

# 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.

Annual Christmas Raffle tickets are on sale now. The draw will be held on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> 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 has begun. The Iota Phi Sorority have delivered the toy boxes to the Branch and we ask when shopping for your family and loved ones please purchase an extra toy for our Toy Box and help make Christmas a little happier for a child in our community. The last day to drop off a toy is December 16<sup>th</sup>.

Christmas holiday hours will be in effect, see inside for more information.

I am pleased to announce that the Branch will be hosting a Levee on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. The hours are from 1:00-7:00 pm. What a way to usher in the New Year with family and friends!

On behalf of my husband Bob and our family may your Christmas sparkle with moments of love, laughter and goodwill and may the year ahead be full of contentment and joy. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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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<b>Nevada</b>	Andrew Reinhart	andyreinhart@hotmail.com	519-708-0553





## President's Report



Thank you, thank you, thank you....to all the volunteers who helped make this years' Poppy Campaign a great success. This is what can happen when we all work together.

The Colour Party has been busy. The group attended the Remembrance Sunday service on November 5<sup>th</sup> at the Tolmie Presbyterian Church; we were invited to the Winterhawks game on November 10<sup>th</sup>, participated in our own Remembrance Day Service, and last but not least the annual Santa Claus parade on November 25<sup>th</sup>.

On Remembrance Day we also recognized Rev. Chuck Beaton for all his years of service. Rev. Chuck retired as our Chaplain earlier this year. He was still on hand for words of encouragement on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Cde Norma presented Rev. Chuck and his wife Jean a token of appreciation for all the work they have done for us over the years.

The Christmas season is upon us so I am inviting all of our 400 plus members to come in to the Branch and see what is happening and hopefully ask "what can I do to help?" Maybe you can volunteer your time helping at the weekly bingo or help serve at one of catered dinner events. Volunteers are needed to help with building repairs, bathrooms need to be renovated and walls need to be painted in order to keep our Branch looking fresh and appealing.

Branch 340 has a great need to get more members involved so I am asking you "what would you like to see next year?" Would you support more dinners, entertainment, karaoke, maybe a game challenge day? We really need some new ideas to keep moving forward to help our veterans and our community.

Please help us as we have the opportunity to create solutions and all we need are members to implement them.

Rhonda and I would like to wish all our members a safe and happy holiday season.

Hope to see you out and about.

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



This morning my son said his ear hurt and I said on the inside or outside, so he walks out the front door, comes back in and says both. Moments like this got me wondering if Im saving too much for college.

If paying a cashier a living wage will make prices go up. Why doesn't replacing cashiers with Self Checkouts make prices go down?

A friend suggested putting horse manure on my strawberries... I'm never doing that again, I'm going back to whipped cream.





## Bursary



We are right in the middle of the school year and a great time to apply for a school bursary. To apply the student must be:

- 1) a child or grandchild of a Veteran
- 2) a child or grandchild of an Ordinary, Life member or LA Member; or
- 3) a child of an Associate member

We have a large budget of \$400,000 this year; please check 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.

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 the Honours & Awards Committee will evaluate the nomination.

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



**On Remembrance Day, Years of Service Pins were announced.  
Please contact Tom Jacques, H & A Chair, if you are a recipient for a service pin.  
Pins are awarded in 5 year increments.**

<b>ORDINARY</b>				
<u>5 Years</u>	<u>10 Years</u>	<u>15 Years</u>	<u>20 Years</u>	<u>25 Years</u>
Trish Frizzell	Rev Chuck Beaton			Wayne Bruce
<u>30 Years</u>	<u>35 Years</u>	<u>40 Years</u>	<u>45 Years</u>	<u>50 Years</u>
Clay Cutting	Scott Race		Michael Crossling	Tom Harrison
Rob Herboth			Brad Johnston	
			<u>55 Years</u>	<u>60 Years</u>
			Mike Harford	
<b>ASSOCIATE</b>				
<u>5 Years</u>	<u>10 Years</u>	<u>15 Years</u>	<u>20 Years</u>	<u>25 Years</u>
Jim Allen	Linda Barfoot	Jack Brill	Jonathan Carr	Matt Carr
Darryll Brand	Gord Gottscheu	Jerry Durand	Louise Coulter	Ruth Cutting
Hayden Duplantis	Anne Gottscheu	Sharen Maas	Gord Kelly	Sharon Dolbeck
Shelley Hewson	Adam Page		Teri Laehnemann	Al Ellis
Montgomery McMeekin	Nolan Pickett		Elizabeth Eby	Dana Hastings
Susan Noe	Carolyn Przybysz			
George Seymour	Paul Sedlmeir			
Laura Winter	Alex Taylor			
Richard Winter	Vicky Taylor			
<u>25 Years con't</u>	<u>30 Years</u>	<u>35 Years</u>	<u>40 Years</u>	<u>45 Years</u>
Wayne MacKinnon	Rob Atkinson	Maureen Connan		Larry Dudgeon
Ev Martin	Kathryn Bell	Paul Mullen		David Ferris
Alex McCulloch	Jim Duplantis			Janice Pepe
Wes Smith	Wayne Galliher			Steve Pepe
Glenna Snider	Bob Harrison			
<u>50 Years</u>	<u>65 Years</u>			
James Connan (Sugar)	Barrie Eby			
Tim Elliot				
Rob Snider				
Tom Thorne				
<b>AFFILIATE-VOTING</b>				
<u>5 Years</u>	<u>10 Years</u>	<u>15 Years</u>	<u>20 Years</u>	<u>25 Years</u>
Monica Carere	Terry Lane	Brian Henderson	Fay Eggleston	
Michelle Carere		Brian Lang		
John Castles		Dave Menscher		
Brad Cobean		Bernice Ribey		
Brian Good				
Mike McCulloch				
Paul Miller				
Byron Sadiku				
Linda Stewart				
Drew Symonds				





L-R Cde Tom Jacques, H & A Chair, Cde Barrie Eby and Cde Craig Bell, Membership Chair.

Barrie received his 65 years of service pin. Congratulations Barrie.



A lovely tribute for Dad/Grandpa to receive his 65 years of service recognition as a prelude to his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday on December 28<sup>th</sup>. Happy birthday Barrie.

*Courtesy of Elizabeth Eby*



## 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**





**MEMBERSHIP** 

**December 1<sup>st</sup> Renewal fees will be \$55.00**

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

*Craig Bell, Membership Chair*

**Renew today!** 





## Poppy Report

The final report will be available in the January bulletin. Needless to say it was a very successful campaign and I humbly thank everyone who supported throughout in any small way. Way to go Team!

Rhonda Harrison  
Poppy Chair  
[bnrshow@eastlink.ca](mailto:bnrshow@eastlink.ca)



## 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 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.

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






## 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 \*\*\***

Euchre sheets are now posted.

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

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Euchre on January 14, 2024</u></b></p> <p>Host Branch: Chatsworth Branch 464          Location: Chatsworth Branch 464  <b>Entry Deadline Date: December 29, 2023 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>
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### New Pants for Christmas ~ Brann Rafferty

In halls decked with holly, and trees all a-glow, I feasted on goodies, let my inhibitions go,  
From gingerbread houses to mulled wine so bold, I consumed with abandon, in holiday's hold.

Eggnog flowed like a river, a creamy delight, Pies disappeared faster than stars in the night,  
Turkey and stuffing, and oh, the mince pies, I ate 'til I felt like a stuffed Christmas prize.

Dear Santa, I plead, as the scale gives a sigh, Bring stretchy new pants and don't ask me why,  
For I've eaten like royalty, bursting at seams, Now I need new attire, for my dining regimes.

So here's to the feasting, our holiday rite, Merry Christmas to all, let's eat day and night,  
With waistbands expanded and spirits held high, May your holidays be filled with joy and pie!





## 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)



## Ways & Means



Our Christmas Raffle Draw will be held on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Tickets are \$2.00 or 3 for \$5.00.

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

Our Christmas Meat Draws are **Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 8:00 pm** and on the following 3 Saturdays - December 2, 9 and 16 at 4:00 pm. Plan on joining us. Everyone is welcome.

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



## Youth Education

### Poster & Literary Competition – Nov. 19, 2023

Branch 340 held a successful Literary & Poster competition with a total of 321 entries for the primary, junior and intermediate levels. The 1<sup>st</sup> place winning entries have been forwarded to Zone C-4 Youth Education Chair Kate Wilson for the zone judging. We wish the winning entries well as they proceed to the next level of judging.

The entries have been returned to the schools and their respective prize envelopes. Congratulations to all the award winners.

A huge thank-you is extended to Kathy Eastwood who helped me with the various aspects of the competition: preparing the school package information and guidelines, collating the school entries and preparing them for the Branch judging and preparing the information for our place winners.



Our judges had a difficult task in selecting the prize winners as all entries were very well done. I thank Joyce & Jack Chapman, Pat Smith, Dee Burnlees, Kathy Buckle and Bob Harrison for taking the time on a Saturday morning in support of the program.

Branch 340 will be hosting Public Speaking in February with the date to be determined. Please contact me if you are interested in being one of our judges for this event. You will be provided with guidelines on how to proceed.

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



Aphorism: a short, pointed sentence that expresses a wise or clever observation.

1. The nicest thing about the future is that it always starts tomorrow.
2. Money will buy a fine dog, but only kindness will make him wag his tail.
3. If you don't have a sense of humour, you probably don't have any sense at all.
4. Seat belts are not as confining as wheelchairs.
5. A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in deep water.
6. How come it takes so little time for a child who is afraid of the dark to become a teenager who wants to stay out all night?
7. Business conventions are important because they demonstrate how many people a company can operate without.
8. Why is it that at class reunions you feel younger than everyone else looks?
9. Stroke a cat and you will have a permanent job.
10. No one has more driving ambition than the teenage boy who wants to buy a car.
11. There are no new sins; the old ones just get more publicity.
12. There are worse things than getting a call for a wrong number at 4 a.m. For example, it could be the right number.
13. No one ever says "It's only a game" when their team is winning.
14. I've reached the age where 'happy hour' is a nap.
15. Be careful about reading the fine print; there's no way you're going to like it.
16. The trouble with bucket seats is that not everybody has the same size bucket.
17. Do you realize that, in about 40 years, we'll have thousands of old ladies running around with tattoos?
18. Money can't buy happiness, but somehow it's more comfortable to cry in a Lexus than in a Ford.
19. After 70, if you don't wake up aching in every joint, you're probably dead.
20. Always be yourself because the people that matter don't mind, and the ones that mind don't matter.
21. Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift.



<b>I GET MOST        OF MY        EXERCISE        THESE DAYS        FROM SHAKING        MY HEAD IN        DISBELIEF.</b>	<b>My kids and grandkids        keep laughing about        me losing my memory.         They won't be laughing at        Christmas when there's no        eggs under the tree!</b>	<b>Things that used to hurt        my back:</b> -Jumping off of garages -Crashing my bike -Falling out of a tree -Diving in the shallow end -Contact sports  <b>Things that hurt my back        now:</b> -Sneezing -Washing the dishes -Brushing my teeth -Tying my shoes -Rolling over in bed
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## Branch 340 Supports Minor Hockey

The U13 Rep B team would like to thank the Port Elgin Legion, Branch 340, for their long time, continued support of Saugeen Shores Minor Hockey.

We are delighted to express our sincere gratitude to the Port Elgin Legion, Branch 340 for their generous sponsorship of the Saugeen Shores U13 Rep B Hockey Team. Your commitment to supporting local sports plays a vital role in fostering community spirit.

The financial assistance provided by the Port Elgin Legion not only enables our young athletes to participate in the upcoming season but also contributes to the overall development of the team. Your dedication to nurturing local talent and promoting a sense of unity within our community is truly appreciated.

We look forward to proudly displaying the Port Elgin Legion's logo on our team jerseys, representing a partnership that goes beyond the rink.

Once again, thank you for your invaluable contribution to the Saugeen Shores U13 Rep Hockey Team. We are proud to have the Port Elgin Legion as a vital part of our team's success.

Amanda Seaman



Left to Right: Robert Harrison, President of Legion Branch 340. Richard Buckland, Brock Harrison, Manix Martindale, Fletcher Ribey, Bradley Seaman, Mack Smith, Liam Huber, Greyson Wolfe, Cooper Henderson, Micah Alexander, Braxtyn McNeil, Gordon Brady, Kaine Myers, Rhonda Harrison, Executive member for Legion Branch 340.

Back Row Coaches: Reed Stauffer, Joe McNeil, Darryl Henderson, Branden Myers





# Remembrance Sunday 2023



Branch 340 participated in Remembrance Sunday on November 5, 2023 at the Tolmie Presbyterian Church.

**Scripture Readings: (read by Rev. Chuck Beaton)**

Revelation 7:9-17  
Matthew 5:1-12

**Book of Remembrance:** Dan Kelly and Mike Hobson  
**Presentation of Poppies:** Brock Eby & Bella Hobson  
**Message:** "Juno Beach Remembered" – Rev. Deb Stanbury



## Christmas in Heaven

What do they do?  
They come down  
to earth to spend it  
with you.

So save them a seat  
just one empty chair





# Remembrance Day 2023



This year turned out to be a cool and snowy day to honour our Veterans and Fallen Comrades – only Port Elgin had snow but it didn't deter our community; we had a huge crowd join us to pay their respects.

We are very lucky to have Pastor David Baker and Brad Johnston of the SouthPort Family Church to live-stream our service so that our Veterans and Seniors could watch at home or at the Legion and we can't thank them enough for all their efforts.

Remembrance Day takes many weeks of planning and I would be remiss if I didn't thank all the volunteers who physically helped me behind the scenes as there lies all the work; hopefully, I haven't missed anyone.

Sound System: Pastor David Baker & Brad Johnston

Wreaths: Cenotaph Setup & Dismantle / Pickup and Put Away  
Dan Kelly, Curt Virtue, Gord Kelly, Brad Davies, Mike Hobson, Bob Harrison, Janice Pepe, Craig Bell, Don Dudgeon, Scott & Tanya Thede, Jim Allen, Ken Martin, Brian Henderson, Hayden Duplantis, David Kilpatrick

Wreath Tags: Anne Eby who has helped me for many years as it's quite a consuming job

Yard Detail: Many thanks to the guys who cleaned up the dog poo at the Cenotaph

Bugler: Jonathan Birinyi

Singing of Anthems: Erin Milley Patey

Flag at half-mast: Greg Briggs

Media: Saugeen Times

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

## **Poppy Chair: Rhonda Harrison**

Rhonda spent countless hours on the Poppy Campaign and we worked together to confer on the wreaths that need to be laid and pre-laid and it all came together; congratulations Rhonda and your volunteers on a well-organized Poppy Campaign – a sincere pleasure working with you.

## **Parade Marshal: Mike Hobson / Colour Sgt: Robert Harrison**

Mike and Bob had everyone in precision step and we were lucky to have a Pipe Band this year which makes it a lot easier; seeing our Colour Party with the flags blowing in the wind makes us all so very proud to be a Canadian.

## **Cenotaph Sgt at Arms: Andrew Reinhart**

Andrew has been my Cenotaph Sgt at Arms and my right hand for quite a few years; he also has the significant job of escorting the wreath bearers; I am so lucky to have Andrew look after the crowd control and any little thing that may pop up; he also commanded the Air Cadet Honour Guard – after all these years, he can read my mind and we're on the same page – thank you Andrew for making everything go smoothly and stepping in where needed.



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

A special thank you to Brian Henderson and Linda Virgo and her team of ladies who put on a beautiful lunch for everyone to enjoy.

Rev Chuck Beaton who has been by my side at the Cenotaph for many years retired this year but we have been very fortunate to have Pastor Dave Baker who has humbly assumed the position – thank you Pastor Dave for your words of prayer and compassion to our Veterans and welcome to the Legion family.

Thank you Rev Chuck for all those years!

**Until we meet again on November 11<sup>th</sup>, thank you all!**

Norma Dudgeon  
Remembrance Day Chair





## In Honour of Rev. Chuck

November 11, 2023



Today we would like to recognize one of our most respected Veterans, a retired Chaplain to our Branch and a friend to us all.

Chuck Beaton became our Chaplain in 2014; he was approached by Kathryn Eastwood who was then President to become our Legion Padre – someone who would assist in the Chaplain duties where he was needed.

The story goes that Chuck said to Kathy, “do you not think I’m too old to take on this role” but after consideration, he accepted.

Chuck served our Branch from 2014 to 2023 and retired in June much to our dismay as he played an important part in all of our lives; Chuck, even though, you are retired, I am sure we can still call you.

Chuck would visit our Veterans throughout the year and at Christmas time, would visit them with chocolates or sweets in hand; he assisted me for many years at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Day; he was a good listener when we had a problem or was always on the ready to give us advice. He worked with the Tolmie Minister to organize our Remembrance Church service to honour our Veterans.

We have had many years of Rev Chuck looking after us and we would be remiss if we didn’t show our appreciation today along with his wife Jean.

Comrade Chuck, it gives us great pleasure to present you and Jean with a small token of our appreciation and thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Cde Norma Dudgeon  
Remembrance Day Chair



## Notable Dates for December 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.



- 3 [International Day of Persons with Disabilities](#)
- 5 [International Volunteer Day](#)
- 6 [Halifax explosion \(1917\)](#)
- 6 [National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women](#)
- 10 Nobel Prize for Peace awarded to peacekeepers (1988)
- 25 Christmas (Legion supports Operation Santa Claus)
- 25 [Fall of Hong Kong \(1941\)](#)
- Membership renewal reminders





## WWI Canadian Government “Paranoia”

As I was reading my local news from ST this morning, I saw the article from the Port Elgin Legion thanking the community for their Remembrance Day support, with a special mention to those who donated so generously to the Poppy Fund.

Going through the list, I saw that one family had made a donation to the Poppy Fund, in honour of Sam Fleming who had served in both the Boer War and WWI. His military record shows him as being a Paisley boy, so he had never caught my attention until today.

I am not going to tell his story today but when I did have a look at his long and distinguished career, I found one bit of info that I was not familiar with, and I felt that it was worth sharing.

Sam Fleming, for a period of his WWI career in the Canadian Army, was stationed in Kapuskasing. What was that all about? Well, people and Governments did suffer from a little bit of “paranoia” at that time.

The following is quoted from the “ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST”.  
Kapuskasing Internment Camp 1914-1920

*“When the First World War began, Canada established internment camps to detain persons viewed as security risks. Prejudice and wartime paranoia led to the needless internment of several thousand recent immigrants. The majority were Ukrainians whose homeland was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. One of the largest camps was built across the river from Kapuskasing at a remote railway siding. Despite harsh conditions, some 1,300 internees constructed buildings and cleared hundreds of acres of spruce forest for a government experimental farm. In 1917 most were paroled to help relieve wartime labour shortages. Thereafter the camp held prisoners of war and political radicals, including leaders of the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike.”*

It makes me again aware of what the Ukrainian people have gone through over less than 170 years. The Crimean War, the Austro-Hungarian wars, WWI, and still today the Russians are back for another go at them.

Meanwhile, we in Canada have had the benefit of having thousands of wonderful Ukrainian immigrants who have helped form the marvelous country that we all live in today. All this, in spite of the very shoddy treatment that many of them were given during WWI.

By: G. William Streeter  
11/23/2023





# Upcoming Legion Events



**Branch 340**  
**General Meeting**

**Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm**  
**in the Main Hall**

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

*Please support your Branch*



**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**



**Port Elgin Legion Br. 340**  
**Christmas Meat Draws**

**Friday, Dec. 1 at 8:00 pm**  
**Saturday, Dec. 2, 9 and 16 at 4:00 pm**

ASSORTED PRIZES TO BE WON  
JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF FUN



**Tara Br. 383**  
**December 2023 Events**

**Dec. 2      Meat Raffle      1 p.m.**



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




**Port Elgin Legion Br. 340**  
 630 Green Street  
 519-389-9917

# Christmas Toy Drive



Be one of Santa's Helpers and make a child's Christmas morning a little brighter by leaving a new unwrapped gift (to age 14) in our Christmas Toy Box and under our Christmas Tree

**The Toy Drive will run to December 16<sup>th</sup>**

Or, leave a donation in the Toy Drive Jar and items which are needed will be purchased


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

Thank you for your generosity





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 # M848066

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



Port Elgin Legion 340

# Christmas Holiday Hours

**Sun. Dec. 24: CLOSED**  
**Mon. Dec. 25: CLOSED**  
**Tues. Dec. 26: CLOSED**  
**Sun. Dec. 31: CLOSED**  
**Mon. Jan. 1: LEVEE – Open 1-7:00 pm**





## A Christmas Story that needs to be told again and again Rev. Chuck Beaton, Chaplain (Retired)

This Christmas story actually happened during the First World War. The conflict was still young and the fighting had only been for a few months, long enough for each side to dig their trenches, less than 100 yards apart. The German troops and the British and French troops could often hear each other talking.

On Christmas Eve, 1914, mysterious noises and sights were noticed in the German lines, enough to make our Allied troops suspicious. The British, Canadian and French soldiers were wary and thought 'the bastards' were up to something. What they saw was a line of German soldiers putting up small trees with candles on them, and as they were placed they began to sing Christmas carols. Our people were puzzled until one soldier stood up in plain view with a small tree in his hand. He was unarmed. As the carols echoed from their trenches, our men began to sing as well. Then one or two stood up and walked tentatively to the barbed wire. A large hole was cut, enough to pass through and they met a few enemy soldiers on the other side.

They chatted for a bit, exchanged cigarettes and began to help each other bury their dead, whose bodies were still in the mud and some hanging on the barbed wire. By this time, the trenches had emptied, and troops from both sides were mingling. The Germans brought schnapps and the Brits brought plum pudding. It was mutually agreed that they would not fire on each other for the rest of the night and nor would they fight on Christmas Day. They would play soccer instead.

When word got back to the "High Command" on both sides that troops were fraternizing, there was angry consternation..... that was no way to run a war! Both sides were ordered back to their trenches, to continue their duties and to fire at the enemy..... which they did at the end of Christmas Day, but over the heads of the people with whom they had been chatting and playing soccer.

Sometimes the greatest beauty emerges from deep tragedy. This forgotten Christmas Truce was one of history's most beautiful moments. The Scottish poet Frederick Niven, summed it up this way:

"O ye who read this truthful rime  
from Flanders, kneel and say:  
God speed the time when every day  
Shall be as Christmas Day."



**WINTER STAY**

Move into a Winter Stay suite and spend the winter connecting socially with people who share common interests.





**Winter Stay suites include housekeeping and hospitality service.**

As a winter stay guest you will have your choice of 1-bedroom or studio floor plan that include housekeeping, hospitality services and wellness programs. Elgin Lodge offers resort-like amenities that include; library, hair salon, chapel, fitness centre, indoor swimming pool and billiards lounge. Furnished suites are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Our team believes good health goes hand in hand with having a good time.**

Enjoying meals prepared by a Red-Seal Chef in our dining room or joining one of the hobby clubs, fitness classes or social events will act as a springboard for connecting with others.

**Contact us to learn more or book your Winter Stay Suite**

**Tel: 519.389.5457 Cell: 519.386.5325 email: sales@elginlodge.ca**



### A Different Christmas Poem

The embers glowed softly, and in their dim light, I gazed round the room and I cherished the sight.  
My wife was asleep, her head on my chest, my daughter beside me, angelic in rest.

Outside the snow fell, a blanket of white, transforming the yard to a winter delight.  
The sparkling lights in the tree I believe completed the magic that was Christmas Eve.

My eyelids were heavy, my breathing was deep, secure and surrounded by love I would sleep.  
In perfect contentment, or so it would seem, so slumbered perhaps I started to dream.

The sound wasn't loud, and it wasn't too near, but I opened my eyes when it tickled my ear.  
Perhaps just a cough, I didn't quite know, then the sure sound of footsteps outside in the snow.

My soul gave a tremble, I struggled to hear, and I crept to the door just to see who was near.  
Standing out in the cold and the dark of the night, a lone figure stood his face weary and tight.

A soldier, I puzzled, some twenty years old, perhaps a Trooper, huddled here in the cold.  
Alone in the dark, he looked up and smiled, standing watch over me, and my wife and my child.

"What are you doing?" I asked without fear, "Come in this moment, it's freezing out here!  
Put down your pack, brush the snow from your sleeve, you should be at home on a cold Christmas Eve!"

For barely a moment I saw his eyes shift away from the cold and the snow blown in drifts.  
To the window that danced with a warm fire's light then he sighed and he said  
"It's really all right, I'm out here by choice. I'm here every night."

"It's my duty to stand at the front of the line that separates you from the darkest of times.  
No one had to ask or beg or implore me, I'm proud to stand here like my father before me.

My Gramps died in Europe on a day in December," then he sighed,  
"That's a Christmas 'Gram always remembers."  
I've not seen my own son in more than a while, but my wife sends me pictures, he's sure got her smile.

Then he bent and he carefully pulled from his bag, the red and the white ... A Canadian flag.  
I can live through the cold and the being alone, away from my family, my house and my home.

I can stand at my post through the rain and the sleet; I can sleep in a foxhole with little to eat.  
I can carry the weight of killing another, or lay down my life with my sister and brother.

Who stand at the front against any and all, to ensure for all time that this flag will not fall."  
"So go back inside," he said, "harbor no fright, your family is waiting and I'll be all right."

"But isn't there something I can do, at the least, "Give you money," I asked, "or prepare you a feast?  
It seems all too little for all that you've done, for being away from your wife and your son."

Then his eye welled a tear that held no regret, "Just tell us you love us, and never forget.  
To fight for our rights back at home while we're gone, to stand your own watch, no matter how long.

For when we come home, either standing or dead, to know you remember we fought and we bled.  
It's payment enough, and with that we will trust, that we mattered to you as you mattered to us."

Author Unknown

