



FORT FRANCES BRANCH 29, MANITOBA AND NORTHWESTERN
ONTARIO COMMAND

The Royal Canadian Legion
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Comrade Norris Piccinato
PRESIDENT

Jennifer Soderholm
OFFICE MANAGER

Mayor & Council
Town of Fort Frances
320 Portage Avenue
Fort Frances, ON P9A 3P9

July 2, 2014

Honoured Mayor and Council:

As you may be aware, 2014 marks the 100 year anniversary of the beginning of World War 1 and the 75th anniversary of the beginning of World War 2. It is because of the sacrifice made and still being made by our brave Canadian Soldiers that each and every one of us is able to live in a country full of hope and possibilities.

In honour of such important events in our history, the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #29 along with the Royal Canadian Legion Ladies Auxiliary Branch #29 and the Fort Frances Museum & Cultural Centre will be spending the months of September through November not only promoting the act of Remembrance for these two events but honouring those individuals from our community and surrounding areas for their courage and willingness to serve and sacrifice for our freedom.

We have had the good fortune to be able to book the "Soldiers of Song" touring group known as "The Dumbells" to do a special performance for our community on September 10th, 2014. The Dumbells' origin can be traced back to World War 1 where lucky soldiers who could sing a song, preform a skit or pass as a "lady," were taken from the line and put onstage for the benefit of their soldier-audiences. The intent was to bolster morale and thereby help soldiers survive the war. It is well known that the Dumbells have inspired the likes of Wayne and Shuster and Monty Python. The group also managed a run in London's West End and became the first ever Canadian production to score a hit on Broadway. To accommodate the performers and to provide

a venue that will allow for the maximum amount of seating so that everyone wishing to attend has the opportunity we have booked the Townsend Theatre.

As times are difficult in our community with the recent closing of the local mill and the flooding we hope that this performance will once again bolster morale as well as help honour and remember those special men and women from our area who have or are serving. We are therefore asking you to consider donating the use of the Townsend Theatre for the evening and possibly waiving the \$1.50 charge for each person attending the performance.

Each and every one of us, do not have to look very far back in our own family tree to find someone special who was/is willing to lay their life on the line to uphold everything that we as Canadians value. It is very easy to take for granted our way of life and to down play the value of our history. As more and more of our veterans are passing away the importance of those events are forgotten, lost or only found in a history book rarely brought out.

We thank you in advance for your time and willingness to consider our request and we hope to see each and every one of you at the performance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Noris Piccinato', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Noris Piccinato
President
Royal Canadian Legion Branch #29

NP/jls