



**Royal Canadian Legion**  **Port Elgin Branch 340**

# Branch Line

**September 2020**

P.O. Box 359, 630 Green Street  
Port Elgin, Ontario N0H 2C0 519-389-9917  
branch340@eastlink.ca www.branch340.ca

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](mailto:branch340newsletter@gmail.com)

Labour Day long weekend is here to celebrate. Enjoy with your family, loved ones and friends. Remember to be safe and practice social distancing.

With the COVID-19 virus pandemic, please adhere to the safety protocols being issued and stay safe and be well.

**Please see inside for upcoming Branch Meat Draws. All other events and meetings happening at the Branch have been cancelled until further notice.**

If you no longer wish to receive the Branch Line newsletter, please leave a message at [branch340newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:branch340newsletter@gmail.com)

Accessible formats are available upon request.





**Port Elgin Royal Canadian Legion Branch 340**  
 PO Box 359, 630 Green Street, Port Elgin ON N0H 2C0  
 Phone: 519-389-9917 Fax: 226-453-3005  
 Branch340@eastlink.ca www.Branch340.ca



### 2019 – 2020 BRANCH 340 EXECUTIVE

<b>President</b>	Robert Harrison	bnrshow@eastlink.ca	519-389-4806
<b>Immediate Past President</b>	Dan Kelly	dankelly@bmts.com	519-389-2352
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</b>	Alex Taylor	alex.taylor@bmts.com	519-389-2616
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b>	Rhonda Harrison	bnrshow@eastlink.ca	519-389-4806
<b>Secretary</b>	Norma Dudgeon	Branch340@eastlink.ca	519-389-2876
<b>Treasurer</b>	Norma Dudgeon	Branch340@eastlink.ca	519-389-2876
<b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b>	Mike Hobson	hobson@eastlink.ca	519-386-6078
<b>Sports Officer</b>	Gord Kelly	gordonakelly1973@gmail.com	519-389-6057
<b>Chaplain</b>	Chuck Beaton	cjbeaton@sympatico.ca	519-797-5586
<b>Executive</b>	Mike Hobson	hobson@eastlink.ca	519-386-6078
	Tom Jacques	thjacques@bmts.com	519-832-6837
	Patty Kelly	gpkelly@bmts.com	519-389-6057
	Gord Kelly	gordonakelly1973@gmail.com	519-389-6057
<b>LA Liaison</b>	Patty Kelly	gpkelly@bmts.com	519-389-6057
<b>Bar Chairman</b>	Norma Dudgeon	Branch340@eastlink.ca	519-389-2876
<b>Bursary</b>	Robert Harrison	bnrshow@eastlink.ca	519-389-4806
<b>By-laws</b>	Norma Dudgeon	Branch340@eastlink.ca	519-389-2876
<b>Charity</b>	Rhonda Harrison	bnrshow@eastlink.ca	519-389-4806
<b>Hall Rental</b>	Norma Dudgeon	Branch340@eastlink.ca	519-389-2876
<b>Honours &amp; Awards</b>	Tom Jacques	thjacques@bmts.com	519-832-6837
<b>Leadership Development</b>	Robert Harrison	bnrshow@eastlink.ca	519-389-4806
<b>Membership</b>	Dan Kelly	dankelly@bmts.com	519-389-2352
<b>Poppy</b>	Alex Taylor	alex.taylor@bmts.com	519-389-2616
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<b>Seniors</b>	Mike Hobson	hobson@eastlink.ca	519-386-6078
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<b>Service Officer</b>	Mike Hobson	hobson@eastlink.ca	519-386-6078
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<b>Youth Education</b>	Patty Kelly	gpkelly@bmts.com	519-389-6057
<b>Air Cadets Liaison</b>	Blair & Elizabeth Eby	bizebys@gmail.com	519-832-3133
<b>Nevada</b>	Andrew Reinhart	andyreinhart@hotmail.com	519-708-0553
<b>Track &amp; Field</b>	Robert Harrison	bnrshow@eastlink.ca	519-389-4806

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<b>2019-2020 LADIES AUXILIARY EXECUTIVE</b>	
<b>President</b>	Diana Tripp
<b>Immediate Past President</b>	Marg Esplen (Servant of God)
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</b>	Anne Marie Kinsman
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b>	Sharen Maas
<b>Treasurer</b>	Diane Mills
<b>Secretary</b>	Vicky Taylor
<b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b>	Anne Marie Kinsman
<b>Sports Officer</b>	Diane Mills
<b>Executive</b>	Meryl Cramp
	Bernice Ellis
	Betty Earnshaw
	Trish Frizzell
	Valerie Grieve
	Linda Virgo



## President's Report



Summer is almost done and soon the children will be going back to school. I am hoping that the municipality and the Bluewater District School Board have safe policies and protocols in place to make this happen.

The Branch has now re-opened for a few weeks with our new safety guidelines in place. People are starting to return and don't seem to mind the new rules. It would be great to see more members drop in for a beverage and some comradeship and catch up with friends. Please remember that right now the Club Room is the only income we have so your support is very important.

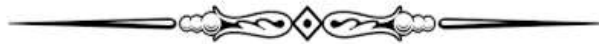
Ontario Command has decided that there will be no elections this year due to COVID-19. Your present Executive will continue to May 31, 2021. However, that being said, we were short 2 Executive members this term and we have some Executive members that were going to retire their positions but can't right now because of this situation. I am asking the membership if there is anyone willing to look at being on the Executive or stepping up as a Co-Chair on a Standing Committee. If you are interested please contact me with any questions about these

positions to see if you would be a good candidate. The Executive would then have to make the final decision. Thank you for your consideration.

The Air Cadet trailer has been relocated to the site on Carlisle Street in Southampton. They will have a lot of work ahead of them to get it up and running but they at least have a base. We wish them good luck in their future endeavors.

Hope to see you out and about at the Branch.

President Robert (Bob) Harrison  
bnrshow@eastlink.ca



## Bursary



Students are back to school as of September. Once on campus they can apply for a bursary. The bursary award for this year is \$750.00, the same as last year.

Application forms from Ontario Command can be downloaded at [www.on.legion.ca/remembrance/youth-programs](http://www.on.legion.ca/remembrance/youth-programs). If you have any questions or need assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Cde Robert Harrison  
Bursary Chairman  
bnrshow@eastlink.ca



## Hall Rental



**NOTE: Hall rentals have been suspended until further notice.**

Once this COVID-19 pandemic is over we look forward to you booking our facility for your future social events.

Special consideration is given to the fee schedule when renting to non-profit organizations.

Please contact Norma Dudgeon at the Legion phone number (519) 389-9917 or email: [Branch340@eastlink.ca](mailto:Branch340@eastlink.ca)



### 5 DEADLY TERMS USED BY A WOMAN

- 1) **FINE:** This is the word women use to end an argument when she knows she is right and you need to shut-up.
- 2) **NOTHING:** Means something and you need to be worried.
- 3) **GO AHEAD:** This is a dare, not permission, do not do it.
- 4) **WHATEVER:** A woman's way of saying screw you.
- 5) **THAT'S OKAY:** She is thinking long and hard on when you will pay for your mistake.

#### **BONUS WORD: WOW!**

This is not a compliment. She's amazed that one person could be so stupid



## Honours and Awards



Recognizing valued members for their contributions at our Legion is an important part of the Honours & Awards Chair.

When you nominate volunteer members, based on their efforts of ensuring our Branch functions continue, we build strong and continuous relationships, and we build a stronger Branch.

If you know anyone whom you feel should be shown appreciation, please contact me with this members particulars and confidentially the H&A Committee will evaluate the nomination.

Cde Tom Jacques  
Honours & Awards Chair  
thjacques@bmts.com



### **Why do you want a divorce?**

A judge was interviewing a woman regarding her pending divorce, and asked, "What are the grounds for your divorce?"

She replied, "About four acres and a nice little home in the middle of the property with a stream running by."

"No," he said, "I mean what is the foundation of this case?"

"It is made of concrete, brick and mortar," she responded.

"I mean," he continued, "What are your relations like?"

"I have an aunt and uncle living here in town, and so do my husband's parents."

He said, "Do you have a real grudge?"

"No," she replied, "We have a two-car carport and have never really needed one."

"Please," he tried again, "is there any infidelity in your marriage?"

"Yes, both my son and daughter have stereo sets. We don't necessarily like the music, but the answer to your questions is yes."

"Ma'am, does your husband ever beat you up?"

"Yes," she responded, "about twice a week he gets up earlier than I do."

Finally, in frustration, the judge asked, "Lady, why do you want a divorce?"

"Oh, I don't want a divorce," she replied. "I've never wanted a divorce. My husband does. He said he can't communicate with me!"



## Leadership Development



### HOMELESS VETERAN'S PROGRAM "Operation: Leave the Streets Behind"

**MISSION STATEMENT:** *To ensure that every Veteran who is homeless or near homeless finds the help they need to leave the streets behind.*

In November 2009 Mr. Joe Sweeney, a Korean War Veteran who has dedicated much of his time to assisting homeless persons in the City of Toronto, wanted to organize a Remembrance Day Ceremony to honour the homeless Veterans. With assistance from The Royal Canadian Legion, Ontario Command it was held at the Scott Mission in Toronto. At the conclusion of the ceremony it quickly became evident that there were a number of homeless Veterans within the city and a team made up of personnel from Veterans Affairs Canada and The Royal Canadian Legion, Ontario Command were determined to see what could be done to assist them. This team travelled to Buffalo, New York in January 2010 to review the United States model to end homelessness in Veterans. From this a plan to launch a pilot project in Toronto was formulated.



On September 24th, 2010 a partnership between The Royal Canadian Legion, Ontario Command and Veterans Affairs Canada was announced at the Good Shepherd Ministry in Toronto. In an agreement with the Good Shepherd Ministry and Veterans Affairs, an Outreach Worker has been embedded at the Shelter. This enables the Outreach Worker to gain the trust of the Veteran and to coordinate the type of assistance required with the available resources. With the assistance of Mr. Joe Sweeney, our Homeless Veterans Committee Project Advisor, they have approached other shelters in the downtown core. When news of the program reached the Ontario Command Legion Branches, they were very eager to assist. A **Homeless Veterans Assistance Fund** was started at the Provincial Headquarters and the Branches responded with generous donations. With funds raised from the Ladies Auxiliary, "comfort bags" were assembled with personal items such as shampoo, shaving cream, shavers, hats, mitts and socks and distributed to Veterans through the Outreach Worker. With assistance from the Homeless Veterans Assistance Fund, we

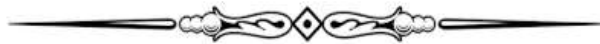
have been able to permanently house Veterans with assistance for their first / last month's rent, furniture and food vouchers. Rental assistance has also been provided to those facing eviction. Medical assistance has been given to other Veterans such as dental treatments, transportation to stress therapy clinics, eyeglasses and much more.

**The Joe Sweeney Fund** was created to ensure that these Veterans have suitable housing and/or the support services they require to remain permanently housed and with a stable future. Tax receipts can be issued for this fund.

In early 2012 we partnered with Mainstay Housing to provide ten (10) residential units in a house on Parliament Street and it is now full. The tenants are enjoying a "safe" environment along with the camaraderie that comes with community style living. Now that they have stable housing the focus is on their well-being and life skills. We are currently working with two municipalities outside of the GTA regarding other possible housing projects.

Our program template has been implemented across the country by other Legion Commands and also Veterans Affairs Canada. With their assistance the program will soon be known to all communities and their local resources such as the "Out of the Cold" program, Food Banks, Churches, Municipal and Provincial Government Offices, local emergency personnel (Police, Fire, and Ambulance) all asking the same question: "*Have you had military service?*". The result of their efforts is already tangible as we are fielding many calls to our office regarding the program.

Cde Robert Harrison  
Leadership Development  
bnrshow@eastlink.ca





## Membership



Comrades, I have mailed out a membership letter to all our members not in good standing. The letter identifies that the Branch is now open again and all are welcome to come in and enjoy our hospitality. I also identified that they have still not paid their 2020 membership and identified that they can pay it at the Bar or they can pay it on-line at legion.ca. All members that have paid their membership dues have been processed to date.

Membership program is about to get busy with our Early Bird program starting next week. As in the past our membership rate for the Early Bird program will stay at \$50. Early Bird ends on December 1, 2020 and the rate will raise to \$55. Pay your membership early and take advantage of the reduced rate.

We have received our 2021 stickers and I will be putting them out at the Club Room bar for those who have paid their membership.

We had our Zone Membership Seminar on Tuesday August 25, 2020 in Hepworth and I am up to date with what is happening for membership.

Don't forget that our Early Bird Campaign starts Sunday September 1, 2020 and will run until end of November.

Cde Dan Kelly  
Membership Chairman  
dankelly@bmts.com





## *Last Post*



Ordinary

William (Bud) Hogg

Veteran  
WW II/RCAF

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.



Our children will be returning to school during the week of September 8th. Please be aware of school buses loading/unloading children and those children walking to school and home. They will be very excited and may not be as watchful as they should.

Please take extra care so our children arrive at school and home again safely.



## Poppy



Our 2020 Poppy Campaign is fast approaching; **our 2020 Poppy Campaign will run from Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>.**

With COVID-19 being a challenge, we expect that we will have to do things a little differently. Air Cadets will not be authorized to canvass although individual Cadets can volunteer. Personal canvassing will have to be at a distance with masks/gloves worn and a separate table (i.e. a folding table) will have to be set up to hold the Poppy Box so social distancing can be maintained and the money insert holes will have to be made a little larger so that donations can easily be deposited by those making the donations.

A couple of Branches in the past have used mass mailing Poppy Campaigns. I have received a sample of the mailing information packages sent out by Tara in the past. They have indicated that their mass mailings have been quite successful.

**To implement a mass mailing campaign for our Legion will require very strong Branch member volunteer support to put together the Poppy Campaign mailing packages needed to send to the approximately 4,600 households in Port Elgin. The mailing packages can be assembled in advance since any mailings cannot be made until the start of the Poppy Campaign on Friday, October 30th.**

Hopefully, we can count on your support this year by volunteering to put mailing packages together and/or as a canvasser where needed.

Uniforms are not required to canvass. All canvassers will be provided with Volunteer Ribbons. Canvasser sign-up sheets will be set up in the Legion's Club Room starting Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>. Guidelines to meet COVID-19 requirements will be provided such as the wearing of masks, gloves (where required) and social distancing (2 metres).

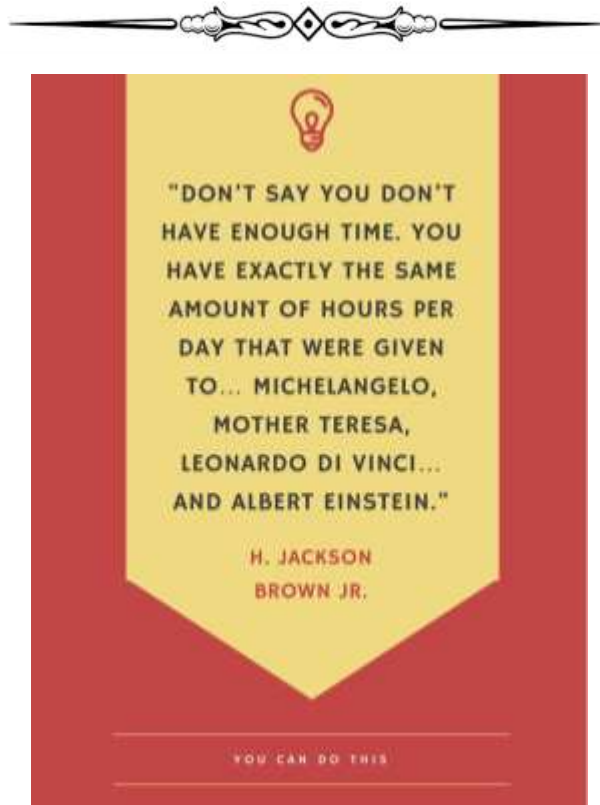
Why are personal canvassers so important? First, donations doubled to quadrupled when a live canvass volunteer was present vs. an unattended Poppy Box. In cases, where corporate policy will not allow us to put a Poppy Box(es) in a store, it increases our collections from that location from 0% to 100% when a canvasser is present.

Our 2019, Poppy Campaign successfully raised over \$28,000, an 8% increase over 2018. To date, we have provided funding or donated over \$21,000.00 in support of our Veterans and their families. A very determined effort by our Branch will be required to replace these funds for 2020-2021!

**The success of our COVID-19 Poppy Campaign in 2020 more than ever will rely on you, our Poppy Campaign mass mailing and canvasser Volunteers.**

Please send me an email expressing your interest in Volunteering and your contact details. I look forward to hearing from you. I will ensure that you will be personally contacted and offered a role. Your time will be greatly appreciated to make our 2020 Campaign a success!

Lest We Forget  
Cde Alex Taylor  
Poppy Chairman  
Home -519-389-2616 or cell 519-385-0816  
Email: alex.taylor@bmts.com





Renew your membership today!

The Legion's Early Bird Campaign is on until November 30th — don't miss your opportunity to maintain the many benefits of your Legion membership.

When you renew your membership by the early bird deadline, you:

- Keep your account in good standing
- Maintain years of continuous service
- Support the Branch and its programs
- Ensure delivery of LEGION Magazine

To renew your membership, visit our Branch before November 30th or mail your membership dues in the amount of \$50.00 directly to our address below.

For your convenience, you can also renew online at [portal.legion.ca](http://portal.legion.ca). Once registered online, you have the option to set your membership to auto-renew to be billed automatically each year.

Encourage a friend or family member to join, too! Every member makes a difference.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

### **Branch Contact Information**

**Contact name:** Daniel Kelly

**Address:** 630 Green Street, P. O. Box 359  
Port Elgin, Ontario N0H 2C0

**Telephone:** 519-389-9917

**E-mail:** [Branch340@eastlink.ca](mailto:Branch340@eastlink.ca)

**Renew today!**



### **Trivial Pursuit**

A blonde was playing Trivial Pursuit one night. When it was her turn, she rolled the dice and she landed on "Science & Nature".

Her question was, "If you are in a vacuum and someone calls your name, can you hear it? She thought for some time and then asked, "Is it on or off?"



## Veteran Services



**Port Elgin Legion Branch 340**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

During this time of crisis any veteran that requires assistance including financial aid may contact the Port Elgin Legion Veterans Service Officer for assistance and we will do our best to accommodate your needs.

Contact: Port Elgin Legion Branch 340  
 Veteran Service Officer  
 branch340@eastlink.ca  
 519-832-2903



## Ways & Means



Branch 340 will be hosting a Meat Draw on Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> starting at 4:00 pm in the Club Room. This is the first event since the onset of the COVID-19. Safety protocols will be observed. Maximum 50 persons in the venue.

Also, a Pumpkinfest Meat Draw will be held on Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Future dates will be announced.

Branch 340 appreciates your continued support.

Please stay safe.

Cde Tom Jacques  
 Ways & Means Chair  
 thjacques@bmts.com



**Guy walks into a bar with a slab of asphalt under arm.**

Says to the bartender:

"I'll take a beer, and one for the road."

## Sounds more like a nightmare...

An older couple wakes up in the morning and the husband looks over at his wife and says "Wow! You wouldn't believe the dream I had..."

The wife replies, "Yes, go on tell me."

So the husband says "I had a dream that you left me after 20 years of being married."

The wife says, "Oh, it sounds more like a nightmare."

The husband says, "No, I am sure it was a dream."



## Youth Education



Schools will be opening in September and with this news the Dominion Command has advised that the Remembrance Poster & Literary Competitions will proceed in 2020.

Branch 340 was notified by an e-memorandum dated August 17<sup>th</sup> that since Ontario Command has the highest number of participants in these programs, they too have decided to have these competitions this year.

The deadlines have been extended with the local entries having until November 20<sup>th</sup> to be submitted. The Branch winning entries are to be submitted to the Zone Youth Education Officer by December 18, 2020. The winning entries from the Zone competitions are to go forward to District by January 8, 2021.

The Branch Youth Education Chairpersons in Zone C-4 have been invited to a training/information session to be held on September 10<sup>th</sup> with the Zone and District Youth Education Chairpersons. This is a welcomed opportunity to ask questions and for us a group to brainstorm.

More information about Branch 340's Remembrance Poster & Literary Competitions will be available in the near future.

Cde Patty Kelly  
Youth Education Chairperson  
gpkelly@bmts.com



## Branch 340 Ladies Auxiliary



Greetings from Branch 340 Ladies Auxiliary,

The social distancing continues into the Fall and schools are gearing up for the beginning of a new and very different year. I do wish all staff and students the patience to make this new routine comfortable and successful.

Our Fun Nights have been cancelled until further notice; it's difficult to keep a deck of cards sanitized!

I do hope that you all have your social circles and you are enjoying some time with them and of course, with your families. It's important to stay in touch with those you love.

I have to give a shout out to all of Grey-Bruce people and congratulate them on the excellent job of keeping this awful pandemic at bay, we have had no new cases for several months, no one is hospitalized or passed from this.

We still have not heard any instructions from Command about resuming our scheduled meetings.

Once our meetings resume, they are held every second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM.

Cde Vicky Taylor  
[vicky.taylor@bmts.com](mailto:vicky.taylor@bmts.com)



## ***Branch 340 Re-opening***

***Monday to Saturday  
3:00 pm – 7:00 pm  
Until further Notice***



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



# Meat Draw

**Saturday, Sept. 19**  
**starting at 4:00 pm**

**Assorted meat prizes to be won**



*Safety and health guidelines will be observed*  
*Limit 50 maximum person capacity*

*Future Meat Draws to be Announced*



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



# **Pumpkinfest Meat Draws**

## **FUNDRAISER**



**Saturday, October 3 ... 4:00 pm**

**Legion Club Room**

*Safety and health guidelines will be observed  
Limit 50 maximum person capacity*

