



**Robert McChesney,
Diamond Jubilee Chairman**
**Jubilee key
to the future**

Diamonds are forever. And so is the Royal Canadian Legion, says Robert McChesney of Kirkland Lake, Diamond Jubilee chairman.

We recognize the average age of a Second World War veteran is 67 years. Because of this, when we celebrate our 75th anniversary, there won't be as many of the active World War II fellows around," says McChesney, past dominion president from 1974-76, and a Royal Canadian Legion Branch 87 member since the 1940s.

One thrust of the Diamond Jubilee will be to create an orderly transition of office, to the sons and daughters of Legion veterans, ready to accept the challenge of the future.

"We'll utilize the Diamond Jubilee to plan for the long-term future of the Legion. We want to get all our volunteers and committees working for our future," McChesney says.

The chairman says the celebration has been successful at all levels. "We feel it's important to put forth an excellent public relations program. McChesney, a Royal Canadian Air Force veteran, is delighted with the Legion's photographic history, The Royal Canadian Legion 1926-1986, produced for the jubilee. "We have never had such a good history of the Legion done before." Along with a film documentary being produced, McChesney says the two are important tools for teaching the public and Legion members about the organization.

McChesney's own Legion involvement began with joining Branch 87 in the 1940s. "It was the thing to do in our community. It was a good venture socially. I've always found the Legion a good training ground for anything one does.

High Flight

*Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds - and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of - wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air.*

*Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace
Where never lark, nor even eagle flew -
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space
Put out my hand and touched the face of God.*

Pilot Officer John G. Mauer, Jr.

In Flanders Fields

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, tho poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

Lieut.-Col. John McCrae



This magnificent memorial at Vimy, France, commemorates the war contribution of Canadian soldiers at Vimy Ridge. The

memorial was unveiled in 1936 by King Edward VIII. France donated 250 acres of land to Canada for the monument.

(Government of Canada photograph)



**Steve Dunsdon,
Dominion President**
**Veterans still
have needs**

TORONTO - The Royal Canadian Legion's Diamond Jubilee gives members a chance to celebrate their accomplishments and remind people of veteran's needs, says the Dominion President.

It could be, says Steven Dunsdon, "the last big hurrah that we as veterans will be able to put on" and as such gives Legion members an opportunity to make Canadians aware of their significant contributions both past and present.

Just as important, he adds, is that the 60th anniversary of the Legion's founding serves to make members themselves aware of their accomplishments on a national scale.

By nature, Legion members are quiet about contributions to their communities and the great strides they have made in improving the condition of Canadian veterans, says Dunsdon.

"We don't publicize all we do," he says, adding: "I think perhaps this Diamond Jubilee celebration is bringing this point out. We've been keeping under cloak for too long."

As Dominion President during the 60th anniversary celebrations, Dunsdon says he feels "very, very honored that the jubilee comes during my term."

While it is difficult to pinpoint one Diamond Jubilee celebration activity as being more important than others, Dunsdon says in their own way, provincial Command and local branch activities will serve to remind people of Legion contributions, including the numerous acts of generosity which go unrecorded.

It will also serve to remind new Legion members, including younger veterans and the sons and daughters of older members, of the organization's concerns and objectives.

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