



Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command
The Royal Canadian Legion

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All Branch Mail Out #37 - 2017

Date: September 19, 2017

To: NS/NU Command Branches
NS/NU Zone Commanders
NS/NU Executive Council
NS/NU Past Presidents
NS/NU Command Staff

From: Valerie Mitchell-Veinotte
Executive Director
NS/NU Command, RCL

Subject: Reminder of opportunity for assistance to
Branches

Message: Comrades: Please see attached communication that is being resent that may be of great benefit to NS/NU Command Branches. You are encouraged to contact the organization to make arrangements to avail this opportunity.

LANDSCAPING DONATIONS

Valerie, I am writing on behalf of Landscape Nova Scotia, the industry association for the landscape and horticultural industry, to seek your guidance.

We are considering establishing a new program in which our member companies would donate and/or do landscaping at locations in their communities associated with veterans/Remembrance Day (i.e. legion halls, cemeteries with veterans, cenotaphs and memorials where Remembrance Day services take place, etc). For example, we could potentially arrange for planters and floral arrangements for November 11 services at some sites; or we could potentially plant grass/flowers/trees/shrubs in some locations; or we could potentially do hardscaping such as retaining walls or interlocking brick work. It's only a small example but I drove past a legion recently which was on a completely bare lot that could be made much more attractive with some trees and shrubs – not a huge amount of work but a little TLC would make a big difference to the site and, I hope, to the veterans.

There is the potential for landscaping to be done each year at the same sites or for different sites to be done in future years, depending on the circumstances of each location.

My hope is that we can match our landscaping companies with locations and organizations in their communities, such as your branches, and let the local folks decide what can and should be done to help. All costs would be absorbed by our members and the service would be free to your branches or similar organizations. All we would want from the veterans organizations is their permission to work on the sites and their involvement in deciding what would be done.

If we are able to do this, I would hope to get at least a half dozen sites involved this year and to grow the program each year thereafter. Some areas would initially be easier than others given the locations of some of our key members (i.e. Halifax Regional Municipality, Elmsdale/Milford area, Wolfville/Kentville, Sydney...). As the program gets established, we would plan to extend its reach more throughout the province.

I don't know whether some locations might be too complicated to work with, i.e. if a site is owned by a municipality there could be issues with union rules, etc. We want to have local partners that welcome our assistance so the arrangement is a good one for both sides, and I'm hoping your input may help with this.

Does this sound like a good idea to you and if so, would you be able to help identify key sites or people we can talk to? This is a blue-sky idea at this point so any feedback/guidance would be appreciated. Thanks!

Sean Kirby, Executive Director
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