



Port Elgin Legion Branch 340

P.O. Box 359, 630 Green Street

Port Elgin, Ontario N0H 2C0

519-389-9917

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JANUARY 2015 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.

On November 11th pictures were taken of our Comrades receiving their Years of Service Pins and some other presentations. There are more pictures to share with you.

Thanks to Annemarie Kinsman and her volunteers who arranged our New Year's Eve Dance. The hall and tables were nicely decorated. Great work!

We brought in the New Year with our annual Levee. Some pictures are 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 Chili Cook-off will be held at the end of the month. Please see more information inside. Entry fee remains at \$10.00 and all proceeds will be donated to the Oncology Unit at the Grey Bruce Health Services in Owen Sound.

The Editor



LEST WE FORGET



HAPPY
NEW YEAR

BURSARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



The Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Command
Charitable Foundation
&
Royal Canadian Legion
Ladies' Auxiliary Ontario Command



OPEN TO STUDENTS OF:

- *Ex-Servicemen or currently serving members of The Canadian Forces (Regular, Reserve & Merchant Navy) & their children & grandchildren;
- Commonwealth war veterans & their children & grandchildren
- *Ordinary & Life Members of The Royal Canadian Legion - children & grandchildren
- * Associate members of The Royal Canadian Legion & their children
- * LA members & their children & grandchildren

Apply early to avoid being disappointed!

Required Documentation

- *OSAP Documentation* *School Endorsement*
- *Bursary Assistance Application*
- *Membership verification from the Branch*
- *Proof of Service - discharge certificate/record of service*
(proof of relationship required)

Download the application from on.legion.ca



Contact your local Royal Canadian Legion Branch,
Ladies' Auxiliary, Financial Aid Office,
Ontario Command or Service Bureau Office for
an application



Applications must be sent to Ontario Command

Program opens September and closes the last Friday of March each year.

The Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Command
89 Industrial Parkway North, Aurora Ont. L4G 4C4
1-888-207-0939 or 905-841-7999 info@on.legion.ca

I am surprised at the lack of applicants for bursary assistance. Students can receive \$500.00 a year while in college or university. If you need any help with the paperwork please feel free to contact me.

Robert Harrison
Bursary Chairman
519-389-4806
harrisonconst@bmts.com

We are very pleased to present Cdes Eva Stoddart and Pam Smith with Certificates of Recognition for their hard work and efforts in coordinating the annual Pumpkinfest Breakfasts.

Their leadership and organizing make these events very worthwhile to the Branch.

Blair Eby
Honours and Awards Chairman
bizebys@gmail.com



L-R: Cde Norma Dudgeon is presenting the Certificates to Cdes Eva Stoddart and Pam Smith.



MEMBERSHIP REPORT



We welcome Cde Tom Thorne back to Branch 340. He has transferred from Tara Branch 383.

We are always looking for people to join this great organization and application forms are available at the Bar. Bring a friend and sign up today.

If you or anyone you know would like a copy the newsletter sent to them, please leave the email address or mailing address with the Bar Steward and I will ensure that your name is added for future Branch Line editions.

Remember to keep your contact information current and inform me if there are any changes as soon as possible.

Sharen Maas
Membership Chairman
jmaas@brucetelecom.com

The Census Taker knocked on Miss Gibson's door. She answered all his questions except one. She refused to tell him her age. "But everybody tells their age to the Census Taker," the man said. "Did Miss Mary Hill and Miss Patty Hill tell you their ages?"

"Certainly." Well, I'm the same age as they are," she snapped. "As old as the Hills," the man wrote on his form.

Every effort is being made at the Dominion, Provincial, Zone and Branch levels to recruit and retain Legion members. The media loves sounding the death knell for our organization, and we must fight it by working even harder at our membership numbers. We know many Branches have focused on this, ensuring their Branches stay welcoming, inclusive and relevant... and these Branches see growth because of this.

What we continue to struggle with is the reception people get at some of our Branches. We hear of experiences from across Canada that makes us cringe...

An Ordinary member (in his forties) went for dinner at a Branch in a town where he was working temporarily. Upon entering, the entire place turned and stared at him, and not one person greeted him. He felt too awkward to stay, so he left.

Another person attempted to join a Branch, and asked if he could be an Ordinary member as a Paramedic. He got a flat "No" and no one took the time to explain or offer information on any other category of membership. He left.

A group of people belonging to a local softball club went to their Legion Branch after a game. Rather than taking what could have been a great opportunity for the Branch to welcome the team, tell them about the Legion and let them know about membership, a group of 'regulars' (members that occupy the same table each night) shouted at the team to remove their baseball caps the moment they walked in the door. The team turned around and left.

This kind of behavior is creating a perception across the organization that is killing our efforts in welcoming potential new members. We must address this final and critical step of recruitment. For this organization to attract new members we must all, even the folks at "that table" in your Branch, be less grumpy. In fact, why are we not more like hosts?

Put bluntly, the Legion cannot survive on its current membership alone; to continue our mission of Remembrance, we must embrace those that walk through our doors, regardless of background, age, or profession. It's time to get the grump out of the Legion!

Let's start to get the word out about being a good host. Here are 6 ideas to assist your Branch in ways to welcome new or visiting people:

1. Agree that if there is any member of the Branch Executive in the Branch, that it is set up that that they watch for people who look out of place and uncomfortable, and greet them.
2. Put up a small dry erase board at the entrance that says: New to our Branch? We want to welcome you! The greeter of the day is: (name of volunteer). Please ask for me.
3. Talk to the bartenders and servers to approach and welcome people when times are quiet. We hear stories of people being completely ignored by bar staff in some Branches. Not ok. Sometimes they are the first people that a new person would approach and they should be personable.
4. Understand that most people don't really know how things work in our Branches or what activities are available in our locations. If we welcome our guests a bit better and make them feel comfortable with the Branch events, then it won't be so intimidating to come in the next time – perhaps with another guest.
5. Having trouble getting a new member to come for their initiation ceremony? It should be done at a general meeting, but it doesn't have to be. Invite them to an event, or even do it with a couple of Executives hosting their visit. Have an Executive member accompanying the new member at the meeting at which they are to be initiated and explain the initiation process in advance of the event – this could make a new member more comfortable; anything that forms the relationship helps.
6. Why not have some pin-on buttons made and ask some of your outgoing and pleasant members to wear a "host of the day" pin and have them welcome people? These are easy things that friendly people do well. Above all, deal firmly with the grouches and those members who "welcome" guests by yelling "remove your hat" – they are hurting your Branch.

We know that some Branches are doing an extraordinary job of being friendly and welcoming from the minute a guest opens the front door. So if you are doing it right and having success, or have good ideas to welcome your visitors, please share them with Dominion Command so we can start conversations across the organization.

Let's show Canada just how friendly the Legion can be!

Rhonda Harrison
TOD Chairman
harrisonconst@bmts.com



YOUTH EDUCATION & POPPY



It's the beginning of a brand new year, and the Eby family wishes all our Comrades a healthy and prosperous 2015.

The Youth Education committee will be hosting the branch public speaking competition on February 22, 2015 in our Legion hall. I am looking for volunteers as bilingual judges, timekeeper, scrutineer and some light assistance with refreshments for this day. Please email at 340youthed@gmail.com if you are available.

On behalf of the Youth Education Chair and the Poppy Chair we wish to say thank you to all our comrades that have assisted us in our duties. Your dedication to the Legion organization is what makes our #340 Port Elgin Branch very admirable.

Elizabeth Eby, Youth Education Chairman
Blair Eby, Poppy Chairman
bizebys@gmail.com



WHAT'S HAPPENING In January



LADIES CARD CLUB

Tuesday Afternoons
Upstairs Hall
Start 1:30 pm

EUCHRE

Thursday at 7:30 pm
Canteen

JAMBOREE

Sun. January 4
Upstairs Hall - 2:00 – 5:00 pm

IN-HOUSE CRIBBAGE

2nd Tues. each month
Start 7:30 pm

DANCE CLUB

Friday at 8:00 pm
Upstairs Hall

TRIVIA NIGHT

Friday, January 16
Canteen – 8:00 PM

BINGO every Wednesday

Doors open at 6:30 pm
Bingo at 7:30 pm
\$700. Jackpot

EUCHRE

Saturday at 1:30 pm
Canteen

CHILI COOK-OFF

Saturday, January 31
Entries by 2 PM - \$10.00

A man is in a pawnshop and sees this beautiful Grandfather Clock and winds up buying it. He asks the owner if he can deliver the clock and the owner replies that he cannot make deliveries.

So only living a few blocks away the man decides to strap the clock on his back and carry it the few blocks. After a block or so, a drunk comes staggering out of a bar and bumps into the man knocking him down on his back and smashing the clock to bits. He then jumps up and starts cussing the drunk out and saying "look what you did to my beautiful clock you idiot"

The drunk then replies, gee buddy I'm really sorry why don't you wear a wristwatch like everyone else.

Many thanks to everyone who joined us for the Remembrance Day Cenotaph Service and who returned to the Legion Hall for a social time and Honours and Awards presentations.



L-R: Becky Hull, Mayor Mike Smith, Donna Smith and Daxton Hull.



L-R: Penny, Yvonne and Pam Inkster



L-R: Betty Earnshaw and Bernice Ellis



L-R: Glenna Rivett, Police Chief Dan Rivett and Allison and Tom Rivett

An out-of-towner drove his car into a ditch in a desolated area. Luckily, a local farmer came to help with his big strong horse named Buddy.

He hitched Buddy up to the car and yelled, "Pull, Nellie, pull!" Buddy didn't move. Then the farmer hollered, "Pull, Buster, pull!" Buddy didn't respond. Once more the farmer commanded, "Pull, Coco, pull!" Nothing. Then the farmer nonchalantly said, "Pull, Buddy, pull!" And the horse easily dragged the car out of the ditch.

The motorist was most appreciative and very curious. He asked the farmer why he called his horse by the wrong name three times.

The farmer said, "Oh, Buddy is blind and if he thought he was the only one pulling, he wouldn't even try!"



Port Elgin Legion Branch 340 once again held the annual Christmas Wheelbarrow Draw. The wheelbarrow was full of everything needed for your Christmas dinner.

Proceeds to Port Elgin Minor Hockey and Port Elgin Minor Soft Ball Association.

Coordinator Mary Alexander, with the help from Al Ellis, draws the lucky ticket and the winner was Mike Baines from Hepworth. Congratulations!!!

Thanks again for supporting this worth while endeavour.

Mary Alexander
sunsetcottages@eastlink.ca

We like to gratefully thank our Legion members, the Liv-a-Little Foundation, Salvation Army, Scotia Bank and Iota Phi Sorority for helping to make Christmas much happier for local children who will receive donated gifts as part of the Salvation Army's Christmas Hamper program.

The toys were picked up on December 13th for packaging and distribution. Any of the remaining toys were picked up on December 30th and will be given to the Iota Phi to use during the next Campaign. All the gifts are greatly appreciated.

Approximately \$252.00 was raised with the Donation Jars. The monies will be used to purchase extra items as needed.



L-R: Chad Little, Berry Biederman, Erin, Olivia and Harper Little, Angela Hupalo, Rhonda Harrison, Legion President Dan Kelly (standing left), Nancy Smith and Bob Harrison.

Rhonda and Bob Harrison
Toy Drive Convenors
harrisonconst@bmts.com

IOTA PHI
SORORITY



Tech Support: "I need you to right-click on the Open Desktop."

Customer: "Ok."

Tech Support: "Did you get a pop-up menu?"

Customer: "No."

Tech Support: "Ok. Right click again. Do you see a pop-up menu?"

Customer: "No."

Tech Support: "Ok, sir. Can you tell me what you have done up until this point?"

Customer: "Sure, you told me to write 'click' and I wrote click'."



NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE AND LEVEE



Special thanks to my husband Dave Kinsman, my best friend Rachel MacDonald, the ticket sellers in the bar, Don, Al and Jim and any others who sold tickets. The Ladies Auxiliary for preparing the lunch, Fred Knibb for working the bar, Rhonda and Bob Harrison for helping to serve the food and clean up; Kevin and Rinka Smallwood for bussing the tables during the evening. Thanks to Brenda Collins for helping me with the menu.

Annemarie Kinsman
kinsman@bmts.com

NEW YEAR'S LEVEE – WELCOME 2015





“The Dann’s” provided the entertainment at our annual Levee. Pictured above are some of the entertainers who played to a full house all afternoon.

Pictured left are Nicole Zimmerman and Ray Burke enjoying a spin on the dance floor.

President Dan Kelly thanked the band and everyone for coming out this afternoon.

Special thanks to Les Virtue, Brenda Collins, Elizabeth and Blair Eby and Glenna Snider for helping with the food table. And anyone else who helped during the day.

A man and an ostrich walk into a restaurant. The waitress asks, "What will it be?"

The man replied "a burger and a coke." "And you?" "I'll have the same," the ostrich replies. They finish their meal and pay. "That will be \$4.50," The man reached into his pocket and pulled out the exact amount. They do this every day till Friday.

"The usual?" she asked. "No, today is Friday. I'll have steak and a coke."

"Me too." says the ostrich. They finish and pay. "That will be \$10.95"

The man reached in and pulls out the exact amount again just like all week.

The waitress was dumb-founded. "How is it that you always have the exact amount?"

"Well," says the man. "I was cleaning my attic and I found a dusty lamp. I rubbed it and a genie appeared." "Wow!" said the waitress. "What did you wish for?"

"I asked that when I needed to pay for something, the exact amount would appear in my pocket." "Amazing! Most people would ask for a million dollars. But what's with the ostrich?" "Well," said the man. "I also asked for a chick with long legs."



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CLIFF SEAMAN MEMORIAL CHILI COOK-OFF

Saturday, January 31, 2015

\$10.00 Entry Fee

**Enter your favorite chili recipe!
Awards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place**

Saturday Events will include

Meat Raffle at 4:00 pm

Chili Deals will be available after the Judging

Participants please deliver your Entry by 2:00 pm

**Proceeds will be donated to the
Oncology Unit—GBRHS**





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S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1 LEVEE 1 – 6 PM EUCHRE 7:30 PM	2 DANCE CLUB 8:00 PM	3 EUCHRE 1:30 PM
4 JAMBOREE 2 – 5 PM	5	6 LADIES CARD GROUP 1:30 PM GEN. MTG 7:30 PM	7 BINGO 7:30 PM	8 EUCHRE 7:30 PM	9 DANCE CLUB 8:00 PM	10 EUCHRE 1:30 PM MEAT RAFFLE 4:00 PM
11	12	13 LADIES CARD GROUP 1:30 PM L/A GEN. MTG 7:30 PM IN HOUSE CRIBBAGE 7:30 PM	14 BINGO 7:30 PM	15 EUCHRE 7:30 PM	16 DANCE CLUB 8:00 PM TRIVIA NIGHT 8:00 PM	17 EUCHRE 1:30 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 EUCHRE 1:30 PM
25	26	27 LADIES CARD GROUP 1:30 PM EXEC. MTG 7:30 PM	28 BINGO 7:30 PM	29 EUCHRE 7:30 PM	30 DANCE CLUB 8:00 PM	31 EUCHRE 1:30 PM MEAT RAFFLE 4:00 PM CHILI COOK-OFF Entries by 2 PM

Please join us for our various events

Event Times and Dates Subject to Change