



**Port Elgin Legion
Branch 340**

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

www.branch340.ca



JULY 2011

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.

REMINDER: There will be no General Meetings for the Branch and the Ladies Auxiliary for the months of July and August. However, the Branch Executive will continue to meet on the last Tuesday of these months. The next General Meeting will be on Tuesday, September 06th at 7:00 p.m. and on September 13th for the Ladies Auxiliary at 8:00 pm.

See inside this issue for details about the Ladies Yard & Bake Sale happening on Saturday, July 16th and the Annual Don Caloren Memorial Golf Tournament happening on Saturday, August 20th, 2011. The sign-up sheet for the golf is now at the Canteen. Mark your calendars.

We welcome your participation and support at our Branch Events. Remember, these events are open to the public – not just Legion members.

Please support our Yellow Ribbon Campaign and show our Troops that you care by placing a yellow ribbon on your property. I have included more information inside this Edition.

If you have any events that you would like the Branch to become involved with, please let us know.

The Editors



LEST WE FORGET



MEMBERSHIP

I would like to take this time to introduce 3 new members of Branch 340 who were initiated on July 04, 2011. Meet Donna and Doug Kral and Wayne Petherick. Welcome to our Legion.

Last Post: Cde Ken McLean

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

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.

Rhonda Harrison
Membership Chair
519-389-4806
harrisonconst@bmts.com



WHAT'S HAPPENING



ENTERTAINMENT – 7 PM

July 02 – Late Nite Radio
July 16 – John Stewart
July 23 – Double Take
July 30 – Brett Baker

MEAT ROLLS at 4:00 PM

Saturday – July 02, 16 & 30

BINGO EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

IN-HOUSE CRIBBAGE

3rd Tuesday of each Month
Play begins at 7:30 pm

LADIES AUXILIARY – YARD & BAKE SALE

Saturday, July 16 at 8 am
Upstairs Legion Hall

SENIOR LOVE



I was in the back yard trying to launch a kite. I threw the kite up in the air, the wind would catch it for a few seconds, and then it would come crashing back down to earth. Tried this a few more times with no success.

All the while, my wife is watching from the kitchen window, muttering to herself how men need to be told how to do everything.

She opens the window and yelled to me, 'You need a piece of tail.'

I turned with a confused look on my face and, 'Make up your mind. Last night, you told me to go fly a kite.'

SPORTS

The following District "C" Sport will be up and coming. The sign-up sheet is on the Sports bulletin board. Please register early to avoid disappointment. If you need further information contact:

Mary Alexander
marylousunset@bmts.com
519-832-9053



PROVINCIAL LAWN BOWLING TOURNAMENT

Host Branch: Branch 317, London

Date: August 6th, 2011

Deadline for Registrations: July 23, 2011

Place: Fairmont Lawn Bowling Club

1414 Dundas Street – 1-519-453-1100

Entry Fee: \$30.00 per 2 Person Team (Cheque Payable o District Sports)

Eligibility: Members who have their 2011 Membership paid and are in good standing.

Contact your Convenor for more information:

Jim Baxter, District "A" Sports 1-519-264-1599

Email: jr.bax@sympatico.ca



ATTENTION

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED



The following document was received via mail on May 18, 2011. Our help is needed in providing any information that we can. Please read on and see if you or anyone you know may have information.

Dear Sirs:

As all of you know we should never forget and strive to remember the sacrifice given by so many that fought and died so that we live in the freedom we do. Attached is a story I wrote for your interest and hoping it can be circulated through the Legions down east in efforts of making this project a success.

Thank you for your help and consideration in this matter.

*Sincerely,
Donna Maxwell
904-34A ST NW
Calgary, Alberta T2N 2Y7*

CANADIANS REMEMBERED IN VILLANOVA

Taking an interest in my family's military history I began a journey starting back in 2003 that has taken me to France, Holland, Germany and Italy. I have learned an incredible amount particularly about the fighting in Italy but more importantly along the way, I have met some extraordinary people.

It is said the Italian Campaign is the forgotten Campaign and that the D-Day Dodgers were not given due recognition for their service and sacrifice. The Italian Campaign lasted from 1943-1945 and following months of heavy fighting, immense casualties and loss of life, these seasoned soldiers continued on to fighting in Northwestern Europe. In Italy a total of 92,757 Canadians served their country: 5,764 died: 19,486 were wounded and 1,004 captured.

In France numerous memorials can be seen along the D-Day beaches and small towns. There appeared not to be the same reflection on military history in Italy as there was in France. I saw few memorials for their efforts but from what I learned about our soldiers who showed great tenacity, determination and achievements, I wondered why this was not so. What I did find was a quiet remembrance and respect along the way.

During my "tours" in Italy I met Italian Citizens near Cassino and in Villanova in Northern Italy who were very knowledgeable about the fighting in the area during WW 2. Three years ago I began helping with research for a research group in Villanova. Reviewing Canadian newspapers from 1943-1945 and talking to Italian citizens I have learned so much about our courageous, determined soldiers, the legacy they have left, and the impact they had on the Italian citizens of whom they liberated.

In Northern Italy in the Province of Ravenna, in the Commune of Bagnacavallo lies the Villanova Canadian War Cemetery. It was selected as a cemetery by the 5th Canadian Armoured Division, which is heavily represented there. Most of the Canadian war dead belong to one of four regiments. The Lanark and Renfrew Scottish Regiment, the 44th Princess Louise Dragoon Guards, the Perth Regiment and the Irish Regiment of Canada. The majority of these 4 Regiments were killed following the Lamone River crossing in December 1944.

It was in the vicinity of Villanova that troops of this Division succeeded in establishing a bridgehead over the Lamone River December 10-11, 1944. West of the bridgehead was heavy fighting in the following days when attempts were made to cross the three canals that run from Faenza to the sea. From December 12-15 the Lanark and Renfrew Scottish Regiment and the 4th PLDG suffered heavily in these attempts. 85 of the burials in the cemetery come from these two Regiments. Others include those killed in the advance to the final line held by the Canadians on the River Senio before they left Italy in February 1945. The Villanova Canadian War Cemetery contains 212 Commonwealth burials of WW2 – 205 are Canadians and there is one Unknown Soldier, the other 6 members of the British Army.

In the village of Villanova lives Rosalia Fantoni. As a small child she lived in fear and hunger as war raged on around her. Her father and uncle (partisans) were hung by the SS in front of their home just two weeks before the Canadians liberated Villanova. Villanova was liberated on December 11, 1944 by the Cape Breton Highlanders. For many years Rosalia has remembered their sacrifice and wanted to know all she could about "Canadians". She read books, traveled to Canada in her dreams, remembering the kindness and peace brought to her by these men. She wanted to know about them to "understand the generosity that drove their actions." She has written a book called Casa lontano da Casa (Home Away from Home). It is a collection of stories; poems, some military history and all the Canadian War dead resting in Villanova are listed in the back of the book. She feels so very strongly these men be not forgotten.

An excerpt from Rosalia's book is as follows:

"For many soldiers, time stopped on the soil of Romagna, in the town of Villanova, on the river Senio. Their "homes were far away in Canada, where the rays of the moon lay gently on the faces of children falling asleep in a young and healthy fatigue.

Their "home away from home" was the war-torn country of Italy, the towns of Villanova and Bagnacavallo.

Here, a place where fear kept people indoors, holding their breath while the distant noise of bombs loomed everywhere. By night, only the voice of the fountains sounded through the streets of towns frightened into submission by the specter of death, where only the innocent victims of unannounced aerial bombardments remained, their bodies strewn amid shards of glass and rubble.

The liberators, caked in mud and dust, made their way through villages of destroyed houses, schools full of evacuees and refugees, unusable railways; and in the background, the constant rumble of bombs, the grenades that wrought havoc on so much human life, artillery fire that made the walls shake and the air tremble. The memory of these days survives in its telling; and suffering, in its telling is like a great thaw – the thaw that turned the snow of Auschwitz to tears. It is vitally important that we keep these memories alive!”

Every December 11th a ceremony is held at the Cemetery and each grave glows with a small candle.

The research group of Villanova / Bagnacavallo want to publish another book. They want to know more about the men buried at Villanova. They would like to place a face to the names of these men, knowing something about them. They consider these boys as their own sons, exact words spoken to me by an Italian gentleman who was there to greet us at the cemetery. As he spoke to me he cried as he told me he had two boys. Clearly these men have not been forgotten.

I was not sure how successful I would be in searching or families of the 205 men buried in the cemetery, but have found 105 families to date. Approximately 70 photos have been obtained. The research group is working very hard and is very excited about this project. Other Canadians are also helping digging up War Diaries of these Regiments working toward making this project a success. I am honoured to be involved and more than want to let the families know that a little 'prairie' like town in Northern Italy remembers.”

Villanova is so like the little prairie town so many of these soldiers came from.

Rosalia's dream came true and she and her son Alessandro visited Canada in 2010.

Anyone with a family member who was KIA in Italy December 1944 and January 1945 who could like to contribute to this project can contact me by email: dmaxwell7@shaw.ca or call Cell - 403-467-0001.

The \$2.99 Special

If you are a senior you will understand this one, if you deal with seniors, this should help you understand them a little better, and if you are not a senior yet.....God willing, someday you will be.....



We went to breakfast at a restaurant where the 'seniors' special' was two eggs, bacon, hash browns and toast for \$2.99.

'Sounds good,' my wife said. 'But I don't want the eggs.'

'Then, I'll have to charge you \$3.49 because you're ordering a la carte,' the waitress warned her.

'You mean I'd have to pay for not taking the eggs?' my wife asked incredulously.

'YES!' stated the waitress.

'I'll take the special then,' my wife said.

'How do you want your eggs?' the waitress asked.

'Raw and in the shell,' my wife replied.

She took the two eggs home and baked a cake.



“Support Local Hometown Heroes”

Tie a Yellow Ribbon around your Maple tree, rural mailbox, fence row or affix one to your outside light on your apartment balcony, decorate your storefront or business. Please help spread the word and show a sign of appreciation and support for our returning Canadian Forces from now through July.

That is when our combat forces will be returning from their tours in Afghanistan, where they have been on the ground each and everyday since 2003, defending those that cannot defend or protect themselves, fighting tyranny and oppression. They have done this Nation proud answering the call as thousands have done before them, when called upon. Some that have gone and served have made the supreme ultimate sacrifice as others have serving this country, protecting our rights and freedoms as in the past, 153 of our sons and daughters to date. This time it was to stand shoulder to shoulder with the other nations of NATO, fighting the “War on Terror”, attempting to bring stabilization and opportunities to a people and a country that has been torn apart by civil war, oppression and controlled by vicious warlords and terrorists.

Yes, there will be further rotations of Canadian Forces personal, but not in a combat role, the real humanitarian work and training is about to begin.

From time to time as you have traveled you may have seen the odd Yellow Ribbon on a tree or rural mailbox in the country or in suburban neighborhoods across the province. Occasionally whole communities have banded together to display and show support for a local area serviceman or woman serving and returning. Showing support by displaying a Yellow Ribbon is nothing new, but I can tell you it has an impact on those that have been away from their loved ones in a hard way and when they see them on their return. It is a sign of affection, admiration, support and respect for a job well done. When the west was being settled south of the border and on occasion here as well a wife or sweetheart often would wear a Yellow Ribbon in her hair or a yellow dress as a sign of support for a loved one, awaiting their safe return home to those that love them. That is how we ended up with Yellow Ribbons as a sign of love and support. We have all heard Tony Orlando & Dawn’s 1970’s version of the song “Tie a Yellow Ribbon ‘round an old Oak Tree.”

We at the Royal Canadian Legion fully support such programs as these because that is what we do each and everyday and have for 90 years, support our veteran’s, their families, our communities and those in need. This is our latest attempt to show support for our new returning veteran’s, their families and the communities in which they live across this part of the province. It started off in Zone C4 of the Legion, which is 12 Branches from Tobermory, Wiarton down to Chesley across to Port Elgin, and then back to Chatsworth, Owen Sound and Meaford. The Campaign was mentioned on the floor of the Spring Convention for District “C” and was endorsed and embraced by the other 38 Legion Branches in attendance. This now covers Branches from Guelph, Preston, and Kitchener up to Goderich, back across to Durham, down to Arthur, Mt. Forest and every Legion Branch in between. It would be nice to see local and area businesses and their Chamber of Commerce and BIA’s, get involved and support this effort. Most Legion Branches have access to the Yellow Ribbons and Bows, they can be purchased from your local Branches; most of these Branches have them available and they are making and supplying these ribbons for a small donation. Any and all of the funds raised are used by your local Legion Branch to support various programs of care for their veterans, the youth and the communities they serve each and every day. Drop into your local Legion Branch and ask do you have any Yellow Ribbons or Bows, so I can support our local hometown heroes and our returning veterans, like you do?

Thanking you in Advance,

Respectfully Dean Weir
Zone C4 Public Relation Officer
Royal Canadian Legion

**32nd Annual Review – Air Cadets
Sunday, June 06, 2011**



Back Row: FSgt Andy Plater, FCpl Matthew Walter, Sgt Nick Bromaroff, FCpl Cameron Feringa, FCpl Liam Schoettler, FCpl Devin Davey, FCpl Stuart Comyn, Cpl Zach Skomorowski, FSgt Coval Laur, WO1 Sarah Szabo
Front Row: AC Shaffon Din, Cpl Chantel Coughlan, FCpl Renee Myette, LAC Simmone Myette, Cpl Sydney Myette, and FCpl Hayley Laur

AWARDS

Back Row: FCpl Walter, Cpl Skomorowski, Sgt Bromaroff, FSgt Plater, FSgt Laur, WO1 Szabo
Front Row: Cpl Myette, FCpl Laur, AC Din, FCpl Feringa





Both Southampton and Port Elgin Legions were given Certificates of Thanks from our Squadron for their financial support to us.

Eric Eastwood took the final March past after the Reviewing Party had left with great pride.



**Ladies Auxiliary to Branch 340
Royal Canadian Legion - Port Elgin**



Yard and Bake Sale

**Saturday July 16th at 8 am
Upstairs in the Legion Hall**

Don't miss our famous home made pies, squares and cookies

**A room full of treasures like
no other yard sale.**

For more information contact:

**Diane Mills, President
519-832-2748**



PORT ELGIN LEGION BR. 340
630 Green Street, Port Elgin

“Annual Don Caloren Memorial” Golf Tournament

Saturday August 20, 2011

Holiday Golf Course (Tri-Par) – Port Elgin

Golf begins at 09:00 am

***\$30.00 Entry Fee per person includes
Golf /Light Lunch and Prizes***

Sign-up Sheet at the Bar. Please pay in advance

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

*** Deadline to register is August 13, 2011 ***

(To arrange for meals and prizes)




For more information:
Please contact

**Charlie Roopnaraine
519-832-9108**





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S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1 BALLROOM DANCING 8:30 PM <hr/> CANADA DAY 	2 MEAT ROLL 4:00 PM <hr/> ENTERTAINMENT 7:00 PM
3	4	5	6 BINGO 7:30 PM	7 EUCHRE 7:30 PM	8 BALLROOM DANCING 8:30 PM	9
10	11	12	13 BINGO 7:30 PM	14 EUCHRE 7:30 PM	15 BALLROOM DANCING 8:30 PM	16 MEAT ROLL 4:00 PM <hr/> ENTERTAINMENT 7:00 PM <hr/> L/A YARD & BAKE SALE
17	18	19 IN-HOUSE CRIBBAGE 7:30 PM	20 BINGO 7:30 PM	21 EUCHRE 7:30 PM	22 BALLROOM DANCING 8:30 PM	23 ENTERTAINMENT 7:00 PM
24	25	26 EXEC. MTG. 7:30 PM	27 BINGO 7:30 PM	28 EUCHRE 7:30 PM	29 BALLROOM DANCING 8:30 PM	30 MEAT ROLL 4:00 PM <hr/> ENTERTAINMENT 7:00 PM

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