



June 2017



Branch Line

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 340
P.O. Box 359, 630 Green Street
Port Elgin, Ontario N0H 2C0
519-389-9917

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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. Anyone wishing to contribute to the Branch Line, please submit your articles to Branch340newsletter@gmail.com

There will be no Branch General Meeting for July and August. The next General Meeting will be on September 5, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

There will be no meetings for the Ladies Auxiliary for July and August. Their next meeting will be Tuesday, September 12th at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday afternoon Cards will resume play in September.

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

If you no longer wish to receive the Branch Line newsletter, please leave a message at Branch340newsletter@gmail.com

A special shout-out to all the father figures in our lives – Happy Father's Day



The Editor





PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Hello Comrades,

Well Comrades, we are getting into the summer months however, the weather doesn't seem to cooperate. May was a busy month with our Provincial Bi-Annual Conference being held down in London. Branch 340 was well represented as there were 9 of us down there participating. Our new Provincial Executive was elected with Sharon McKeown becoming our next Provincial President. District C will be represented as Derek Moore was re-elected as Vice President for a second term. Unfortunately, Patty Sargent-Gibson was not successful in her bid to become a Provincial Vice President. She has represented our Zone and District for many years and I for one would like to thank her for all her work. I am sure she is not going very far away though and I am sure we will hear from Patty again.

June is the start of our new year and our new Executive takes over for the next year. Thanks to those who have supported the Executive in the past and good luck to our new Executive. I am sure we will join together to support your Branch.

Some activities coming up in June, you may want to be involved with.

Our June events;

- Bingo is being held every Wednesday night starting at 7:30 PM. Doors open at 6. Come and enjoy a night out with many of our supporters.
- We have two Meat Draws arranged and June 3rd and 17th are the dates to join us.
- The Belmont Stakes will be held on June 10, 2017. I am sure there will be a few draws for the event. The race is around 6:30 pm. Come out and enjoy the race with your fellow comrades.
- Saturday afternoon Euchre will be taking a rest for the summer starting this month.

Hope all is well with you and I hope to see you all at the Branch this month.

We will remember them.

Yours in Comradeship

President Dan Kelly
Dankelly@bmts.com

☞ Childs experience: if a mother is laughing at the fathers jokes, it means they have guests.☞

☞ I would give my dad what he really wants on Father's Day, but I can't afford to move out yet.☞

At the May General Meeting the newly elected Executive were installed and appointed to their respective positions.



Back Row L-R Cdes Mike Hobson (Service Officer), Stacey Hobson (Executive), Gord Kelly (Executive), Rhonda Harrison (2nd Vice President), Charlie Roopnaraine (Executive), and Alex Taylor (Executive).

Front Row L-R Cdes Robert Harrison (1st Vice & Sgt-at-Arms), Mike Atkinson (Past President), Dan Kelly (President), Norma Dudgeon (Office Manager & Treasurer), and Deb Sullivan (Secretary).

Absent from Photo: Padre Chuck Beaton

Executive Officers for Installations



L-R Sgt-at-Arms Robert Harrison, Gord Kelly, Alex Taylor, Mike Hobson, Charlie Roopnaraine and Stacey Hobson.



L-R Acting Sgt-at-Arms Jack Chapman, Rhonda Harrison, 2nd Vice President and Robert Harrison, 1st Vice President.



L-R Past President Mike Atkinson, Sgt-at-Arms Robert Harrison



L-R Sgt-at-Arms Robert Harrison and Mike Hobson, Veteran Service Officer



President Dan Kelly being installed as President for the 2017-2018 term of office.



President Kelly is being handed the gavel. L-R Zone C-4 Deputy Commander Dean Weir and far right Zone C-4 Commander Sheila James.



MEMBERSHIP



Members are reminded to ensure their current information is up to date for your email address, mailing address and phone number. If you have recently had a change of address or other changes please leave the particulars with the Bar Steward and the Membership Register can be updated.

As my term as Membership Chair comes to an end this year, I must say I thoroughly enjoyed the position. I liked meeting the New Comers and helping all the Members to the best of my ability. I would like to thank Wayne MacKinnon, my "tech support" and Gord Kelly for his help with Initiations. Good luck to my successor, Charlie Roopnaraine.

Yours Respectfully,
Sharen Maas



**Branch 340 Ladies Auxiliary Executive
June 1, 2017 – May 31, 2018**



Elections and Installation of the 2017-2018 Executive of the Ladies Auxiliary to Branch 340 on May 9th, 2017.

Front Row L-R Marg Smith Deputy Zone Commander, Diane Mills, Treasurer and Sports Officer, Marg Esplen, President and Irene Surr ridge, Zone Commander.

Back Row L-R Ann Marie Kinsman, Sergeant At Arms, Elaine Esplen, Executive Member, Diana Tripp, 1st Vice President, Vicky Taylor, Secretary, Valerie Grieve, Executive Member, Brenda Collins, Past President, Virginia Bailey, Executive Member, Bernice Ellis, Executive Member, Betty Earnshaw, Executive Member and Meryl Cramp, Executive Member.

Cde Diane Mills, Treasurer



Sergeant-at-Arms



We could use a few new flag bearers. It is not difficult to learn and I would be more than glad to train new volunteers.

We will be participating in Canada's 150th Birthday parade on July 1st as part of the festivities being planned. The more flags that are flying, the more prominent we look. Please consider joining our Flag Family Team. You can meet some new friends and have some fun doing it. If you are interested please contact me.

**Robert Harrison
Sergeant-at-Arms
bnrshow@eastlink.ca**



Honours & Awards Report Poppy Report



Greetings To Our Legion Family:

The Poppy Trust Fund is designed for Veterans and their dependents. Veterans needing assistance, please contact the Branch Poppy Chairman and the Veteran Service Officer. They will be pleased to confidentially speak with you. The Trust Fund currently has a healthy bank balance and is ready to get started on the fall Remembrance Campaign. Thank you to everyone who dedicates their time towards REMEMBRANCE and our sworn oath of supporting the Royal Canadian Legion Poppy Campaign.

During the past 4 terms it has been with pleasure that Blair, or Blair and I or I have served at the Executive level within our Branch #340.

Poppy, Youth Education, Honours and Awards and the Executive committees we hold close to our hearts. We have gained vast knowledge in each of these chapters and promise to continue supporting each and every one of them as a Royal Canadian Legion Branch Member.

Our children, Master Brock and Miss Elexis, (aka- Brock & Lexy) have learned something from you that money cannot purchase, it's called 'RESPECT'. Our children have learned a value to our organization of serving Veterans and we are eternally grateful to you for keeping them 'mindful' of their peers.

Honours & Awards

In April Branch #340 was privileged to award the highest respect, a Palm Leaf to the Meritorious Service Medal granted to one of our esteemed members and friend, Comrade Michael J. Atkinson. Mike has served our branch instrumentally in all projects over his Legion career of membership, and continues to do so. Where Veterans are concerned, Comrade Mike exemplifies all qualities of care, dignity and respect. We are very, very proud of you Mike. Your inspiration, talent and knowledge is what keeps this great organization alive, refreshed and on point. It's our pleasure to serve with you.

Comrade Norma Dudgeon has received her Meritorious Service Medal of Excellence. Norma has held in her Legion repertoire a vast amount of positions within the Royal Canadian Legion and has been awarded one of the highest honours with the award of MSM. Norma, your integral knowledge, respect to our Veterans and organization is stellar. Norma your guiding hand is paramount, and we give a heartfelt thank you for your friendship, and all your knowledge and services to our Legion. We are very proud of you!

Comrade Kathryn Eastwood has been awarded Life Membership on behalf of our Port Elgin Branch and also Ontario Provincial Command. Kathryn has exemplified all the qualities for a Life Membership serving her Branch, Veterans, Peers and her Community. Kathryn, we are very proud to serve with you, proud of your accomplishments in all aspects of the Legion positions vastly held by you and your friendship.

Padre Chuck. Lieutenant, the Reverend Charles Beaton (Retired) was awarded the Legion

Certificate of Appreciation for his dedication of friendship to our Veterans, his branch and membership. Thank you Padre for also keeping us inspired and true to our convictions of 'Service' to our Lord and our Legion.

Branch Service Medals of excellence were awarded from the Branch Executive and Honours Committee to Elizabeth and Blair Eby. They aspire to serve their branch with longevity also.

In closing, this is my year end Executive report for Branch #340 and it has been a pleasure. I am moving forward to the appointed position of C4 Zone Youth Education Officer, with Blair as my co-chair as well. We are always close by and look forward to our usual camaraderie or any Questions with our #340 Legion Branch Family.

Respectfully, it's been humbling, yet proudly we serve every VETERAN and our BRANCH #340.
Lest We Forget

In Comradeship,
Elizabeth Eby & Blair Eby
Poppy / Honours & Awards



Training and Organizational Development



The Executive Committee shall consist of the Officers and an approved number of Executive Committee Members as defined in the Branch Regulations, together with such other voting members as may be appointed in accordance with provisions found in the "General By-Laws of the Ontario Provincial Command".

Leadership is a fundamental part of success for the Branch Officer. These fundamentals should be shown and developed by our Executive to help provide proper leadership.

The following breakdown helps to define leadership qualities;

- a.....roles
- b.....responsibilities
- c.....required resources
- d.....roadblocks
- e.....association i.e. Zone and District

Roles as seen as basic in Branch Officers can be as follows;

- a.....governance of the Branch
- b.....interaction with other Branch Officers
- c.....leadership positions within the Branch
- d.... the development of self and others
- e.....motivation (self and others)
- f.....representation (public interaction with Branch and Legion)
- g.....deportment at Branch meetings

Responsibilities as seen as basic in Branch Officers can be as follows;

- a.....to the Branch (legion as an entity)**
- b.....to Branch members**
- c.....to other Branch Officers**
- d.....to the specific committee chair they may hold**
- e.....to the Branch President**
- f.....to Branch meeting attendees**
- g.....to the public**
- h.....to themselves**
- i.....to the Branch member**
- j.....to Legion By-laws**

Required resources to enable Branch Officers can be as follows;

- a.....Legion knowledge**
- b.....Branch knowledge and understanding**
- c.....Legion protocol; i.e. etiquette, ritual, history/roots, core focus**
- d.....Branch protocol; i.e. etiquette, ritual, history/roots, core focus**
- e.....training; i.e. topic specific, Legion fundamentals, Branch fundamentals, speaking (in front of others, at Branch meetings, asking and answering questions, discretion (when to speak and when not to speak), asking questions (when, how, why, where)**

Roadblocks which may hamper the Branch Officer can be as follows;

- a.....personal beliefs**
- b.....personal aspirations**
- c.....personal adaptability**
- d.....personality conflict**
- e.....misunderstood initiatives**
- f.....Branch dynamics**
- g.....Legion dynamics**
- h.....perception (perception can become reality)**
- i.....personal limitations**
- j.....Branch limitations**
- k.....inter Branch relationships**
- l.....willingness to learn and take part**
- m.....CHANGE**

President Dan Kelly
TOD Chairman
dankelly@bmts.com

A Real Gut-Buster

A woman noticed her husband standing on the bathroom scale, sucking in his stomach. "Ha! That's not going to help," she said.

"Sure, it does," he said. "It's the only way I can see the numbers."



Cde Mike Atkinson is recipient of his Palm Leaf to his MSM Medal. L-R Cde Derek Moore, Vice President ON Command, Mike Atkinson, Elizabeth Eby, H & A and Dan Kelly, President.



Cde Norma Dudgeon receives her Meritorious Service Medal of Excellence and Plaque.



Cde Kathryn Eastwood receives Life Membership Pin, Badge and Certificate.

Branch 340 was well represented at the Volunteer Fair which was held on Wednesday May 11 at the Rotary Plex Hall. We had plenty of materials promoting Legion as a whole and to recruit volunteers to join our great organization. The Ladies Auxiliary also attended to promote Legion and recruit members.



Rhonda Harrison
PRO
bnrshow@eastlink.ca

Our first barbecue of the season was held on May 19th. As coordinator's we were pleased with the turn-out for our event. We received numerous compliments on the offerings. A shout-out goes to those that donated the food for our BBQ table.

We were very pleased with the new volunteers on the team - Cathe and Sue. We worked very well together to provide set-up, serving and clean-up. And, we had new faces on the cooking side of things and Bob is appreciative of the assistance from Ken and Peter. Also, cudos go to those that helped in any way to make our event successful.

We are also very grateful for the salads, desserts and cooking oil that are donated.

We can always use more volunteers to help with set-up, cooking, serving and clean-up. No experience necessary as we would be happy to teach new cooks on the use of the equipment. We would love for you to join our Team. The sign-up sheet is located in the Canteen. The next event is Friday, June 2nd starting at 6:00 p.m.

Robert & Rhonda Harrison
BBQ Co-Chairs
bnrshow@eastlink.ca



President Dan Kelly is pictured with Cde Tom Irvine, 1st Vice President, Dominion Command as he presents a cheque to the RCEL in the amount of \$500.00 from the Poppy Trust Fund Account.

Q: How do fathers exercise on the beach?

A: By sucking in their stomachs every time they see a bikini.

Q: How do you know your dad is planning for the future?

A: He buys two cases of beer instead of one.

At the Vimy/VE dinner on April 28, I was honoured to be presented with a "Certificate of Appreciation" from the Ontario Command for the work I have done for Branch 340 in the past couple of years. Along with it, the gift of a book, "The Padre's War Diary" was given to me. It is based on the personal diary of Major Mike Dalton, a Roman Catholic priest, born and raised in Kingsbridge, near Goderich, Ontario.

Dalton was serving in a large parish in Windsor when World War II broke out and he enlisted to be of whatever help he could be. He became the Chaplain for the Essex Scottish, the local regiment in Southwestern Ontario. They saw action in almost all of the Canadian major engagements, from Dieppe through D-Day, in France, Belgium and Holland.

Father Mike kept a daily diary of where the regiment was, and what he was doing. He had the welfare of his men at heart; listened to their concerns; heard their confessions; celebrated mass in the field when the altar was the hood of a Jeep.

You felt his pain when, after a battle he went with the stretcher bearers to retrieve the wounded, and went with the recovery team to identify the dead and arrange for the burial. The hardest part of his work was to write personal letters to each one of the families whose loved one had been killed.

When the war was over he stayed on with the army, posted to veterans' hospitals in Belgium and in England. It wasn't until late 1946 that he returned to Canada to once again be a parish priest.

Rev. Major Dalton was awarded all of the standard war medals, but the most prestigious was "The Member of the Order of the British Empire", presented to him by King George VI at Buckingham Palace in June 1943. Throughout the rest of his life, he continued to be a friend to veterans, talking with them about their lives and their difficulties settling back into civilian life. He was truly one who understood.

This is a wonderful and unique book. His nephew, Brian Dalton, gathered the material and illustrated every page with pen and ink sketches. Father Mike lived to be 107 years of age, and his nephew lives in the Kincardine area.

If you are interested, Norma has a copy of the book in the Legion Office.
Lest we Forget

Padre Chuck Beaton

Nice Swords

The black lacquer stand holding his prized samurai swords was dusty, so my husband left our cleaning lady a note, reading, "Check out my swords." That evening, he found the stand just as dirty as before but with this appended to his note: "Nice swords".



340 (Griffin) Squadron Air Cadets Port Elgin



The Cadets have had a busy time this spring. On April 8th 9 Cadets and 2 Officers attended the 100th Anniversary of Vimy Ridge ceremony in Walkerton, which included descendants of those who fought at Vimy.

On April 15th many of our Cadets participated in our Spring Tag Day.

On Sunday April 23rd 13 Cadets plus Officers attended the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum as guests of 340 Legion. This was a wonderful gesture on behalf of 340 Legion. The Cadets had a fantastic time and were very thankful for the generosity of the Legion.

Then the following weekend the Cadets were off to Sports Competition Weekend in Wingham. They had a lot of fun meeting other Cadets from other Bruce County squadrons. And lastly, the Cadets participated in a rescheduled Earth Day clean-up of Rowlands Independent Grocer on May 2nd. Mr. Roland kindly provided pizza and pop to the Cadets. And finally, the Air Cadets have started their Radio Controlled ("RC") plane program under the leadership of Larry Shimoda, the president of the Port Elgin RC Plane Club and now a Civil Volunteer with the 340 Cadets. Many Cadets expressed a keen interest in the program and we hope to have Cadets trained and fly their RC planes very soon.

We are looking forward to our Annual Review Parade on Sunday June 4 and all Legion members are warmly invited to attend.

Steve Pellow
Legion Liaison,
Squadron Sponsoring Committee



Military Service Recognition Book



Ontario Command is very pleased and proud to publish the Military Service Recognition Book. A book that will assist us in identifying and recognizing many of our Veterans within the Province of Ontario, while at the same time assist us in our job as the "Keepers of Remembrance".

We invite Legion members and the general public to visit their local Legion Branch to obtain more information regarding this Remembrance program and more importantly, to submit a story and photo of a Veteran. We cannot expect those who have served or are still serving to write their own stories for publication. So we are asking members of The Legion and the general public to accept the responsibility and fulfil our mandate to do this on their behalf.

This annual publication will help identify and recognize many of the Veterans of Ontario who served their country extremely well. As "Keepers of Remembrance", the Royal Canadian Legion strives to perpetuate the sacrifices that our soldiers and their families sacrificed for our freedom.

This Military Service Recognition Book will serve as a reminder for generations to come, of the contributions made towards the creation of our nation and the continuance of Canada as a protector of freedom.

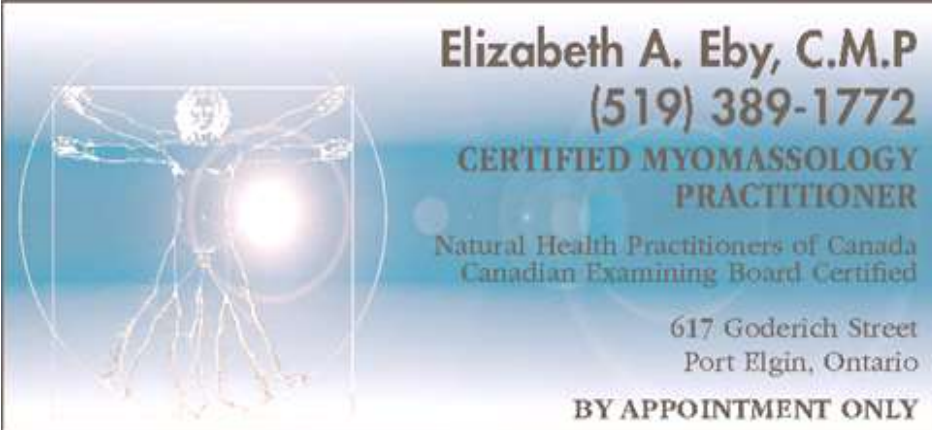
Although this program is all about Remembrance and the history of our Veterans, funds will be raised for the Legion through a telephone appeal to the general public and businesses through advertising sales for the book. The book publisher, Fenety Marketing, is currently conducting a Telephone Appeal on our behalf to private citizens and the business community throughout the Province of Ontario.

The funds raised through the program will assist and support many Legion initiatives and to assist Branches to remain a viable partner in their communities.

We invite you to submit stories of Veterans who have touched your life through your local Legion Branch. Recognition for our Veterans both past and present should be very important to us all. Please show your support to our Veterans.

~ Military Service Recognition Book Committee





Elizabeth A. Eby, C.M.P
(519) 389-1772
CERTIFIED MYOMASSOLOGY PRACTITIONER
Natural Health Practitioners of Canada
Canadian Examining Board Certified

617 Goderich Street
Port Elgin, Ontario

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY


 Royal Canadian Legion
 Port Elgin Branch 340
 630 Green Street, Port Elgin
 519-389-9917
 

What's Happening

2017 Meat Draws

Saturdays starting at 4:00 pm

February 4, 18	March 4, 18
April 15, 29	May 20
June 3, 17	July 1, 15
August 5, 19	September 2, 16, 30
October 7, 21	November 4, 18
Friday, December 8	December 9, 16, 23

starting at 8:00 pm





↔ Event dates are subject to change ↔


 Royal Canadian Legion
 Port Elgin Branch 340
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Friday Night Dinners

6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

May 19	June 2, 16, 30
July 14	August 4, 18
September 1, 15, 29	

Mark your calendars and join us for a
 delicious meal and camaraderie.
 Tickets will be available on the day of the event.

Adults /\$12 Child 12 & Under \$6 Child 3 & Under - Free























Everyone Welcome



Parenting is Easy – I Swear

The biggest change after having kids was putting a swear jar in the house. Whenever I say a bad word, I have to put a dollar in the jar, and at the end of every month, I take all that money and buy myself a nice steak for being such a cool dad.

June 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1 EUCHRE 7:30 PM 	2 DANCE CLUB 8:00 PM  <hr/> You're invited to a 	3 MEAT DRAWS 4:00 PM 
4	5	6 LADIES CARD GROUP 1:30 PM <hr/> GENERAL MEETING 7:30 PM	7 BINGO 7:30 PM 	8 EUCHRE 7:30 PM 	9 DANCE CLUB 8:00 PM 	10
11	12	13 LADIES CARD GROUP 1:30 PM <hr/> LA GENERAL MEETING 7:30 PM	14 BINGO 7:30 PM 	15 EUCHRE 7:30 PM 	16 DANCE CLUB 8:00 PM  <hr/> You're invited to a 	17 MEAT DRAWS 4:00 PM 
18	19	20 LADIES CARD GROUP 1:30 PM 	21 BINGO 7:30 PM 	22 EUCHRE 7:30 PM 	23 DANCE CLUB 8:00 PM 	24
25	26	27 LADIES CARD GROUP 1:30 PM <hr/> EXEC. MTG 7:30 PM	28 BINGO 7:30 PM 	29 EUCHRE 7:30 PM 	30 DANCE CLUB 8:00 PM  <hr/> You're invited to a 	

🌸 Please join us for our various events 🌸

🌸 Event Times and Dates Subject to Change 🌸