



Royal Canadian Legion  **Port Elgin Branch 340**

Branch Line

July 2020

P.O. Box 359, 630 Green Street
Port Elgin, Ontario N0H 2C0 519-389-9917
branch340@eastlink.ca www.branch340.ca

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

Happy Canada Day to everyone. Enjoy with your family, loved ones and friends. 

With the COVID-19 virus pandemic, please adhere to the safety protocols being issued and stay safe and be well.

All the events and meetings happening at the Branch have been cancelled until further notice.

If you no longer wish to receive the Branch Line newsletter, please leave a message at branch340newsletter@gmail.com

Accessible formats are available upon request.





Port Elgin Royal Canadian Legion Branch 340
 PO Box 359, 630 Green Street, Port Elgin ON N0H 2C0
 Phone: 519-389-9917 Fax: 226-453-3005
 branch340@eastlink.ca www.branch340.ca



2019 – 2020 BRANCH 340 EXECUTIVE

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Immediate Past President	Dan Kelly	dankelly@bmts.com	519-389-2352
1st Vice President	Alex Taylor	alex.taylor@bmts.com	519-389-2616
2nd Vice President	Rhonda Harrison	bnrshow@eastlink.ca	519-389-4806
Secretary	Norma Dudgeon	branch340@eastlink.ca	519-389-2876
Treasurer	Norma Dudgeon	branch340@eastlink.ca	519-389-2876
Sergeant-at-Arms	Mike Hobson	hobson@eastlink.ca	519-386-6078
Sports Officer	Gord Kelly	gordonakelly1973@gmail.com	519-389-6057
Chaplain	Chuck Beaton	cjbeaton@sympatico.ca	519-797-5586
Executive	Mike Hobson	hobson@eastlink.ca	519-386-6078
	Tom Jacques	thjacques@bmts.com	519-832-6837
	Patty Kelly	gpkelly@bmts.com	519-389-6057
	Gord Kelly	gordonakelly1973@gmail.com	519-389-6057
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Poppy	Alex Taylor	alex.taylor@bmts.com	519-389-2616
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Ways & Means	Tom Jacques	thjacques@bmts.com	519-832-6837
Youth Education	Patty Kelly	gpkelly@bmts.com	519-389-6057
Air Cadets Liaison	Blair & Elizabeth Eby	bizebys@gmail.com	519-832-3133
Nevada	Andrew Reinhart	andyreinhart@hotmail.com	519-708-0553
Track & Field	Robert Harrison	bnrshow@eastlink.ca	519-389-4806

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2019-2020 LADIES AUXILIARY EXECUTIVE	
President	Diana Tripp
Immediate Past President	Marg Esplen (Servant of God)
1st Vice President	Anne Marie Kinsman
2nd Vice President	Sharen Maas
Treasurer	Diane Mills
Secretary	Vicky Taylor
Sergeant-at-Arms	Anne Marie Kinsman
Sports Officer	Diane Mills
Executive	Meryl Cramp
	Bernice Ellis
	Betty Earnshaw
	Trish Frizzell
	Valerie Grieve
	Linda Virgo



President's Report



Well folks, welcome to summer. We now have over 15 hours of sunlight everyday so please take advantage and enjoy the outside weather.

The Branch has had a lot of renovations done and they look great. In preparation for our re-opening the Bar Staff has met and will be implementing precautions as we move forward. The table lay-out has been rearranged in the Club Room for social distancing. Hand sanitizer stations have been installed and a safety shield barrier at the till. All fabric chairs have been removed. The Games Room will not be open and there will be no card playing. Other precautions will see only 1 person allowed in the washrooms at a time; a sign-in sheet will have to be signed each day in case of problems with contact tracing. When the Branch has been given the go ahead to open the bar hours are tentatively from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm Monday to Saturday and final last call at 6:45 pm.

These are but a few of the actions our Branch is taking to make it safe for everyone. Signage will be posted and hopefully all will adhere to them and most of all we appreciate your patience during this time.

We hope this will be enough for now but we are looking at all new information from the government and Command. All regulations will be followed.

So let's keep our fingers crossed so that we can open soon and enjoy a long awaited "cheers" with our friends.

A special "thank you" is extended to Cde Alex Taylor and Padre Chuck Beaton who had taken comfort packages to our Veterans to know that we are thinking of them and hope they are doing well during this difficult time of COVID-19.

President Robert (Bob) Harrison
bnrshow@eastlink.ca



Bursary



We had a good bursary season across Ontario this year with a lot of grateful students. I am not certain what will happen next school term as due to the COVID-19 pandemic Branches do not have the ability to raise money to donate to the Bursary Fund.

If you have a student who would like to apply they should do it earlier than later. A student however cannot apply until they are on campus in September and must prove that they are in their second semester in January.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Cde Robert Harrison
Bursary Chairman
bnrshow@eastlink.ca



Hall Rental



NOTE: Hall rentals have been suspended until further notice.

Once this COVID-19 pandemic is over we look forward to you booking our facility for your future social events.

Special consideration is given to the fee schedule when renting to non-profit organizations.

Please contact Norma Dudgeon at the Legion phone number (519) 389-9917 or email: branch340@eastlink.ca



The biggest lie I tell myself is
"I don't need
to write that down,
I'll remember it."



Darn flies...

Joe said, "Know what, Charlie? I killed 5 flies yesterday, 3 males and 2 females."

"How could you tell them apart, Joe? asked Charlie.

"Joe replied, "It was easy. The 3 males were sitting on a case of beer, and the 2 females were on the phone."



Honours and Awards

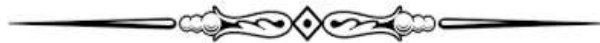


Recognizing valued members for their contributions at our Legion is an important part of the Honours & Awards Chair.

When you nominate volunteer members, based on their efforts of ensuring our Branch functions continue, we build strong and continuous relationships, and we build a stronger Branch.

If you know anyone whom you feel should be shown appreciation, please contact me with this members particulars and confidentially the H&A Committee will evaluate the nomination.

Cde Tom Jacques
Honours & Awards Chair
thjacques@bmts.com

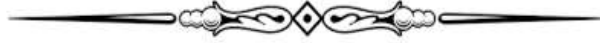


Why English Is Tough

Twenty-one reasons why English is hard to learn

1. The bandage was wound around the wound.
2. The farm was used to produce produce.
3. The dump was so full it had to refuse more refuse.
4. We must polish the Polish furniture.
5. He could lead if he would get the lead out.
6. The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
7. Since there was no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
8. A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
9. When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
10. I did not object to the object.
11. The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
12. There was a row among the oarsmen on how to row.
13. They were too close to the door to close it.
14. The buck does funny things when does are present.
15. A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.
16. To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.
17. The wind was too strong to wind the sail.
18. After a number of injections my jaw got number.

19. Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear.
20. I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
21. How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?



Leadership Development

“Legion Volunteers in your Community”



You probably know The Royal Canadian Legion as an organization that supports Canada’s Veterans and honours their sacrifice. You may have seen us hosting your hometown’s Remembrance Day ceremony or distributing Poppies during our annual Poppy Campaign. Perhaps you heard or read stories about the Legion supporting local Veterans and their families.

What you might not realize is that we do so much more, and once you learn more about us, you may find you have a much stronger connection to the Legion than you might have thought!

Yes, a key focus of the work we do is to honour and support our Veterans, but we also are a grassroots organization with volunteer community-based activities that help build a stronger Canada from coast to coast to coast.

While many Legionnaires are Veterans, our members also include families of Veterans and members of the public with no military connections. Their common goal: to support Veterans and help their community. In fact, with over 1,400 Branches and more than 275,000 members across Canada, the Legion provides one of the largest volunteer bases in the country.

Legionnaires contribute millions of volunteer hours each year. They are probably best known for distributing Poppies during the Remembrance period, helping raise money for Veterans and their families and ensuring Canadians ‘never forget’. Yet behind the scenes, Legionnaires also volunteer in their Branches, providing essential programs and services for Veterans, seniors and families in need, supporting youth education and leadership programs, hosting Branch activities and fundraisers, and more.

Legion Branches are the cornerstones of many Canadian towns and communities, providing central places for people to gather and feel connected to their neighbours. In many places, they serve as the primary community centre, hosting weddings, town meetings, community BBQs, memorial services, and other important events and activities. And in times of local or regional crisis, Legionnaires are there to support those who have been adversely affected by an emergency.

Branches are almost entirely run by volunteers, and Legionnaires are the lifeblood of the organization. From service to the country to service to the community, Legion members impact the lives of their fellow citizens, in particular Veterans, seniors and youth. Chances are you or someone you know has volunteered with or has been involved in programs and activities offered through your local Legion Branch. All this good work we do would not be possible without the support of our hardworking and dedicated volunteers.

Cde Robert Harrison
Leadership Development
bnrshow@eastlink.ca



“The only time you should look back, is to see how far you’ve come.”



Membership



As you are aware Branch 340 has closed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Initiation of new members has been suspended until we have been approved to re-open the Branch. This will allow us to help prevent the spread of this pandemic virus.

The application form can be downloaded on the legion website at:
www.legion.ca/join-us

Cde Dan Kelly
Membership Chairman
dankelly@bmts.com



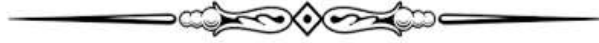
I married my wife for her looks... but not the ones she's been giving me lately!

Take Your Child to Work Day

A father took his eight year old daughter to work on "Take your kid to Work Day".

As they were walking around the office the girl started crying and getting very upset.

As the staff gathered around, she sobbed loudly and said "Daddy, where are all the clowns you said you worked with".



Poppy



While Poppy is typically a year around endeavour this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are presented with unique challenges and a lot of unknowns. In these trying times we need to be vigilant and continue on the lookout for any of our Veterans who may need help in this time of social distancing.

Recently with the help of Rev. Chuck Beaton, we delivered a Veterans Comfort Package to 19 of our most senior Veterans from WWII and Korea dealing with this shut down due to COVID-19.

If any member is aware of any veteran, whether a Legion member or not, who may need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or Mike Hobson, our Branch Service Officer, at the Branch at 519-832-2903 who can contact the veteran directly to assess any support that may be required.

The needs of our Veterans are not limited to October/November when hopefully we have our Poppy Fund Drive. We appreciate any donations made throughout the year. Each year we have Veterans and projects that need assistance.

Hopefully, we will return to some level of normalcy in the not too distant future seeing every one of you, our members and friends, participating in events over the upcoming year as we continue to strive to assist and comfort our Veterans who have served and continue to serve us so well during these trying COVID-19 days! Stay Safe!

Lest We Forget
Cde Alex Taylor
Poppy Chairman
Home -519-389-2616 or cell 519-385-0816
Email: alex.taylor@bmts.com





Veteran Services



Port Elgin Legion Branch 340

IMPORTANT NOTICE

During this time of crisis any veteran that requires assistance including financial aid may contact the Port Elgin Legion Veterans Service Officer for assistance and we will do our best to accommodate your needs.

Contact: Port Elgin Legion Branch 340
Veteran Service Officer
branch340@eastlink.ca
519-832-2903



Cowboy's Canine

A cowboy was walking down the street with his new pet dachshund. The passerby asked him why a cowboy would own that kind of dog.

The cowboy answered, "Well, somebody told me to get along little doggie."



Ways & Means



Due to the present COVID-19 virus all Branch weekly events have been suspended until further notice.

Branch 340 appreciates your continued support and look forward to seeing everyone again once this situation is over.

Please stay safe.

Cde Tom Jacques
Ways & Means Chair
thjacques@bmts.com



Our Veterans Remembered "Ralph George Black"



The White School, that still stands next to the main entrance to the Saugeen Golf Club, Bruce County Rd. #3, today is a private residence, but for more than 100 years it was the local school for children in the rural area between Southampton and Port Elgin. During the 1920's the students included my mother and her 5 Hill family siblings, as well as Ralph George Black, his 2 sisters Jean and Rae and his older brother Keith. My mother's family lived on the Doll Sideroad and the Black family farmed on Peel Street at Carlisle on the outskirts of Southampton. I suspect that the Black children would have had a short cut across what today is two golf courses to get to their school.

Ralph was born in 1920 to Melvin and Ellen Black. After completing school, Ralph and his brother Keith stayed at home working with their dad on their 100-acre mixed farm. With war raging in Europe, Ralph made the decision on August 6, 1940, to travel to London and enlist in the Canadian Army. Soon after, he found himself in Petawawa, training as a Sapper with the Royal Canadian Engineers. Although he remained there for more than 3 years, he found time to return home and marry his sweetheart, Juanita Grace Crone from Southampton. While in Petawawa, he also had the opportunity to continue his musical hobby, playing the French Horn as a bandsman in the R.C.E. Regimental band and being a camp trumpeter.



In the spring of 1941 Ralph's father Melvin had a crisis in that he could not manage the farm after the older brother, Keith, had enlisted in the R.C.A.F. Melvin wrote to the Minister of National Defense requesting that Ralph be allowed to come home to help on the farm in the coming summer as there was no help available in the area. The family doctor, Dr. Fraser, also provided an accompanying letter indicating that Melvin had heart related health issues and could not manage the farm without help. Although politely answered, the request went to no avail.

Ralph shipped out for England on December 2, 1943 leaving behind his wife Grace and daughter Beverley. A few months later, on February 6th another daughter, Cheryl Wendy Lee, was born. Upon arrival in England Ralph's training continued while waiting for the call for the invasion of Europe.

It was on April 12, 1944 that Ralph received the saddest of news possible. His youngest daughter, Cheryl Wendy Lee, had died in the Owen Sound Hospital. She was two months and six days old. Death was due to Spina Bifida.

The Canadian Army invaded France on June 6, 1944, landing at Juno Beach in Normandy. Ralph and his Royal Canadian Engineers group remained in England awaiting the call for their services at the front. The Normandy battle went on for many weeks after the invasion before they cleared the Germans from the area around the city of Caen. Ralph and his comrades, in the 10th Field Park Company of the R. C. E., joined the fight in France on July 16th. The city of Caen was liberated on July 24th, but the battle continued as the Germans offered fierce resistance.

The quote below is from the book BREAKOUT FROM JUNO by Mark Zuelke:

“The Germans mounted a strong counterattack on August 6 and 7 which the Canadians answered and kept the pressure on. The allies were attempting to surround the retreating Germans and stop their escape through the only route to the east out of Normandy. It was known as the Falaise Gap. On August 8, the Senior Canadian Officer, Lieutenant General Harry Crerar was given this order; “Whatever you do in this attack, don’t let the enemy get away, keep pushing, push, keep the mobility. Don’t stop.”

August 8th was one of the worst days that the Canadian Army endured in WWII. The following is from the Canadian Veterans Affairs Normandy 1944 information file.

“the prolonged confusion on the congested and murky battlefield, combined with obstinate enemy resistance, soon robbed it (the operation) of momentum. In his plan, Simonds expected air support would break the logjam. Unfortunately, American Flying Fortresses dropped some of their bombs on Canadian and Polish troops, killing or wounding 300 of them.”

Ralph George Black was killed that day, August 8, 1944 at 13:45, a victim of friendly fire. By August 21, the Germans had been removed from Normandy and the Canadian Army had been a major contributor to that success but at an enormous cost.

Ralph George Black was buried in the Bretteville-sur-Laize Canadian War Cemetery along with 2,791 other Canadians. There are also two other local boys buried there, Laird Beresford and Angus McLeod. In total more than 5,000 Canadians soldiers died in the Battle of Normandy between June 6 and August 21 in 1944.

There are several relatives of Ralph, Laird and Angus still living in our community and throughout Ontario: Grace Currie, Southampton; Marilyn McComb, Georgian Bluffs; John McIntosh, Chatsworth and Bill McIntosh, Waterloo.

May They Rest in Peace

Researched and Written by:

G. William Streeter

519-797-2744

With help and support of the Black family descendants.



Question time

Mr. Smythe had been giving his second-grade students a short lesson on science. He had explained about magnets and showed them how they would pick up nails and other bits of iron. And now it was question time....

"Class," he said, "my name begins with the letter 'M,' and I pick up things....What am I?"
A little boy on the front row said, "You're a mother."



“Sweet & Sour”



		<p>To all of you who are celebrating an important day this month.... have a wonderful time, turn up the music, kick up your heels and ENJOY!!</p>
	<p>“Happiness is having a husband who fixes everything and anything”</p>	
	<p>It is nice to see at least the local residents are practicing social distancing protocols and help keeping neighbours and family safe.</p>	
	<p>Congratulations to our 2020 Grade 8 Grads. Albeit no formal celebration but very nice to see homes decorated and that a Grade 8 Grad lives on this street. Well done students and parents!</p>	
	<p>Also very frustrating and dangerous for vehicle drivers are people who ride their bicycles on the road beside each other and not in single file.</p>	



Branch 340 Ladies Auxiliary



Greetings from Branch 340 Ladies Auxiliary.

As we continue this self-realization period in our lives I do hope that you have some activity/hobby that helps you get through it in good spirits.

I enjoy quilting and this year I have given away/donated 8 quilts which I had started in 2018/2019 and finished this year because I have all this extra time on my hands and it is something I really love to do.

I've included in this issue a notice regarding our 'Bulletin and Scrapbooking' competition, so if interested please submit yours.

*You cannot change the environment, but you can change yourself
You cannot change who you are, but you can change your values and habits
You cannot change the past, but you can change the present and future
You cannot change yesterday, but you can change today and tomorrow
You cannot change the fact, but you can change your attitude
You cannot change the weather, but you can change your mood
You cannot always feel happy, but you can always put a smile on your face*

We are all going through this together, keep smiling and stay well.
Stay in touch with your family and friends.

Once our meetings resume, they are held every second Tuesday of the month at 7:30PM.
Please isolate and stay healthy.

Cde Vicky Taylor
vicky.taylor@bmts.com

2019-2020 Bulletin & Scrapbook Competition

Ontario Command is moving ahead with our annual Bulletin and Scrapbook Competition. Submissions are due to your District PRO Officer no later than July 24, 2020. Submissions for the Bulletin and Scrapbook competition are for the period of June 2019 - May 2020.

Your submissions will need to be mailed to: Rae Ann Bauman, Public Relations Officer,
District C
11 First Street East
PO Box 123, Elmira ON N3B 2Z6

If you have any further questions please contact Rae Ann directly.... pro_districtc@bell.net



**Branch 340 Pays Tribute
D Day Commemoration 2020**



Branch 340 Past President and Life Member Cde Mike Atkinson lays a wreath to commemorate the 76th anniversary of D-Day June 6th.



Photo courtesy of Norma Dudgeon





**Branch 340 Pays Tribute
Passing of Veteran Stan Barton
March 15, 1943 – May 28, 2020**



Stan Barton of Port Elgin passed away with his beloved wife Barb at his side on May 28th, 2020 at University Hospital in London. Stan was a proud former US Marine who retired from Security at Bruce Power.

On March 5th (2020) Stan was recognized for his service with the presentation of a Quilt of Valour that arrived especially from the United States Quilts of Valor Foundation, given his Marine service. The quilts are awarded to military service members and veterans who have been touched by war.



Stan was all smiles as his Quilt of Valor gave him a 'hug.' Port Elgin Legion is honoured to be able to present this special Quilt of Valor to Stan," said Legion President, Bob Harrison. "It doesn't matter the country of service or the branch of service, every veteran is special."

L-R Padre Chuck Beaton, Stan Barton and Br 340 President Bob Harrison



BBQ Guide

We are about to enter the summer and BBQ season.

Therefore it is important to refresh your memory on the etiquette of this sublime outdoor cooking activity, as it's the only type of cooking a "real" man will do, probably because there is an element of danger involved.

When a man volunteers to do the BBQ the following chain of events are put into motion:

Routine...

1. The woman buys the food.
2. The woman makes the salad, prepares the vegetables, and makes dessert.
3. The woman prepares the meat for cooking, places it on a tray along with the necessary cooking utensils and sauces, and takes it to the man who is lounging beside the grill - beer in hand.

Here comes the important part:

4. THE MAN PLACES THE MEAT ON THE GRILL.

More routine...

5. The woman goes inside to organize the plates and cutlery.
6. The woman comes out to tell the man that the meat is burning. He thanks her and asks if she will bring another beer while he deals with the situation.

Important again:

7. THE MAN TAKES THE MEAT OFF THE GRILL AND HANDS IT TO THE WOMAN.

More routine....

8. The woman prepares the plates, salad, bread, utensils, napkins, sauces, and brings them to the table.
9. After eating, the woman clears the table and does the dishes.

And most important of all:

10. Everyone praises the MAN and thanks HIM for his cooking efforts.
11. The man asks the woman how she enjoyed "her night off." And, upon seeing her annoyed reaction, concludes that there's just no pleasing some women.



Buffalo Theory

One afternoon at Cheers, Cliff Clavin was explaining the Buffalo Theory to his buddy Norm. Here's how it went:

"Well ya see, Norm, it's like this... A herd of buffalo can only move as fast as the slowest buffalo. And when the herd is hunted, it is the slowest and weakest ones at the back that are killed first. This natural selection is good for the herd as a whole, because the general speed and health of the whole group keeps improving by the regular killing of the weakest members.

In much the same way, the human brain can only operate as fast as the slowest brain cells. Excessive intake of alcohol, as we know, kills brain cells. But naturally, it attacks the slowest and weakest brain cells first.

In this way, regular consumption of beer eliminates the weaker brain cells, making the brain a faster and more efficient machine.

That's why you always feel smarter after a few beers."