



Royal Canadian Legion  **Port Elgin Branch 340**

Branch Line

December 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.

The Harrison and Hestera families wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Please adhere to the safety protocols being issued and stay safe and be well. Remember to practice social distancing.

Please see inside for more information for the December Turkey 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

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

President	Robert Harrison	bnrshow@eastlink.ca	519-389-4806
Immediate Past President	Dan Kelly	dankelly@bmts.com	519-389-2352
1st Vice President	Alex Taylor	alex.taylor@bmts.com	519-389-2616
2nd Vice President	Rhonda Harrison	bnrshow@eastlink.ca	519-389-4806
Secretary	Norma Dudgeon	Branch340@eastlink.ca	519-389-2876
Treasurer	Norma Dudgeon	Branch340@eastlink.ca	519-389-2876
Sergeant-at-Arms	Mike Hobson	hobson@eastlink.ca	519-386-6078
Sports Officer	Gord Kelly	gordonakelly1973@gmail.com	519-389-6057
Chaplain	Chuck Beaton	cjbeaton5@gmail.com	519-797-5586
Executive	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
LA Liaison	Patty Kelly	gpkelly@bmts.com	519-389-6057
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Poppy	Alex Taylor	alex.taylor@bmts.com	519-389-2616
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Seniors	Mike Hobson	hobson@eastlink.ca	519-386-6078
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Service Officer	Mike Hobson	hobson@eastlink.ca	519-386-6078
Sports	Gord Kelly	gordonakelly1973@gmail.com	519-389-6057
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Ways & Means	Tom Jacques	thjacques@bmts.com	519-832-6837
Youth Education	Patty Kelly	gpkelly@bmts.com	519-389-6057
Air Cadets Liaison	Blair & Elizabeth Eby	bizebys@gmail.com	519-832-3133
Nevada	Andrew Reinhart	andyreinhart@hotmail.com	519-708-0553
Track & Field	Robert Harrison	bnrshow@eastlink.ca	519-389-4806

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



President's Report



December 21st, by the calendar, is the first day of winter however meteorologists consider December 1st the first day of winter in Ontario. Either way it is here.

November was a busy month with Remembrance Day. This year we had our first Remembrance Day Church service virtually. It was a lot of laughs as we found when you film the service you have the opportunity to go back and do a re-take to fix any mistakes and for some reason you make a lot more mistakes when the camera is rolling. After several calls to "cut" the camera we managed to complete the service.

Many thanks to Rev. Chuck Moon, of Tolmie Memorial Presbyterian Church, and our Padre Chuck Beaton for their sermons. A special thank you to Peter Little for looking after the filming process and getting it on air. Thanks to his wife Anne for support and her sense of humour.

On November 11th we held our first live broadcast of our Remembrance Day service. Sargent-at-Arms Mike Hobson marched on the Colours at 10:50 am. With less than 25 people in

attendance, as per safety guidelines, we did our standard service. Eight wreaths were presented and laid by members of the Branch and community. The majority of the other wreaths were pre-laid prior to the service. Huge and special thanks to Norma Dudgeon and her team for the excellent presentation at the Cenotaph and for all the hard work they do each year.

Special thanks to Pastor David Baker and Andrew Baker from the SouthPort Pentecostal Church for filming and broadcasting the service for us. It was live-streamed for the community to view. So far I have heard all good comments so we hope to do this format again next year. Facebook had 521 views YouTube had 254 views. These are just the views it doesn't include if someone shared the videos or how many people are actually watched. Well done!

We did have a successful Meat Raffle on November 14th. It was well attended and the maximum number of people in attendance. We were considering the Turkey Draws for December but with the dramatic rise in COVID-19 cases across Ontario and in our surrounding area and the government guidelines the Executive have decided not to have the draws in December. This was a very hard decision but we felt it more important to keep our members and guests as safe as possible. The Games Room will also be closed until further notice. The Club Room will be open throughout the holiday season (See hours in the Bulletin) with a **strict limit of 50 persons and only 6 people per table.**

I would be remiss if I did not congratulate Cde Alex Taylor and his Poppy Team for their incredible fundraising in this very difficult time. When you read his report I am sure you will be both humbled and amazed at the generosity of our community. Thank you all!

Rhonda and I would like to wish you all a safe and happy holiday season. We are not travelling anywhere this Christmas except to our Legion. Hope to see you there. Stay safe!

President Robert (Bob) Harrison
bnrshow@eastlink.ca



Bursary



A \$750.00 bursary is available for the children and grandchildren of any ex-service personnel or currently serving members of the Canadian Armed Forces; also, children and grandchildren of any Ordinary or Life member. Children only of Associate members and children and grandchildren of any Ladies Auxiliary member.

Total family income must be under \$150,000 per year. The student can apply for up to 5 years providing they are in the same course of study.

The finished application must be submitted to Ontario Command no later than the last Friday in March.

For more information go to www.on.legion.ca/remembrance/youth-programs for the current Bursary form. If you have any questions or need assistance please call me at 519-389-4806.

Please stay safe by social distancing and wearing a mask.

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



In Over Two Months

Earl and Bubba are quietly sitting in a boat fishing, chewing tobacco and drinking beer when suddenly Bubba says, "Think I'm gonna divorce the wife... she ain't spoke to me in over 2 months." Earl spits overboard, takes a long, slow sip of beer and says, "Better think it over... women like that are hard to find."



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.

Reminder, if you were the recipient of a Years of Service pin please contact me and we can make arrangements to receive your award.

BRANCH 340 - SERVICE PINS 2020				
ORDINARY				
<u>5 Years</u>	<u>10 Years</u>	<u>15 Years</u>	<u>40 Years</u>	
Jean Nadeau	Stephen Doran	Charles Wanner	Reta Hough	
Fred Walsh	Brett Luxon		Derick Harrison	
	Edward Wahrbickler			
ASSOCIATE				
<u>5 Years</u>	<u>10 Years</u>	<u>15 Years</u>	<u>20 Years</u>	<u>25 Years</u>
Loel Harrison	Dianne Brill	Roger Dewaele	James Fleming	Fred Brown
Thelma Kennedy	Andrew Pullman		Peter Tomlinson	Gary Hamer
Grant Virgo				Gerry Lambert
Linda Virgo				Gerald Purbrick
				Dave Ribey
				June Rourke
				Linda Wolfe
<u>30 Years</u>	<u>35 Years</u>	<u>40 Years</u>		
Bruce Alexander	Richard Fleming	Chris McCaw		
Joan Hymmen	Robert Hutton			
Kevin Smallwood	Cheryl Reiger			
	Paul Whitehead			

		AFFILIATE-VOTING		
<u>5 Years</u>	<u>10 Years</u>	<u>15 Years</u>		
Tyler Casemore	Carol Gayle	John Fahrer		
		Sandra Hutchinson		
		Fran Myers		
		Keith Styles		

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



Membership



I would like to thank all of our members that paid their dues early and took use of our early bird campaign. We started in September and ran the campaign until end of November. As to date we have 393 paid members for 2020 with 23 members still outstanding. There is approx. 390 people that took advantage of the saving for 2021. I have processed all the membership cards as of Monday November 23, 2020.

If you have not paid your dues for 2020 please consider doing so to keep your years of service intact. If you do not or can't come in due to the COVID pandemic you can always join on line at legion.ca. It is straight forward and easy to do. You can also pay your dues on line at the same address. Many of our members have taken advantage of paying on line this year and we are glad they can do that.

There have been some applications for transfer and membership this fall and we are up to date except for 1 person we still need to initiate. If you know anyone interested in joining please let us know. There are membership applications at the bar in the clubroom.

Hope you all are staying safe and hope to see you in the future.

Cde Dan Kelly
Membership Chairman
dankelly@bmts.com





Last Post



**Jim Green
Elsie Hammel**

**WW II
Affiliate**

**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.**



Poppy



With the challenges the COVID-19 pandemic presented, Port Elgin Legion's 2020 Poppy Campaign, unexpectedly, has been highly successful raising over \$37,000, close to a 30% increase over 2019. Through our Ad Mail Campaign, Port Elgin households and businesses donated over \$10,500 alone to the Poppy Campaign. Again, a campaign this large could not come off without the support of our dedicated Branch Member volunteers who stuffed Ad Mail Envelopes and Canvassed at stores that had sufficient space to allow for Canvassers to properly social distance and the many Port Elgin businesses who displayed over 107 Poppy boxes collecting funds for this year's Poppy Campaign. Our businesses and organizations even with the negative impact of COVID-19 still sponsored 104 wreaths, another key to the success of this year's Poppy Campaign. Thank you to all those who purchased wreaths or made donations. Our Veterans rely on us and the Poppy Funds, we raise, to assist them in their time of need.

The call for canvassing volunteers was again answered by a number of our dedicated members. Due to the significant funds raised by our Canvassers distributing poppies in stores as well as the generous contributions to in store Poppy Boxes.

Heartfelt thanks go out to those Branch Members who volunteered over 250 hours of their valuable time this year to stuff Ad Mail Envelopes and/or Canvass:

Carolyn Russell	Mike Howe	Mary Galliher	Terry Mills	Scott Davidson
Dan Kelly	Laurie Laur	Glenna Snider	Janice Pepe	Shelley Hewson
Melinda Myette	Vicky Taylor	Mickey Kinsman	Rhonda Harrison	Bob Harrison
Shirley Jacklin	Wayne MacKinnon	Grant Virgo	George Jacklin	Shirley Alpaugh
Thelma Kennedy				

Ken and Evelyn Martin helped me to meet the Poppy Audit requirements for our 2019-2020 financial reports by reviewing the Poppy Trust Financial Records.

Thanks also to Shelley Hewson who helped distribute and pick up Poppy Boxes and Thelma Kennedy for helping sign out canvassers and counting money with the other money counters: Randy Shultz, Jim Connan, Glenna Snider, Larry Dudgeon, Dan Kelly and Shelley Hewson. Again, I would like to thank Don Dudgeon along with Blair and Brock Eby and Kirk Virtue for erecting and taking down respectively the Poppy Banner on the side of our building.

Norma’s support and advice this year to the Poppy Campaign was again greatly appreciated! Most important is her dedication to the organization, in spite of the challenges COVID-19 presented, for this year’s Private Remembrance Day Ceremony!

A sincere **THANK YOU** to all those who volunteered their time this year!

LEST WE FORGET!

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





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



As per our Executive Meeting held on the 24th of November a round table discussion was held on continuing the meat raffles. It was decided due to circumstances surrounding the safety and well-being of patrons, staff and volunteers that we would not have the Turkey Raffles in December. We will look forward to the New Year and hope for better times for all concerned.

Branch 340 appreciates your continued support.

Please stay safe.

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





Youth Education



The entries for Branch 340's Remembrance Poster and Literary Competition have been collected from the local schools with virtual and homeschool learners participating as well.

The overall First Place Winning entries once determined will be entered in the Zone C4 competition.

The children and youth of our community did not forget; they Remembered them.

Cde Patty Kelly
Youth Education Chairman
branch340youthed@gmail.com



Remembrance Day - November 11, 2020



This year turned out to be a cool and windy day to honour our Veterans and Fallen Comrades and due to COVID-19, we weren't able to have a community service as in the past – we were only allowed 25 members at the Cenotaph but there were some people who attended and stood respectfully apart on the street to observe the proceedings.

We were very lucky this year to have Pastor David Baker and Andrew Baker of the SouthPort Pentecostal Church to live-stream our service so that our members and the community could watch at home and this turned out to be the perfect solution for everyone and we can't thank them enough for all their efforts.

I might do the planning and coordinating of Remembrance Day but there is so much work “behind the scenes” that most are not aware of; I would like to thank all the volunteers that physically helped me and hopefully I haven’t missed anyone.

Sound System: Pastor David Baker, Andrew Baker, Trevor Wardrop
Wreaths: Cenotaph Setup & Dismantle / Pickup and Put Away
Dan Kelly, Curt Virtue, Gord Kelly, Brad Davies, Mike Hobson,
Greg Briggs, Ken Martin, Rob Atkinson, Bob Harrison, Rhonda
Harrison
Wreath tags: Anne Eby who has helped me for many years as it’s quite a
consuming job

A little footnote that Rob Atkinson, Tony Atkinson, Blair Eby and Stacey Hobson were at the cenotaph to help put away the wreaths when Rob discovered a house on fire a block away – they all proceeded to run to the fire and rescue the resident and dogs inside – thank you to everyone for your quick response and making sure everyone was safe – you are our champions.



This is only the tip of the iceberg of the preparation but it all comes together for ½ hour on the 11th day of November. A few key people that help make our special day a success are:

Poppy Chairman: Alex Taylor
Sgt at Arms: Mike Hobson

Andrew Reinhart is usually my Cenotaph Sgt at Arms and my right hand but this year he had the significant job of escorting the wreath bearers; there was a moment of great concern when a gust of wind took my speaker’s notes on a fly-by when we were at the salute for the Last Post – Andrew discreetly stepped aside and grasped my notes before they flew to parts unknown. Thank you Andrew for making everything go smoothly and stepping in where needed.

The trailer to haul and store the wreaths was once again donated by Curt Virtue – not sure where we would put 110 wreaths and get them to the cenotaph without the trailer – Thanks Curt!

The Colour Party did us proud as always and Diane Mills and her ladies provided us with an excellent lunch.

Thank you Rev Chuck Beaton for your compassion and thoughtfulness to our Branch and our veterans; we are so lucky to have you as part of our Legion family.

Until we meet again on November 11th, thank you all!

Norma Dudgeon – Remembrance Day Chairman



Branch 340 participates in the Tolmie Memorial Presbyterian Remembrance Day Church Service



Greg Reid, Willow Reid and Gryffin Reid place a poppy cross in memory of Cpl Jaime Murphy



L-R: LA President Diana Tripp presents Cde Norma Dudgeon with a cheque for \$500. for the Cenotaph Park Fund.



L-R: LA President Diana Tripp presents President Robert Harrison with a cheque for \$1,000. for the Building Fund.



Commander's Corner



Hi everyone,

It's been a couple of months since my last update so here is the latest and greatest in Zone C-4. All Branch Inspections have been completed now and I have to say how impressive the Reports are. Financially, Branches are in good shape thanks to the hard work of the Executive members and the members who support them. I'm amazed at the dedication shown, despite the difficult circumstances, by everyone including the Ladies Auxiliary members and by the innovative ideas that are allowing the Branches to survive and in most cases flourish. You are a credit to the Legion family.

About half of the Branches in our Zone have kept their doors open to continue programs and to provide some form of socializing, but even those whose doors are closed are continuing to provide service to the veterans, members and their communities in ever more innovative ways. Membership numbers are increasing despite the difficult times we are in which is a good sign that the public understands that by having a membership in their Branch they are helping to keep the doors open and the much needed programs such as the Homeless Veterans Fund supported.

It is so important, now more than ever, to renew your membership whether you attend the Branch or not. Veterans and their dependents, widows and widowers, seniors and youth need a great deal of support during this pandemic and this is the mission at the heart of our organization. I've heard many uplifting, inspiring stories during the last few weeks and couldn't be more proud of your volunteers and staff that have gone above and beyond what is expected from them.

Congratulations on a successful Poppy Campaign and on the Remembrance Day Service. Honoring those who paid the ultimate sacrifice to provide us with the freedoms we enjoy today is something we must do whatever the circumstances.

Youth Education Remembrance entries are now due and I look forward to seeing the posters and reading the essays and poems. Unfortunately, the 2021 Provincial Public Speaking contest might be cancelled for health and safety reasons.

To all of you, especially those who are on the front lines, I wish good health and the very best of the holiday season. To those who have lost loved ones I offer my sincere condolences. To those in isolation a wish for your comfort and ease.

In Comradeship
Kathryn Eastwood
Zone C-4 Commander

Branch 340 New Hours



Monday to Thursday 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Friday 3:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Sunday- 4:00 – 7:00 pm

Until further Notice



MEMBERSHIP



**December 1st Renewal fees are now
\$55.00**

**Pay today to remain in good standing and
receive the many membership perks**

Dan Kelly, Membership Chairman

Renew today!



MERRY CHRISTMAS
and
HAPPY NEW YEAR



We Will Remember Them WW I – The Siberian Contingent Canada History



Canadian Expeditionary Force

In 1917 the Russian government was overthrown by Bolshevik (Communist) forces which had concluded a peace treaty with the Germans under the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk. The Allies that were fighting Germany were concerned about the Germans gaining Russia's wheat, oil and minerals which would negate their blockade of these critical items in the Western Front. An invasion of Russia from Europe was considered but no agreement on this could be reached.

A Czechoslovakian Army force, in support of the allies, had been in Russia and had seized the trans-Siberian railway hoping to stop the Russian from shipping goods to Vladivostok on the Pacific and circumnavigating the world to bring these necessary goods back to Germany to aid them at the Western Front.

The Allies announced the creation of an international force to land in Siberia in order to "restore and preserve the communication with the Czechs". The Force initially would include elements from the U. S., Britain and Japan. Japan had concerns of the War spreading to their area. The Canadian Prime Minister, Sir Robert Borden, decided that it would be advantageous for Canada to be involved in this operation. The British and the Americans welcomed Canada's interest in being involved.

Two Canadian Infantry Battalions were raised, along with a contingent of the Royal North West Mounted Police under the command of Major-General J. H. Elmsley, who had served in the Boer War and in Europe in WWI. The Canadian force of nearly 4,000 was organized in British Columbia and the first group sailed from Victoria on October 11, 1918 and arrived in Vladivostok on October 26th.

The troops remained in Siberia until June 1919. While there was considerable positioning and numerous discussions with the Russians, the Canadian Contingent was never operationally engaged. On departure, the Japanese gifted the Canadians 96 bottles of wine, 18 bottles of whiskey and 3 casks of sake in acknowledgement of their efforts.



WWI Canadian Army Soldiers in Siberia - Winter 1918-1919

Details as taken from the National Archives of Canada
G. William Streeter
519-797-2744

Port Elgin Legion 340

Christmas Holiday Hours

Thurs. Dec. 24: Open 3:00 – 6:00 pm

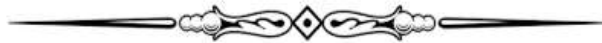
Fri. Dec. 25: Closed

Sat. Dec. 26: Closed

Sun. Dec. 27: Open 4:00 – 7:00 pm

Thurs. Dec. 31: Open 3:00 – 6:00 pm

Tues. Jan. 1: Closed/Levee Cancelled



WARNING : Consumption of alcohol is the leading cause of inexplicable rug burns on the forehead.

WARNING : Consumption of alcohol may lead to traffic signs and cones appearing in your home.





MILLER'S

MEDAL MOUNTING



SANDY MILLER
 CONTACT: sandybr464@yahoo.ca
 PHONE: 519-379-5989

Port Elgin Legion Br 340

December Turkey Raffles

All events have been
CANCELLED due to the
increase of **COVID-19** in our
surrounding area

Be safe and be well!



If everything gets canceled
and you have to stay home
and **NOTHING HAPPENS**,
please try to remember -
THAT'S THE POINT.

Port Elgin Legion Br 340

New Years Day Levee

CANCELLED due to the increase of **COVID-19** in our surrounding area.

The decision was made to keep our members and guests safe during these trying times.

Branch 340 will be closed January 1, 2021

**We wish everyone a Happy
and Prosperous New Year**



12 Commandments for Seniors

1. Talk to yourself. There are times you need expert advice.
 2. "In Style" are the clothes that still fit.
 3. You don't need anger management. You need people to stop making you mad.
 4. Your people skills are just fine. It's your tolerance for idiots that needs work.
 5. The biggest lie you tell yourself is, "I don't need to write that down. I'll remember it."
 6. "On time" is when you get there.
 7. Even duct tape can't fix stupid – but it sure does muffle the sound.
 8. It would be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes, then come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller?
 9. Lately, you've noticed people your age are so much older than you.
 10. Growing old should have taken longer.
 11. Aging has slowed you down, but it hasn't shut you up.
 12. You still haven't learned to act your age, and hope you never will.
- And one more: "One for the road" means going to the bathroom before you leave the house.



RCL Port Elgin Branch 340
630 Green Street, Port Elgin
519-389-9917 www.branch340.ca



Legion Christmas Toy Drive



Due to COVID-19, the Iota Phi Toy Drive collection has been scaled down and a few places are having boxes out in their establishments.

The Legion Toy Drive box will be located in the downstairs front landing. Unwrapped gifts for children to age 14 are welcome. Also, the donation jar will be located in the Club Room for your convenience. Donation proceeds will be used to purchase items which are needed.

If you wish to contribute please take your gift to one of the boxes already out or directly to the Salvation Army Food Bank on Bricker Street. Also, 98 The Beach radio station will collect gift cards only.

We are pleased to be in partnership with the Iota Phi Sorority, Meridian Credit Union and the Salvation Army.

The deadline is December 11th. Thank you for your generosity.

**Iota Phi
Sorority**





RCL Port Elgin Branch 340



Tis the Season

Christmas Raffle

Wine Themed Basket (\$150)

**Draw Date on
Saturday, December
19th at 6:00 pm -
Branch Clubroom**



**Tickets: \$2.00 each or
3 for \$5.00**

Lottery Licence
M813892

Proceeds for Community & Youth Programs

Must be over 19 years of age to purchase ticket

