



FEBRUARY 2017 BRANCH LINE



Royal Canadian Legion Branch 340
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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

For all you football enthusiasts, be sure to mark your calendar and join us for our Super Bowl Pot Luck Party on Super Bowl Sunday, February 5th. Doors open at 4:00 pm and game time is 6:30. Bring pot luck to share with your friends!

Another bus trip is in the works. Please see inside for details as plans are in progress to go to the Canadian Heritage War Plane Museum in April. Itinerary and pricing will be posted at Branch and in the March newsletter.

Lots of reasons to celebrate this month:

- Happy Groundhog Day According to folklore, if the groundhog sees its shadow on February 2 it will return to its burrow, indicating that there will be six more weeks of winter. If it does not see its shadow, then spring is on the way.
- Valentine's Day is just around the corner so have some sweets with your sweetheart!
- And, from our family to yours Happy Family Day! Enjoy your time together!!!

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



The Editor





PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Hello Comrades,

What a way to start 2017. We haven't had a January like this before. Makes me want to get the clubs out and shine them up. I am sure we are going to pay for it sometime. We have had a busy January at Branch 340.

January events:

1. The year started off with our traditional Levee Day celebration. The club room was busy the entire afternoon. Once again, "The Danns" played to a very receptive crowd. Thanks to Leo and his crew for doing another fantastic job. I would like to thank Les and Pat Virtue for arranging the event. Pat did a great job preparing all the food and no one went home hungry. Thanks Pat. Les set up the event and made sure things went smooth. Thanks for your support Les.
2. Our Meat Draws took a well-deserved rest. We had 1 this month and it was well participated.
3. There was a celebration of life for Dick MacDonald. Our thoughts and prayers are with our Ladies Auxiliary President Brenda Collins in this time of sorrow. He was a good supporter of our Branch and will be missed. Many friends paid their respect for Dick which showed how well like he was liked. Rest in Peace Dick.
4. We have sports teams moving on in both Cribbage and Euchre. Good luck to them as they play in the District play downs (Cribbage is January 29th in Kincardine and Euchre is March 25th in Hespeler).

Wishing you all good health for the rest of the winter. Many of our patrons have arranged holidays in the south. Hope your travels are uneventful.

We will remember them.

Yours in Comradeship,

President Dan Kelly
Dankelly@bmts.com



MEMBERSHIP



Members are reminded to ensure their current information is up to date such as addresses and phone numbers. 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; or contact the undersigned.

I would like to welcome our new members Christian Mitterhuber, Susan Hamer, Peter Turi, and Apkar Sercan to our Branch.

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.

As members please attend the General Meetings which are held on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. (July and August are exempt). This is your Branch and the meetings are for your benefit so you will know what is happening in your Branch.

Sharen Maas
Membership Chairman
jmaas@brucetelecom.com



Have you been interested in joining the Ladies Auxiliary but don't have enough information to make that decision? Well here's what we're all about.

Having Fun! We have such fun in the kitchen, at Conventions, on parade, or hosting a yard and bake sale.

Teamwork! Whether it's delivering Meals-on-Wheels or preparing meals for banquets, we rely on each other and trust each other.

Dedication! Attending our General Meetings once a month, going to Zone meetings twice a year and Provincial Conventions every other year.

Volunteering! Whether you're elected or appointed to a position on the executive of the Auxiliary, it's all time we devote to fulfill the task.

Friendship! We share each other's woes, each other's burdens bear, and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.

Pride! When we wear the uniform; when we carry the flag and when we take part in Legion and public events. We always take pride in being a member of the Ladies Auxiliary. Serving our Legion and supporting our veterans and our community.

Hard working Women! You bet we are, but we know how to make it fun and share the work load. We serve the best home cooked meals to our clients.

Fundraising! Our goal is to donate financially to local charities, organizations and schools, provincial bursaries, sports and charities, Veterans hospitals, and our own Legion Branch 340 and the Cenotaph Fund.

Have we piqued your interest? Do you have any more questions? Would you like to complete an application? Then speak to one of the Ladies Auxiliary members if you already know one, or ask the bartender for an application or the Legion office or email me at divinediane11@gmail.com.

Diane Mills, Treasurer



ONTARIO COMMAND BURSARY PROGRAM

This program is designed to assist those students who enter a post secondary school of education (including courses and programs of a technical and vocational nature) and pursue the same course throughout their academic years (maximum of five years).

Those who are eligible to receive a bursary are as follows:

- Ex-Service personnel or currently serving members of The Canadian Forces (Regular, Reserve and Merchant Navy) and their children and grandchildren; Commonwealth War Veterans and their children and grandchildren
- Ordinary and Life members of The Royal Canadian Legion and their children and grandchildren (Current living members)
- Associate members of The Royal Canadian Legion and their children only
- Ladies' Auxiliary members and their children and grandchildren.
- Step Children and Step Grandchildren may be considered where applicable.

Students can apply up to 5 years, provided they are taking the same course of study. A photocopy of the Veteran's discharge certificate or record of service **must** be attached to the application. Service documents can be obtained from Library & Archives Canada in Ottawa. Send a copy only. Proof of relationship is required.

Application forms for the Bursary are available at all Legion Branches, post-secondary schools, online from the command website or by contacting Ontario Command. Zones and Districts have a Bursary Chairman who can assist the student with the application. The Command Bursary Secretary is also available for assistance. As it is the responsibility of each student to complete the application correctly, it behooves him/her to get the required help. All applications may be submitted starting each September; however the deadline for applications is the last Friday of March for the current academic year ending April 30th. **Applications must be sent to Ontario Command.** Early submissions are strongly encouraged in order to catch any errors or omissions.

The Ontario Command Bursary Program is one of the most generous bursary programs in Ontario (if not in Canada). While the Ontario Command Bursary awards are not large, many students find that they go along way towards buying the books and materials needed for their respective courses. During the **2015-2016** academic year a total of **500** awards were made for an amount of **\$250,000** in the Province of Ontario.

The Ontario Command Bursary Program is funded by donations from Branches and Ladies' Auxiliaries and shows the Royal Canadian Legion's continuing commitment to the youth of Ontario.

This is a \$500.00 per year program. For more information please refer to the poster included in the newsletter or contact the undersigned at any time. If you need any help with the paperwork please feel free to contact me.

Robert Harrison
Bursary Chairman
bnrshow@eastlink.ca



February Greetings Comrades!

ROAD TRIP ANYONE?? SAVE THE DATE!!

On behalf of our Padre Chuck Beaton and me we are really excited to invite you to go motor coaching with us to the CANADIAN WAR PLANE MUSEUM in Hamilton on SUNDAY APRIL 23rd. On this date the museum has also booked a VETERAN CAR SHOW on premise. I think many of you will be enthusiastic about this too.

The particulars haven't been finalized as of yet however we intend to have an 'all-inclusive' and reasonably priced ticket for sale soon and on a FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS.

Please look up the website for the museum as it is a marvellous piece of history to visit, especially during April when we celebrate and reflect on Vimy's 100th Anniversary. www.warplane.com

My disclaimer: This venue is being advertised to our Legion members and our neighbouring Legions. This trip is NOT being financed through the Legion and is privately funded without profit by the guarantor. Payment for tickets must be made in advance and is non-refundable but transferable to another party if you are unable to participate.

So, we have lots of interest to take part in this. Grandparents are bringing their older grandchildren; some of you may entertain asking your neighbour or a friend from coffee club. There will be some of our younger Veterans and families going and I promise you will return home filled with knowledge and appreciation of your excursion.

Tickets will include admission to the museum, a museum guided tour, professional motor bus coach service with washroom, a meal and lots of laughs. I might pack the 50/50 tickets!!

Itinerary and pricing will be posted at Branch and in the March newsletter.

Looking forward to 'DAY TRIPPING' with you!!

PS.... Ladies.....there is an extensive gift shop for your pleasure also.

Elizabeth Eby
Poppy, H & A, Social Secretary
bizebys@gmail.com



“This is a very special gift that you can never see,
The reason that it's special, It's just for you from me,
Whenever you are lonely, Or when you're feeling blue,
You only have to hold this gift and know I think of you,
You never can unwrap it, Please leave the ribbon tied,
Just hold this box close to your heart,
It's filled with love inside.”

 *Happy Valentines Day* 

The Poppy and Honours & Awards Chair will be hosting a Veteran Dinner and Awards Ceremony in our members lounge on a Friday evening in early May. The date hasn't been finalized, nor has what I'm going to 'chef up', however membership and our Ladies Auxiliary are urged to attend for comradeship and the fun that 'coming together' brings.

Looking forward to seeing you.

Elizabeth Eby
 Poppy, H & A Chairman
bizebys@gmail.com

YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Royal Canadian Legion sponsors youth programs that include sports, cadet corps, scouts, leadership training and remembrance activities. It is our aim to help youth learn an appreciation for teamwork, leadership, duty and most importantly, Remembrance. A key focus for the Legion Canada-wide is our Youth Education Program.

Educating our youth about the high cost of their freedom is one of the Legions most important roles in Canada today. We must impress upon young people who have never known war, that freedom was won at the cost of many lives; young lives like their own. These competitions are open to all schools in Canada. The main principle of the contest is to encourage students to remember, think and participate, prior to and during the annual Remembrance Day observations



Our annual poster, literary and essay contests, help focus the attention of the participants on those who gave all for the freedom we enjoy. Contests are divided into the following categories – senior (Grades 10, 11 and 12), intermediate (Grades 7, 8 and 9), junior (Grades 4, 5, & 6) and primary (Grades 1, 2 & 3). The entry may be in the form of an essay, poem or poster. **Participants in the primary category may submit entries in the poster contests only.**

Initial judging takes place at the community level by volunteers at local Legion Branches and the winning entries progress to judging at Zone, District and the Provincial levels. The winning entries at this level are forwarded to Ottawa where they are judged against all winning submissions across Canada and the National winners declared. The names and work of all the National winners are published through our Legion youth program flyers and the website.

The Poster Contest has two divisions – Colour and Black & White. The first place winning entries for the four categories (school grades) are displayed at the Canadian War Museum from 1 July – 1 May of the following year. The second place winners and any receiving an Honourable Mention are displayed at Parliament Hill during the Remembrance week.



The senior winning entries in the Essay and Poetry contests are also displayed at the Canadian War Museum during the same period.

The Legion also sponsors a trip to Ottawa for the Senior Winners in the four contests (two poster, essay and poetry) to attend the National Remembrance Day Service where they place a wreath on behalf of the youth of Canada. They also have an opportunity to meet and visit with the Governor General. Students may enter as many contests as they wish.

Public Speaking is the other category in our Youth Education program. Speakers may select their own topics. The program is meant to give young people an opportunity to speak in public. Speeches are to be the original work of the speaker. Like the poster and literary competition, contestants begin at branch level and winners move forward through to the provincial competition. Public Speaking is Ontario Provincial Command wide which culminates in May at the Provincial competition. In all categories of competition, winners receive a certificate as well as a financial award for competing.

The Royal Canadian Legion also encourages our students to participate in the Remembrance video contest. This competition began in November 2013 and is now a yearly competition that is open to all Grade 4 - 6 and Grade 7 - 12 students in Ontario. Students may enter both the individual or group competitions but may submit only one entry per contest. Monetary cash prizes are provided to First place, Second place and three Runners-up. The deadline for sending entries is December 1 of the current year and students may start sending in their entries starting in September. Submission must be sent directly to info@on.legion.ca

Canada's youth are our most important asset. The Royal Canadian Legion recognizes youth as a priority, only to be preceded by service to Veterans and the perpetuation of Remembrance.

"WE WILL REMEMBER THEM"



Comrades

The Royal Canadian Legion sponsor many youth activities throughout our community. The next two months will be dedicated to providing some information on our major sponsorship in Youth Education and Youth Track & Field. Our Youth Education Chairperson is Stacey Hobson. She is working hard to provide support to our youth in this endeavour. Thanks Stacey.

President Dan Kelly
Dankelly@bmts.com



REMEMBERING JACK GROSS

Just after becoming Chaplain with the Port Elgin Legion, I met Jack Gross. Norma Dudgeon sent me to see him as part of my efforts to visit the World War II veterans. Although not a member of our Branch, she said he was an interesting guy and a highly decorated veteran.

When I visited him at his Port Elgin home you could tell he was still a soldier. At 95, he stood straight and tall and was able to carry on a conversation. I asked him what he did in the war and he replied that he was in "signals", (RCCS) Royal Canadian Corp of Signals. I told him that in army cadets in high school, I was in signals too and worked on all the equipment he used in the field the old rugged 19 set, (a radio made for tanks and the battlefield); and the 58 set, (the Canadian version of the "walkie talkie", carried on your back, and line, miles and miles of line for the field telephone.) We even traded a few dots and dashes of Morse code, all of which he could remember, when I had forgotten almost all of mine.

My visits with Jack were fascinating. As a young lieutenant he was part of the "D-Day" landing in June 1944, having gone ashore early with a small group of signalers to set up a radio net in advance of the first wave of troops. He and his group ran line up and down the beach inland as far as they could go. The field telephone was the most reliable way of communication with various Commanders. However, it was dangerous work, and he lost several of his signalers.

The beachhead of Normandy secured, Jack and his signalers worked with the 2nd Infantry Division as they liberated the coastal towns of France. Then they moved into Holland, with all its water, mud and blood. He was present at the Battle of the Scheldt, and claimed that mopping up offensive was the most miserable of the whole war. Jack took a dislike for the tanks because they were always running over his line and he always had to send his men to fix the damage.

When the war ended Jack was in Apeldoorn, Holland. He had been promoted Captain, soon to be a Major. For his gallantry, he was honoured with the Cross of War, and was knighted by King Leopold of Belgium. In subsequent visits I always referred to him as "Sir Jack", which he enjoyed. I once said to him, "It looks like you are a genuine hero."

He replied, "Not really. Along with others I did what had to be done and many good men died. I'm sorry about that." Tears rolled down his cheeks.

Jack died in April last year at age 97. We lost another fine soldier.

Lest we Forget

Chaplain Chuck Beaton



As the “Keepers of Remembrance”, Ontario Command is proud to publish an annual Military Service Recognition Book to identify and recognize many of our Veterans in Ontario, who have either served or are still serving in our Canadian Armed Forces, the Commonwealth or Allied Forces.

We invite you to visit your local Legion Branch to obtain more information regarding this Remembrance program and more importantly, to submit a story and photo of a Veteran. Everyone is welcome to submit a story, including Veterans, relatives or friends.

Drop off or send your histories and stories to your local Legion Branch early. We accept them year-round. Please do not drop them off or mail them to our Provincial Command office.

This project not only produces an annual Military Service Recognition Book, but also raises funds through a telephone appeal to the general public and through advertising sales.

The book publisher, Fenety Marketing, conducts a telephone appeal on our behalf to private citizens and the business community throughout Ontario.

The funds raised through the program will be utilized to support many important Legion initiatives that in turn will assist our Branches and our membership within Ontario Command.

We invite you to share your story or the story of a loved one through your local Legion Branch.

My Mother's Chocolate Valentine
by Jack Prelutsky

I bought a box of chocolate hearts,
a present for my mother,
they looked so good I tasted one,
and then I tried another.

They both were so delicious
that I ate another four,
and then another couple,
and then half a dozen more.

I couldn't seem to stop myself,
I nibbled on and on,
before I knew what happened
all the chocolate hearts were gone.

I felt a little guilty,
I was stuffed down to my socks,
I ate my mother's valentine...
I hope she likes the box.





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



Super Bowl 51

Branch Party ∞ Potluck ∞

Sunday, February 5th
Legion Canteen at 4:00 pm



Atlanta Falcons

New England Patriots

See you at the Party

A husband and wife were having dinner at a very Fine restaurant when this absolutely stunning young woman comes over to their table, gives the husband a big kiss, tells him she'll see him later, and walks away.


His wife glares at him and says, "Who was that??!!" "Oh," replies the husband, "that was my mistress."

The wife says, "That's it, I want a divorce."

"I understand," replies the husband."

"But, remember, if you get a divorce, there will be no more shopping trips to Paris, no wintering in the Caribbean, no Infinity or Lexus in the garage, and no more Country Club, but the decision is yours."

Just then the wife notices a mutual friend entering the restaurant with a gorgeous woman. "Who's that woman with Jim?" she asks. "That's his mistress," replies her husband. "Ours is prettier," says the wife.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1 BINGO 7:30 PM 	2 EUCHRE 7:30 PM  	3	4 EUCHRE 1:30 PM  <hr/> MEAT DRAWS 4:00 PM 
5 SUPER BOWL POTLUCK PARTY 4:00 PM 	6 DART LEAGUE 8:00 PM 	7 LADIES CARD GROUP 1:30 PM <hr/> GENERAL MEETING 7:30 PM	8 BINGO 7:30 PM 	9 EUCHRE 7:30 PM 	10 DANCE CLUB 8:00 PM 	11 EUCHRE 1:30 PM 
12	13 DART LEAGUE 8:00 PM 	14 LADIES CARD GROUP 1:30 PM <hr/> LA GENERAL MEETING 7:30 PM 	15 BINGO 7:30 PM 	16 EUCHRE 7:30 PM 	17	18 EUCHRE 1:30 PM  <hr/> MEAT DRAWS 4:00 PM 
19	20 DART LEAGUE 8:00 PM  	21 LADIES CARD GROUP 1:30 PM 	22 BINGO 7:30 PM 	23 EUCHRE 7:30 PM 	24 DANCE CLUB 8:00 PM 	25 EUCHRE 1:30 PM 
26	27 DART LEAGUE 8:00 PM 	28 LADIES CARD GROUP 1:30 PM <hr/> EXEC. MTG 7:30 PM				

🌸 Please join us for our various events 🌸

🌸 Event Times and Dates Subject to Change 🌸