

# Branch Line

PO Box 359, 630 Green Street, Port Elgin, ON N0H 2C0 519-389-9917  
Branch340@eastlink.ca www.Branch340.ca



Inside this issue you will find what is happening this month with Committee Reports, general information and a wee bit of humour 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).

Our Pumpkinfest Meat Draw is on Sat. September 30<sup>th</sup> and starts at 4:00 pm. We have extended bar hours for Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. Come early and visit the Pumpkinfest Artisan Craft Show in the main hall. Start your Christmas shopping early!

We wish all your families a very happy Thanksgiving. Time to reflect how much we have to be grateful for – enjoy the time with your family and friends.

Halloween is fast approaching. Keep a watchful eye for our young ghosts and goblins while they enjoy their door to door trick or treating.

All the events happening at the Branch are open to the public so please bring your friends and join in the comradeship.

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



# Notice to Branch Membership

Your Executive has worked tirelessly for the benefit of the Branch. They are responsible for overseeing the maintenance of the property and most importantly ensuring the financial affairs are in good order each month.

It is disappointing that even with the number of members we are still not able to obtain a quorum. Without a quorum at the General Meeting the Executive is unable to ratify any of the Motions that need approval.

At present we have donations and expenses that need approval from the general membership. We can't stress enough how important it is that these donations and expenses are approved at the October General Meeting; the Branch needs to carry on with the business at hand and without your approval, it is the veterans, youth and community who will suffer the loss of our support.

I look forward to seeing a many as possible attending the October General Meeting.

Thanking you in advance for your support.

*Executive Committee*





**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

**ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION  
 BRANCH 340 EXECUTIVE 2023-2024**

<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>	Craig Bell	bellcr@bmts.com	519-386-7771
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b>	Bernice Ribey	1bernie@bmts.com	519-832-8783
<b>Secretary / Treasurer</b>	Norma Dudgeon	branch340@eastlink.ca	519-832-2903
<b>Chaplain</b>			
<b>Executive</b>	Janice Pepe	branch340@eastlink.ca	519-832-2903
	Rhonda Harrison	bnrshow@eastlink.ca	519-389-4806
	Brian Henderson	bhenderson@bmts.com	519-832-2903
	Gord Kelly	gordonakelly1973@gmail.com	519-389-6057
	Tom Jacques	thjacques@bmts.com	519-386-1227
<b>Bar Chair</b>	Norma Dudgeon	branch340@eastlink.ca	519-832-2903
<b>Bursary</b>	Robert Harrison	bnrshow@eastlink.ca	519-389-4806
<b>Constitution &amp; Laws</b>	Norma Dudgeon	branch340@eastlink.ca	519-832-2903
<b>Charity</b>	Rhonda Harrison	bnrshow@eastlink.ca	519-389-4806
<b>Hall Rental</b>	Bernice Ribey	1bernie@bmts.com	519-832-8783
<b>Honours and Awards</b>	Tom Jacques	thjacques@bmts.com	519-386-1227
<b>Leadership Development</b>	Robert Harrison	bnrshow@eastlink.ca	519-389-4806
<b>Membership</b>	Craig Bell	bellcr@bmts.com	519-386-7771
<b>Poppy</b>	Rhonda Harrison	bnrshow@eastlink.ca	519-389-4806
<b>Property</b>	Robert Harrison	bnrshow@eastlink.ca	519-389-4806
<b>Public Relations</b>	Rhonda Harrison	bnrshow@eastlink.ca	519-389-4806
<b>Seniors</b>	Brian Henderson	bhenderson@bmts.com	519-832-2903
<b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b>	Mike Hobson	hobson@eastlink.ca	519-386-6078
<b>Service Officer/Veterans Services</b>	Janice Pepe	branch340@eastlink.ca	519-832-2903
<b>Sports</b>	Gord Kelly	gordonakelly1973@gmail.com	519-389-6057
<b>Track &amp; Field</b>	Bernice Ribey	1bernie@bmts.com	519-832-8783
<b>Ways &amp; Means</b>	Tom Jacques	thjacques@bmts.com	519-386-1227
<b>Youth Education</b>	Rhonda Harrison	bnrshow@eastlink.ca	519-389-4806
<b>Air Cadets Liaison</b>	Alex Taylor	alex.taylor@bmts.com	519-389-2616
<b>Nevada</b>	Andrew Reinhart	andyreinhart@hotmail.com	519-708-0553





## President's Report



Welcome to fall! This is the busiest time of the year for us. Pumpkinfest is here already. We have a Meat Draw on Saturday and the Artisan Craft Show is in the main hall. Not too early to start your Christmas shopping.

Norma has been busy preparing for the Remembrance Day events on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Rhonda has been preparing for the Poppy Ad-Mail Campaign and the Remembrance Day poster and literary competition. We will require a lot of volunteers to help make these events successful; so if you have some free time to volunteer please come to the Branch for details or email Norma and Rhonda to find out more and how you can help.

We have completed the wiring upgrade and it looks great. We did however take a huge financial set-back as our bar cooler refrigeration unit failed and had to be replaced. The unit was over 30 years old and certainly did not owe us anything. Hopefully, the new unit will last as long.

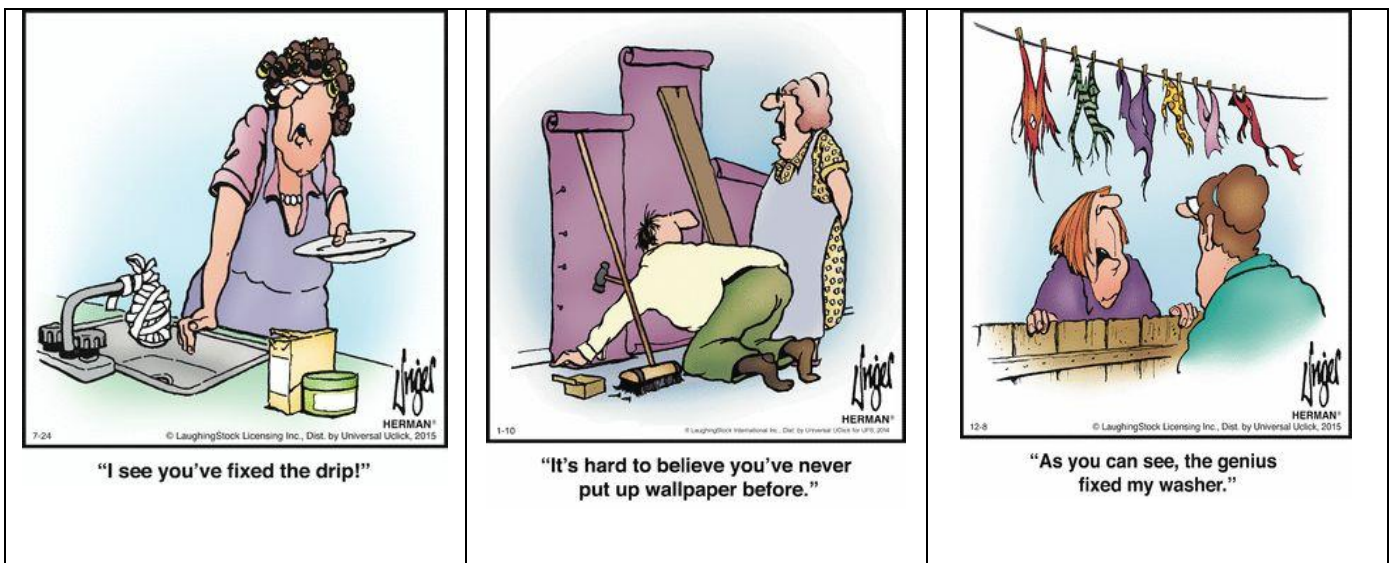
A special thanks to Don Lindhorst who not only calls at Bingo, cook the fries for barbecues, he also rewired our PA system as it kept cutting out all the time. Thank you very much Don!

I am also hoping to do some more renovations in the winter months. The upstairs men's washroom is in bad need of repair. There are also many areas that could use a new paint job. If you could help with these projects please contact me or leave your name and number with the Bar Steward.

Our Legion does a tremendous amount of good for not only our veterans but our community as well. It is all done by volunteers and without you our ability to help goes down dramatically. Please come in and ask what you can do to help.

That's all for now and please consider coming in and supporting your Branch.

President Robert Harrison  
[bnrshow@eastlink.ca](mailto:bnrshow@eastlink.ca)





## Bursary



Bursary season started on September 1<sup>st</sup> and a \$1,000 award will be given to all qualified students.

We have a large budget of \$400,000 this year so if you know of any student who can use a little extra money please check out the following website link: [www.on.legion.ca/remembrance/youth-programs/bursaries](http://www.on.legion.ca/remembrance/youth-programs/bursaries) for more details; or, feel free to call me on how to apply.

Please see the on-line application to see if you qualify.

### ELIGIBILITY:

- (1) Ex-Service personnel or currently serving members of The Canadian Forces (Regular, Reserve, and Merchant Navy) and their children and grandchildren. Commonwealth war veterans and their children and grandchildren.
- (2) Ordinary and Life members of The Royal Canadian Legion and their children and grandchildren.
- (3) Associate members of The Royal Canadian Legion and their children only.
- (4) Ladies' Auxiliary members and their children and grandchildren.
- (5) Step children and step grandchildren may be considered where applicable.

Total family net income of less than \$200,000.

Cde Robert Harrison  
Bursary Chair  
[bnrshow@eastlink.ca](mailto:bnrshow@eastlink.ca)



## Hall Rental



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.

Family and group events/meetings welcome.

Please contact me for more information when considering a venue for your event.

Cde Bernice Ribey, Hall Rental Chair  
[1bernie@bmts.com](mailto:1bernie@bmts.com) or call the Branch at 519-389-9917 to leave a message





## 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 Honours & Awards Committee will evaluate the nomination.

Cde Tom Jacques  
Honours & Awards Chair  
[thjacques@bmts.com](mailto:thjacques@bmts.com)



## Membership Report



Please use one of the options below and get your 2024 membership dues taken care of:

1. On-line by going to **legion.ca** on the computer
2. Come into the Branch when we are open (3 – 8 pm Monday to Saturday)
3. Contact me at [bellcr@bmts.com](mailto:bellcr@bmts.com) to make other arrangements.

Cde Craig Bell  
Membership Chair  
[bellcr@bmts.com](mailto:bellcr@bmts.com)



**MEMBERSHIP**  
**Join the Legion Today**

**Applications are available at the Bar**

Military service not a requirement, anyone can join

MEMBERS, HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR DUES FOR  
2024







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. 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:** Craig Bell  
**Address:** 630 Green Street, P. O. Box 359  
 Port Elgin, Ontario N0H 2C0  
**Telephone:** 519-389-9917  
**E-mail:** Branch340@eastlink.ca

**Renew today!**



<p><b>Technically, Moses</b></p>  <p>was the first person with a tablet downloading data from the cloud</p>	<p>I HATE IT WHEN I CAN'T FIGURE OUT HOW TO OPERATE THE I-PHONE, AND THE RESIDENT TECH EXPERT IS ASLEEP.</p> <p>BECAUSE HE'S 5.</p> <p>AND IT'S PAST HIS BEDTIME.</p>	<p>THIS IS HOW WE PLAYED ON LINE</p>  <p>BEFORE THE INTERNET</p>
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## Poppy

Preparations for our 2023 Poppy Campaign are underway and will run from Friday, October 27th to Saturday, November 11th.

Again, we will have an Ad-Mail Campaign. Envelopes and return Donation envelopes with a letter insert will need to be assembled. This mass mailing campaign for our Legion will again require a very strong Branch member volunteer support and to date I really appreciate the number of new members who have offered to help as well as many of you who have helped in the past. It is a big job and any new volunteers will be gladly accepted to put together the 4,500 Poppy Campaign mailing packages needed to be sent to Port Elgin households.

We expect to have afternoon and some evening sessions to assemble the mailing packages as well as poppy bags for our counter Poppy Boxes (100+ will be needed). An email schedule with further details will be sent out to all those who volunteer once we receive the required materials. The actual Ad-Mail packages will be delivered to the Post Office on the afternoon of Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup> so that they are in the mail for the start of the Poppy Campaign on Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>.

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.**

Canvassers will be required starting Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup> and be required Monday thru to Friday during the first week of the Poppy Campaign and then Monday thru to Friday November 10<sup>th</sup> in the second week. Daily time slots are 9 am-11 am, 11 am-1 pm, 1 pm-3 pm and 3 pm-5 pm.

Volunteer Canvassers, please email me at [bnrshow@eastlink.ca](mailto:bnrshow@eastlink.ca) or phone me at 519-386-3919 (Cell) or 519-389-4806 (Home) with your preferred day(s) and time(s). I will regularly post on a bulletin Board in the Club Room, those days/times already filled. Please contact me directly with your preferred dates and times. DO NOT ADD to list on the Bulletin Board.

Why are personal canvassers so important? First, donations are doubled to quadrupled when a live canvass volunteer is 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.

**The success of our Poppy Campaign in 2023 more than ever will rely on you, our mass mailing Ad-Mail Campaign and volunteer canvassers.**

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 2023 Campaign another success!

Cde Rhonda Harrison  
Poppy Chair  
Cell - 519-386-3919 or Home -519-389-4806  
[bnrshow@eastlink.ca](mailto:bnrshow@eastlink.ca)





## Sergeant-at-Arms



Cde Mike Hobson  
Sergeant-at-Arms  
[hobson@bmts.com](mailto:hobson@bmts.com)

Our Branch Colour Party on parade is one of the most visible things that we do. We could use a few new flag bearers. It is not difficult to learn and I would be more than glad to train new volunteers.

You would be needed for Remembrance Day, the Santa Claus parade and General Meetings if possible. We support other Branches for special events when requested. We have even been invited to the Saugeen Shores Winterhawks game for the dropping of the puck on the Friday closest to November 11<sup>th</sup>.

Please consider joining our Flag Family Team. You can meet some new friends and have some fun doing it. If you are interested please contact me.



My neighbor was working in his yard when he was startled by a late-model car that came crashing through his hedge and ended up in his front lawn.

He rushed to help an elderly lady driver out of the car and sat her down on a lawn chair

He said with excitement, "You appear quite elderly to be driving."

"Well, yes, I am," she replied proudly. "I'll be 97 next month, and I am now old enough, that I don't even need a driver's licence anymore."

He asked "How do you know?"

"The last time I went to my doctor, he examined me and asked if I had a driver's licence

I told him, yes and handed it to him."

He took scissors out of the drawer, cut the licence into pieces, and threw them in the waste basket, saying, 'You won't need this anymore.'

So, I thanked him and left!!!!!"





## Zone C-4 Sports



**Eligibility: All verified paid Members.**  
**Membership Card is required to be shown at Registration**  
**\*\*\* Sign-up Sheets\*\* are located on the Games Board in the Club Room \*\*\***

Cde Gord Kelly  
 Sports Chair  
[gordonakelly1973@gmail.com](mailto:gordonakelly1973@gmail.com)

	<p align="center"><b><u>Darts – SENIOR – Singles, Doubles and Teams on October 22, 2023</u></b></p> <p>Host Branch: Owen Sound Branch 006          Location: Owen Sound Branch 006  <b>Entry Deadline Date: October 6, 2023</b>    <b>No Late Entries Accepted</b>          Registration Time: 10:00 To 10:30 am          Game Time: A.S.A.P. After Registration          Entry Fee: \$5.00 Per Person          Only Ten (10) Teams Per Zone</p>
	<p align="center"><b><u>Darts – Mixed Doubles/Mixed Team on October 29, 2023</u></b></p> <p>Host Branch: Wiarton Branch 208          Location: Wiarton Branch 208  <b>Entry Deadline Date: October 13, 2023</b>    <b>No Late Entries Accepted</b>          Registration Time: 10:00 To 10:30 am          Game Time: A.S.A.P. After Registration          Entry Fee: \$5.00 Per Person          Only Eight (8) Teams Per Zone</p>
	<p align="center"><b><u>Darts – Team on November 19, 2023</u></b></p> <p>Host Branch: Southampton Branch 155          Location: Southampton Branch 155  <b>Entry Deadline Date: November 3, 2023</b>    <b>No Late Entries Accepted</b>          Registration Time: 10:00 To 10:30 am          Game Time: A.S.A.P. After Registration          Entry Fee: \$5.00 Per Person          Only Eight (8) Teams Per Zone</p>



**Why did the ghost go into the bar? For the boos.**





## Veterans Services



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 and I can contact the veteran directly to assess any support that may be required. I can be contacted via the Branch at 519-389-9917.

Cde Janice Pepe  
Veterans Services Officer  
[Branch340@eastlink.ca](mailto:Branch340@eastlink.ca)



## Military Service Recognition Book



The Royal Canadian Legion  
Ontario Command

89 Industrial Parkway N.  
Aurora, Ont.  
L4G 4C4

### Military Service Recognition Book

Ontario Command is very pleased and proud to publish the Military Service Recognition Book. A book that will assist us in identifying and recognizing many of our Veterans within the Province of Ontario, while at the same time assist us in our job as the “Keepers of Remembrance”.

We invite Legion members and the general public to visit their local Legion Branch to obtain more information regarding this Remembrance program and more importantly, to submit a story and photo of a Veteran. We cannot expect those who have served or are still serving to write their own stories for publication. So we are asking members of The Legion and the general public to accept the responsibility and fulfil our mandate to do this on their behalf.

This annual publication will help identify and recognize many of the Veterans of Ontario who served their country extremely well. As “Keepers of Remembrance”, the Royal Canadian Legion strives to perpetuate the sacrifices that our soldiers and their families sacrificed for our freedom. This Military Service Recognition Book will serve as a reminder for generations to come, of the contributions made towards the creation of our nation and the continuance of Canada as a protector of freedom.

Although this program is all about Remembrance and the history of our Veterans, funds will be raised for the Legion through a telephone appeal to the general public and businesses through advertising sales for the book. The book publisher, Fenety Marketing, is currently conducting a Telephone Appeal on our behalf to private citizens and the business community throughout the Province of Ontario.



The funds raised through the program will assist and support many Legion initiatives and to assist Branches to remain a viable partner in their communities.

We invite you to submit stories of Veterans who have touched your life through your local Legion Branch. Recognition for our Veterans both past and present should be very important to us all. Please show your support to our Veterans.



The following links are to help family members of a Veteran or a Veteran, themselves, in their consideration of a submission before May 2024:.

1. Previous 'online MSRB Ontario books' -- <https://www.on.legion.ca/remembrance/military-service-recognition-book/msr-flipbooks>
2. The 'Master list of Ontario MSRB names submitted' -- [https://www.on.legion.ca/docs/default-source/pdf/msr-book/msrb---names-listing.pdf?sfvrsn=299973f\\_20](https://www.on.legion.ca/docs/default-source/pdf/msr-book/msrb---names-listing.pdf?sfvrsn=299973f_20)
3. The required submission form -- [https://www.on.legion.ca/docs/default-source/pdf/msr-book/-msrb-submission-form.pdf?sfvrsn=18d2973f\\_24](https://www.on.legion.ca/docs/default-source/pdf/msr-book/-msrb-submission-form.pdf?sfvrsn=18d2973f_24)

Cde Janice Pepe  
MSRB Contact  
[Branch340@eastlink.ca](mailto:Branch340@eastlink.ca)



“To succeed in life, you need three things: a wishbone, a backbone, and a funny bone.”  
– Reba McEntire



## Ways & Means



Pumpkinfest Weekend is this weekend. Once again the Pumpkinfest Artisans Craft Show will be held in the upstairs hall with Saturday Festival hours from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm and Sunday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. The Saturday Meat Draw will be held in the Club Room starting at 4:00 pm.

The next Meat Draw is on October 21<sup>st</sup>, please plan to attend for some comradeship.

Join us for our weekly Wednesday Bingo. Doors open at 6:00 pm and games start at 7:00 pm in the upstairs hall.

We are seeking volunteers to help with the weekly Bingo events. Please contact Rhonda at [bnrshow@eastlink.ca](mailto:bnrshow@eastlink.ca) if you can spare a few hours once a month on a Wednesday evening.

Cde Tom Jacques  
Ways & Means Chair  
[thjacques@bmts.com](mailto:thjacques@bmts.com)





# Friday Night Barbecue



On behalf of Bob and I we would like to say a heartfelt thank you for your support of our Friday events this summer. We had many Branch members, families and new friends join us for the meals and enjoying the social time. To our present friends and our new ones – we thank you!

To the members that donated various food items for the meals – most delicious and most appreciated! It is with your generosity and time that certainly ensured everyone enjoyed a variety of dishes to indulge in.

To our BBQ Team Volunteers who helped with the preparation, the serving and clean-up it is with your support that ensured everything ran smoothly. Special thanks to Jim Allen who was the “ticket-master” for the events and did a great job and to Brian Henderson and Bob Harrison who did the cooking for each event. It goes without saying that we thank everyone who helped in any way to make our work easier – your support and good work made our events successful and always an enjoyable time.

And finally thanks to all who attended the events; we appreciate your on-going support.

We are planning future dinners and look forward to your support once again at these events.

Bob & Rhonda  
Barbecue Chairs  
[bnrshow@eastlink.ca](mailto:bnrshow@eastlink.ca)

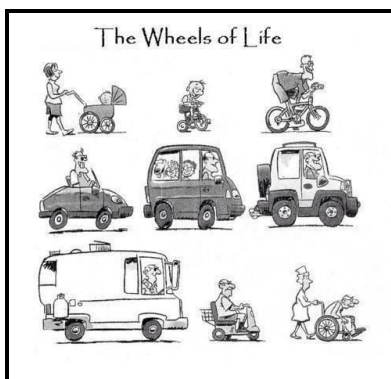


## Youth Education

During the first week of October the Youth Education kits containing the Poster & Literary information will be emailed to the schools and a hard copy will be delivered to ensure the information has been received and the staff has time to forward to the various grades. Deadline for all entries is Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup>.

The judging for this program has been set for Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to viewing the entries and as in previous year we are amazed at the artistry and composition from our school children.

Cde Rhonda Harrison  
Youth Education Chair  
[bnrshow@eastlink.ca](mailto:bnrshow@eastlink.ca)



## Mum's Clothes Line Rules

The clothes line must be wiped before hanging clothes.

Socks must be hung by their toes.

Hang sheets and towels on the outside line so you can hide your 'unmentionables'.

Clothes must hang in order - whites with whites and hung first.

Shirts must always hang by the tail - never the shoulders.

Lining up the clothes so that each item shares one of the clothes pegs with another item.

It doesn't matter if it is sub-zero outside, the clothes will go out and just freeze.

Pegs must be gathered up when taking down clothes - never leave them on the line.



## Upcoming Legion Events



### Branch 340 General Meeting

**Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 pm  
in the Main Hall**

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

***Please support your Branch***





**BINGO**  
Come Play With Us!

Port Elgin Legion Br. 340  
**Wednesdays**

Doors open at 6:00 pm  
Bingo starts at 7:00 pm  
Must be over 18 years of age to play

**\$700.00 Jackpot to be Won**

# Meat Draw

**Sat., October 21**  
**4:00 pm**



Please join us


Everyone is Welcome



## Tara Br. 383 September 2023

**Oct. 7 Thanksgiving Meat Raffle**  
1:00 pm

**Oct. 29 Breakfast – Silver Saddle Spur Club**  
10:00 am – 1:00 pm



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




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

# Pumpkinfest Meat Draws

**Saturday, Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>**  
**4:00 pm**

**Legion Club Room**  
We welcome you to join us for this Branch fundraiser




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

# Pumpkinfest Branch Hours

**Saturday, Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>**  
**11 am – 8 pm**

**Sunday, Oct 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**12 noon – 7 pm**

Visit the Artisan Craft Show in the Main Hall




Port Elgin Legion Branch 340



# "Naughty or Nice"

## Christmas Raffle

Wine Themed Basket (\$ 200.)

**Draw Date:**  
Saturday,  
December 16<sup>th</sup>  
at 6:00 pm  
Legion Clubroom



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

Lottery Licence  
# M848566

**Proceeds for Community & Youth Programs**  
Must be over 19 years of age to purchase ticket

*Tickets can be purchased in the Legion Club Room*  
*Thank you for your continued support*



## Notable Dates for October 2023

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.



Legion Early Bird campaign / [Renewals](#)

- 1<sup>st</sup> week of the month [National Family Week](#)
- October 1-7 [Mental Illness Awareness Week](#)
- October 10 [World Mental Health Day](#)
- October 9 Thanksgiving
- October 14 Van Doos anniversary (1914)
- October 17 [International Day for the Eradication of Poverty](#)
- October 24 Anniversary of United Nations (1946)
- Last Friday in October start of [Poppy Campaign](#)



### Jane Kramer & Camp X

Recently I spent a very enjoyable Sunday afternoon at the Southampton Legion. They had invited Jane Kramer to share memories of her father, a major in WWII, who worked as a recruiter of German prisoners of war to become double agents for the allies.

Jane is one of Southampton's well known citizens. At 92, she is still sharp and can remember dates, places and people she met as a child. She recalled how she would accompany her father on his journeys to Canadian POW Camps. The father and daughter team was a cover to make the interview process less stressful and less suspicious. One of the camps was at Monteith, in Northern Ontario, and housed a large group of German officers. Major Winchester would talk to them about changing sides. The prisoners who accepted the offer were well educated and spoke English as well as other languages. They despised Hitler and would do anything to bring him down. Most of them were at college when war broke out and given a choice - join the army or be shot.

Each time when Jane and her father left the camp they had three or four men with them, willing to be trained as agents on our side. On the train trip back, Jane often sat with them and listened to their stories of families back in Germany. Some gave her gifts of things they had made in the camp like boats in bottles. One gave her a painting of his home in Bavaria.

The recruits were taken to Camp X, a special facility which trained people for clandestine work. Camp X was the best kept secret of WWII. It was hidden in plain sight on the shores of Lake Ontario, as an old farm house very close to the General Motors plant near Oshawa. Inconspicuous as it was, Camp X made a huge contribution to the intelligence network for several countries.

What became of the young people who became double agents, nothing is known. The penalties were severe if they were caught. And very little is known about Camp X itself. Those who worked there were sworn to secrecy for 30 years. Thankfully, through people like Jane Kramer, we catch a glimpse of another contribution Canada made to the war effort. Jane is one who can still tell the story and will not let us forget.

Rev. Chuck Beaton  
Chaplain (Retired)



# Ladies in Uniform – Memories for special visitors

By Sandy Lindsay



For most, the Ladies in Uniform of Bruce County, were a mystery until, that is, local historian G. William Streeter (Bill) began his research. What he found were the captivating stories of 19 local 'Ladies in Uniform' who had served in a wide variety of wartime fields, from nursing to radar technician to ambulance driver, cook and more.

His findings were captured on an interpretive plaque and, **in 2021**, it was unveiled at the Town Administration Offices entrance at the PLEX.

On Wednesday, September 6th, special guests along with members of the Southampton Legion and Port Elgin Legion took part in a special viewing of the

plaque.

One of the guests, Vivian Winnifred Wotton (nee Sees), was not only there in person, she is also on the plaque. At 100 this month, she and her nephew, Chris, made the trip from London where Vivian now lives.

Bill Streeter introduced Legion members to veteran Vivian Wotton:



Alex Taylor meets Vivian Wotton

Harry Mazmanian meets Vivian Wotton

Charles Schmalz meets Vivian Wotton



(L) Alex Taylor & Janice Pepe (PE Legion) Andrew, Ray & Larry Dibnah, Bill Streeter, Rev. Chuck Beaton (Legion Chaplain), Harry Mazmanian and Charles Schmalz (Southampton Legion) and 100-year-old Vivian Wotton (seated)



## The Ladies in Uniform – We Shall Remember Them



Both Vivian and her older sister Kathleen Thelma enlisted in 1942 and 1943 respectively. Thelma born in Port Elgin in 1921, enlisted in the RCAF in 1942 and was not discharged until 1946. Following the death of her husband, she returned to Port Elgin where she died in 1988.

**Vivian Winnifred (Sees)** was born on September 23, 1923, enlisted on April 23, 1943, in London at age 19. Following training, she was assigned to the Radar Central Control Command Centre in Victoria, one of 11 radar coastal stations that monitored all air traffic on the western shore. It was there that they would plot and follow aircraft movement on a large tabletop map. This work was of a highly secretive nature and was under the Official Secrets Act that was not cancelled until 1991, and Vivian is still reticent to talk about it.



The second special guests also made a very special trip from British Columbia to view the plaque where Doreen Olive (nee Sampson) Dibnah is one of the Ladies in Uniform. Larry Dibnah, his wife Ray and grandson Andrew, made the trip to see first-hand the plaque with his mother on it. "This is such an honour to be here," said Larry. "I also want to see the hospital where I was born in Southampton." Larry Dibnah was the only son born to a family of five girls.

Doreen Olive Sampson was born in England in 1923. The family moved to Southampton in 1943 and, soon after, she enlisted in the RCAF (Royal Canadian Airforce). Doreen was stationed at Rockcliffe Ontario where she worked in Supply Depot Administration at the rank of Leading Aircraftwoman.

While there, she met Cyril Dibnah and at the end of the war, they married. They lived in Southampton until they decided to move to British Columbia where Cyril joined the Navy. There, they raised six children, five girls and a boy, Larry. Doreen passed away in 2010 at age 87 but is immortalized on the plaque.



The Dibnahs – Ray, Larry and Andrew



(L) Ray and Larry Dibnah, Chris and Vivian Wotton and Andrew Dibnah examine the plaque

"This was very serendipitous," said Streeter. "For both guests, September 6th was the only date when both could attend."



## Zone C-4 Fall Council & Convention Sunday, September 17, 2023

Zone C-4 delegates gathered at Tara Branch 383 for our Fall Council & Convention on Sunday, September 17, 2023.

The Council Meeting included reports from Branch Presidents and the consensus is that all the Branches are having difficulty with achieving quorums for the General Meetings and recruiting volunteers.

Due to the inclement weather a small wreath laying ceremony was conducted indoors. Lunch was prepared and the afternoon session convened at 1:00 pm.

Alex Ruff, MP, Grey-Bruce-Owen Sound, was available to speak to the membership with thanks for the invitation to attend the convention today. Thanks are also extended to members of the Legion for the work that is done for our veterans and communities and also noted the Legion involvement with the Ruck 2 Remember in Wiarton. Always need to recruit new members and get some younger blood involved. More volunteers are needed, as is with all organizations and there is a great effort put out by all. Contact MP Alex if you have any concerns at the federal level of government.

Other guests included Dean Weir, District "C" Commander; Dennis Schmidt, District "C" Deputy Commander; Eric Ross, District "C" Chair and Derek Moore, President, Ontario Command. Topics discussed were the newly formed District "C" Constitution & By-law Committee. Presidents were urged to do better with their Inspection Reporting and be prepared for their annual visitation. Branches were wished much success on the Early Bird and Poppy Campaigns. Zone C-4 LA Cmdr. Marg Smith extended greetings from the Zone LA's with thanks for the invitation to attend.

Branch 006 was presented with their Early Bird Award Certificate in recognition of attaining 70% or more in renewals for the 2023 campaign. Congratulations Branch 006.

The District C Convention will be held Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at Fergus Branch 275.



### **They call us “The Elderly”**

- We were born in the 40-50-60’s.
- We grew up in the 50-60-70’s.
- We studied in the 60-70-80’s.
- We were dating in the 70-80-90’s.
- We got married and discovered the world in the 70-80-90’s.
- We venture into the 80-90’s.
- We stabilize in the 2000’s.
- We got wiser in the 2010’s.
- And we are going firmly through and beyond 2020.
- Turns out we’ve lived through EIGHT different decades...
- TWO different centuries...
- TWO different millennia...

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We have gone from the telephone with an operator for long-distance calls to video calls to anywhere in the world.

We have gone from slides to YouTube, from vinyl records to online music, from handwritten letters to email and Whats App.

From live matches on the radio, to black and white TV, colour TV and then to 3D HD TV.

We went to the Video store and now we watch Netflix.

We got to know the first computers, punch cards, floppy disks and now we have gigabytes and megabytes on our smartphones.

We wore shorts throughout our childhood and then long trousers, Oxfords, flares, shell suits & blue jeans.

We dodged infantile paralysis, meningitis, polio, tuberculosis, swine flu and now COVID-19.

We rode skates, tricycles, bicycles, mopeds, petrol or diesel cars and now we drive hybrids or electric.

Yes, we’ve been through a lot but what a great life we’ve had!

They could describe us as “exennials”; people who were born in that world of the fifties, who had an analog childhood and a digital adulthood.

We’ve kind of “Seen-It-All”!

Our generation has literally lived through and witnessed more than any other in every dimension of life.

It is our generation that has literally adapted to “CHANGE”.

A big round of applause to all the members of a very special generation, which will be UNIQUE.

-Author unknown

