



APRIL 2017

BRANCH LINE



Royal Canadian Legion Branch 340
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Port Elgin, Ontario N0H 2C0
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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

The Annual Elections will be held at the April General Meeting on April 4, 2017 at 7:30 pm. It is imperative that you as members consider holding a position on the Executive Committee. We need you to continue the good work that our Branch has been fortunate to accomplish.

We have 2 trips coming up – one is to the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum on Sunday, April 22 and the other is to the Blue jays playing the Houston Astros on July 8. All the details are included in the bulletin. Please contact Elizabeth Eby to secure your tickets.

We are very pleased to announce that an Italian themed dinner for the Vimy Ridge 100th Anniversary and to celebrate VE Day will be held on Friday, April 28th starting at 5:30 pm for presentations. All the information is included in the newsletter. We would be pleased if you could join us.

We wish everyone a Happy Easter from our family to yours.

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



Welcome back all you snowbirds. It is nice to see so many people coming back with tans and smiles. Looks like our winter is behind us and we are starting to see some spring flowers. We have just completed a quiet March and are looking forward to full month of April. We have many activities in April. Hope you can come out and enjoy some of these events with us.

Our April events:

1. Branch 340 Annual General Meeting and Election night will be held on Tuesday April 4, 2017. Please come out and support our Branch by voting in the new executive. You will need to bring your membership cards as they will be checked at the door. We are always looking for members to step up and be part of the Executive. Hope to see you all there.
2. April 9th is the 100th anniversary of Vimy Ridge. Reverend Chuck Beaton will be opening up our General Meeting with some information on what the battle was all about. Don't miss it.
3. The bingos are still going well with crowds staying in the 50 to 60 range. It is being held every Wednesday night starting at 7:30 PM. Doors open at 6.
4. We have a couple of Meat Draws arranged. April 15 and 29 will be the dates for this month's draws with it starting at 4 PM.
5. District C Convention will be held in Elmira on April 9th and 10th. We have a full contingency going to the Convention to represent Branch 340.
6. Easter is late this year with it coming on the April 14th weekend. We will be holding a Meat Draw on the Saturday so bring your guest out for some afternoon entertainment.

Hope to see you all at the Branch this month.
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 for the email address, mailing address and phone number. 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.

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.

At the Zone Convention on March 19th Branch 340 was awarded a Letter of Merit for having an above average percentage for the Early Bird Campaign and a sticker to put on our plaque. It is important to the Branch to work on the Early Bird Campaign as the numbers reflect on how many votes we get for these Conventions. This spring we have Zone, District and Provincial elections. Deadline is December 31st.

Welcome to our new members and those to be passed at the General Meeting.

Sharen Maas
Membership Chairman
jmaas@bruce telecom.com



Last Post



Fred Bettink, WWII Veteran

**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.**



HOSPITAL VISITATION



If anyone knows of someone who is sick and is in the hospital, please notify our Hospital Visitation person – Terry Mills. Terry will make proper arrangement for the person for a visit and/or card.

Terry Mills
millsterry47@gmail.com



Rules of Chocolate Easter Eggs

- If you get melted chocolate all over your hands, you're eating it too slowly.
- Chocolate covered raisins, cherries, orange slices and strawberries all count as fruit, so eat as many as you want.
- Diet tip: Eat an Easter egg before each meal. It'll take the edge off your appetite, and that way you'll eat less.
- If you can't eat all your chocolate, it will keep in the freezer. But if you can't eat all your chocolate, what's wrong with you?
- If calories are an issue, store your chocolate on top of the fridge. Calories are afraid of heights, and they will jump out of the chocolate to protect themselves.
- Money talks. Chocolate sings.
- Chocolate has many preservatives. Preservatives make you look younger.
- The problem: How to get two pounds of chocolate eggs home from the store in a hot car. The solution: Eat the eggs in the car park.
- Why is there no such organization as Chocoholics Anonymous? Because no one wants to quit.

Dear Comrades:

We are presently looking to identify and recognize the many veterans that fought to keep our country safe. Volumes 1, 2 and 3 of the Military Service Recognition booklet have been printed and we are presently coordinating the 4th book.

If you know anyone who deserves recognition, please contact Mike Atkinson to ensure the proper information is compiled so we can get them in the book. Our Branch is very proud of all those who served so let's make sure other are aware.



Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Command
MILITARY SERVICE RECOGNITION BOOK
Recognize our Veterans

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.

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 assist and support many important Legion programs and initiatives.

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

Please visit your local Legion Branch or visit our website (www.on.legion.ca) for a submission form.



**Ontario Provincial Command
Military Service Recognition Book – Submission Form**

Forma de depunere a cererilor de depunere a cererilor

Information Required for Story Submission		Please print clearly!	
Name of Military Person being recognized			
Last name		First name	Middle Name
Place of Birth		Date of Birth (m/d/y)	Date of Death (m/d/y) (if applicable)
Service: WWI WWII Korea Afghanistan Peacekeeper Reservist RCMP Peace Officer (Circle as applicable)			
Branch of Service: Navy Army Air Force Merchant Navy Other _____ (Circle as applicable)			
Service Unit: <small>i.e. - North Shore, Carleton York, CWAC, names of Ships, Squadrons, etc.</small>		Date of Enlistment	Date of Discharge
Areas Served <small>i.e. - Canada, High Seas, England, G/E Korea, etc.</small>			
Killed in Service? Yes No		Date of Death _____	Where Killed _____
(Circle as applicable)			
Was/is a Member of Legion (Name & #): Yes No		Branch _____	How many years? _____
(Circle as applicable)			

This Section MUST be completed.

Submitted by (Name) _____		Tel # _____	
Email _____		Branch Name & # _____	
Was permission given by individual or family to use submission? Yes No		_____ <small>(Signature of Veteran or Family Member)</small>	
(Circle as applicable)			

Additional Information: Please attach a paragraph if you wish, maximum 150 words.
For example: special things the veteran did in the service, was he/she wounded, POW, special unusual awards, awards for bravery, i.e., VC, DSC, DFC, MC, MM, etc., or perhaps what the veteran did upon return to civilian life.

Please include photograph, but do not use staples, paper clips or tape.

Also, do not write on the back of the photograph as this could damage the photo.

Faxed and emailed copies will not be accepted.

Actual photos will only be accepted.

Please return your completed Submission Form and photograph to your local Legion Branch.

President Dan Kelly
TOD Chairman
Dankelly@bmts.com



The Port Elgin Branch hosted the Public Speaking Competition on Sunday, February 26, 2017. Pictured are the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place winners in their respective categories. The 1st Place winners in each category will move on to the Zone Level competition on Sunday, March 12th at Southampton Branch 155.

At the Zone Public Speaking Competition on March 12th Port Elgin Branch 340 had 2 1st place entries and they will move on to the District Competition on Sunday, April 2nd in Brussels. Chelby M. won 1st Place in the Junior Division and Emma S. won 1st Place in the Senior Division.

We congratulate all our entrants and best wishes to those who will be competing at District level.

	
<p style="text-align: center;">Primary Category</p> <p>L-R 3rd Place Teaghan V, St. Joseph's 2nd Place Mykah H, Port Elgin Saugeen Central 1st Place Huxley E, Port Elgin Saugeen Central</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Junior Category</p> <p>L-R 3rd Place Julia T, St. Joseph's 1st Place Chelby M, Port Elgin Saugeen Central 2nd Place Noah J, Port Elgin Saugeen Central</p>
	
<p style="text-align: center;">Intermediate Category</p> <p>L-R 3rd Place Collette B, St. Joseph's 2nd Place Rishab R, Northport Elementary 1st Place Madi M, Port Elgin Saugeen Central</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Senior Category</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1st Place Emma S, SDSS</p>

**The 100th Anniversary of the Victory at Vimy Ridge
WWI - April 9 - 12, 1917**

Part II: The Memorial

By Rev. C. Beaton, Chaplain



The Vimy Ridge National Historic Site stands on 240 acres of land donated to Canada by France in appreciation for the huge war effort made by Canada in WWI. This magnificent monument, with its twin white towers, sits on Hill 145, the highest point on the 8 mile front.

After several months of superb planning and training, the Canadian Corps achieved its goal. All Canadian troops on the western front were there as infantry, artillery, medical and support units. Over 30,000 men were involved directly with 20,000 in reserve. At daybreak, aided by the 1st British Corps on the north, and the 17th British Corps on the south, the Canadians went over the top and stormed the ridge. By mid-afternoon all their objectives had been taken. The

exceptions were Hill 145, captured the next day, and the Pimple, taken two days later by the 4th Canadian Division troops and the units from the British 24 Division. The hard-fought victory was swift but not without cost. Out of 10,600 casualties, nearly 4000 Canadians gave their lives.

The victory at Vimy was a significant landmark for all the allied forces in the First World War. While it was just one battle amongst many on the 400 mile front, it was a huge accomplishment for Canadian soldiers. Back home it united Canada and brought pride to our young nation.

To honour the sacrifices made at Vimy and all of the other lives lost in the "great" War, the Canadian government commissioned a memorial to be built on the Vimy site. Designed by Walter Seymour Allward, an architect and sculptor from Toronto, the monument took 11 years to build. Set on a concrete base, the towers are built of white limestone from a quarry in Croatia. The figures were carved in place on the four corners and are as beautiful as they are poignant. The entire place invites respect. The monument was unveiled on July 26, 1936. Over 6000 Canadians and representatives of our allied countries were there. The muddy mound of grassless earth, pitted with shell holes, had become holy ground.

Two summers ago, on a battlefield tour, I stood with our group for a photo in front of the wall inscribed with the names of 11,285 Canadian soldiers whose final resting place is unknown. Feelings ran deep as we walked about in silence. Most of our group was fulfilling a need to remember the 66,000 Canadian personnel who died in WWI. We stood beside the statue of the sorrowing woman, who represents all mothers everywhere who mourn their dead sons and daughters. The Douai Plain, over which we looked from the high ground, was lovely, green and peaceful. That is as it should be.

This year in the first two weeks in April, thousands will gather there to once again remember what happened 100 years ago, and the price that Canada paid. It is "our sacred trust".

Sources: Vimy - by Pierre Berton (1986)
Vimy - by Ted Barris (2007)

Lest we Forget

Chaplain Chuck Beaton

The Zone C-4 Spring Convention was held on Sunday, March 19th at Southampton Branch. The Council Meeting was at 10:00 am and the Convention proceeded at 1:00 pm. There were good reports given from the Zone Presidents and Council Members.

As this was also an election year Cde Dean Weir was acclaimed as Zone C-4 Commander and Cde Kim White is newly elected Zone C-4 Deputy Commander.



Cde Dean Weir was acclaimed as Zone C-4 Commander for the 2017-2019 term of office.



Cde Kim White was elected as Zone C-4 Deputy Commander for the 2017-2019 term of office.



Cde Brenda Funston was presented with a gift basket for her 22 years of service.



Zone Officers were presented with Medals, Bars & Pins, and Certificates of Merit for their years of service.



Cde Sheila James is presented with a gift basket and Past Zone Commander Medal, Bar and Pin for her years of service as Zone C-4 Commander from 2015-2017.

Port Elgin Legion Branch 340
630 Green Street

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and ELECTIONS

**Tuesday, April 4, 2017
at 7:30 pm**

Mark your calendar and plan to attend to vote for your incoming Executive.

The Nomination Board will be located in the Canteen; please consider becoming a member of the Executive.

Please be prepared to show your 2017 Membership Card at the door, or receipt of paid membership.

All members are encouraged to attend.

Thanking you for your consideration.

***Mike Atkinson
Elections Chairman***

The responsibility of the welfare of the Branch rests mostly in the hands of the Senior Officers; the President, the Past President and the 1st & 2nd Vice Presidents. Their job is to make sure that all aspects of the Branch run smoothly, that all Rules and Regulations are adhered to and the Branch remains viable. By showing leadership they guide the Branch through the daily ups and downs and set an example for the other Executive Officers to follow. Their positions are held by members who already have some Executive experience.

Other Executives, however, do not necessarily have to have experience; this can be gained through training and guidance and knowledge of manuals, etc.

An excellent source of information is the Ontario Command Branch Officers Series of leaflets for all the positions and the Mentor Program. Look for them on the Bulletin Boards as we prepare for the upcoming Election. Do you have what it takes?

Q: Why won't Easter eggs go out at night?

A: They don't want to get "beat up".

Q: What does the Easter Bunny get for making a basket?

A: Two points, just like anyone else.

Q: Why was the little girl sad after the race?

A: Because an egg beater!

Q: What kind of jewelry do rabbits wear?

A: 14 carrot gold.

Q: What happened when the Easter Bunny caught his head in the fan?

A: It took ears off his life!



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italian Night

VIMY'S 100th Anniversary & VE Day Celebration

Friday April 28, 2017

VIMY presentation by Padre Chuck Beaton at 5:30 pm
Honours & Awards Presentation
Dinner at 6:00 pm

Branch 340 Veterans – No Charge

Tickets available in the Canteen - \$9.00 per person

Everyone is Welcome



Hosted by Branch 340 Poppy



RCL Branch 340
Port Elgin

Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum Tour



Hamilton, Ontario

Hosted by Padre Chuck Beaton

Sunday, April 23, 2017

Departure from Port Elgin Legion at 8:30 am

VETERANS – NO COST

\$75.00 per person – Only 54 tickets available

For tickets please call Elizabeth Eby 832-3133

Don't be disappointed and secure your ticket early

Included in the price of your ticket: Cherrey Motor Coach Service/Washroom Facility

Refreshment Stop at
Clappison's Corners in
Hamilton (Personal)



Museum guided tour
about 1:00 pm until
3:00 pm



Visit the Veteran Car Rally
on site until shortly after
4:00pm



Crossroads Restaurant at
Elmira approximately 5:30 -
6:00 pm for buffet dinner



Attention: Gift Shop

Be sure to stop by the Gift Shop as they offer a large selection of t-shirts, jackets, hats, models, prints and many other aviation related products.

It's a great day for ALL AGES. Anyone needing wheel chair assistance, please advise. Guests may also bring their own wheelchairs.



Contact: Chuck Beaton cjbeaton@sympatico.ca Elizabeth Eby hizebys@gmail.com Branch 519-389-9917

It was Palm Sunday but because of a sore throat, 5-year-old Bobby stayed home from church with a baby-sitter. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds. Bobby asked them what they were for.

'People held them over Jesus' head as he walked by,' his father told him.
'Wouldn't you know it,' Bobby fumed, 'the one Sunday I don't go and he shows up.'



TORONTO BLUE JAYS
vs
HOUSTON ASTROS



Saturday, July 8, 2017

Tickets \$115.00 per Person

**Includes Coach Bus &
Game Tickets**

**Bus leaves Branch Parking
Lot at 8 am**



**First Come - First Served
Space is Limited
Please pay in advance**



Sign-up Sheet in the Canteen.

Don't be disappointed and secure your ticket early

It's a great day for ALL AGES. Anyone needing wheel chair assistance, please advise and I'll have a Jays Ambassador to assist you.

More Information: Elizabeth & Blair Eby @ 519-832-3133

























Bizebys@gmail.com

Spring Fever

Four high school boys afflicted with spring fever skipped morning classes. After lunch they reported to the teacher that they had a flat tire.

Much to their relief she smiled and said, "Well, you missed a test today so take seats apart from one another and take out a piece of paper."

Still smiling, she waited for them to sit down. Then she said: "First Question: Which tire was flat?"

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 APRIL FOOL'S DAY <hr/> EUCHRE 1:30 PM 
2	3 DART LEAGUE 8:00 PM 	4 LADIES CARD GROUP 1:30 PM <hr/> GENERAL MEETING & ELECTIONS 7:30 PM	5 BINGO 7:30 PM 	6 EUCHRE 7:30 PM 	7 DANCE CLUB 8:00 PM 	8 EUCHRE 1:30 PM  DISTRICT CONVENTION
9 DISTRICT CONVENTION	10 DART LEAGUE 8:00 PM 	11 LADIES CARD GROUP 1:30 PM <hr/> LA GENERAL MEETING 7:30 PM	12 BINGO 7:30 PM 	13 EUCHRE 7:30 PM 	14 	15 EUCHRE 1:30 PM  MEAT DRAWS 4:00 PM 
16 	17 	18 LADIES CARD GROUP 1:30 PM 	19 BINGO 7:30 PM 	20 EUCHRE 7:30 PM 	21 DANCE CLUB 8:00 PM 	22 EUCHRE 1:30 PM 
23 CANADIAN HERITAGE WARPLANE MUSEUM TRIP	24	25 LADIES CARD GROUP 1:30 PM <hr/> EXEC. MTG 7:30 PM	26 BINGO 7:30 PM 	27 EUCHRE 7:30 PM 	28 DANCE CLUB 8:00 PM 	29 EUCHRE 1:30 PM  MEAT DRAWS 4:00 PM 
30					VIMY & VE DAY CELEBRATION START 5:30 PM DINNER 6:00 PM	

🌸 Please join us for our various events 🌸

🌸 Event Times and Dates Subject to Change 🌸