



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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November 1, 2022.

The Barry's Bay Legion Branch 406 has a mission to serve veterans and their dependants, promote remembrance, and act in the service of Canada and its communities. As a non-profit organization, the Barry's Bay Legion is committed to supporting veterans and their families through their fundraising events and activities. Legion members conduct the annual poppy campaign, hold a Veteran's Dinner, and organize Remembrance Day Services for the public that include an excellent chili luncheon put on by the Ladies Auxiliary.

Legion members are dedicated volunteers who invest their time and energy in bettering the lives of people in our community. Every year they put on a variety of community events and activities such as pancake breakfasts and luncheons, bingos, card games, horseshoe tournaments, and Canada Day celebrations for kids of all ages. The Legion works with, and supports other organizations and groups in our community. They offer free space for the Library's special events, and for forums on subjects of public interest like Affordable Housing and All Candidates meetings. From spring to fall, the Legion hosts the Barry's Bay Farmers' Market on their grounds, and with the recent addition of a back deck and ramp, they have created even more accessible community space.

The Barry's Bay Legion deserves special recognition in 2022 to acknowledge their contributions to the health and wellbeing of our community throughout the pandemic, and to express appreciation for the very successful Veteran Banner Program that recognizes local veterans across the Township.

For the past year and a half the Legion has been home to COVID-19 vaccination clinics for Madawaska Valley and area. Having a local, accessible space made it easier for seniors and working families to get vaccinated. Most of us have passed through their doors to get our shots and been truly grateful for that opportunity. Knowing that the Legion was providing the space needed for vaccination clinics also enabled the municipality to proceed with critical renovations to the arena.

As you pass through the village and hamlets in our community at this time of year you can't help but notice the beautiful remembrance banners for local veterans. The Legion's Veteran Banner Program successfully brings history and remembrance to life by celebrating the service and sacrifice of local veterans and their families. The banners remind us of those who embraced a greater duty to serve our country and protect our freedoms.

It is an honour and a privilege to present the 2022 Mayor's Appreciation Award to the Barry's Bay Legion Branch 406. With us to receive the award is President Heather Poliquin, Veteran's Service Officer Paul Mitton, Membership Chair Lorraine Coulter and Seniors Chair John Stecko. I'd like to ask Heather and the Barry's Bay Legion members that are here today to join me at the front to receive the award.

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