

Branch 340 Royal Canadian Legion: Monthly Newsletter - September 2025

A Message from the President

Dear Members and Friends,

I hope everyone had a beautiful summer. The weather was good for our area, and it was great to see so many tourists enjoying our town's hospitality.

Things may have been slow at the Branch over the summer, but with the kids back in school and people returning to their regular routines, we expect things to pick up. We have a lot planned this month, with **pool leagues, dart league, and weekly bingo** all back in action. We also have a BBQs scheduled on **September 19**, as well as a meat draw on **September 13**. Come on out and enjoy some time with friends.

As many of you know, we lost an Executive member this past month. Tom Jacques was a huge asset to us, always being the first to volunteer when help was needed. Tom was also a very good friend for many years, and I will especially miss his laughter and vast knowledge of local history.

Rest in peace, Tom.

Dan Kelly President, Branch 340 Royal Canadian Legion

Upcoming Events at a Glance

- **General Meeting:** Our next meeting is on **October 7, 2025, at 7:30 p.m.** in the Main Hall.
- **Meat Draw:** The next meat draw is on **September 13** in the club room, starting at **4:00 p.m.**
- **Beth's BBQs:** Join us on **September 19** in the club room, starting at **6:00 p.m.** Cost is **\$16 per person.**
- **Bingo:** Every **Wednesday night** in the Main Hall.
- **Dance Club:** Regular dance programs are on **September 19, and 26** in the Main Hall from **7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.** The cost is **\$5 per couple.** **Note: No dancing on September 12** due to a hall booking.

- **Club Room:** The club room will now be open on **Sundays from 3-7pm, starting September 7, 2025.**
 - [Online Calendar](#) check out the online calendar for the latest list of activities
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Branch 340 League Updates

- **Dart League:** Port Elgin League darts begins on **Monday, September 8.**
 - **Pool League:** Pool league will be held every **Tuesday and Wednesday.**
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Moment in History

Canada Goes to War – September 1939

The proclamation of Canada going to war with Germany was approved by our government on September 8, 1939, signed by Prime Minister Mackenzie King and Governor General Tweedsmuir, and delivered to King George VI on September 10th. It is a very important part of our history that changed our lives forever and established Canada as a supporter and protector of people in other parts of the world against tyranny.

We will remember them.

Bill Streeter

National Notable Dates: September 2025

- **September 2:** Second World War ends (1945), 80th anniversary
 - **September 3:** Merchant Navy Veterans Day
 - **September 10:** Canada goes to War (1939)
 - **September 14:** Terry Fox Run **45th anniversary run** – [Port Elgin/Saugeen Shores](#)
 - **September 21- 27:** National Legion Week
 - **September 30: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**
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Understanding the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Each year on **September 30**, we honour the children who never returned home and the survivors of residential schools. This day is a vital part of the reconciliation process. September 30 is also **Orange Shirt Day**, a day to raise awareness about the impacts of residential schools. We encourage all Canadians to wear orange to honour the thousands of survivors.

Veteran Profile

Do you have a story to share? We would like to feature a veteran's story in each newsletter. If you are a veteran and are willing to share your experiences, please contact us at Branch340@eastlink.ca.

Veteran Support: We Are Here for You

The Royal Canadian Legion is committed to supporting veterans and their families. Branch 340 is your local resource hub for vital services, including:

- Assistance with Veterans Affairs Canada claims and benefits
 - Mental health support and resources
 - Support for homeless veterans
 - Financial aid and benevolent funds
 - If you or a veteran you know needs assistance, please contact our Branch Service Officer, **Janice Pepe**, at **519-389-4139** or Branch340@eastlink.ca. All inquiries are confidential.
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Member Benefits: DNA Test Discover your ethnic origins and find new relatives with a simple DNA test.

- **End of Summer Sale - Extended!** Only **C\$56** (regularly C\$139).
 - **Includes:** DNA kit, a **30-day Complete free trial**, and **free shipping**.
 - **How it Works:** A simple cheek swab takes just two minutes. Mail it to the lab, and you'll receive your results online in about four weeks.
 - **Download offer from** [Member Benefits](#).
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Youth & Education Programs

- **National Youth Remembrance Contests:** The Legion National Foundation invites Canadian youth to honour Veterans through submissions of posters and literary works, visual art, writing, and video productions.

- **Bursary Assistance Program:** Financial assistance of **\$1,250 per scholastic year** is available to qualifying students who are members, veterans, or their family members. The deadline for applications is the last Friday of March 2026.
 - For more information, please visit the bursary section of our [website](#) or contact the Program Coordinator at bursary@on.legion.ca or **1-888-207-0939**.
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Membership & Volunteering: Join Our Family!

Welcome New Members: We'd like to extend a warm welcome to our new

members:

L-R Blair Eby (membership committee), Matt Turcotte, Mike Fenton, Dean Nelson, Ashley Russel-Taylor, Dan Kelly (Branch 340 President)

In Remembrance:

Brian James Henderson

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the sudden passing of Brian James Henderson on Friday, August 22, 2025.

He was the proud father of his three daughters, Paige, Emma (Nathanael) and Hannah (Troy) and will be fondly remembered by their mother, Brenda (née Whetton).

Brian was equally known for his love of cooking, especially barbecuing and preparing unforgettable meals for family and friends. His passion for great food led him to proudly own and operate Hoofin' it Butcher Shop in Port Elgin, where he shared his craft with the community.

Brian never met a stranger - only friends he had yet to meet. He thrived in social gatherings, where his laughter, stories and easygoing charm made everyone feel welcome, especially

at every local Legion. Generous to his core, he was always ready to lend a hand—or the very shirt off his back.

[Obituary](#) In lieu of flowers, donations to Breakthrough T1D (formerly JDRF) would be appreciated by the family

Thomas Henry Jacques

We are deeply saddened by the passing of Thomas Henry Jacques on August 21st, at the age of 63. A lifelong resident of Port Elgin, Tom was a proud and active member of Branch 340. He served for many years on the Executive and was best known as the organizer of the Legion's popular meat rolls.

He faced his illness with courage and gratitude for the care and support he received. At his request, cremation has taken place, he will be laid to rest alongside his parents at Sanctuary Park Cemetery, Port Elgin.

A life well-lived with friends, good times, and community involvement. He was a man who looked for the best in others and gave the best he had. Tom will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and his community.

Rest easy, Tommy.

[Obituary](#) In lieu of flowers donations may be made to The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 340 in Tom's name.

Poppy Update

- Start date for public distribution: October 31, 2025.
- Donations and countertop boxes: October 31, 2025

Branch 340 business arising from General meeting September 2, 2025

Notice of Motion presented by Don Lindhorst

Notice of Motion is hereby given that Branch 340 purchase a new chairlift at a cost of \$38,250 (HST exempt) plus electrical costs to be determined at the time of installation; monies from the building Fund & General Account; signed and dated by the presenting member to be presented for consideration, discussion and a vote for acceptance at the General Meeting on 7 October 25

We Need You! We are always looking for volunteers to help with events and activities. Your time and talents are invaluable! Sign up at the bar or email us at Branch340@eastlink.ca.

BINGO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Wednesday evenings

Purpose: Create a reliable re-occurring community event (average participation is about 70 people)

Raise funds for local charities (distributed through the Branch 340 charity program)

- **Time:** 5:00pm (or as soon after) - 9:30pm
 - 6:00pm (or as soon after) - 9:30pm

- **Positions:**
 - Sales - Set up/Bingo card sales/tear down (2 people per shift)
 - Floor - sell Bonanza cards, identify and reward bingo winners, tear down (2 people/shift)
- **Skills needed:** fun/ friendly personality, ability to work with people, reliable
- **Students:**
 - Set up tables/chairs during the day on Wednesday under the supervision of a Legion member - Take down same time Thursday
 - Work the floor during the evening.
- **Contact:** branch340@eastlink.ca Please identify your availability in your message.

Editor's Desk

Do you have information you'd like to share with the membership? Please send it to branch340newsletter@gmail.com for the next newsletter. A heartfelt thanks to regular contributor Bill Streeter; his stories and insights are valued by all.

Connect With Us!

- **Address:** 630 Green St. PO Box 359, Port Elgin, ON
- **Phone:** 519-832-2903 (Office)
- **Phone:** 519-389-9917 (Clubroom)
- **Email:** Branch340@eastlink.ca
- **Website:** www.Branch340.ca
- **Facebook:** Branch340 Port Elgin

Disclaimer: Details may change. Please check our website or contact the Branch directly for the most up-to-date information.

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