



President Annual Report 2019-2020

Karen L. Duval

PORTFOLIO OBJECTIVES 2019-2020

- Welcome new members to the Ottawa Board;
- Maintaining a relationship with HMCS Carleton to secure our use of their facilities for both corps (RCSCC Falkland, NLCC V/Adm Kingsmill) and the Navy League of Canada Ottawa Branch;
- Continuing a relationship with our supporting Legions;
- Good leadership and direction for the Executive and Board;
- Public Relations: to ensure the Branch and our cadets are seen as significant and positive influences for the community;
- Provide updates from Ontario Division Meetings, that I will be attending as a Director-at-Large.

Comments of Achievement Status

It has been a great privilege to work with the Ottawa Board, HMCS Carleton and the Commanding Officers of our two corps, the parents and cadets in 2019, so I look forward to continue to be a part of this journey into the 2020/21 training year.

Summer of 2019 we had on-water training with the Howard. This is a way to keep the cadets that do not go to camp engaged in the program.

In September 2019; our two corps had large in-take of cadets. RCSCC Falkland was a strong 134 and NLCC V/Adm Kingsmill was 92. RCSCC Falkland and NLCC V/Adm Kingsmill are two of the largest corps in Canada. I sat on the Chief Boards for NLCC V/Adm Kingsmill. A legal dispute with the NLC commenced at the end of the month and, as I was a Director with the Division, I was automatically included in the mass suspension of all of its executive and directors. That would prove to be temporary until a proper review restored my status.

In October 2019, the first of three Tag Days took place on October 5th with great success.

In November 2019, I was interviewed and reinstated back into the Navy League of Canada I was 1 of 6 in all. Both corps participated in the Remembrance Day at the National War Memorial as well as other services within the city.

In December 2019; we participate in the Wreaths across Canada (WAC) at the Notre Dame Cemetery. Branch inspection at NLCC V/Adm Kingsmill. The Branch Executive and other senior guests attended both corps Holiday Mess dinners.

In January 2020; participated in a teleconference with the ITE and Ontario Corporation with all of the Ontario Branches to discuss the future of the "Ontario Division".

In February 2020: The Navy League was able to host their squadron competitions at HMCS Carleton. It was a very successful event. Thank you to the Commander of Ontario for coordinating and to Commander Dussault for her support and participation. I sat on the Merit Review Board for RCSCC Falkland on February 2nd.

In March 2020; We had a Council Meet and Greet with the Falkland parents and it was a great success with many new members joining the Branch and the Council. We hope to have another one in the fall with the Kingsmill parents.

This is also when our training year changed due to COVID-19 which made us cancel Provincial competitions and our TAG Days; and both corps stood down for all in-person activities. Both CO's and their staff created virtual training for all of the cadets.

In April 2020; Ontario Division AGM in person was canceled. The ITE and Ontario Corporation met to discuss the Bylaws that could be agreed upon prior to the Division AGM in May.

In May 2020; on May 2nd the Navy League of Canada-Ontario held a teleconference with all Branches to approve the proposed "Ontario Addendum" to the Bylaw's.

At the Ontario AGM 2020 on May 23rd, the new bylaws were formally adopted, and a new Division President (Jennifer Bennett) and Board of Directors were elected. That included two Ottawa Branch members as Directors-at-large (Gerry Powell and myself).

In June 2020; virtual Change of Command ceremony for RCSCC Falkland; virtual ACR's for RCSCC Falkland and NLCC V/Adm Kingsmill. They have been posted on Facebook and on the Ottawa Branch website.

Summer of 2020; As the severe restrictions of the COVID crisis continues over the summer, the plan is to use the Howard to promote both Corps and the celebrate the 125 year anniversary of the Navy League of Canada from a distance. Take a walk along the Rideau Canal and you might see the Howard on the water waving a 125th year banner.

We will continue to be supportive in your activities in the new training year.

Recommendations for 2020-2021 Objectives

- New parent volunteers are always needed to help with both of our corps in any capacity. They are always encouraged to attend the Ottawa Branch meeting to see and hear what we do and to get involved;
- Continue to promote both corps on our website and through our Director of Communications and Director of Community Engagement; I know that both Directors have come up with the great ideas for the new training year ahead;
- Keep the Howard on the water until October to celebrate the 125 years of the Navy League of Canada and to help keep cadets and the public engaged in the program from a distance.

ISSUES AND CONCERNS

- COVID-19: due to the restraints that are currently in place I want to move forward with planning so that the Corps can resume training in September. However, we are waiting direction from DND and Navy League of Canada that will allow that to happen and define the new normal we will face in the Fall. It will cause some challenges for in-take and training activities in the Fall.

SUMMARY

Congratulations on the 125th of the Navy League of Canada!

These are only highlights of what had been achieved the last 9 months. A great deal of planning has been done and there are a number of initiatives the Council wishes to undertake. Moving forward, the Board and the Executive team will focus on members outreach, as well as encourage cadet in-take by promoting the Navy League and educating the public. I look forward to those discussions and decisions.

I wanted to take this opportunity to encourage our members to strive to do the best we can as a team. We have a lot of fun as a Branch organizing and participating in many events. We also need a diversity of views on how we can evolve to meet the changing needs for our cadets. We want to celebrate their achievements and at the same time recognize the dedicated staff at the corps and at the Branch. We therefore need to actively consider ways to simplify so that we spend our time on what matters, the cadets – connecting with parents and families of our cadets to bringing them back in the Fall.

I would like to thank the Ottawa Branch and the Executive for their energy, support, friendship, enthusiasm and sheer hard work. I really admire and appreciate you all.

A special thank you to Lt (NL) B. Brown and LCdr (N) J. Marchand for your dedication and determination to ensure that your cadets had a successful year.

So, a very big **thank you** from the Ottawa Branch to LCdr (N) J. Marchand for sitting at our table for the last 3 years. You are welcome to come back anytime. We truly appreciate all that you and your staff have accomplished and wish you the best of luck in the future.

I would like to welcome Lt (N) Robert Lafrance to the Ottawa Branch table as the CO for RCSCC Falkland.

Bravo Zulu!!

Respectfully submitted,

Karen L Duval

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President
Navy League of Canada, Ottawa Branch