



## Port Elgin Legion - Branch 340

P.O. Box 359, 630 Green Street  
Port Elgin, Ontario N0H 2C0  
519-389-9917

# February 2008 Branch Line

Please leave your newsletter submissions with the Bar Steward and it will be included in an upcoming edition of our Newsletter. Please email at [harrisonconst@bmts.com](mailto:harrisonconst@bmts.com) if it would be more convenient for you.

As you may be aware, Members of the Branch have been trying something new on Friday evening for the last few weeks.

Your fellow Comrades have been serving a light dinner starting at 5:30 p.m. in the Canteen at a minimal cost of \$3.00 per serving. Each Friday has had a different offering.

This event is being hosted by volunteers who co-ordinate all aspects of the meal.

If you would like more information on how to become a host or help volunteer, please contact Brenda Collins at 519-832-5424 or Bob Harrison at 519-389-4806.

Hope to see you there to help make these events a success.

*The Editors*

Happy valentine's Day!



## **GENERAL MEETING MINUTES:**

The January 2008 General Meeting was cancelled.

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## **SERVICE BUREAU**

If there are any Veterans needing assistance, please call me at 519 389-2876. All queries and assistance is kept confidential and if assistance is required, we will put you in touch with the proper authority.

On another matter, when the Year of the Veteran lapel pin came out (2005), we were allowed to wear it on our uniform for that particular year only. After that, we were allowed to put it on another "everyday" jacket but had to remove it from our uniform.

I realize it is such a nice pin and we were all very proud to wear it but protocol deems that it be removed from our uniform.

## **LEGION DRESS**

As a member of The Royal Canadian Legion, we project an image when wearing our uniform – it is an image that demonstrates pride in our country, our organization and ourselves. The following is a few guidelines:

- The beret is worn with the band 1" above the eyebrows, the crest over the left eye and the beret pulled back and smoothed to the right side
- A Legion name tag may be worn on the left lapel of the blazer
- Only 1 Legion lapel pin shall be worn on the left lapel of the blazer; a service discharge button or a Canadian Forces Long Service lapel pin may also be worn to the left of the Legion pin
- The Poppy, when it is worn for parades or Legion Funeral Tributes, etc, is worn above your legion lapel pin

Respectfully Submitted  
Norma Dudgeon  
Branch 340 Service Officer &  
Training & Organizational Development

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## **MEMBERSHIP**

It is no longer necessary to have any type of military background to become a member of the Royal Canadian Legion. We are always looking for new members and would like to see more people join our Branch. Please see the Bar Steward for applications.

Please let me know if there are any changes in your contact information. Address changes may result in a delay of your Legion magazine.

Members are reminded to pick up your 2008 Renewal Card with the Bar Steward.

Yours in Comradeship,

Rhonda Harrison  
Membership Chair  
Port Elgin Branch 340

## Fact or Fiction?

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be. Here are some facts about the 1500's:

Most people got married in June because they took their bi-annual bath in May and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell, so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children, last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water".

Houses had thatched roofs - thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying, "It's raining cats and dogs".

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying: "dirt poor". The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on the floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entranceway. Hence the saying, "Of having a threshold at the doorway".

(Getting quite an education, aren't you?)

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme: "Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old...".

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could, bring home the bacon. They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and chew the fat.

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning death. This happened most often then with tomatoes, so for the next 250 years or so, tomatoes were thought to be highly poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or the upper crust.

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of "holding a wake".

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone-house, and re-use the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the graveyard shift.) to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be, "saved by the bell" or was considered a "dead ringer..."

And that's the truth, now, whoever said History was boring! !



## WHAT'S HAPPENING



### PUB NIGHT - 8 to MIDNIGHT

February 09<sup>th</sup> Dance to "Cool Heat"  
February 23<sup>rd</sup> Dance to "Late Night Radio"

### MEAT ROLLS at 4:00 p.m.

February 09<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>

### TRIVIA NIGHT

Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup>  
8:00 p.m.

Teams of 3 Needed  
Sign Up Sheet at Bar

### GENERAL MEETING

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month

### L/A GENERAL MEETING

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month

### BINGO EVERY WEDNESDAY

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.  
Bingo at 7:30 p.m. \$700.00 Jackpot

### ANNUAL CLIFF SEAMAN

### CHILI COOK-OFF

Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>  
See Poster for Details



Early morning photograph of Bretteville-sur-Laize Canadian War Cemetery – 2872 Burials

Located approximately 10 kms south of Caen, France.

Photograph courtesy of Lyle Lawson



Port Elgin Legion  
Branch 340

# CURLING BONSPIEL

**Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008**  
**Port Elgin Curling Club**

\$30.00 per person  
Includes Curling, Light Lunch, Dinner and Prizes

Sign up sheet available at Canteen  
Please pay when registering  
Deadline for registration ...March 08<sup>th</sup>

For information contact  
Charlie Roopnaraine at 519-832-9108






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S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1 BALLROOM DANCING 8:00 PM	2 
3	4	5 GEN. MTG. 8:00 PM	6 BINGO 7:30 PM	7 EUCHRE 7:30 PM	8 BALLROOM DANCING 8:00 PM	9 MEAT ROLL 4:00 PM PUB NITE 8:00 PM
10	11	12 L/A GEN. MTG. 8:00 PM	13 BINGO 7:30 PM	14 EUCHRE 7:30 PM Happy Valentine's Day 	15 BALLROOM DANCING 8:00 PM TRIVIA NITE 8:00 PM	16
17	18 FAMILY DAY	19	20 BINGO 7:30 PM	21 EUCHRE 7:30 PM	22 BALLROOM DANCING 8:00 PM	23 CLIFF SEAMAN CHILIFEST MEAT ROLL 4:00 PM PUB NITE 8:00 PM
24	25	26 EXECUTIVE 7:30 PM	27 BINGO 7:30 PM	28 EUCHRE 7:30 PM	29 BALLROOM DANCING 8:00 PM	

**~ Please join us for our various events and help support your Branch ~**