



**Port Elgin Legion  
Branch 340**



**P.O. Box 359, 630 Green Street  
Port Elgin, Ontario N0H 2C0  
519-389-9917  
[www.branch340.ca](http://www.branch340.ca)**

# ***November 2011 Branch Line***

## **THE POPPY**

The first person to wear a lapel poppy in honour of those lost in war was Manhattan YMCA worker Moina Michael. She was inspired by John McCrae's poem, "In Flanders Fields". In 1920, a French woman known to history only as Madame Guerin came to America, met Ms. Michael and began distributing handmade poppies. With her prodding, Canada began its own poppy tradition on Armistice Day in 1921.

In 1919, a year after the end of WW1, the Department of Soldiers Civil Re-Establishment created an organization called Vetcraft to aid in the social integration of what were then called "functionally, neurologically or mental sub-normal men". In Vetcraft's 14 shops, veterans could gather, work and earn a few dollars making furniture and toys. In 1923, Vetcraft took over the exclusive production of Remembrance Day poppies and wreaths. In 1941, they stopped making anything else. Over 300 Vetcraft workers would cut the poppy parts from thick red and black paper stock, bundle them and the pins into batches of 100 and ship them out to other veterans who were paid to assemble them by hand in their homes. The RCL would then buy all of the poppies and distribute them on the street.

At some point in time, Vetcraft replaced paper with flock-coated plastic and upgraded to modern day machinery. The 14 stores were reduced to 2 – Montreal and Toronto. Still, production went on year round. Homeworkers were paid \$13.50 for every 1000 poppies they made.

In 1997, Vetcraft was disbanded and the Legion outsourced the manufacture of poppies to Dominion Regalia of Toronto. Today, machines cut poppies, 200 at a time but they are still assembled by approximately 60 homeworkers, producing 16-18 million poppies every 6 months.

As of the 2002 Campaign, we went from wearing the green centre of the poppy to the black centre, which symbolizes death.

Holding together the poppies is a little nickel-plated steel pin. Of all the poppy's parts, it's the pin that gives it elegance and symbolic heft. The pin's angle allows the poppy to face front and centre, like a soldier at attention. Or maybe the angle is more akin to a bowed silence. The memories of the fallen weigh heavily on the head of the pin.



***WE WILL REMEMBER THEM***



**Submitted by Norma Dudgeon**

## **LADIES AUXILIARY TO BRANCH 340**

As I write this article for the Branch newsletter the one thing on my mind is there are **61 days, 10 hours and 27 minutes until Christmas**. Bet you didn't want to hear that, did you? So much to do! So little time!!

The Ladies Auxiliary has a very busy upcoming schedule and, no doubt, will be calling on Branch members to help in the kitchen for some of these events. We have our Remembrance Day luncheon November 11<sup>th</sup> plus 6 Christmas dinners in November and 4 dinners in December.

Sadly we have several members who are still recovering from illness or injuries and our best wishes and prayers are with them all. We certainly don't want to "burn out" our steadfast Comrades who volunteer many, many hours in the kitchen doing prep work, cooking and serving and the infinite task of cleanup. Only about 10% of the current registered members are capable of performing kitchen duties. As Comrades of the Ladies Auxiliary, we have committed to serving scrumptious meals to returning clients thus ensuring their Christmas Dinner and celebration is a memorable one. With your help, it will be done!

### **Words of Wisdom:**

Life is short,  
follow the rules,  
forgive quickly,  
kiss slowly,  
love truly,  
laugh uncontrollably,  
and never regret anything that made you smile.

President Diane Mills  
Ladies Auxiliary to Branch 340

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## **SPORTS**

The sign up sheets for Zone Cards and Darts are now on the Sports Board, please sign up at your earliest convenience.

Zone Euchre was hosted by our Branch on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Three teams qualified to play at District. Thanks are extended to the volunteers who helped with the set-up and takedown. Special thanks to the Ladies Auxiliary for providing lunch for our players.

Mary Alexander  
Sports Chairman  
[marylousunset@bmts.com](mailto:marylousunset@bmts.com)  
519-832-9053

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## **POPPY**

The Poppy Campaign is well underway and your help is needed to canvass poppies. If you can spare a couple of hours, it would be greatly appreciated. The sign up sheet is located in the Canteen.

Mary Alexander  
Sports Chairman  
[marylousunset@bmts.com](mailto:marylousunset@bmts.com)  
519-832-9053

## MEMBERSHIP

It is my pleasure to announce 4 new members to our Branch – Erin Carere, Barbara Cobean, Earl Anderson and Steve Morris; 5 Transfers – Donelda & Bob Todd, James “Bud” Davies, Clint Morden and Gerald Prince.

Winner of the Early Bird Draw for October is Cde Tim Helmuth. Congratulations!

Last Post: Cde Jack Earnest and Cde Bev Wark

A reminder that the Early Bird Campaign will end on November 30<sup>th</sup>. The 2012 Annual dues are \$45.00. Renew your membership during this period and enter the draw to win your membership free.

Last year our Branch won the Award with 65%+ renewals, I would like to surpass this amount, but it can't be done without your help. Please pay your dues by the end of the month and kindly remind your fellow Comrades if they have not already done so.

Rhonda Harrison  
Branch 340 Membership Chairman  
519-389-4806  
[harrisonconst@bmts.com](mailto:harrisonconst@bmts.com)



## WHAT'S HAPPENING



### **ENTERTAINMENT**

November 12 – Lindsey Morgan  
November 26 – Brett Baker

### **TRIVIA NIGHT**

Friday, November 18 at 8:00  
Sign Up Sheet at Bar

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

Saturday – November 12 & 26

### **BINGO EVERY WEDNESDAY**

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

### **IN-HOUSE CRIBBAGE**

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month.  
Games begin at 7:30 pm

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## PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Fall Branch Bulletin has been mailed out and contains some background information on what the Legion has done in the past year and is quite an interesting read. Included also are events that are up and coming and other various information highlights. Included was a reminder for you to submit your membership renewal dues, if you have not already done so. All renewals will ensure our Branch a higher percentage for the Early Bird Award.

We hope you enjoy the mailing and welcome any comments and certainly appreciate your continued support of Branch 340.

Robert Harrison  
Public Relations Officer  
[harrisonconst@bmts.com](mailto:harrisonconst@bmts.com)  
519-389-4806

## HONORS & AWARDS

Cdes Yvonne "Chip" Inkster and Eric Eastwood were honoured at the 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Billy Bishop Home & Museum – A National Historic Site's Honoring Our Local Veterans Program and Exhibit on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011.



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### ANNUAL VISITATION – OCTOBER 04, 2011



**Zone Commander Patty Sargent-Gibson and Deputy-Zone Commander Chris Blondin visited Branch 340 at the October General Meeting, pictured standing with President Kathryn Eastwood.**

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When our lawn mower broke and wouldn't run, my wife kept hinting to me that I should get it fixed. But, somehow I always had something else to take care of first, the shed, the boat, making beer. Always something more important to me.

Finally she thought of a clever way to make her point. When I arrived home one day, I found her seated in the tall grass, busily snipping away with a tiny pair of sewing scissors. I watched silently for a short time and then went into the house.. I was gone only a minute, and when I came out again I handed her a toothbrush. I said, "When you finish cutting the grass, you might as well sweep the driveway."

The doctors say I will walk again, but I will always have a limp....

God's Sense of Humor....

While creating wives, God promised men that good and obedient wives would be found in all corners of the world.

And then He made the earth round.

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## REMEMBRANCE DAY



Friday, 11 November will we again meet to pay our deepest respect and honour our brave men and women who have paid the supreme sacrifice; we will stand beside our veterans and thank them for all their sacrifice and pain so that we may live in freedom. God bless our Veterans!

10:30 am Parade will form up at the Legion  
10:55 am Cenotaph Service & laying of Official Wreaths  
11:30 am Parade will march to the Tolmie Presbyterian Church for a service  
12:30 pm Informal lunch will be served in the canteen and the main hall for our Veterans and family, Widows of our departed Veterans, Police & Fire Department, Town of Saugeen Shores Mayor & Council, Branch Members, Air Cadets

If you need further information, please contact Norma Dudgeon at 519 389-2876 or [ndudgeon@eastlink.ca](mailto:ndudgeon@eastlink.ca)

Norma Dudgeon  
Remembrance Day Chairman



### LAST POST November 2010 – November 2011



**Nigel Ord**  
**Alexine Atkinson**  
**Norman McGhee**  
**Kevin Aguirre**  
**John Young**  
**Jack Schell**  
**Russell McAllister**  
**Alan Jones**  
**Jack Earnest**  
**Bev Wark**

***THEY SHALL GROW NOT OLD AS WE THAT ARE LEFT GROW OLD,  
AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM NOR THE YEARS CONDEMN,  
AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE MORNING,  
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM,  
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.***

~ Lest we Forget ~



The Annual Bob Atkinson Memorial Elementary Cross Country Meet was held at the Saugeen Bluffs on Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

L-R Cdes Mari Karcher, Terry Tilson, Vice President of Ontario Command Brian Smith, Marg Smith, Jeff Tanner, Mike Atkinson and George Teeple.



### **A MAN AT THE CENOTAPH**

He comes here often, not just once a year  
To honour those whose names are and  
Those whose names are yet to be  
written on the stone

Erected there  
And as he stands with head bowed low  
He seems to hear a bugle start to blow  
Its notes ringing clear upon the air  
And when he looks, there's no one there  
Then bows his head in silent prayer  
And perhaps sheds a silent tear  
He remembers them

*Composed by Basil Eby*



**ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION, BRANCH 340**

**CHRISTMAS  
WHEELBARROW  
DRAW**



Draw to be held at the Branch  
on Friday, December 23rd  
at 5:00 p.m.



LL.# M674234 Tickets \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00

The Branch is encouraging everyone to purchase tickets for the Wheelbarrow Draw. The prize is in an actual wheelbarrow and will contain fixings for the best Christmas Dinner. Tickets are available at the Canteen and will also be sold by your fellow Comrades. This is our first endeavor and we hope it brings success and we will do it again another time. Proceeds to the Saugeen Shores Minor Hockey Association and a percentage to the Branch Building/Maintenance Fund.

Good luck to everyone and to the winner .... Enjoy your Christmas dinner!!



**PORT ELGIN LEGION  
BRANCH 340**

**REMEMBRANCE  
DAY**

Friday, November 11

Assemble at Legion at 10:30 a.m.  
Parade to Cenotaph Park  
Service at 11:00 a.m.  
Laying of Official Wreaths  
Church Service at 11:45 a.m.  
Tolmie Presbyterian Church

### **THE OLDER CROWD**

A distraught senior citizen phoned her doctor's office.

'Is it true,' she wanted to know, 'that the medication you prescribed has to be taken for the rest of my life?'

'Yes, I'm afraid so,' the doctor told her.

There was a moment of silence before the senior lady replied, I'm wondering, then, just how serious is my condition because this prescription is marked 'NO REFILLS'.



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630 Green Street

# TREE TRIMMING PARTY & CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE

## **Saturday December 26**

Join us for Entertainment and Social Time after the Santa Claus Parade  
Music provided by "Brett Baker"

Be one of Santa's little Helpers and make a child's Christmas morning a little brighter by leaving a new unwrapped gift (up to age 16) under our Christmas Tree.

Or, let us do the shopping for you. By placing your donation in one of the Toy Drive Jars, special elves will purchase the gifts with the proceeds.



Deadline for contributions is December 8th. All gifts will be donated to the Iota Phi Society for packaging and distribution.







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S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 GEN. MTG. 7:00 PM	2 BINGO 7:30 PM	3 EUCHRE 7:30 PM	4 BALLROOM DANCING 8:30 PM	5
6	7	8 L/A GEN. MTG. 8:00 PM	9 BINGO 7:30 PM	10 EUCHRE 7:30 PM	11 REMEMBRANCE DAY 	12 MEAT ROLL 4:00 PM <hr/> ENTERTAINMENT
13	14	15 IN-HOUSE CRIBBAGE 7:30 PM	16 BINGO 7:30 PM	17 EUCHRE 7:30 PM	18 BALLROOM DANCING 8:30 PM <hr/> TRIVIA NITE 8:00 PM	19
20	21	22	23 BINGO 7:30 PM	24 EUCHRE 7:30 PM	25 BALLROOM DANCING 8:30 PM	26 MEAT ROLL 4:00 PM <hr/> ENTERTAINMENT   TOY DRIVE & TREE TRIMMING
27	28	29 EXEC. MTG. 7:30	30 EARLY BIRD CAMPAIGN ENDS			

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