

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.

Remembrance Day is soon upon us. Branch 340 has been invited to the Tolmie Presbyterian Church to join in their annual Remembrance Day Sunday on November 5th at 11:00 am. Plan to join us on November 11th at the Cenotaph for the service at 11:00 am and back to the Branch for social time and Honours & Awards presentations.

See inside this bulletin for the website links to view the televised service if you are unable to join us at the Cenotaph.

Annual Christmas Raffle tickets are on sale now. The draw will be held on Saturday, December 16th at 6:00 pm. Please support our fundraiser as proceeds will be earmarked for youth programs in the community. Tickets are \$2.00 or 3/\$5.00.

A reminder that our annual Christmas Toy Drive will be starting the end of November. When shopping for your family and loved ones please donate an extra toy in our Toy Box to help make Christmas a little happier for a child in our community.

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
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

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

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Immediate Past President	Dan Kelly	dankelly@bmts.com	519-389-2352
1st Vice President	Craig Bell	bellcr@bmts.com	519-386-7771
2nd Vice President	Bernice Ribey	1bernie@bmts.com	519-832-8783
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Chaplain			
Executive	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
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Constitution & Laws	Norma Dudgeon	branch340@eastlink.ca	519-832-2903
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Membership	Craig Bell	bellcr@bmts.com	519-386-7771
Poppy	Rhonda Harrison	bnrshow@eastlink.ca	519-389-4806
Property	Robert Harrison	bnrshow@eastlink.ca	519-389-4806
Public Relations	Rhonda Harrison	bnrshow@eastlink.ca	519-389-4806
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Sergeant-at-Arms	Mike Hobson	hobson@eastlink.ca	519-386-6078
Service Officer/Veterans Services	Janice Pepe	branch340@eastlink.ca	519-832-2903
Sports	Gord Kelly	gordonakelly1973@gmail.com	519-389-6057
Track & Field	Bernice Ribey	1bernie@bmts.com	519-832-8783
Ways & Means	Tom Jacques	thjacques@bmts.com	519-386-1227
Youth Education	Rhonda Harrison	bnrshow@eastlink.ca	519-389-4806
Air Cadets Liaison	Alex Taylor	alex.taylor@bmts.com	519-389-2616
Nevada	Andrew Reinhart	andyreinhart@hotmail.com	519-708-0553





President's Report



At this point I am happy to report all is well at our Branch. We have had our annual inspection from our Zone Cmdr. Rob Butchart and his Deputy Steve Rice. We were told our financial books were impeccable so thanks are extended to Norma. And it was noted that all safety and health protocols and licences were up to date.

Branch members attended the District C Convention held in Fergus Branch 275 on Sunday October 15th. Good information was received to help us move forward. Our guest speaker Crystal Cook, Vice President, Ontario Command, detailed some of the programs which the Legion supports and how we can all play a part.

Remembrance Day is right around the corner. Cde Rhonda Harrison is doing a great job setting up for the Poppy Campaign. She is still in need of volunteers to help with canvassing; see information in her Poppy Report.

We will be having our annual Remembrance Day Church Service at the Tolmie Presbyterian Church on Sunday, November 5th at 11:00 am. All are welcome to join us.

On Remembrance Day we will be meeting at the Branch at 10:00 am. We will form up for the parade at 10:30 am to march off to the Cenotaph for 11:00 am. The service will also be live-streamed in the Club Room for those unable to gather at the Cenotaph. We will then return to the Branch for a light lunch and Honours & Awards will be announced.

Hope to see you out and about.

President Robert Harrison
bnrshow@eastlink.ca



Beware of a new Amazon scam. My husband ordered me some expensive jewelry, but motorcycle parts came instead. Thankfully they fit his bike...

Do women ever sit back and think "my man sure does know a lot, maybe I should just be quiet and listen to him"

Always make sure SOMEONE in the relationship has good credit. That's why it's called SIGNIFICANT other. Sign/if/I/can't. Follow me for more marriage tips





Bursary



Bursary season started on September 1st 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 for more details; or, feel free to call me on how to apply.

Cde Robert Harrison
Bursary Chair
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 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 the Honours & Awards Committee will evaluate the nomination.

Cde Tom Jacques
Honours & Awards Chair
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 to make other arrangements.

Cde Craig Bell
Membership Chair
bellcr@bmts.com

 <p>MEMBERSHIP Join the Legion Today</p> <p>Applications are available at the Bar Military service not a requirement, anyone can join</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>MEMBERS, HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR DUES FOR 2024</p> </div> 	 <p style="text-align: center;"><u>MEMBERSHIP</u></p>  <p style="text-align: center;">December 1st Renewal fees will be \$55.00</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pay today to remain in good standing and receive the many membership perks</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Craig Bell, Membership Chair</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Renew today!</p> 
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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!



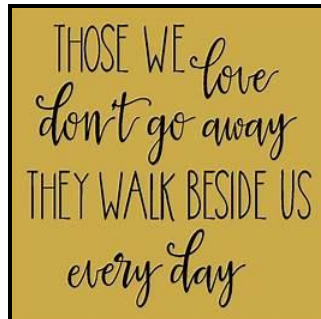
Last Post

November 11, 2022 – November 11, 2023



Ordinary	Derick Harrison Harold (Hal) Schweyer Harry Horsnell	Ed Wahrbickler Ralph Zadow Louis Schaefer
Associate	Alf Galivan Hector Therrien Dave Grieve John Vallieres	Fred Brown Donna Kain Bert Kuntz
Affiliate	Brenda Collins	
Ladies Auxiliary	Diana Tripp	

**THEY SHALL GROW NOT OLD AS WE THAT ARE LEFT GROW OLD,
AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM NOR THE YEARS CONDEMN,
AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE MORNING,
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM,
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.**





Poppy

Reminder to Canvassers and Legion Members

Canvassers are still needed for the final weeks of our Poppy Campaign. Daily time slots are 9 am-11 am, 11 am-1 pm, 1 pm-3 pm & 3 pm-5 pm.

Please email me at bnrshow@eastlink.ca or phone me at 519-389-4806 (Home) or 519-386-3919 (Cell) with your preferred day(s) and time(s). I will regularly post on the 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 Poppy Campaign mass mailing and volunteer canvassers.

Uniforms are not required to canvass. All canvassers will be provided with Volunteer Ribbons.

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!

Many Thanks to those Canvassers that have already volunteered their time!

Cde Rhonda Harrison
Poppy Chair
Cell - 519-386-3919 or Home -519-389-4806
bnrshow@eastlink.ca



Port Elgin Legion presents first 2023 poppies to two Veterans

By Sandy Lindsay - October 28, 2023

The annual Royal Canadian Legion Poppy Campaign has begun and, on Friday October 27th, the first two 2023 poppies of Legion Branch 340 in Port Elgin were presented to Veterans, Alice Winter and Russ London, residents of Elgin Lodge in Port Elgin.



(L front) Veterans Alice Winter and Russ London, Poppy Campaign Chair Rhonda Harrison

(L back) Retired Legion Rev. Chuck Beaton, Legion Secretary/Treasurer Norma Dudgeon, President Robert (Bob) Harrison





Alice entered the Canadian Armed Forces as a young girl and worked in Ottawa in Casualties, where she helped young soldiers returning from overseas. She married a career soldier (engineer), who became in charge of maintaining all vehicles at Camp Borden Today, at age 98, Alice is still an active member of Port Elgin Legion Branch 340.



Originally from Dresden (ON), Russ was in the Canadian Navy and ended up stationed in Halifax in 1958, as an Armourer's Mate, and remained in the service for almost 20 years. Today, his grandson Nathaniel, has followed in his steps and he, too, has joined the Navy.

"It was a privilege and an honour to be able to present our Legion Branch's first poppies to these two Veterans," said Poppy Campaign Chair, Rhonda Harrison.



Sergeant-at-Arms



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 11th.

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.

Cde Mike Hobson
Sergeant-at-Arms
hobson@bmts.com



Take a few minutes to enjoy and laugh ... Don't think too hard

- Still trying to get my head around the fact that 'Take Out' can mean food, dating, or murder.
- You know you're over 50 when you have 'upstairs ibuprofen' and 'downstairs ibuprofen'.
- If only vegetables smelled as good as bacon.
- The biggest joke on mankind is that computers have begun asking humans to prove they aren't a robot
- You know you are getting old when friends with benefits means having someone who can drive at night.
- Weight loss goal: To be able to clip my toenails and breathe at the same time.





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 *****

The 8-Ball and Euchre sheets are now posted.

Cde Gord Kelly
 Sports Chair
gordonakelly1973@gmail.com

	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>8-Ball Pool on December 10, 2023</u></p> <p>Host Branch: Port Elgin Branch 340 Location: Port Elgin Branch 340 Entry Deadline Date: November 24, 2023 No Late Entries Accepted Registration Time: 10:00 To 10:30 am Game Time: A.S.A.P. After Registration Entry Fee: \$10.00 Per Person Only Six (6) Teams Per Zone</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Euchre on January 14, 2024</u></p> <p>Host Branch: Chatsworth Branch 464 Location: Chatsworth Branch 464 Entry Deadline Date: December 29, 2023 No Late Entries Accepted 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>



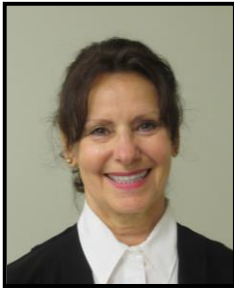
If you are a Snow Bird..... Why not an Early Bird?

Before you fly south for a winter's relaxation, become an Early Bird by paying next year's dues between September 1st and November 30th. Then you can preen in the sun, knowing you've ensured there'll be no loss of Legion service or membership privileges. Remember, if you wait it may be your feathers that are ruffled later.





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



Ways & Means



Our Meat Draws are scheduled for November 4th and 18th and start at 4:00 pm.

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

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



Youth Education

Poster & Literary Competition

The judging for this program has been set for Saturday, November 18th. 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



Take a few minutes to enjoy and laugh ... Don't think too hard

- Some of my friends exercise every day. Meanwhile I am watching a show I don't like because the remote fell on the floor.
- Someone said, "Nothing rhymes with orange." I said, "No, it doesn't."
- I have many hidden talents. I just wish I could remember where I hid them.
- Apparently exercise helps you with decision-making. It's true. I went for a run this morning and decided I'm never going again
- There's a fine line between a numerator and a denominator. Only a fraction of people will find this funny.



"Never follow anyone else's path, unless you're in the woods and you're lost."
~ Ellen DeGeneres



Upcoming Legion Events



Branch 340
General Meeting

Tuesday, November 7th 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., November 4 & 18
4:00 pm




Please join us

Everyone is Welcome

Tara Br. 383

November 2023 Events

Nov. 26 Breakfast – Arran Tara School Parent Group
10:00 am – 1:00 pm



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



 <p>Pot Luck Party in the Club Room</p> <p>Doors Open at 3:00 pm Kick-off at 6:00 pm</p>	<p>Port Elgin Legion Branch 340</p> <p><i>"Naughty or Nice"</i> Christmas Raffle</p> <p>Wine Themed Basket (\$ 200.)</p> <p>Draw Date: Saturday, December 16th at 6:00 pm Legion Clubroom</p>  <p>Tickets: \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00</p> <p>Lottery Licence # MB48366</p> <p>Proceeds for Community & Youth Programs Must be over 19 years of age to purchase ticket</p> <p>Tickets can be purchased in the Legion Club Room Thank you for your continued support</p>
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As winter draws near, we're already starting to experience shorter daylight hours and soon Canadians will be plunged into even more darkness for another four months.

[Daylight saving time 2023](#) will come to an end on Nov. 5, so consider this a sign and set an alert so you don't forget to adjust your clock back one hour when the time comes.

Canadians in most time zones can "fall back" on Saturday, Nov. 4 this year before they head to bed, as the clocks roll back in the wee morning hours of Nov. 5 while most people are sleeping.

However, The Yukon, most of Saskatchewan and some parts of British Columbia and Quebec [stay on standard time](#).

Your digital and wifi-connected devices should make the switch automatically, but it doesn't hurt to double-check them the morning of Nov. 5, just to be sure.



Notable Dates for November 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 Announcement of [National Silver Cross Mother](#)
- 8 [Indigenous Veterans Day](#)
- 10 [Passchendaele](#) ends (1917)
- 11 [Remembrance Day](#)
- 11 [First World War ends - Armistice Day](#) (1918)
- 18 [Battle of the Somme](#) (1916)
- 28 [#GivingTuesday](#)
- 30 John McCrae's birthday (1872) ([In Flanders Fields](#))



November is Woman Abuse Awareness & Prevention Month

During the month of November there will be awareness campaigns focused on gender-based violence committed against women. One of the most recognizable campaigns is Wrapped in Courage which was launched by the Ontario Association of Interval & Transition Houses. The purple scarf has become a symbol of the courage and support.

Consider wearing a purple scarf in November especially on [November 25th the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Violence](#). The 16 days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is a global campaign led annually by UN Women. The campaign runs from November 25th to December 10th Human Rights Day.

Living safely free of Abuse & Violence is a Human Right.

Your challenge is to participate with a daily activity during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based violence from November 25th to December 10th.

The following is a list of possibilities to get you started:

- Educate yourself with a daily online search.
- Consider the following topics: Gender Based Violence, Power & Control, Coercive Control, Signs of Abuse, Types of Abuse, Woman Abuse Canadian Statistics, Dominate Aggressor Law, Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), Second Stage Housing & Emergency Shelters Services plus other topics.
- Listen to a related podcast(s)
- Attend a related public information session.
- Engage in conversations on related topics with friends & family members.
- Watch a related movie(s)
- Support a local Women's Shelter (Kabaeshiwim Respite Women's Shelter, The Women's Centre Grey & Bruce, Women's House serving Bruce & Grey)
- Wear a purple scarf November 25th and December 6th.
- Attend the December 6th Vigil at Coulter Parkette at noon.

www.canadianwomen.org
www.cleo.on.ca

www.unwomen.org
www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/finalreport





REMEMBRANCE DAY ITINERARY

On Saturday, 11 November, 2023, The Royal Canadian Legion, Port Elgin Branch 340, will be holding a SERVICE at Cenotaph Park.

We invite members of the Legion and community to share this meaningful occasion of honouring our Veterans.

We invite you to watch the service on one of the following live streaming websites:

**<https://www.youtube.com/southportchurch> OR
<https://www.facebook.com/southport.church>**

We will lay the official wreaths and all other wreaths sponsored by the businesses and organizations will be pre-laid.

This year we will have a parade; if you are marching, please be advised we will form up at the Legion at 10:30 am.

The Port Elgin Legion will be open at 10:15 am on 11 November to Veterans and Legion members with their spouse/caregiver and invited guests to view the televised service; lunch to follow after the Cenotaph Service.

We thank our community and all the businesses for their continued support throughout the years and we will meet again in 2024.

Lest We Forget

If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Norma Dudgeon
Remembrance Day Chair

Legion Office: 519-832-2903
Email: branch340@eastlink.ca





Port Elgin Legion Branch 340

Remembrance Day Church Service

Tolmie Presbyterian Church
699 Goderich Street
Port Elgin

Sunday, November 5
at 11:00 am

We look forward to you joining us

❧ Lest We Forget ❧



**PORT ELGIN LEGION
BRANCH 340**

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Saturday November 11th

Service at 10:50 am

Laying of Official Wreaths

Service will be live streamed at

<https://www.youtube.com/southportchurch>

and

<https://www.facebook.com/southportchurch>

or join us at the Cenotaph

Inclement weather – Service at Southport

Pentecostal Church

Listen to 97.9 for weather updates

**Current and ex-service personnel
are most welcome to join us**

In Flanders' Fields

In Flanders' fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders' fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch, be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders' fields.

Major John McCrae, 1915



RESIDENTS OF SAUGEEN SHORES,

We come to you again this year to ask for
your support for the

“TWO MINUTE WAVE OF SILENCE”

We urge you to encourage your
STAFF, CLIENTS, STUDENTS, FAMILY,

FRIENDS and NEIGHBOURS

to observe these two minutes as
a special tribute to the more than

118,000 fallen Canadian soldiers

who gave their lives to defend our country.

Help us to make this a continuing tradition in Canada

Saturday, November 11th at 11:00AM

Yours Sincerely

Poppy Chair

Rhonda Harrison

Br. 340 Port Elgin



Who is a Veteran?

The Royal Canadian Legion is the largest organization in Canada that works towards supporting our veterans and their dependents. The Legion is in a sense the national fabric that keeps the memory of those that paid the ultimate sacrifice alive. The Legion also continues to support those that have served and continue to serve this nation.

When World War II ended some 78 years ago, the answer to "Who is a veteran?" was well defined. A veteran was one who served in the Armed Forces and participated in action under fire.

A few years later the definition was expanded to include, not only those in the fighting, but the thousands who supported troops at the front. Armies can't fight, planes can't fly and ships can't survive at sea without the huge effort of the men and women who managed the logistics of food, ammunition and everything else needed to keep our soldiers, sailors and airmen in the battlefield.

The definition of a veteran has expanded even further to include those, in the Armed Forces who serve at home and in remote places in the world. The point is that in such a massive effort as war, everybody counts, whether the job is large or small, dangerous or not.

Behind our participation, along with Britain and the U.S.A., stands the Canadian public who passionately believe that the evil rampart in the world under Hitler, and others like him have to be stopped. We are willing to draw the line in the sand and say - enough. We will defend our nation; we will sacrifice everything for justice, and work for the peace of the world.

Thousands of Canadian men and women have risen to the challenge. Many have not come back home. Our nation and others have paid dearly for the peace that was won. That is why we cannot forget what has been done for us by those who gave their lives.

Remembrance Day is an opportunity for our nation, for young and old, to say Thank You. Our veterans understand this. We need to as well.

LEST WE FORGET

Veteran - Rev. C. P. Beaton, Chaplain, (retired)
Cde. Elizabeth Eby, Life Member RCL #340



How to wear a Poppy

Wear a Poppy to Remember

Throughout the Remembrance period, we see Poppies worn with pride in every corner of our lives to honour our Veterans. The Royal Canadian Legion provides a Poppy Protocol to guide Canadians on appropriate and respectful wearing of the lapel Poppy. However, wearing a Poppy is a personal expression of Remembrance, and how someone chooses to wear a Poppy is always an individual choice.

How to wear a Poppy

- The Poppy should be worn with respect on the left side, over the heart. The Legion's lapel Poppy is a sacred symbol of Remembrance and should not be affixed with any pin that obstructs the Poppy. Many Legion Branches provide poppy keepers, clear plastic ends that can be attached to the back of the pin so as not to obscure the Poppy yet still keep it secure. Also available through some Branches is the Legion's reusable black center Poppy pin to affix your lapel Poppy.





When to wear a Poppy

- The lapel Poppy should be worn during the Remembrance period, from the last Friday in October until November 11. The Legion encourages the wearing of Poppies at funerals of Veterans, and for any commemorative event such as a memorial service, or the anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. As well, it is not inappropriate to wear a Poppy during other times to commemorate Fallen Veterans and it is an individual choice to do so.

How to remove a Poppy

- Poppies may be worn throughout the Remembrance period, including in the evening after Remembrance Day Ceremony. Some choose to remove their Poppy at the end of the day on November 11. Some choose to remove their Poppy at the conclusion of the ceremony and place their Poppy on the cenotaph or on a wreath as a sign of respect. This has become a poignant tradition each year at the National Remembrance Day Ceremony in Ottawa as thousands of Poppies are placed on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.
- When a Poppy is removed, it should be stored appropriately or it may be disposed of respectfully. We encourage anyone who finds a Poppy that has fallen to the ground to pick it up and brush it off so that it can be kept or disposed of respectfully.

While Poppies are always free, The Royal Canadian Legion gratefully accepts donations to the Poppy Fund, which directly **supports Canada's Veterans and their families** in need.

Canadians outside of the country can get a Poppy from Royal Canadian Legion Branches in the U.S., Mexico, Germany and the Netherlands, or through their Canadian Embassy or Consulate.

The Legion's lapel Poppy is the Poppy you will see most during the Remembrance period, and the one the Legion distributes during the Poppy Campaign to help raise Poppy Funds for Veterans and their families. For Canadians who want to show their pride and support year-round, the Legion's **Poppy Store** sells Poppy brooches and other products to show you remember. Proceeds from the sale of these products help support the Legion's mission to care for Veterans and promote Remembrance.

We invite everyone across the country to honour and remember Canada's Veterans by proudly wearing this symbol of Remembrance and taking a moment to reflect.



"As you get older three things happen. The first is your memory goes, and I can't remember the other two." ~ Norman Wisdom

"You know you're getting old when you stoop to tie your shoelaces and wonder what else you could do while you're down there." ~ George Burns





Remembrance Day Reflections



I have been part of Remembrance Day Services for many years and in various communities across Canada. From the snow covered memorial in Uranium City, Saskatchewan, to the majestic cenotaph in Ottawa, I have been impressed by the way our country pauses to remember.

One of the outstanding memories of a Remembrance Day service came during my time as Chaplain with the Canadian Warplanes Heritage Museum (CWHM) in Hamilton. The year was 1996 and CWHM had just moved into their brand new 100,000 square foot hangar. The old hangar had burned down in February 1993, destroying five airplanes, all of the workshops, offices and archives. From the ashes came this handsome new building with room for everything.

A few of the staff spoke to me and said, "Padre, we've got to have a Remembrance Service in the new hangar....just the place for it, indoors and amongst our airplanes."

We set up in the southwest corner of the hangar with the DC3 as a backdrop. The dais was in front with flags from the Air Force Association (447 wing) on either side. We had no idea how many would come so we put out 100 chairs. Eventually about 70 showed up, but there seemed to be many empty seats.

I offered opening prayers and read an appropriate scripture passage. I said a few words about the sacrifices made for us in times of war. Then I introduced our speakers, each of them members of CWHM, who were willing to share their experiences.

We heard from Irene, who was part of the Women's Division of the RCAF and had been posted to several headquarter offices overseas. Then there was Jeff, a bomb aimer, shot down in his Halifax bomber in 1944, and became a prisoner of war. And then there was George, a mosquito pilot, who shared his stories of intruder missions over enemy airfields.

Something magical happened that day for the few of us who were there. We were listening to firsthand stories of Canada at war. The authenticity of the speakers made real to us the awfulness of war. None of them indicated they were a hero. They just did their jobs and passed on to us what it felt like to be in combat and to have friends die. We were deeply moved by their sharing. The place was silent. Remembrance Day became a profound experience for all of us.

As the years went by, Remembrance Day at CWHM became better and better. A colour party was formed and the flags were marched on. The Salvation Army Citadel band became a permanent part of the service. The Redeemer College Choir took their place in the program. Children came from several schools and politicians wanted to be on the podium. The attendance grew exponentially from our small number at the beginning to nearly 3000, and is now broadcast by CHCH with CTV using clips in their national TV coverage.

I shall never forget that first service in the new hangar and the humble, moving presentations by our veterans. All our visitors were honoured that day.

It matters not whether you are part of a small service or a large service. What matters is that we take the time to do it at all. Some wise person once said, "If you value freedom, thank a veteran!" We need to do this..... lest we forget.

Rev. Chuck Beaton
Chaplain (Retired)



District C Fall Council & Convention Sunday, October 15, 2023 at Fergus Branch 275

The District C Convention was held at Fergus Branch 275 on Sunday, October 15, 2023. District C Cmdr. Dean Weir opened the meeting and words of welcome to our fellow delegates.

Reports from the District Officers were highlighted and various Motions were presented for approval. Donations to the many programs and organizations that the Legion supports were also a part of the days' agenda. An approximate total of **\$109,750 (not including \$25,500 from Leave the Streets Behind) it does include** District C Hospital \$22,000; Charitable Foundation \$20,500; Bursary \$14,750; Poppy \$1,000; Youth Ed \$2,500; Track & Field \$1,150; R2R \$1,000; VSS \$1,000; RCEL \$6,000; Service Dogs \$15,000 and Parkwood Hospital \$1,000.

		
<p>Cde Sandy Miller, Chatsworth Branch 464 Donates \$2,000 Service Dogs and Homeless Vets. Shown with Cde Bill Kahlbenn</p>	<p>Cde Steve Rice, Zone C-4 DZC and President of Meaford Branch 32 is shown with Cde Bill Kahlbenn as he presents a total of \$3,000 to various programs.</p>	<p>Cde Sean Hurst, President Tobermory Branch 290 presents a cheque to Cde Mary Ellen Genereux.</p>



Cde Crystal Cook, Vice President, Ontario Command was our guest speaker and I have included some excerpts from her presentation.

L-R District C Chair Eric Ross, District Deputy Cmdr. Dennis Schmidt, Crystal Cook, Vice President, ON Command and Dean Weir, District C Cmdr.

Leave the Streets Behind -

Since its inception in 2009 this program continues to be a huge success, growing every day and involving more and more like minded groups and organizations, who come to us looking for advice in how to run similar programs of their own.

One good example is the launch of the Military Veteran Wellness Program created by officers of the Toronto Police Services and more recently the Waterloo Police Services have come on board. They came to us first looking for help, guidance and advice.



It is certainly a sad sobering thought to think that those who served our Country find themselves on the street, our current systems have failed them, and it is up to us to support them.

Every Legion member should be very proud to be a part of this program, give yourself a huge pat on the back; well done. To date 1112 veterans have been assisted in 195 different towns and locations. 124 of those were female. A new slightly disturbing trend is the fact we are now assisting entire families, 48 so far husband, wife, and at least two children many of who are usually under the age of 15 years. Close to 3 million dollars has been expended on this program so far.

Comrades keep those donations rolling-in; I thank you on their behalf.

Service Dogs & Wounded Warriors Canada -

This is another excellent program, and one that is near and dear to my heart. You have heard me say many times that this program is truly a lifesaver for many of our Veterans, in my District alone we have 3 Veterans who have received dogs through this program and the difference is amazing. One of our Veterans 5 years ago before getting his dog would not come out in public and especially large crowds would not look you in the eye or shake your hand. Since receiving his dog, he now attends most functions in our Zone and District including the Provincial Convention, will carry on a conversation and be engaged in that conversation and even shake your hand when you leave. If you ask him, he does not hesitate to tell you his dog saved his life. Another of our Veterans is unrecognizable from the man he was, prior to getting his dog he was always angry never had a positive thing to say, now he is the most polite, kind hearted individual.

This program is having a huge, and continued success in changing the quality of life for so many veterans. About \$1.5 million has been donated to this program over the last few years. It costs about \$36,000 to fully train each service dog and only certain breeds are accepted and are suitable.

In this fiscal year alone, owing largely to our partnership with Wounded Warriors, they are estimating the pairing and placement of 25 Service Dogs with Veterans in Ontario, also with a further 18 in training. This is an increase from 17 Dogs paired and placed last year, demonstrating that the stability provided by this partnership is producing the desired results. Thank you to the Ladies Auxiliary for your donations to this very worthwhile program.

Military Service Recognition Book MSRB -

We have just completed year 10 of the program and are now taking applications for year 11 our Military Service Recognition Book Program.

To date we have published a total of 6363 Veteran submissions in the first nine editions of our books of Remembrance. According to statistics, at the end of 2022, there were an estimated total of 223,400 Veterans living within the Province of Ontario. And of course, there are many, many more Veterans who unfortunately have passed away that families of these Veterans could be approached to submit their family members information for our books.

Proceeds for the 10 volumes is \$1,856,017.79 From these proceeds we have over the 10 years provided support to various Veteran Transition Programs. Through those programs we have assisted many of our Veterans in transitioning from their military life into a civilian life. Those nine programs include: Ad Astra Stables: Project Trauma Support: Project Healing Waters: Operational Stress Injury Spouses Retreat: County of Grey Frontline Family Wellness Day: Heroes Mending on the Fly: Warrior Adventures Canada: Veterans Transition Network and Writers Collective of Canada.

Veterans Initiatives -

This is not an Ontario Command Initiative but a District E initiative but I encourage every branch and District to start something similar. It is a very simple concept it is a Veteran run group whose goal and function is to run programs for Veterans and their families to allow Veterans to be in the company of like-minded individuals doing things that assist in them to get out of the house and socialize. When we started this program in 2019 the first couple of events were slow starting but with each event we ran the participation grew we now have Veterans reaching out to ask when the next event will be. We have held Fishing Days, Buddy Check Coffees, show & shine, bonfires to name a few. We also have been successful in reaching our Silver Cross mothers who often get left behind. One Silver Cross mother told



me that the outings we are holding have saved her, she used to spend all her time in the house and as a result of the programs she is coming out and meeting people and is once again able to contribute and be a mother and wife again. Comrades these programs take very little money but make a huge impact and I encourage people to try to start their own.

Comrades I speak about this every time I get an opportunity to and it's because it works. The Legion needs to start changing its approach if we are to attract more Veterans and for us in District E it has been a tremendous success.



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...

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

