



Royal Canadian Legion  **Port Elgin Branch 340**

Branch Line

April 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.

To all of our readers ... there are a few happenings at the Branch this month. Our Annual General Meeting & Elections will be held on April 5th. On the same evening presentations to our 2 local hospitals will be done as we appreciate their service in our communities. Our Meat Draws continue with 2 events this month. We will have live entertainment on April 9th which is a fundraiser for Ukraine and features Leo Campbell & Friends and Brian Bennett will be joining us on April 23rd for an afternoon with his piano playing. We thank you for your support.

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 / Treasurer	Norma Dudgeon	branch340@eastlink.ca	519-389-2876
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
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Sergeant-at-Arms	Mike Hobson	hobson@eastlink.ca	519-386-6078
Service Officer	Mike Hobson	hobson@eastlink.ca	519-386-6078
Sports	Gord Kelly	gordonakelly1973@gmail.com	519-389-6057
Veteran Services	Mike Hobson	hobson@eastlink.ca	519-386-6078
Ways & Means	Tom Jacques	thjacques@bmts.com	519-832-6837
Youth Education	Patty Kelly	gpkelly@bmts.com	519-389-6057
Air Cadets Liaison	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
1st Vice President	Anne Marie Kinsman
2nd Vice President	Sharen Maas
Treasurer	Diana Tripp - Interim
Secretary	Vicky Taylor
Sergeant-at-Arms	Anne Marie Kinsman
Sports Officer	Linda Virgo
	Sharen Maas
Executive	Elaine Esplen
	Linda Virgo
	Marilyn Noble
	Meryl Cramp



President's Report



We have had a very long and painful couple of years with COVID-19 but the Branch is in very good shape. As part of our property management we are looking at some major renovations in the next while to repair our leaking roof and we are looking at upgrades to our electrical system.

It is great to see our members and friends in the Branch once again at the Meat Draws and the recent Saturday afternoon entertainment; and of course coming in for some good old face to face conversation.

Well, it's near the end of our fiscal year and it's time to elect a new Executive. The elections for your new executive will be on Tuesday, April 5th at 7:30 pm in the upstairs main hall. We are still in need of some help on the executive so please consider letting your name stand for a position. I promise you will meet some great people and have some fun along the way. If you don't feel up to that big of a commitment there are always other ways to serve your Branch such as Bingo, BBQ's and even help with set-up in the hall for an event. Please consider helping.

I look forward to seeing you at our General Meeting/Election on Tuesday.



It was our pleasure to host the Zone C-4 Spring Convention on Sunday, March 20th. It was a busy day as a lot of business had to be taken care but through it all people were in good spirits. It was just great to see our friends again from our Zone.

I would like to thank everyone who helped from set-up to clean-up and a special thanks to the Ladies Auxiliary for the refreshments in the morning and the luncheon. It was all appreciated.

President Robert Harrison
bnrshow@eastlink.ca



Bursary Program



Bursary season is now over and will start up again next September.

If you have any questions regarding bursary, please contact me at any time.

Cde Robert Harrison
Bursary Chair
bnrshow@eastlink.ca
519-389-4806



Hall Rentals



Now that the COVID restrictions are starting to be lifted, our main hall is once again available. Please note that our Legion is going with the Provincial mandate of eliminating the Vaccine Passport which was effective 1 March 2022. Masks are not mandatory but are of the person's discretion if they wish to wear one.

We can cater to meetings, anniversaries, birthdays and celebrations of life and/or funeral lunches.

Our hall rates vary for each occasion and Legion Bar Staff is provided by the Branch. The Ladies Auxiliary is available to cater to these events with a light menu.



Our facility includes a wheelchair accessible washroom with a baby change station and is conveniently located in the building for access by both males and females.

Please contact Norma Dudgeon at the Legion office where you can leave a message 519 832-2903 or email: 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 Chair
thjacques@bmts.com



An Asian fellow has moved in next door. He has traveled the world, tried swimming with sharks, wrestled bears and climbed the highest mountains. It came as no surprise to learn his name was **Bindair Dundat**.





Membership



If you have not renewed your 2022 membership please consider doing that.

You can make your payment:

1. On-line by going to legion.ca on the computer
2. Come into the Branch when we are open (3 – 8 p.m. Monday to Saturday)
3. Contact me at dankelly@bmts.com to make other arrangements.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the Branch sometime soon.

We will remember them

Cde Dan Kelly
Membership Chair
dankelly@bmts.com



Last Post



Ralph Sturgeon

WW II 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.



NEW EMAIL COLLECTION CALLING CAMPAIGN BEGINS MARCH 1ST

- A third Party (Canada Direct), the same Canadian company who performed our renewal calling campaign last summer, will be reaching out to members on our behalf to collect their email address for our membership records.
- Will begin March 1st and run for 4-6 weeks
- Approx. 30,000 members to contact
- Live agent calling only....no recordings or messages will be left
- Agents have the ability to transfer any calls directly to our Member Services Staff
- Will update results as campaign moves forward.

All Branch Survey Results

Question: *Is your Branch open to members and the public?*

Answers	Response	Percent
Open with regular hours	28	27.2%
Open with limited hours	56	54.4%
Open by appointment only	3	2.9%
Closed but available by phone or email	9	8.7%
Closed to further notice	7	6.8%
Total responses:		103

Question: *Is your Membership Chair processing new and renewing memberships at this time?*

Answers	Response	Percent
Yes	67	89.3%
No	0	0.0%
Did not answer	1	
Closed	7	
Total responses:		75

2022 Membership Numbers:

- 175,805 Members have been processed for 2022. This is approximately 11,000 more than the same time last year.... up 6.7%.
- Renewal rates are 72% to date
- 9,419 new members have joined, up 1,800 members from the same time last year!

Since Feb 1st (last 3 weeks)

- 2,302 members have renewed online
- 349 members have joined online
- 2,081 phone calls have been received by Member Services

Enjoy your week!

Randy Hayley
 Director, Member Services / *Directeur- Service aux Membres*



The Royal Canadian Legion - National Headquarters
 Le siège de La Légion royale canadienne
 86 Aird Place, Ottawa, K2L 0A1
 T: 613-591-3335 ext 278
 Toll free: 1-888-556-6222





ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Tuesday, April 5, 2022
at 7:30 pm**

BRANCH ELECTIONS

Plan on attending and have your say in shaping our future.

The Nomination Board is located in the Club Room; please consider becoming a member of the Executive.

Please be prepared to show your 2022 Membership Card at the door, or receipt of paid membership.

All members are encouraged to attend.

Thanking you for your consideration.

Dan Kelly, Elections Chair



Mrs. Lewis, a Sunday school teacher asked her little children one Easter Sunday, as they were on the way to the church service, 'And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?' Rebecca, a bright little girl piped up, 'Because people are sleeping?'





Poppy & AGM Report



With the continued challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic presented, Port Elgin Legion's 2021 Poppy Campaign has successfully raised over \$39,951.17, close to matching our highly successful 2020 campaign. Through our Ad Mail Campaign, Port Elgin households and businesses have again donated \$11,403.52 alone to the Poppy Campaign, an 11% increase over 2020. 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 in the campaign at stores that had sufficient space to allow for Canvassers to properly social distance; and to the many

Port Elgin businesses who again displayed 107 Poppy boxes collecting funds for this year's Poppy Campaign. Our businesses and organizations even with the continued negative impact of COVID-19 sponsored 116 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. This has allowed us to approve \$34,500.00 in donations to date.

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 310 hours of their valuable time this year to stuff Ad Mail Envelopes and/or Canvass:

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

Thanks to Air Cadet canvassers Sophie Penner, Cardin Penner, Ibrahim Shad, Daniel Griffin, Ethan Ronholm, Teagan Penner, Evan Clarke, Armeet Walia, Jaskaran Walia, Curtis Metcalf and Capt. Rob Herborth.

Ken and Evelyn Martin helped me to meet the Poppy Audit requirements for our 2020-2021 financial reports by reviewing the Poppy Trust Financial Records.

Thanks to Shelley Hewson who helped distribute and pick up Poppy Boxes, count money and Thelma Kennedy for helping sign out canvassers and count money. Thanks also to the other money counters: Randy Shultz, Jim Connan, Vicky Taylor, Glenna Snider, Larry Dudgeon, Dan Kelly, Jim Allen, Rhonda and Bob Harrison.



As always, Norma's support and advice was invaluable this year again to the Poppy Campaign and greatly appreciated! Most important is her dedication to R.C.L Branch #340 and this year's Remembrance Day Ceremony!

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

LEST WE FORGET!

Alex Taylor
Poppy Chair



Mark, your calendar for Friday April 22, Earth Day.

The theme for 2022 is Invest in Our Planet. This is an international movement to increase awareness and investments for global protection which started in 1970. Canadians were joining in with recognizing Earth Day by 1990.

We all need to actively learn about ecological issues. Challenge yourself to personally make a conscious investment of your time to reduce your environmental impact on our Earth. Then boldly decide to be a change-maker by environmentally

investing every single day.

Check out these great resources and suggestions listed on the website:

www.brightsparktravel.ca

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed individuals can change the world. In fact, it's the only thing that ever has. Margaret Mead.





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.



2022 Veteran's Benefit Guide

For your information the links below can be shared with Veterans or family of Veterans – guide is FREE to them.



<https://legionmagazine.com/guide>

<https://legionmagazine.com/guide/index-fre.html>

Non Veterans – can be purchased here

<https://shop.legionmagazine.com/product/veteran-benefits-guide-2022/>



Q: What do you call a guy who's had too much to drink?

A: A cab.





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.



Did you ever wonder why there are no dead penguins on the ice in Antarctica?

Where do they go? Wonder no more!

It is a known fact that the penguin is a very ritualistic bird which lives an extremely ordered and complex life. The penguin is very committed to its family and will mate for life, as well as maintain a form of compassionate contact with its offspring throughout its life.

If a penguin is found dead on the ice surface, other members of the family and social circle have been known to dig holes in the nearby snow, using their vestigial wings and beaks, until the hole is deep enough for the dead bird to be rolled into, and buried.

The male penguins then gather in a circle around the fresh grave and sing:

"Freeze a jolly good fellow. Freeze a jolly good fellow."

You really didn't believe I know anything about penguins, did you?

(Sorry, I fell for it too!)



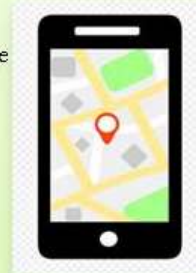
I have a little GPS, it sits there in my car.
A GPS is a driver's friend it tells you where you are.
I have a little GPS, I've had it all my life.
It's better than the normal ones, because it is my wife.

It gives me full instructions, especially how to drive.
"It's sixty miles an hour", it says, "You're doing sixty five".
It tells me when to stop and start, and when to use the brake
And tells me that it's never ever, safe to overtake.

It tells me when a light is red, and when it goes to green.
It seems to know instinctively, just when to intervene.
It sees the vehicles in front, and all those to the rear.
And taking this into account, it specifies "Too near".

I'm sure no other driver, has so helpful a device.
For when we leave and lock the car, it still gives me advice.
It fills me up with counseling, each journey's pretty fraught.
So why don't I exchange it, and get a quieter sort?

Ah well, you see, it cleans the house, makes sure I'm properly fed.
It washes all my shirts and things, and keeps me warm in bed!
Despite all these advantages, and my tendency to scoff,
I only wish that now and then, I could turn the darn thing off!



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.

- Month of the Military Child
- April 1 - Royal Canadian Air Force founded (1924)
- April 3 - Battle of Moreuil Wood (1918)
- April 4 - NATO Accord signed (1949)
- April 9 - Battle of Vimy Ridge (1917) - Legion flags lowered to half mast
- April 21 - Queen's birthday 1926
- April 22-25 - Dominion Cribbage Championships
- April 24-30 - National Volunteer Week
- April 25 - Anzac Day
- April 25 - Battle of Kapyong (1951)
- April 29-May 2 - Dominion Darts Championships





Branch 340 Ladies Auxiliary



HAPPY EASTER ENJOY A CHOCOLATE OR TWO AND have a great EARTH DAY – PLANT A TREE

I am looking forward to getting back into my garden, how about you?

Your Ladies Auxiliary is back doing what we love to do.

We had three events in March, basic sandwiches, soups and desserts. We are looking forward to and hoping we have the volunteers to get back to catering to the more major events (weddings, anniversaries and birthdays) in the coming months.

Our elections are this month and we are looking for ladies to serve on our executive. We are scheduling this for our regular April meeting. Currently Diana Tripp is serving as interim Treasurer as well as holding down the President's position. If you would be interested in taking on either of these roles that would surely be a help. I will be continuing my role as Secretary. We also have vacancies for regular executive.

Zone Convention is being held in Lion's Head on Sunday, May 29th with registration beginning at 11 AM and the Parade at 12:30 PM. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. We can meet up at our back parking lot to ride share.

We have several ladies currently on the 'no work' list due to health issues and we wish them improved health and hope they heal and will be able to once again lend a hand with functions in the coming months.

Interested in becoming a member, join us at our monthly meeting. We are in desperate need of new members. Our monthly meetings are every 2nd Tuesday of the month in the upstairs hall at 7:30 PM. Thank you.

Next meeting is Tuesday, April 12th at 7:30 PM

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

Vicky Taylor
vicky.taylor@bmts.com



Did you hear about the self-help group for compulsive talkers? **It's called On and On Anon.**





Zone C-4 Spring Convention



The Zone C-4 Spring Convention was held on Sunday, March 20, 2022 at Port Elgin Branch. There was quite a bit of business to be taken care as we were unable to meet for our regularly scheduled annual Zone Council and Conventions due to COVID restrictions. With the pandemic situation and the opening and lockdowns the Zone was able to host 2 Spring Council meetings. Reports were presented from the Branch Presidents and Zone Officers. We thank the Branch 340 Ladies Auxiliary for the morning refreshments and lunch at noon.

Cde Norma Dudgeon, Honours & Awards Chair, updated awards to our Zone Council members who have served this term of 2019 – 2022 and congratulated everyone for all their hard work during their term of office. The term of office was extended for 1 year because of COVID-19 and she extended sincere thanks to all the Chairs who stood with us to do an extra year of their term. Past Officer Bars, Medals and plaques were presented to the respective Zone Officers.

Cde Norma Dudgeon, ZC Kathryn Eastwood and District C Cmdr. Eric Ross pose with the Branch 340 recipients of the Honours & Awards. We congratulate the other Zone Officers on their recognition for years of service.



PLAQUE: Robert Harrison – Bursary Chairman
9 years 2013 – 2022



PLAQUE: Rhonda Harrison – Secretary
9 years 2013 – 2022



OFFICER'S MEDALS:

Kathryn Eastwood – Zone Commander Medal,
Bar & Pin
2019 – 2022

Leadership Bar: 2019 – 2022

Youth Education Bar: 2020 - 2021



This year is also an election year for the Zone C-4 Commander and Deputy Commander and also some of the Zone Branches as regulated by their Branch By-laws. Cde Rob Butchart was acclaimed as Zone C-4 Commander and Cde Steve Rice as Zone C-4 Deputy Commander for the 2022-2025 term of office. We wish them well for their upcoming term of service.



L-R Cde Rob Butchart, Cde Eric Ross, District C Cmdr., Cde Kathryn Eastwood, Zone C-4 Cmdr. and Cde Steve Rice.



Royal Canadian Legion
Tara Br. #383
Meat Raffle
Saturday, April 2nd at 1:00 pm
Numerous Draws
Door Prize and the Hip of Beef Spin


Friday Night Supper
Join us on April 8th
Meat Pies, salads, dessert, tea and coffee
\$12.00


Your support would be truly appreciated, as all monies raised are donated to our local charities

I'm a light eater; as soon as it gets light I start eating





- ✿ Accept the fact that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue!
- ✿ Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.
- ✿ Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.
- ✿ Drive carefully... It's not only cars that can be recalled by their Maker.
- ✿ If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.
- ✿ If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.
- ✿ It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.
- ✿ Never buy a car you can't push.
- ✿ Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you won't have a leg to stand on.
- ✿ Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.
- ✿ Since it's the early worm that gets eaten by the bird, sleep late.
- ✿ The second mouse gets the cheese.
- ✿ When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
- ✿ Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live.
- ✿ Some mistakes are too much fun to make only once.
- ✿ We could learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull. Some have weird names and all are different colours, but they all have to live in the same box.
- ✿ A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.
- ✿ Have an awesome day and know that someone has thought about you today.
AND MOST IMPORTANTLY
- ✿ Save the earth.... It's the only planet with chocolate!





Port Elgin Legion presents

**Leo Campbell &
Friends
Jam Session**

**Ukraine
Fundraiser**



Saturday, April 9th

6:00 – 11:00 pm

Upstairs Hall

Donation Jar at the Door

Everyone Invited





APRIL 9TH ACROSS CANADA IS VIMY RIDGE DAY THE STORY OF DONALD (DAN) MCINTYRE



There were few local families that felt the effects of WWI more than the family of Archie and Mary McIntyre.

Archie and Mary had arrived in Bruce Township around 1870 from Scotland and farmed on the 10th Concession between Port Elgin and Underwood. Here they raised their family of 5 boys and 4 girls. Archie died in 1902 leaving Mary with children aged between 29 and 10 years of age. Sometime after that Mary moved into Port Elgin. One of the older sons took over the farm.

Mary was still living in Port Elgin in 1915 and 1916 when four of her sons enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force in WWI. They all indicated her as their Next of Kin on their Attestation documents. And all four went to England and then to the War's front in Belgium and France.

The oldest son, John, enlisted in the 195th Battalion in Regina Saskatchewan on March 10, 1916. In June of 1917 he was sent to France. That November he was hospitalized with contusions to his right knee and his neck. His recovery took until December, and he then went to a Convalescent facility in Trouville France until May of 1918 when he was sent to the Canadian main base in England at Bramshott. On discharge in 1919 he returned to Port Elgin. He died in 1945.

Son James enlisted in the 71st Battalion out of Woodstock Ontario. There was an enlistment campaign in Port Elgin on October 19, 1915, that James attended. He went to England and in July of 1916 he was transferred to the 14th Field Artillery Howitzer Brigade and landed in France on August 22, 1917. He remained there for the duration of the war. In the days before the war ended in November 1918, he became quite ill with myalgia and influenza. He was hospitalized there until January 1919 when he returned to England. It took him until July of 1919 before he was discharged and he then returned to Port Elgin. He married and lived in Southampton until his death in 1928.

The youngest son was Angus who had been born in 1890. He enlisted in the 160th Bruce Battalion when they were formed. He had originally enlisted in the 18th Battalion 6 months earlier but transferred to the 160th to join with the other local boys. He and the 160th men arrived in England in October 1916.

They remained there for more than 18 months before they were disbanded and became a reserve recruit group. Angus had trained as a Driver and he was assigned to 51st General Hospital Ambulance Column and spent his service time in France transporting wounded soldiers from the front trench lines back to the treatment hospitals on the English Channel coast. His



duties kept him in France into early 1919. It was May 31, 1919, before he returned to Canada and was discharged and returned to Port Elgin. He died in 1961.

Son Donald was called Dan. He was born on Sept. 10, 1882. Like his older brother John, Dan had gone west. There he found work as a railroad man. With the war raging in Europe, he enlisted in the Canadian Army in Calgary on October 4, 1915. He signed up with the 82nd Battalion, which was a Reinforcement Battalion. They sailed from Halifax on May 20, 1916, aboard a luxury passenger ship, The Empress of Britain. They arrived in Liverpool on May 29th and immediately went to the large Canadian staging base at Shorncliffe near Cheriton in Kent. Canadian troops were held here in preparation for assignment to the War's front in mainland Europe.

On August 20, 1916, Dan was transferred to the 54th Battalion as part of the 11th Infantry Division of the 4th Canadian Division in Flanders and in France. Initially they fought in Belgium, near Ypres, before crossing into France and fighting in the Somme that October. The fighting there was in awful conditions with mud, rain and the cold winds well into November.

In December of 1916 the men of the 54th arrived at Vimy. They spent their time in the trenches facing the enemy. This went on into January when the weather turned cold and wet making life miserable for all. Relief rotated with billeting at homes well back from the lines. In February preparations begun for a gas attack and cylinders were brought to the front. The plan was for the gas to be released when wind conditions were right and then the soldiers were to go over the top and raid the German trenches. On March 1 this attack started. But the wait between the gas getting to the enemy trenches, with the wind, before the Canadians attacked was so long that the Germans were well prepared and heavy losses were taken by the 54th. Of close to 500 participants, there were 13 officers and 189 other ranks that were wounded or killed.

These losses greatly weakened the Battalion for the big battle that came 5 weeks later. Final preparations for the start of the battle of Vimy Ridge were completed and on April 8th and the 54th moved close to Berthonval Wood and later in the day they moved forward to their jumping off trenches by the Cavalier Tunnel.

At daybreak on April 9th, the battle started. There was a very heavy barrage on the Germans from the Allied heavy guns. The attack called for 4 areas of attack with battalion units lined up behind each other and then they were to leapfrog each other towards the German positions. This strategy kept maximum pressure on the German defenders. In one of the 4 areas, the 102nd Battalion led the way, closely followed by Dan McIntyre and the men of the 54th Battalion. Initially they moved quite swiftly but then they encountered stubborn German defenses on their left and endured heavy casualties before they were able to continue to move forward. All along the ridge the battle was fierce with gains being made and then retreats being forced. At the end of the first day of the fighting Dan McIntyre did not return and he was initially reported as missing. A short time later his body was brought in. He had died in the early stages of the battle.



By days end on April 12th, the Canadians had captured the Ridge which had been held by the Germans since 1914, in the early stages of the war. But the cost was significant. More than 150,000 Canadian soldiers had fought in the battle and 3,599 had died and another 7,004 had been wounded.

Dan's body was taken to the #2 Canadian Cemetery at Neuville St. Vaast in Pas -de-Calais, just 3 km from Vimy Ridge. He is buried in Section 3 Row C, Plot 9.

On April 3, 2003, the Canadian Government passed Bill C-227 declaring that April 9th would forever more be known as "Vimy Day".

The preamble of the Bill reads:

WHEREAS, the Battle of Vimy Ridge on April 9, 1917, was the first time that Canadians from coast to coast fought together against a common enemy:

AND WHEREAS the battle of Vimy Ridge is considered by many to be a turning point for our country and the beginning of Canada's march towards Nationhood:

NOW; THEREFORE Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada enacts as follows:

- 1. This act may be cited as the Vimy Ridge Day Act.*
- 2. Throughout Canada, in each and every year, the 9th Day of April will be known as "VIMY RIDGE DAY"*

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Researched and written by:
G. William Streeter





Make A Difference Volunteer



Bingo is one of our programs that our members and public enjoy; the monies derived support the many projects in our community and other charities such as the Cenotaph Park, Air Cadets, our local hospitals and the list goes on.

Volunteers are needed to help with the Wednesday night weekly Bingo. The following positions need to be covered: Coordinator, Callers, Floor Workers, Set-up and Take-down of table and chairs. We really need your help and it doesn't have to be every Wednesday; could be 2 Wednesdays a month or whatever your schedule allows. If you can spare a few hours it would be very much appreciated.

Thank you for your consideration and together we can ensure this major fundraiser will continue and we can carry on supporting our community. Please contact me and we will find a spot for you on the team.

Bob Harrison, President
bnrshow@eastlink.ca
519-389-4806





Meat Draw

Sat. April 16 & 30

4:00 pm

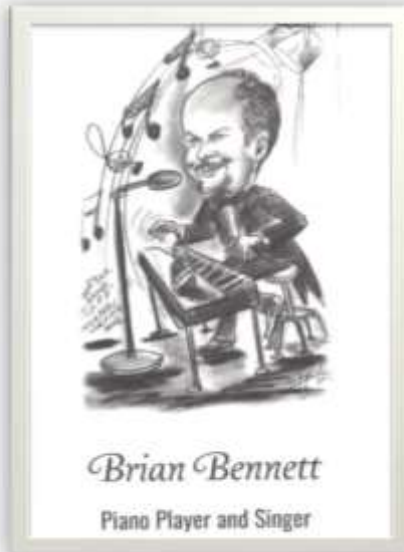
Safety protocols in place

Everyone Welcome



Entertainment

Sat. April 23rd 3:30 - 6:30 pm



April 9 is Vimy Ridge Day

The Battle of Vimy Ridge was fought on April 9-12, 1917. It is Canada's most celebrated military victory of the First World War.

Lest we forget the 10, 602 Canadian casualties of those 3,598 were killed.

We Will Remember Them

www.veterans.gc.ca

www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca



Note to self:

Do not sit on the floor without a plan on how to get back up! 🤔😓😓





AIR CADETS 340 (Griffin) Squadron, Port Elgin

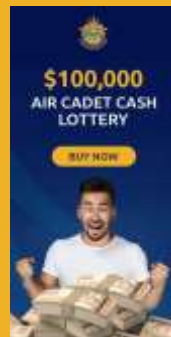


Greetings from the Griffin Air Cadet Squadron,

I have been asked to forward - from the Air Cadet League (a main component of the operation of the Air Cadet program in conjunction with Cadets Canada) - information on the Annual Lottery Campaign. Once again the Lottery is a Cash Lottery and is being run virtually. This is a major fundraiser for our Squadron every year. The Air Cadet League assists our Cadets with obtaining and running the Gliding and Power program for Squadrons throughout the Province and the Country, as well as other aspects of running a Squadron - including supervising the running of our Squadron Sponsoring Committee.

Every Cadet year we are asked to support this Lottery for your Cadets. We would greatly appreciate your personal support through purchasing these Lottery Tickets. **You can choose 340 Squadron at checkout so our Squadron can get credit for all tickets sold as we will receive a portion of all tickets we sell.**

Thank you for supporting the Air Cadets.



80 Years of Proudly Supporting Ontario Air Cadet Youth !

It's a Win-Win! Big Prize...Big Help!

The \$100,000 Air Cadet Cash Lottery is now bigger than ever with over \$100,000 in cash to be won including a \$4,500 Early Bird Prize.

Don't forget to buy your tickets by 11:59pm March 31 for a chance to win a \$4,500 bonus!

Plus, you'll be automatically entered to win one of our THREE Grand Prizes, with 1st Grand Prize being \$58,000 Cash.



Every ticket purchased helps youth to develop valuable unmatched leadership skills, build lifelong relationships and prepare for a future in aviation.

That's why we're so grateful for your support and hope you'll help and win.
Tickets start at just \$10 for up to SEVEN Chances to win!

******Be sure to select your Squadron of support at check out.******

BIG PRIZE. BIG HELP.

If you have already purchased your tickets – thank you, and good luck in the draws!

The Air Cadet League of Canada – Ontario Provincial Committee is a volunteer-led organization in partnership with the Canadian Armed Forces.

[Buy Your Tickets Now!](#)

**Help us spread the word.
Please feel free to share this email with friends and family.
Share our posts on social media.**



Rules and regulations can be found at www.aircadetlottery.com
18+ | Tickets must be purchased in the province of Ontario)

Raffle License #RAF1234267

Respectfully Submitted,

Cde. Elizabeth Eby, Liaison
#340 RCACS
#519-832-3133 Home
bizebys@gmail.com

