queen’s Golden Jubilee Medals in a wonderful ceremony at BC Command. Members receiving their medals were L to R: Roy Mah, John Waterfall, Ron Robinson, Ralph Janisse, Larry Smith, Marguerite Campbell, Harry Houghton, Shirley Parker.

See the newspaper articles attached that came in from various units. It is great to see such stories and of what and how the ANAVETS’ Association is doing for veterans, Canadians and communities across Canada. Well done to you all! Bravo Zulu!

### Bulletin for All ANAVETS’ Members

**The Dominion Command Awards and Rituals Committee has approved a gold star for the Award of Merit Ribbon Bar. This star will be available shortly from Dominion Regalia stores at a cost of \$4.00 plus shipping. Get your order in now and beat the rush!**



Ed Bonnier receives his Queen’s Golden Jubilee Medal in a ceremony at Penticton BC from MP Stockwell Day while VP Bill Wonnacott looks on.

## Command and Unit News — “Making a Difference”

### Resignation From Dominion Command Board of Directors

Dominion Command was surprised to learn that Dominion Vice-President Bill Wonnacott of British Columbia tendered his resignation effective 17 February, 2003. The British Columbia Command accepted the resignation with sincere regret as did Dominion President Bob Cassels. Comrade Bill Wonnacott has always worked tirelessly for the good of the Association and the betterment of its members. The vacancy on the Dominion Board will be filled by the British Columbia Command at its 3rd Biennial Convention, 25-26 April, 2003.



Dominion VP Bob Mooney sent in the above two pictures of two new murals in Unit 222, Prince Albert, SK



Comrade Ken Cooper of Unit 377 of Kingston Ontario presented the ANAVETS' Frank Kossa Bursary of \$1000 to Ms Fatemeh Majdi of Montreal. She is a post graduate student at Canada's Royal Military College.



ANAVETS' Ottawa Annual Reception was held in Feb at the Army Officers' Mess. Talking together is (left to right) Senator Michael Meighan, President Bob Cassels, Deputy Minister Larry Murray and Minister Dr Rey Pagtakhan.

Newsletter Editor  
Secretary-Treasurer Jack Arseneault

**THE ARMY NAVY & AIR FORCE VETERANS IN  
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**ANAVETS**



**ANAVETS' WEB SITE — [www.anavets.ca](http://www.anavets.ca) —**

### Visit us....

We continue to try to provide an informative and interesting site for ANAVETS members and potential members. To date, there has been over 11,000 hits on our web site. We have received inquiries from potential members thinking of joining ANAVETS. We send them information on how to contact the unit in their vicinity and a few, not near any of our units, have joined as Members-at-large. Other individuals, particularly from United States, England and Australia, contact us as a result of finding about on the web site to seek information about their veteran family members or to obtain information on a family member who served in the military. We do what we can to help them all.

Included in the site are news & views which contains a link to our newsletters, purpose, history, organization, membership with reasons why one should join ANAVETS, links to veteran related sites, a kitshop page complete with a listing of regalia store items and current prices, and a printable form for ordering regalia. Use it as a publicity tool by viewing it or sending potential customers to see who we are and what we are all about.

I want to continue to urge all Commands and Units to get on the net, create a web site and make maximum use of email. President Cassels has become a big user of email....so can you !

## ANAVICUS NEWS

President Bob Cassels and his wife Lise will travel to Washington, D.C. for the American Legion's Annual Washington Conference being held the first week of March, 2003.

Each year a selected group of American Legionnaires receive an ANAVETS Honorary Life Membership and it is considered a very prestigious award. In a breakfast ceremony to be held on Monday, 3 March, President Jake Comer will assist President Cassels in inducting 34 new members into ANAVICUS. To date, over 900 members have been so inducted.

Many of you will recall meeting the new President of ANAVICUS at our 2002 Convention. He is John P. (Jake) Comer from Quincy, Massachusetts. He is a Past National Commander of the American Legion. The 1st Vice-President is Dan Ludwig, another Past National Commander of the American Legion.

This year we were honoured at our biennial conven-

tion in Edmonton by the attendance of three American Legion Past National Commanders, including the Immediate Past by only three weeks, Richard Santos who was with us for the entire week. He was very active and his company was enjoyed by all.

President Jake Comer and Dan Ludwig presented 22 deserving members of ANAVETS with the coveted American Friendship Award.

These awards mean so much to the recipients because of our nation's shared history and camaraderie in the wars our veterans fought "Shoulder to Shoulder" to protect the freedoms we enjoy today. They were met by long time ANAVETS friends Mr James & Stella Valentine from Indiana.



L to R: Dan Ludwig, Bob & Lise Cassels, Jake Comer (New President of ANAVICUS) and Richard Santos.