

# Clive Brown

## RCMP Veteran and Dedicated Poppy Campaign Volunteer



Now retired, one of Cranbrook's RCMP veterans, Clive Brown has many reasons to be the dedicated Poppy Campaign volunteer he is today. Here's why he shows up to raise funds for veterans and their families every year:

Clive's family has a long-history of service in the Canadian Armed Forces. His father, Private Arthur Franklin Brown enlisted in the Essex Scottish Regiment of the Canadian Army at the age of nineteen. In October of 1942 he was confirmed as a POW, and spent the rest of World War II in various internment camps. In 1944, he was forced to participate in a long march or "death march", where he escaped for a time, but was later captured, and then liberated in 1945 by American troops.

Clive's older, brother John Brown, was in the Windsor Regiment(reservist) for 23 years, retiring with the rank of Master Warrant Officer. John's service inspired Clive to join the reserves too. Clive served in the Windsor Regiment for four years before joining the RCMP.

While in the reserves, he saw an advertisement in the paper. The RCMP were looking to hire. He applied, and after a year of background checks he was sworn in.



Clive had joined the RCMP in 1974 and retired as a Cpl. in 2012 with 38 year's service. When Clive turned 21, he joined the Legion in Prince George. Whenever he was transferred by the RCMP, he transferred his Legion membership too.

After training in Regina he was transferred six times to various locations in BC including, Prince George, Haida Gwaii, Cranbrook, Squamish, Vancouver, and back to Cranbrook. One highlight that stood out to him was a temporary assignment at the 1988 Olympics in Calgary.

Throughout his career, he was fortunate to have good supervisors who assisted him in learning everything he could about policing. He has also found that same comradery as a member of the Royal Canadian Legion.

Clive has been a member of the Royal Canadian Legion for 46 continuous years, and has been a member of the Cranbrook Branch #24 since the year 2000. During that time, he has been tireless in his dedication to the well-being of his Branch, and its membership.

The Cranbrook branch has persevered for many years despite some setbacks. They continue to help veterans, and youth donating thousands of dollars yearly to the community. For Clive, volunteering and being involved in events at the Cranbrook Legion have been among the most enjoyable parts of membership.

The branch has hosted an annual Sam Steele barbecue where they invite the public for a steak dinner. They also introduced a day where they invited the Army, and Air Cadets to attend the branch for a fun day. The branch was closed, allowing the cadets to meet, mingle and play pool, darts, and shuffleboard. The branch provided hot dogs, pop, and chips for all the kids.

One important event each year, has been the annual poppy tagging campaign. Clive has participated in the campaign since 2010. At first being shown how to fundraise using wreaths, until becoming poppy chair for four years.



## **Q & A:**

### **Poppy Campaign Volunteer Questions, Answers from Clive Brown**

#### **1. Why did you volunteer for the poppy campaign?**

The Royal Canadian Legion has been a part of my life for many years. Being a part of the Legion, and having a background as an RCMP member, I understand the importance of remembrance. I had family who served in the Canadian Armed Forces too. And the people I served alongside in the RCMP were not just my co-workers, they were my friends. That's why the poppy campaign is significant to me.

Once my work schedule allowed, I started assisting the branch by driving another Legion member to deliver wreaths to various businesses. After a few years I was taught the inner workings of the Poppy Campaign and became the Poppy Chair for four years.

#### **2. Who is involved in the Poppy Campaign in your community?**

The whole community from the residents to the businesses participate in our annual Poppy Campaign. Of course, it's the members of the Legion that spearhead the Poppy Campaign. Our local cadets partner with us to poppy tag. Our members are often out as well.

#### **3. What do you think holds people back from volunteering in the Poppy campaign?**

The initial concern for volunteers is that they think that they have to actively try to "sell" a wreath and "sell" Poppies. We don't sell poppies, they are free for everyone, and donations are accepted.

In Cranbrook, the branch has established a yearly record of what each business will support. Most business owners ask, "Well, what did I donate last year?". And that's all they need. Volunteers just provide an opportunity for them to participate in the Poppy campaign by giving, and displaying their wreath. Each year a volunteer goes to the businesses with the wreath they had the previous year along with a box of Poppies that they display on their office counter.

#### **4. What are the ways members and others participating in the Poppy campaign?**

In Cranbrook, we break the city down to wreath routes where volunteers pick a route, and attend every business on the route who support the Poppy Campaign by displaying a wreath and having a Poppy Box on their counter. Prior to Remembrance Day we pick up every wreath. The wreaths are tagged with the businesses name. After the Remembrance Day ceremony, the Army and Air Cadets place every wreath at the Cenotaph.

Members also have the opportunity to poppy tag at the storefront of local businesses. But, anyone who shares in our mission can volunteer for the poppy campaign. Cadets participate too.

**5. What are some of the best ways to find more volunteers in the Poppy campaign?**

Our Branch finds that keeping the Poppy Campaign fun and easy to manage encourages more and consistent volunteers. We have had numerous volunteers participate and realize there are businesses operating in Cranbrook that they never knew existed. They get the opportunity to discover more about our community, and meet people they've never met before. Everyone has a good time.