



President's Message – November/December 2024

by Peggy Hawthorn

We have just finished recognizing Remembrance Day and the theme ***“Lest We Forget”*** was seen and heard time after time. I am grateful to see that this is just not a saying that is said and not practiced. With the absence of WWI Veterans and a dwindling number of WWII Veterans, there has been a shift in the type of Veterans being acknowledged in the last few years as Korean War Veterans, Peacekeepers and Fighters against Terrorism have been those added to that group.

Regardless of the role played, these men and women have served and deserve our respect and gratitude for making this country free and safe for us. It is also important to also remember the families of these individuals who also sacrificed so much to allow this service to be done.



We are now looking toward the winter season and those holiday times that we celebrate before year end. Traditions play a huge part of most of those holidays and may be connected to what the holiday celebrates and come from family or community backgrounds or others try out something new to add a new twist. Spending time together, food, beverages, decorations, fancy clothes, etc. all contribute to our enjoyment of the season.

Unfortunately, we also have people who struggle at this time too – whether grieving, lonely, struggling to meet their needs, or are suffering with illness. Sometimes we are able to reach out and make a difference to others in some way – let's try to do that where possible.

No matter if we are looking at our past experiences with Remembrance Days or seasonal holidays, we all have ones that bring smiles or tears, good memories or bad memories – the main thing that is important is that with each event we have the opportunity to make a new memory.

May we live each day to the fullest.



USCO Update November/December 2024.

Delays Due to the Canada Post Strike

The USCO would like to express our apologies as we experience delays for our mail delivery including the November/December edition of *The Voice* due to the Canada Post Strike. We will be sure to keep you updated with any changes that happen in the upcoming weeks and appreciate your patience.

Lots of exciting things have been going on at the USCO during 2024 as we continue to emerge out of the effects of Covid. Clubs are meeting again and quite a few are seeing more attendees and activities. Seniors Fairs and Seminars are popping up all across the province as groups and services want to make seniors aware of what is available in their communities.

Several Clubs held significant anniversaries and had celebratory events with congratulatory certificates from different levels of government and the USCO. We had a great convention in September and have submitted our Brief to the governments.

The USCO Office also saw significant changes. Maureen Dougherty retired and two new staff members were hired. Angelique Coyle was hired as the Office Manager and Lovellen Bautista as the Bookkeeper. The Organization was very pleased to find such passionate and skilled individuals to carry on the responsibilities involved.

The Board has been very busy also as we continue to advocate for seniors – a worsening impact on seniors caused by the rising cost of living has become our number one issue, although health care remains a close second.

The year is also ending on a busy note. Last week the Board received the resignation from Angelique effective November 22. The Board has begun deliberations on the process to hire into this position as soon as possible. We have really appreciated her contributions to the USCO since she started and have recognized her passion for seniors. She will be missed.

Office will be staffed Wednesdays and messages checked on Fridays. If there is an urgent matter that requires immediate attention, then a Zone, Club or member can contact the President directly at phawthorn@bell.net

Holiday Closure – as usual the Office will be closed over this time period from December 23 to January 15

This edition of The Voice will be a combined November/December edition with a January edition pending if the staffing allows.

Please check the Website which will be used to update you as needed.

Thank you for your patience as we go through this transition.



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