



Port Elgin Legion Branch 340

P.O. Box 359, 630 Green Street
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519-389-9917

branch340@eastlink.ca
www.branch340.ca



MARCH 2014 BRANCH LINE

Inside this issue you will find.... what is happening this month... Committee Reports.... general information and a wee bit of humor too. We welcome your articles and will be more than glad to insert them in future issues. Thanks to those who have submitted in the past.

The One-on-One Membership Campaign is now underway. Please see inside the issue for further details. By signing up new members your name will be put in the Draw to win a Caribbean Cruise for each individual you sign up.

The Annual Elections will be held at the April General Meeting on April 1, 2014. The Meeting will commence at 7:00 pm. It is imperative that you as members consider holding a position on the Executive Committee. We need you to continue the good work that our Branch has been fortunate to accomplish. Please see the Training/Organizational and Development article inside this issue.

All the events happening at the Branch are open to the public so please bring your friends and join in the camaraderie.

The Editor



LEST WE FORGET



Happy St. Patrick's Day





Ladies Auxiliary President's Message



We are looking for Ladies to become members of our Auxiliary.

Are you a Veteran?

Are you a wife, widow, mother, sister, daughter, grand-daughter or niece of a Veteran?

Are you the wife or daughter of an Associate Member?

Do you have a friend who would like to become a Member?

The Ladies Auxiliary's prime object is to be of assistance to the Branch. We help the Veterans by bringing whatever comfort we can to them. We help with the Ontario Provincial Bursary Programme; which allows the Veterans' children to continue their education. In order to do these things we must work to raise money. You will be asked to work with us.

We also have a Sports Programme where we enjoy a day of fun and comradeship.

Members of Branch 340 invite your wives to become members of your Auxiliary!

Ladies Auxiliary Members – a CHALLENGE to each of you....Can you bring a friend of yours into our membership this year?

Hoping you give this matter your urgent consideration so some of our Auxiliary can continue to operate in the future as we have done so faithfully in the past.

PRIDE TO OUR PAST – FAITH IN OUR FUTURE

Joyce Chapman

L/A President

chappy@bmts.com

MEMBERSHIP

Paul Sedlmeir is our latest new member. Please welcome him as he comes to the Branch.

If you have not paid your 2014 Dues, I encourage you to do so at your earliest convenience. We value your continued support as you renew your membership. If you have already paid, I thank you.

If you have recently had a change of address or your contact information, please leave the particulars with the Bar Steward and the Membership Register can be updated; or, contact the undersigned.

Sharen Maas

Membership Chairman

519-389-2412

jmaas@brucetelecom.com



LAST POST

**Doug Stevens
Bruce Davidson**



TOD (Training/Organizational Development)

This month we are going to take a look at the Officers' positions within the Executive.

The responsibility of the welfare of the Branch rests mostly in the hands of the Senior Officers; the President, the Past President and the 1st & 2nd Vice Presidents. Their job is to make sure that all aspects of the Branch run smoothly, that all Rules and Regulations are adhered to and the Branch remains viable. By showing leadership they guide the Branch through the daily ups and downs and set an example for the other Executive Officers to follow. Their positions are held by members who already have some Executive experience.

Other Executives, however, do not necessarily have to have experience; this can be gained through training and guidance and knowledge of manuals, etc.

An excellent source of information is the Ontario Command Branch Officers Series of leaflets for all the positions and the Mentor Program. Look for them on the Bulletin Boards as we prepare for the upcoming Election. Do you have what it takes?

Kathryn Eastwood
Branch 340 - TOD Chairman
socialkatee@bmts.com

SPORTS COMMITTEE



The Branch will be selling tickets for an Easter Basket. The prize is valued at \$500.00 and will hold a variety of goodies for you to enjoy – a stuffed bunny, Easter lily, Easter candy, food and gift certificates.

Tickets are \$2.00 each or \$5.00 for three. They will be available at the Legion and will be sold by fellow Comrades. Please see me if you would like to take a few books to sell towards the cause.

Partial proceeds to the Saugeen Shores Summer Sports Programs – Softball and Soccer and a percentage to the Branch Building/Maintenance Fund.

The draw will be held on Good Friday – April 18th at 5:00 pm. We appreciate your support and good luck to all!

Mary Alexander
Sports Chairman
sunsetcottages@eastlink.ca

Sometimes it DOES take a Rocket Scientist!

Scientists at Rolls Royce built a gun specifically to launch dead chickens at the windshields of airliners and military jets all travelling at maximum velocity. The idea is to simulate incidents of collisions with airborne fowl to test the strength of the windshields.

American engineers heard about the gun and were eager to test it on the windshields of their new high speed trains.

Arrangements were made and a gun was sent to the American engineers.

When the gun was fired the Engineers stood shocked as the chicken hurled out of the barrel, crashed into the shatterproof shield, smashed it to smithereens, blasted through the control console, snapped the engineer's back-rest in two and embedded itself in the back wall of the cabin like an arrow shot from a bow. The horrified Yanks sent Rolls Royce the disastrous results of the experiment, along with the designs of the windshield and begged the British scientists for suggestions.

Rolls Royce responded with a one-line memo:.... "Defrost the chicken."

2013 CHRISTMAS WHEELBARROW DRAW PRESENTATION



Cde Mary Alexander presents Saugeen Shores Minor Hockey Representatives Jeff Walker and President Gary Scott with a cheque for \$2,591.59 which were the proceeds from the Wheelbarrow Draw that took place in December.

Scott said the money will be used for development programs, such as their Tyke, goaltending and coaching programs.

Thanks again to everyone who sold and purchased tickets for such a worthy cause.

L-R – Jeff Walker, Cde Mary Alexander, Gary Scott

Mary Alexander
Sports Chairman
sunsetcottages@eastlink.ca

Mrs. O'Connor's Divorce

"Well, Mrs. O'Connor, so you want a divorce?" the Solicitor questioned his Client.

"Tell me about it. Do you have a grudge?"

"Oh, no," replied Mrs. O'Connor. "Shure now, we have a carport."

The Solicitor tried again. "Well, does the man beat you up?"

"No, no," said Mrs. O'Connor, looking puzzled. "Oi'm always first out of bed."

Still hopeful, the Solicitor tried once again.

"What I'm trying to find out are what grounds you have."

"Bless ye, sor. We live in a flat -- not even a window box, let alone grounds."

"Mrs. O'Connor," the Solicitor said in considerable exasperation, "you need a reason that the Court can consider.

"What is the reason for you seeking this divorce?"

"Ah, well now," said the lady,

"Shure it's because the man can't hold an intelligent conversation.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and ELECTIONS

**Tuesday, April 1, 2014
at 7:00 pm**

Please be prepared to show your 2014 Membership Card at the door, or receipt of paid membership.

The Nomination Board will be located in the Canteen.

Please consider becoming a member of the Executive.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend and vote for your incoming Executive.

Thanking you for your consideration.

Mike Atkinson
Elections Chairman
mjatkinson@bmts.com



WHAT'S HAPPENING In March



LADIES CARD CLUB
Tuesday Afternoons
Upstairs Hall
Start 1:30 pm

EUCHRE
Thursday at 7:30 pm
Canteen

JAMBOREE
Sunday, March 2
2:00 – 5:00 pm
Upstairs Hall

IN-HOUSE CRIBBAGE
2nd Tuesday of each month
Start 7:30 pm
Canteen

DANCE CLUB
Friday at 8:00 pm
Upstairs Hall

MEAT RAFFLE
Saturday, March 1, 15, 29
4:00 pm
Canteen

BINGO every Wednesday
Doors open at 6:30 pm
Bingo at 7:30 pm –
\$700. Jackpot

EUCHRE
Saturday at 1:30 pm
Canteen

TRIVIA
Friday, March 21
8:00 pm
Canteen

All Legion events are open to the public. Bring your friends for an enjoyable time out.

YOUTH & EDUCATION

Port Elgin Legion Branch 340 held the Public Speaking Competition on Saturday February 22, 2014. 1st Place winners will move onto Zone Level competition at Chatsworth Legion Branch on Sunday March 2nd, 2014.



Primary Grades 1-3

L - R: 3rd Place D. Taylor, 1st Place A. Ripley and 2nd Place N. Pound



Junior Grades 4-6

L - R: 2nd Place R. Roychowdhury, 1st Place C. Morris and 3rd Place M. McNeill



Intermediate Grades 7-9

L - R: 3rd N. Szulist, 1st E Martin and 2nd M. Bruce



L-R Cdes Marilyn Noble and Joyce Chapman looked after Registration and Door while Cde Jack Chapman was the Official Timer.



L-R Judges for the event were Cdes Alice Kemp, Deb Sullivan and Beth Douglas. Missing from the photo was Lucy Desbiens.



The volunteers enjoyed a lovely luncheon prior to the afternoon competition thanks to Shirley Dadswell and Sharen Maas. Thank you ladies!



President Eastwood is selecting the gifts for the volunteers.

Congratulations to all the Place winners and good luck at your Zone Competition.

To all the participants thank you for your speech entry and we hope to see you next year.

Kathryn Eastwood
Youth Education Chairman
socialkatee@bmts.com

TRIBUTE TO Cde Don Dudgeon



This month we salute long time member of forty years Don Dudgeon. He has held many positions over the years and what he doesn't know about the Branch would fit on a postage stamp.

Whenever anything needs to be fixed you can be sure he will be there to give advice.

Both Don and his wife Norma, a member of thirty years, are Life Members and this Legion Branch would not be the same without them.

Thanks Don!

A man walked in to a bar after a long day at work. As he began to drink his beer, he heard a voice say seductively "You've got great hair!" The man looked around but couldn't see where the voice was coming from, so he went back to his beer.

A minute later, he heard the same soft voice say "You're a handsome man!" The man looked around, but still couldn't see where the voice was coming from.

When he went back to his beer, the voice said again "What a stud you are!" The man was so baffled by this that he asked the bartender what was going on.

The bartender said "Oh, it's the nuts--they're complimentary."

VETERANS SERVICES OFFICER

As your "Service Officer" for Br. 340, I would like to request your assistance.

The Legion Magazine for March / April 2014, has a feature article regarding Veterans Benefits Guide.

Please find a copy of this magazine, sit in a comfortable chair and take the time to read this informative article.

Should you require assistance in acquiring, 'Veterans Benefits', please contact me directly and with absolute confidentiality, I will assist you with your situation.

****** NOTICE OF ITINERARY VISIT ******

The Royal Canadian Legion
Ontario Provincial Command Service Bureau

Randy Groundwater, Provincial Service Officer, will be available for interviews during the week of April 20 – 26, 2014. Please see Cde Gerald Higgins if you would like to set up an interview time.

Please contact me at any time.

Comrade Gerald R. Higgins.

higginsgr@bmts.com

519-832-9185



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630 Green Street**



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Mike Atkinson

Elections Chairman

mjatkinson@bmts.com

MEMBERSHIP



ONE – ONE MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN February 17 to May 31, 2014



The Legion is a strong organization and membership is the foundation for everything we do. To help us grow, we are holding a Canada-wide membership drive, and we need your help! Share your pride in the Legion and encourage a family member or friend to sign up today. With every member you sign up, you receive a contest ballot towards our grand prize of a Caribbean Cruise! And every new member enters your branch in our monthly draws for a gift certificate to the winning branch. Participating in One By One benefits both you and your branch!

Why One By One? Imagine if each of us brought in just one new member...we'd double our ranks! That would see The Legion ranks grow like never before. Imagine how much stronger the Legion would be. Our role in supporting Veterans and their families would be enhanced. The Legion would be engaging in our communities with renewed vigour, and there would be tens of thousands of new members upholding the traditions of Remembrance.

The Grand Prize

The grand prize is a balcony cabin for two on the 3rd Annual Caribbean Commonwealth Veterans Cruise. From February 2 to February 13, 2015 the cruise sails from Ft. Lauderdale to the tropical ports of the Grand Caymans, Colombia, Panama, Costa Rica, Belize and Mexico. The grand prize package includes: 1 night hotel accommodations in Ft Lauderdale for two people, transfers from the hotel to the pier, an 11-night cruise aboard the Celebrity Equinox (including port taxes and fees) in a category 2B balcony cabin, and prepaid on board gratuities.

The contest runs February 17 through May 16, 2014.

Eligibility

The contest is open to all Legion members in good standing who sign up a new* Legion member. The recruiting member's dues must be fully paid for the current year and there can be no issues regarding the status of the recruiting individual's membership.

*A new Legion member is someone who is new to The Royal Canadian Legion or a reinstating Legion member whose last year paid was prior to 2011. When a new member is recruited under the One By One campaign they are not entered into the draw until they have recruited at least one new member.

Paid employees of The Royal Canadian Legion at any level are not eligible to participate. Legion members in good standing who are family members of paid employees may participate in the campaign and be eligible to win prizes.

Article Courtesy of Legion.ca Website

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sharen Maas
Membership Chairman
519-389-2412
jsmaas@brucetelecom.com

Getting through the Storm

Here in Grey and Bruce County we were definitely hit with winter this past month.

Oh my, that lake effect can be quite threatening on a long drive in the dark of the night. Sometimes when I head out down the highway I wonder if I had taken a back road would I have arrived earlier. When the snow starts swirling and pounding into the windshield you question whether you should have just stayed. Why did I leave?

I think many of you have been in this blinding snowstorm not being able to see much in front of you. The fear of the unknown as you keep going forward engulfs you and yet you know that pulling over and turning around is not safe.

I have actually been driving along the lake and enjoying the calm of the snow and without warning I am in the centre of a wind tunnel with the car shaking back and forth. I have no control as I gripped the steering wheel choked by the terror of the night with the wind bellowing. I am paralyzed with fear. Not trusting my judgment as I could not see anything I put the car in park right in the middle of the road. Confused and disorientated by the storm I felt lost and all alone. I thought this is it; no one is going to find me out on here and of course my cell phone has no service.

I needed to take a moment to think hard on what to do next. I needed a plan. A friend once told me if you cannot see in front or behind you look for what is beside you. I rolled down the windows to find the snow bank on the side of the road and to search for the white line in the middle of the road. At least I knew I was on the right side of the road and I kept going forward with my windows rolled down. I was cold and shivering but I was determined to get out of the storm. My windshield wipers kept whispering you can do this, you can do this.

Finally I did arrive at my destination I was out of the storm safe at last. Later friends and family would ask the question – “What took you so long to get here?” My response to everyone - “You really do not know what I just came through”. I learned from my experiences I pay attention to the weather reports before I head out any direction. I have a plan. My bag is packed in the car and I know that I have people I can call and places to stay. There is a number I can call to check on the conditions and weigh my risks. The more information I have the better informed I have become on how to make my decisions.

Women living with the terror of the storm in their own homes may fear for their lives. When you cannot see in front of you or behind you look beside you to the shelters in your community. Get out of the storm as the Women Shelters will provide you and your children with a Safe Place. There are local numbers you can call and the staff on the support crisis lines will assist you to weigh your risks and to make a safety plan. You are not alone as you travel on your road to safety.

Submitted by: Patty Kelly



Port Elgin Legion – Branch 340
630 Green Street, Port Elgin
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St. Patrick's Dance

Saturday, March 15th
8:00 pm – 12 Midnight

Entertainment provided by

“DJ Thomas”

Everyone Welcome





Royal Canadian Legion
District "C" Spring Convention
630 Green Street, Port Elgin



Entertainment

Music provided by

“Harvest Moon”

Saturday April 12, 2014
8:00 pm – Midnight



WIN A SPECIAL WEEKEND DOOR PRIZE
TICKETS \$10 / PERSON

EVERYONE WELCOME

DISTRICT “C” DELEGATES & VOLUNTEERS FREE ENTRY
(MUST SHOW CONVENTION BADGE)



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S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 MEAT ROLL 4:00 PM
2 JAMBOREE 2 – 5 PM	3	4 LADIES CARD GROUP 1:30 PM GEN. MTG 7:30 PM	5 BINGO 7:30 PM	6 EUCHRE 7:30 PM	7 DANCE CLUB 8:00 PM	8
9	10	11 LADIES CARD GROUP 1:30 PM L/A GEN. MTG 7:30 PM IN HOUSE CRIBBAGE 7:30 PM	12 BINGO 7:30 PM	13 EUCHRE 7:30 PM	14 DANCE CLUB 8:00 PM	15 MEAT ROLL 4:00 PM ST. PATRICK'S DANCE 
16	17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY 	18 LADIES CARD GROUP 1:30 PM	19 BINGO 7:30 PM	20 EUCHRE 7:30 PM	21 DANCE CLUB 8:00 PM TRIVIA NITE 8:00 PM	22
23	24	25 LADIES CARD GROUP 1:30 PM EXEC. MTG 7:30 PM	26 BINGO 7:30 PM	27 EUCHRE 7:30 PM	28 DANCE CLUB 8:00 PM	29 MEAT ROLL 4:00 PM
30	31					

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