

# BRANCH REPORT

## ON33 | ALGONQUIN VALLEY BRANCH

### President's message

Happy New Year! Hopefully, by the time you receive this, we'll be at the tail end of winter. I, for one, can't wait!

I'd like to thank all our wonderful Executive Board members (past and present), Committee members, and all the other volunteers who have supported the Branch, and me in particular, over the last few years. Your support has been amazing, and I thank you for it.

I will not be running for local Branch President again this April. The last few years have been a privilege, and I look forward to continuing my work with the Executive, but in a different capacity. So, thank you all again.

*Vickie Hulley*

### Advocacy

Since the BAM in May, I have taken the responsibility for advocacy. The focus so far has been to reach out to the MP and the MPP for the riding with the goal of establishing contact and to take the opportunity to invite them to attend the Branch's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Recognizing the importance to reach out to all levels of government, an invitation was also sent to the Mayor of the Town of Petawawa and to the county Reeve to attend our annual picnic. The town of Petawawa accepted our invitation, and their representative Karen Donovan, a member of council and the Seniors Advisory Committee, made a very interesting presentation discussing the Town's senior program.



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Our branch covers only one riding: Algonquin-Renfrew-Pembroke riding, but it extends over a vast region, it has many towns and a large senior population (23.6% is over the age of 65). It also included the Canadian Forces Base Petawawa with a significant number of veterans. It has become clear the need to increase the outreach and the strength of the advocacy work and therefore, recognizing the advocacy priorities of the association, the Algonquin Valley Branch has created an advocacy committee. The committee is made up of individuals from various Algonquin Valley Branch backgrounds, as diverse voices should enrich our advocacy efforts. The immediate tasks are to establish terms of reference and to outline an advocacy plan for the short and long terms.

Laura Obrutsky, Vice President and Advocacy Chair

## Celebrating 40 Years of Service: Algonquin Valley Branch Marks Milestone Anniversary



On October 25, 2025, the Algonquin Valley Branch (ON33) of the National Association of Federal Retirees (NAFR) proudly celebrated its 40th anniversary at the elegant Best Western Pembroke banquet room. The event was a resounding success, drawing an impressive turnout of members and guests who came together to honor four decades of advocacy, community, and support for federal retirees.

The evening featured a keynote address by Ted Young, Ontario District Director, who reflected on the branch's rich history and its unwavering commitment to retirees. He acknowledged the losses the branch experienced over the past year, paying tribute to those who are no longer with us. Ted also emphasized the vital role NAFR plays in safeguarding the interests of retirees, highlighting the efforts of advocacy teams and national entities to ensure pensions and benefits remain secure for current and future members.

Guests enjoyed a fantastic meal, complemented by lively entertainment provided by CCDJ Entertainment, which kept the atmosphere vibrant and celebratory throughout the evening.

The event was not only a commemoration of past achievements but also a reaffirmation of the branch's mission to serve and protect the well-being of its members.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who attended and contributed to making this milestone celebration truly memorable. Here's to 40 years of dedication—and to many more years of advocacy and community!



## Save the Dates!

Our 2026 **Branch Annual Meeting** will be held at the Petawawa Legion on Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026 from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm. Details will follow via e-blast, as we get closer to the date.

If you'd like to help our seniors' community, please think about volunteering for a position on our local executive board. If you have any questions, please contact us at [avb.on33@gmail.com](mailto:avb.on33@gmail.com).

I'm looking forward to seeing you there!

We'll be having a booth again this year at the **2026 Petawawa Showcase**. Showcase runs from May 1 to 3 at the Civic Centre. We hope to see you there.