



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

# Branch Line

**February 2022**

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).

To all of our readers ... **Happy Groundhog Day** .... hopefully he doesn't see his shadow, then spring is on the way. Time to indulge for **Valentine's Day** .... have some sweets with your sweetheart and from our family to yours .... **Happy Family Day** .... Enjoy your time together!!!

By the time you read this the Ontario government will have announced reopening indoor dining for restaurants, bars and other food or drink establishments at 50 per cent capacity. Please support your Branch. Remember to maintain COVID safety protocols - washing hands frequently, wear your mask and practice social distancing.

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



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<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</b>	Alex Taylor	alex.taylor@bmts.com	519-389-2616
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<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
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	Patty Kelly	gpkelly@bmts.com	519-389-6057
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<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
<b>Property</b>	Robert Harrison	bnrshow@eastlink.ca	519-389-4806
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<b>Ways &amp; Means</b>	Tom Jacques	thjacques@bmts.com	519-832-6837
<b>Youth Education</b>	Patty Kelly	gpkelly@bmts.com	519-389-6057
<b>Air Cadets Liaison</b>	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
	Linda Virgo



## President's Report



Your Legion is in a critical situation. Our volunteer base is slowly diminishing and we need your help.

The Port Elgin Legion has been a large part of our community for over 75 years and run by a steady stream of individuals who have answered the call for help but the well is running dry. We have been operating with 2 less executive members that we needed for the last 3 years and there are 3 executive members that would like to retire their positions. We have an exceptional Executive with over 160 years of experience between them.

We need to pass on our knowledge and encourage the younger members of Branch 340 to join the executive so we can continue to be a strong presence within the community. It is not a huge commitment and would involve two monthly meetings and the work which your standing committee would require.

You will be offered training in any of the positions plus you will have the current Executive Chairman to help and guide you as needed.



It is vital that we fill these positions when elections are held in April. Please consider joining us as we plan for the future. I assure you will make new friends and have a lot of fun along the way. Thanking you for your consideration.

Last but not least, to our Legion family from Hepworth-Shallow Lake Branch, we send our prayers as you overcome the recent fire at your Branch. Such a loss of your building and the many contents showcased as memorabilia. You are in our thoughts as you move forward through this devastating time.

President Robert Harrison  
bnrshow@eastlink.ca



### Bursary Program



It baffles me at this time of year that we didn't have more students applying for a \$1,000 bursary, instead in Zone C-4 to date we have none. The Legion has offered up to \$400,000 for bursary awards this year yet applications are at an all-time low in Ontario. Students have until the last Friday in March to apply.

If you know anyone of our members or their families that would like more information please contact me.

You can also get more information and a copy of the application on-line under the Youth Programs tab at [www.on.legion.ca](http://www.on.legion.ca) or call 1-888-207-0939.

Cde Robert Harrison  
Bursary Chairman  
bnrshow@eastlink.ca



*A cop just knocked on my door and told me that my dogs were chasing people on bikes. My dogs don't even own bikes...*





## Hall Rentals



**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)



## Honours & 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 Chairman  
[thjacques@bmts.com](mailto:thjacques@bmts.com)





## Membership



If you have not paid your dues for 2022 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.

If you know of 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





**MEMBERSHIP**

Renewal dues have increased on  
December 1, 2021  
to \$55.00


Dan Kelly, Membership Chairman

Renew today! 





### General Meeting



**Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 pm**  
**in the Main Hall**

**As members, your presence is appreciated for approval of Branch business.**

***Please support your Branch***





## Poppy



Our current COVID-19 lockdown, no different from 2021, has limited any proactive steps that we can take.

Poppy, while a year around endeavour to help our Veterans at home and abroad in their time of need is limited in any actions that it can proactively take. As always, if any member is aware of any veteran, whether a Legion member or not, who may need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or Mike Hobson, our Branch Service Officer, who can contact the veteran directly to assess any support that may be required.

Poppy also supports the children and grandchildren of our Veterans through our Branch Bursary program. For more information, please contact me or our Bursary Chairman, Robert Harrison for further information and application forms.

The needs of our Veterans are not limited to October/November when we have our Poppy Fund Drive. We appreciate any donations made throughout the year. While this year again has a number of unique challenges, each year we have Veterans and projects that need assistance.  
Lest We Forget

In Comradeship,

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

Your Royal Canadian Legion is committed to making a difference in the lives of Veterans and their families, providing essential services in our communities, and remembering the men and women who sacrificed for our country.



Families are like fudge –  
mostly sweet with a few nuts.

*Happy Family Day!*



*I'm great at multitasking. I can waste time, be unproductive, and procrastinate all at once.*





## Youth Education



As I write this update the schools are still open with most students choosing to return to their classrooms.

Finally, I was able to complete the delivery of the Zone C-4 awards for the winning entries at this level of the Remembrance Poster & Literary Competition.

The following are the Zone level winning entries from Branch 340:

### **COLOUR POSTER**

Primary Division: Wren Kahgee-Sterling - Second Place (Northport Elementary School)

Junior Division: Parisa Akjunjee - Third Place (Northport Elementary School)

Intermediate Division: Stella Harris - First Place (Saugeen District Senior School)

### **BLACK & WHITE POSTER**

Intermediate Division: Mykenzie Wolfe - Third Place (Saugeen District Senior School)

### **ESSAY**

Junior Division: Lacey Crowe - Second Place (Northport Elementary School)

### **POEM**

Junior Division: Olivia Mattinson - Third Place (Northport Elementary School)

Once again, I have the privilege to extend congratulations to these students. Further I wish the continued best to Stella Harris. In placing First Place in the Zone C-4 Competition her entry of a Colour Poster at the Intermediate Division has gone on to the District Level of the Remembrance Competition.

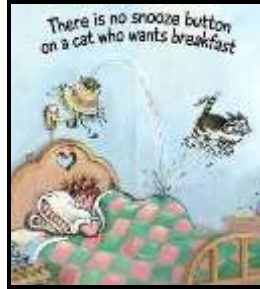
### **PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION**

Historically Branch 340 hosted our Public Speaking Competition in February/March.

In December Ontario Command officially province-wide cancelled the Public Speaking Competition. Prior to this notification Branch 340 had made a safety decision due to the pandemic to place our local competition on hold for yet another year, thereby, provided early notification of the decision to our community schools.

Patty Kelly  
Youth Education Chairman  
branch340youthed@gmail.com





The following are national commemorative and notable days of relevance to The Royal Canadian Legion that raise awareness of an issue, commemorate a group or event, or celebrate something.

- Black history month
- 14 Valentine's Day
- Family Day (day varies by province)
- 15 National Flag of Canada Day
- 28 Gulf War ends (1991) - 30th anniversary
- Lapsed member reminders



### Branch 340 Ladies Auxiliary



**HAPPY VALENTINES TO YOU.**

As we enter February, we are once again into a less restrictive time; businesses are being allowed to open up with capacity limits. Personal social gatherings can also increase capacity.

The Government and our health advisers are telling us that perhaps this pandemic has reached its plateau and we may see a downward trend of cases and hospitalizations this month.



Over the last 2 years we have not been able to do our **Business**, we have not had any functions to cater to and our bank account is reflecting that. February is 'Donation Month' and the Executive must decide on what organizations we give to and how much we give but, without any income being earned and our bank account dwindling shows how much can we give. We can only hope that by this time next year we have been able to cater to many social functions which will then add to our dwindling bank account.

As well as having functions to cater to, we need more ladies to join with us. We currently have 25 members who have renewed their 2022 memberships and a number of these ladies are well into their 70s and beyond. To maintain a strong LA we need new members to continue to offer the services that we offer. Earnings that we make from the functions we provide are given back to the community in donations. So, keep in mind that if you volunteer with us you're giving back to the community, which in turn will give back to you so please consider a membership to help us achieve our goals.

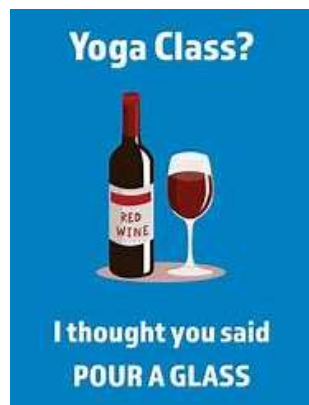
We are sending our thoughts and prayers to the staff, executive and members of the Hepworth/Shallow Lake Legion. The building can be rebuilt but the loss of memorabilia is devastating.

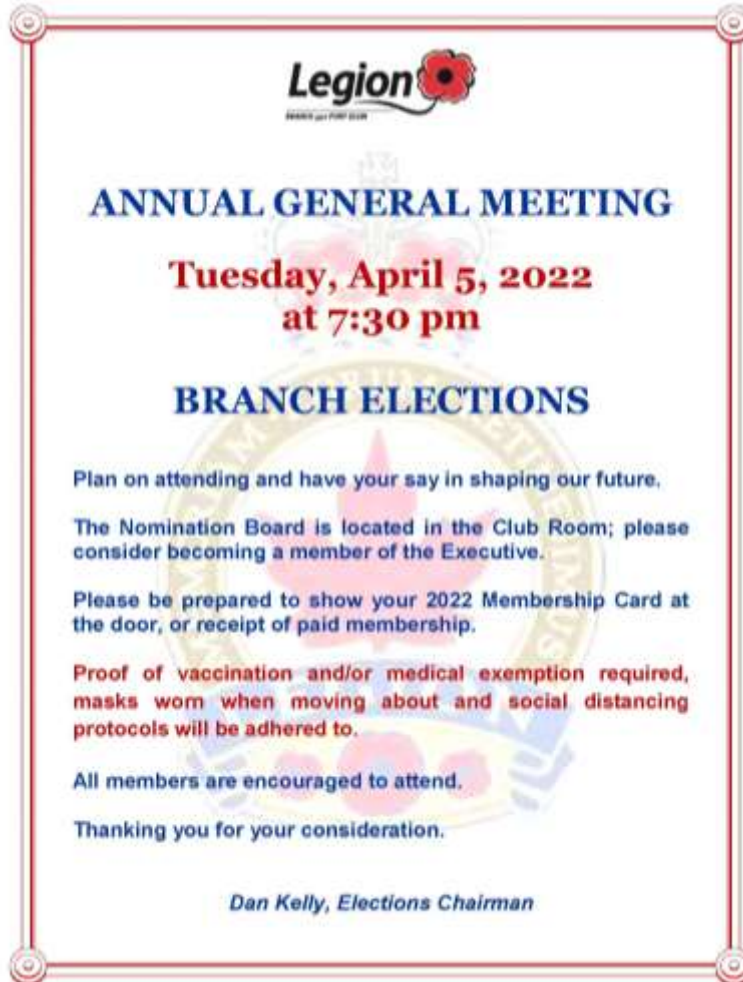
There is some question as to whether we will be having our February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. So please stay tuned.

**Interested in becoming a member, join us at our monthly meeting.**

Thank you everyone for your help and support and stay healthy.

Cde Vicky Taylor  
vicky.taylor@bmts.com





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.





## Hours of Operation Change Sunday Closing



**Branch 340 will be closed on Sundays starting March 1, 2022 until further notice.**



### 🌀 A FEW THINGS YOU MAY NOT HAVE KNOWN 🌀

**“A SHOT OF WHISKEY”** – In the old west a .45 cartridge for a six-gun cost 12 cents, so did a glass of whiskey. If a cowhand was low on cash, he would often give the bartender a cartridge in exchange for a drink. This became known as a "shot" of whiskey.

**“BUYING THE FARM”** – This is synonymous with dying. During WW1 soldiers were given life insurance policies worth \$5,000. This was about the price of an average farm so if you died you "bought the farm" for your survivors.

**“IRON CLAD CONTRACT”** – This came about from the ironclad ships of the Civil War. It meant something so strong it could not be broken.

**“RIFF RAFF”** – The Mississippi River was the main way of travelling from north to south. Riverboats carried passengers and freight but they were expensive so most people used rafts. Everything had the right of way over rafts which were considered cheap. The steering oar on the rafts was called a "riff" and this transposed into riff-raff, meaning low class.



“**COBWEB**” – The Old English word for “spider” was “cob”.

“**SHIP STATE ROOMS**” – Travelling by steamboat was considered the height of comfort. Passenger cabins on the boats were not numbered. Instead they were named after states. To this day cabins on ships are called staterooms.

“**SLEEP TIGHT**” – Early beds were made with a wooden frame. Ropes were tied across the frame in a crisscross pattern. A straw mattress was then put on top of the ropes. Over time the ropes stretched, causing the bed to sag. The owner would then tighten the ropes to get a better night’s sleep.



**Ontario Command  
Request for Assistance for Victoria Cross Recipient**



Comrades,

Please see the email below from Comrade Darren Reid. I would ask that you please forward to anyone and everyone to seek assistance for Pte Jesse Larochelle being awarded the Victoria Cross. I would ask that you include the request for all to sign the petition.

Thank you for your consideration and let’s get behind the efforts of the BSO/OSI.  
Dave Gordon

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**From:** Darren Reid [<mailto:darren.reid@bsojetsosi.com>]

**Sent:** January 14, 2022 2:06 PM

**To:** Garry Pond <[garry.pond@hotmail.com](mailto:garry.pond@hotmail.com)> Dave Gordon <[gordon\\_214@sympatico.ca](mailto:gordon_214@sympatico.ca)> Trevor Jenvenne <[trevor.jenvenne@bsojetsosi.com](mailto:trevor.jenvenne@bsojetsosi.com)>

**Subject:** Pte Jess Larochelle



Good afternoon Comrades,

For anyone unaware, a concentrated effort is in progress to award a Victoria Cross to a Canadian for their actions in Afghanistan. On 14 Oct 2006 Pte. Jess Larochelle of 1RCR was alone in an OP overwatching his platoon as they dealt with a LAV that had been hit by an IED. At 2pm a radio call came in from Jess... "Contact imminent." Seconds later both the OP and the LAV were rocked with direct hits of RPG's and hails of automatic small arms fire.

The direct hit to Jess' OP blew him back and unconscious. Sgt. Darcy Tedford and Pte. Blake Williamson were killed instantly at the LAV. When Larochelle came to the entire position of Canadians was about to be over run. Severely wounded he got back on his mounted C6 machine gun to find that it was inoperable from the blast. The LAV too had its guns jammed. As the Taliban fighters exposed themselves moving through the grape rows to close in and finish the remaining troops Jess was the only one who could cover the flank. He let loose from his destroyed OP emptying the back up machine gun before he took to the 15 M72 rocket launchers that miraculously hadn't had the ordinance go off in the initial attack. Despite his wounds and the Taliban right on top of him Jess provided such accurate fire he was hitting Taliban with rockets directly, blowing them apart. "Jess was the only thing holding the Taliban back at that point" said MCpl Leblanc. "We are talking one guy with a pile of rockets and a machine gun." Larochelle's actions saved the lives of the remainder of his section.

Jess took part in the ramp ceremony for Tedford and Williamson the next day despite trouble walking. He was ordered by an Officer to go to the hospital but he refused until after carrying one of the caskets. It would be discovered that he had a broken back from the RPG blast and had kept his pain to himself. He was awarded the Star of Military Valour the same day he was medically discharged from the Canadian Army.

Today at 39 years old Jess lives with severe PTSD, memory problems, and quickly diminishing health from the myriad of complications with his mental and physical injuries in addition to all the required medications. He has been in and out of hospital more than a dozen times in the last 18 months and is taken care of by his parents near North Bay, ON. A team of Canadian veterans are working to expedite upgrading his SMV to a VC, including former Chief of Defense Staff Gen. Rick Hillier. Please visit and sign the formal parliamentary petition to upgrade Jess Larochelle to the Victoria Cross.

I am asking if Garry as the Ontario Command President and Dave the Ontario VSS can join in an effort to support this exemplary soldier. Also below is a link to the petition to parliament to ask for the same review.

Thank you for your support and consideration in this matter. Have a great day and stay safe.

Darren

<https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-3636>



I have attached a copy of the letter BSO Legion OSI is sending in support of this effort.



The Royal Canadian Legion Operational Stress Injury Special Section supports the efforts to award Canadian soldier Jess Larochelle the Canadian Victoria Cross. It is the country's highest honour for bravery, valour, self-sacrifice and devotion to duty when in the presence of an enemy.

On October 14 2006, Pte Larochelle after being hit by the blast of a RPG, refused to give up the fight. He faced close to what we knew a platoon size force of Taliban. Using rockets that had been compromised in the blast, he single handily used them to close with and destroy the enemy, so that they could not take the fight to his own platoon. He did it with a broken back. Not only did he show real morale courage that day, his devotion to his fellow soldiers and a mustering of superhuman strength no doubt saved countless Canadian lives.

For his actions that day he was awarded the Star of Military Valour.

Jess Larochelle's official Citation reads;

"On October 14, 2006, Private Larochelle of the 1st Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group was manning an observation post when it was destroyed by an enemy rocket in Pashmul, Afghanistan. Although he was alone, severely injured, and under sustained enemy fire in his exposed position at the ruined observation post, he aggressively provided covering fire over the otherwise undefended flank of his company's position. While two members of the personnel were killed and three others were wounded in the initial attack, Private Larochelle's heroic actions permitted the remainder of the company to defend their battle positions and to successfully fend off the sustained attack of more than 20 insurgents. His valiant conduct saved the lives of many members of his company."

We feel that Jess Larochelle's actions that day more than qualify him for the Victoria Cross. We urge the Government of Canada and the Canadian Armed Forces to review Pte Larochelle's actions that day and award him the medal that best fits his heroic actions that day, the Victoria Cross.

Trevor L. Jenvenne  
President  
BSO Legion OSI Special Section



## *Grandma's Apron*

The principal use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath because she only had a few and because it was easier to wash aprons than dresses and aprons required less material. But along with that, it served as a potholder for removing hot pans from the oven.

It was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears.

From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven.

When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids.

And when the weather was cold, Grandma wrapped it around her arms.

Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, bent over the hot wood stove.

Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron.

From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls.

In the autumn, the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees.

When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds.

When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the men folk knew it was time to come in from the fields to dinner.

It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that 'old-time apron' that served so many purposes.

### **REMEMBER....**

Grandma used to set her hot baked apple pies on the window sill to cool. Her granddaughters set theirs on the window sill to thaw.

The Government would go crazy now trying to figure out how many germs were on that apron.

I don't think I ever caught anything from an apron - but love...



*The inventor of the treadmill died at the age of 54  
The inventor of gymnastics died at the age of 57  
The world bodybuilding champion died at the age of 41  
The best soccer player in the world, Maradona, died at the age of 60*

***And then...***

*KFC inventor died at 94  
Inventor of Nutella brand died at the age of 88  
Cigarette maker Winston died at the age of 102  
The inventor of opium died at the age of 116 - in an earthquake  
Hennessy cognac, Irish inventor, died at 98*

***How did doctors come to the conclusion that exercise prolongs life?***

*The rabbit is always jumping, but it lives for only 2 years.  
The turtle that doesn't exercise at all, lives 400 years.*

*So ...Have a drink ...Take a nap ...  
And when you wake up, have bacon and eggs!*



**Hoof'in It –Your Local Butcher**

1199 Goderich St #A **Port Elgin** (519) 389-6328

Due to COVID-19 Hoof'in It would like to offer Branch 340 members  
a 10% discount.



**I don't know why  
beer companies  
bother with an  
expiration date... it's  
never going to make it  
anywhere near that.**



**NOTICE: Branch 340 will endeavour to continue with the monthly Meat Draws, however with the COVID situation please be aware that scheduled events may be cancelled at any time due to provincial mandated lock-downs.**

**Proof of double vaccination and/or medical exemption required and masks when moving about.**



**Meat Draw**  
**Sat. Feb. 26**  
**4:00 pm**

Safety protocols in place

**Everyone Welcome**



