



Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command  
The Royal Canadian Legion

61 Gloria McCluskey Avenue  
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia B3B 2Z3

Tel: 902-429-4090  
Fax: 902-429-7481  
Email: [info@ns.legion.ca](mailto:info@ns.legion.ca)

[ns.legion.ca](http://ns.legion.ca)

## All Branch Mail Out #50

**Date:** July 14, 2020

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

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

**Subject:** Operation Bluenose

**Message:** Comrades: please see information attached and below regarding the initiative Operation Bluenose. NS/NU Command President Marion Fryday-Cook encourages all Branches to participate.

## OPERATION BLUENOSE – JULY 24-26, 2020

### NOVA SCOTIA 2020

We are in uncharted waters today as Nova Scotians. Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic closures the whole world has been under added pressures, however, Nova Scotia has suffered a profoundly difficult time. The loss of seven Canadian Forces service members, an RCMP officer in active duty, the 22 innocent people killed in the tragic mass shooting incident followed by an extensive search and rescue effort for a missing child – these have been heavy times for all Nova Scotians.

This year so far has tested even the strongest among us. In an effort to turn the page on this dark chapter the Army Museum at Halifax Citadel, supported by the Hon. Colonel's council of NS is proposing Operation Bluenose.

### WHAT IS OPERATION BLUENOSE?

- Inspired by the iconic symbol for whom we are often eponymously named, Operation Bluenose will see structures across NS, Canada and possibly the world lit up in Blue to honour and recognize Nova Scotia's strength and resilience.
- Operation Bluenose shares in the mission of what Capt. Jennifer Casey intended with Operation Inspiration which was built to inspire hope across Nova Scotia and further afield where possible.
- What Bluenose II represents to Nova Scotians is unique – she embodies our humility and strength, our stewardship and hospitality – just the sight of Bluenose inspires an indescribable pride in Nova Scotians and a visit alongside we know can elevate an entire community as no other – Bluenose II aims to take to the water this year in perhaps one of her most important missions – to lift her people – the illumination for Operation Bluenose will simply coincide with the first sailing leg / port visit or weekend of her sailing season.

### WHO WILL CONDUCT & SUPPORT OPERATION BLUENOSE?

- Op. Bluenose is a proposed project organized by the Army Museum Halifax Citadel.
- As a custodian of Nova Scotia's proud military past, mobilizing in difficult times is the order of a typical day for our Armed Forces and now more than nearly any other time in most of our lifetimes it is befitting to mobilize now to raise the spirits of our province.
- It is our hope that we can partner with the with Bluenose II (*managed by the Lunenburg Marine Museum Society on behalf of the Province of Nova Scotia*) on this operation and to:
  - 1) gain permission to coin the illumination aspect of Operation Bluenose after the iconic vessel,
  - 2) hopefully coincide with her first sailing of the season and
  - 3) potentially light her sails for the first few days either in Lunenburg or another port.

Op. Bluenose is Supported by:

- 5th Canadian Division, the Canadian Army centred in Atlantic Canada // 5e Division du Canada, l'Armée canadienne centrée dans le Canada Atlantique.
- Royal Canadian Navy - CFB Halifax
- CFB - RCAF 12 Wing Shearwater
- The CAF Honoraries Council of Nova Scotia

- The City of Halifax (and other municipalities as they emerge / sign-on)

#### WHY OPERATION BLUENOSE?

Throughout these hardships - people across the province and transplanted Bluenosers around the world have been tapping into their hearts and minds to navigate what has felt like an impossible time. There have been vigils, on-line broadcasts, remote concerts, poems, speeches on and on. Tributes to the shooting victims as well as all our service members on the front line in an unapparelled outpouring of love from sea to shining sea and around the world have been extended through #NovaScotiaStrong.

Yet still we have not been able to be together or properly mourn and grieve those we have lost. Operation Bluenose is an opportunity for us to begin the collective healing our province so dearly needs.

#### WHERE?

- Iconic places across NS will be lit up to mark a new chapter and most importantly pay homage to those we have lost – the Halifax Armouries on the Common, Government House, Halifax City Hall, Citadel Hill, Peggy's Cove and hopefully the sails of the Bluenose will be illuminated in Blue each evening sometime between the end of July to Mid- August.
- And everyone is welcome to join in *no light is too small, too big or too bright* – we're appealing to everyone across Nova Scotia, Canada and around the world to light the night up blue for NS in the designated time frame to remember those we have lost, to Covid, in the tragic April shootings and the offshore and Snow Birds military operations -- while recognizing the efforts of front line / essential workers and those who are fighting for equality and justice for all and to begin charting our path forward together.

#### WHEN?

- Our aim is to ask all those who can to light the night up blue for NS to acknowledge and pay tribute to our front line (healthcare workers, service members, police rcmp etc.) and all those we've lost, all that has been endured (we need to acknowledge the efforts of the anti-racism efforts and invite all people to participate) as we look ahead to a bright future for Nova Scotia.
- Why July 24-26 – ideally the mass illumination will coincide with the first regional sailing of 2020 for our Ambassador at sea Bluenose II.

#### RESTRICTIONS & MANAGEMENT

All public health restrictions across any jurisdiction will be observed and encouraged through all communications related to Operation Bluenose. Similarly, organizers will encourage sharing images of individual or public participation socially or virtually with the hashtag #OperationBluenose to ensure the project can be as inclusive as possible while observing public health measures such as social distancing.