



Port Elgin Legion Branch 340

P.O. Box 359, 630 Green Street
Port Elgin, Ontario N0H 2C0
519-389-9917
www.branch340.ca



DECEMBER 2012

BRANCH LINE

Inside this issue you will find.... what is happening this month... Committee Reports.... general information and a wee bit of humor too. We welcome your articles and will be more than glad to insert them in future issues. Thanks to those who have submitted in the past.

We had a wonderful day for November 11th. We thank Cde Norma for her hard work and diligence in making sure the day's events proceeded as planned.

Just to let you know that we did have a lot going on and lots of pictures were taken on Remembrance Day....so there will be more pictures in the January newsletter from November 11th.

Please check out the poster provided in this issue for the hours of operation for the holiday season.

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

At this time Bob and I would like to take this opportunity to thank our readers for your continued support and submissions to the Branch Line. We are very pleased with our accomplishments last year, as you will read further in the newsletter.

On behalf of our family to yours, we wish you a very Merry Christmas with your family and loved ones, a very prosperous New Year and health and happiness throughout.



The Editor



LEST WE FORGET



Ladies Auxiliary President's Message

May the joy of the Christmas Season be with you all.
May the New Year bring Peace.

Diane Mills
Ladies Auxiliary President

MEMBERSHIP

Another Early Bird Campaign is complete and I would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to all of you who renewed your membership dues during this period. I am hopeful that our Early Bird Award will be an even higher percentage than last year. Thank you for your continued support.

Sharen Maas
Membership Chairman
519-389-2412
jsmaas@brucetelecom.com

SPORTS

Mixed Team Darts will be hosted by Southampton on December 16th

Double and Singles Darts will be hosted by Hepworth-Shallow Lake on January 13th

Eight - Ball will be hosted by Owen Sound on January 20th

If anyone is interested in participating in these events please call me at 519-832-9053.
The entry deadline is usually two weeks prior to each event.

ZONE CRIBBAGE

Zone Cribbage was on Sunday, November 18th and hosted by Port Elgin Branch 340. The winner was the Kim Ball Team from Tara. We do have 2 teams to go on to District in Kincardine namely Shirley Dadswell and George Walker's teams.

Thanks to those who set up and took down tables and chairs for this event. Special thanks to Joan Hymmen and Les Virtue for selling the 50/50 tickets -- our Branch realized a profit of just over \$200.

Mary Alexander
Sports Chairman
marylousunsets@bmts.com

POPPY

I would like to thank those who helped in any way with this year's Poppy Campaign. We had another successful year. Please remember that participation in the Poppy Campaign is part of the oath taking when joining this great organization.

Mary Alexander
Poppy Chairman
519-832-9053
marylousunsets@bmts.com

WHEELBARROW DRAW

The Membership is asked to assist in selling our Wheelbarrow Draw Tickets. The proceeds from the sale of tickets will benefit our Building Maintenance Fund and also our commitment to our local Legion Pee Wee Hockey Team. Our team is in need of new jerseys, as they don't last forever. Tickets for selling can be obtained from the Canteen Bar Steward.

Mary Alexander
519-832-9053
marylousunsets@bmts.com

YOUTH EDUCATION

The judging of the Remembrance Day Posters, Essays and Poems Contest was held November 17th with 369 entries from four schools; 257 posters, 97 poems and 15 essays. 11 entries will be advancing to Zone.

Total prize money awarded was \$1,015. All the winners are congratulated and wished every success at the next level of competition. The judges who gave freely of their time are sincerely thanked; we couldn't do it without them.

Dave Grieve
Youth Education Chairman
519-832-5109
c.grieve@bmts.com

WHY WE LOVE CHILDREN

1) OPINIONS

On the first day of school, a first-grader handed his teacher a note from his mother. The note read, 'The opinions expressed by this child are not necessarily those of his parents.'

2) KETCHUP

A woman was trying hard to get the ketchup out of the jar. During her struggle the phone rang so she asked her 4-year-old daughter to answer the phone. 'Mommy can't come to the phone to talk to you right now. She's hitting the bottle.'

3) DRESS-UP

A little girl was watching her parents dress for a party. When she saw her dad donning his tuxedo, she warned, 'Daddy, you shouldn't wear that suit.'

'And why not, darling?'

'You know that it always gives you a headache the next morning.'

4) POLICE

While taking a routine vandalism report at an elementary school, I was interrupted by a little girl about 6 years old. Looking up and down at my uniform, she asked, 'Are you a cop? 'Yes', I answered and continued writing the report. My mother said if I ever needed help I should ask the police. Is that right?' 'Yes, that's right,' I told her. 'Well, then,' she said as she extended her foot toward me, 'would you please tie my shoe?'

5) NUDITY

A little boy got lost at the YMCA and found himself in the women's locker room. When he was spotted, the room burst into shrieks, with ladies grabbing towels and running for cover. The little boy watched in amazement and then asked, 'What's the matter, haven't you ever seen a little boy before?'

6) POLICE #2

It was the end of the day when I parked my police van in front of the station. As I gathered my equipment, my K-9 partner, Jake, was barking, and I saw a little boy staring in at me. 'Is that a dog you got back there?' he asked.

'It sure is,' I replied.

Puzzled, the boy looked at me and then towards the back of the van. Finally he said, 'What'd he do?'

PUBLIC RELATIONS



Cde Robert Harrison is presented with the following Awards by Cde Mike Atkinson, Honours & Awards Chairman, Provincial Command.

As Editor of the Legion Newsletter:

District "C" – 1st Place Bulletin Competition, Class "C", Branch 340, Port Elgin, Robert Harrison, Editor 2012

And,

Provincial Command, General Excellence Award, Branch Bulletin Competition Class "C", Port Elgin Branch 340, "Branch Line", Editor Robert Harrison 2011-2012.

These Awards were presented at the District "C" Fall Convention in October. I am honoured to be the recipient of these 2 Awards and I would be very remiss if I didn't say how grateful I am to my wife Rhonda, who is behind the production of the monthly Bulletin. We are very proud of our accomplishments and strive to make "The Branch Line" one you look forward to reading each month.

Robert Harrison
Past Public Relations Officer

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION, BRANCH 340

CHRISTMAS WHEELBARROW DRAW



Draw to be held at the Branch
on Friday, December 23rd
at 5:00 p.m.

L.L.# M674234 Tickets \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00



The Branch is once again selling tickets for the Christmas Wheelbarrow Draw. The prize is in an actual wheelbarrow and holds a variety of goodies for you to enjoy. Tickets are available at the Canteen and will also be sold by your fellow Comrades. Partial proceeds to the Saugeen Shores Minor Hockey Association and a percentage to the Branch Building/Maintenance Fund.

Good luck to everyone and to the winner Enjoy your goodies!!



REMEMBRANCE DAY 2012



This year, we had a beautiful day to honour our Veterans and Fallen Comrades. The weather co-operated and what a pleasure it was to see so many of our Comrades and members of the community join us for our Cenotaph Service.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped me at the Cenotaph and Church – I don't want to put forth all the names as I might miss someone but you all know who you are and just know it is sincerely appreciated; we wouldn't have a successful Remembrance Day without all the volunteers helping whether it is big or small.

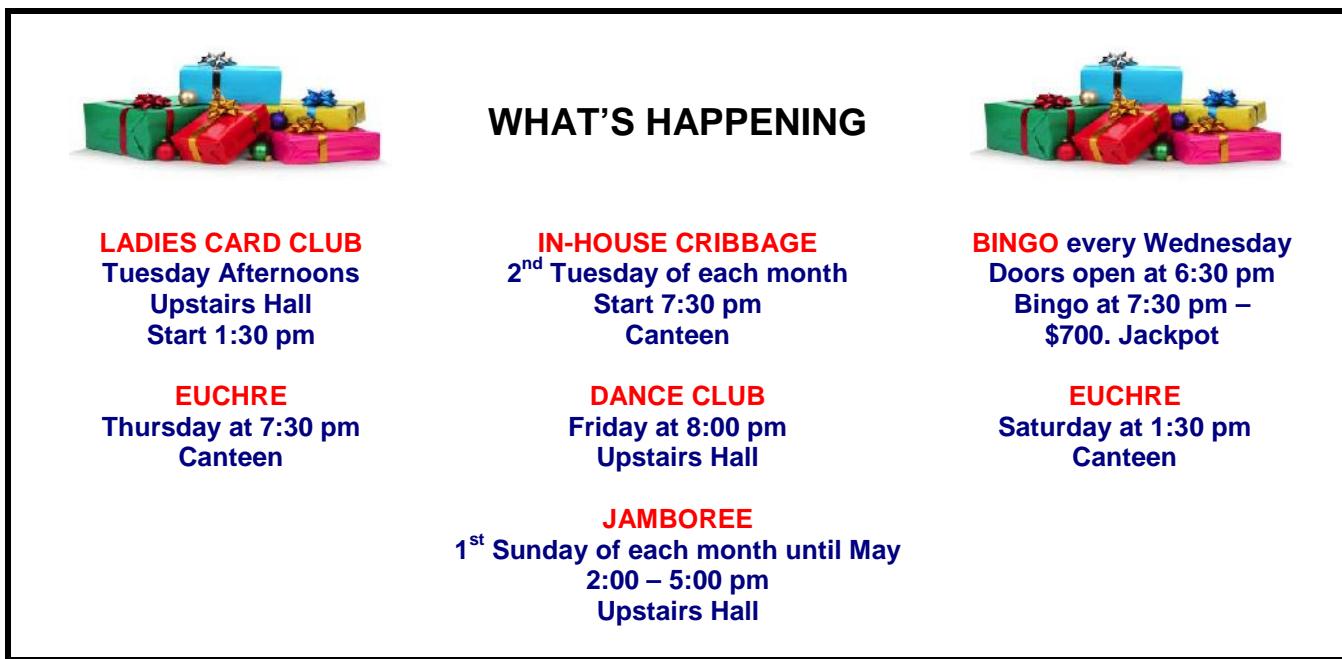
I would be remiss if I didn't thank Terry Mills & Colin Mills who set up the sound equipment every year and without this, we wouldn't have a very good service.

Also, our Ladies provided us with an excellent lunch – as always. We had great entertainment in the afternoon provided by Leo Campbell and many other musicians – it was a great afternoon to relax and reminisce.

Our Colour Party did us proud along with the Pipe Band; this year, we had the Air Cadet Band play at the Cenotaph and they did a wonderful job.

Until we meet again on November 11th, thank you all!

Norma Dudgeon
Remembrance Day Chairman



WHAT'S HAPPENING

LADIES CARD CLUB Tuesday Afternoons Upstairs Hall Start 1:30 pm	IN-HOUSE CRIBBAGE 2 nd Tuesday of each month Start 7:30 pm Canteen	BINGO every Wednesday Doors open at 6:30 pm Bingo at 7:30 pm – \$700. Jackpot
EUCHRE Thursday at 7:30 pm Canteen	DANCE CLUB Friday at 8:00 pm Upstairs Hall	EUCHRE Saturday at 1:30 pm Canteen
JAMBOREE 1 st Sunday of each month until May 2:00 – 5:00 pm Upstairs Hall		

Mary-Jo was going to the Christmas office party but needed a new dress.

So, she went out shopping and in the clothing store she asked the assistant, 'May I try on that dress in the window, please?'

'Certainly not, madam,' responded the salesgirl, 'You'll have to use the fitting room like everyone else.'

NOVEMBER 11TH PARADE & PRESENTATIONS

What a wonderful day for a Parade and Remembrance. We were certainly gifted with unseasonable weather conditions as we gathered with family and friends to honour those who have fallen and those still serving abroad.

Photographs are taken during the different aspects of the day. There will be more pictures in the January issue to share with you from this day.

**AIR CADETS
340 (Griffin) Squadron, Port Elgin**



**SAUGEEN SHORES POLICE SERVICES
SAUGEEN SHORES FIRE DEPARTMENT**



Cde Mike Atkinson is presenting Cde Charles Ellis with his 30 Years of Service pin

Cde George Sicord is presenting Cde Mike Atkinson with his 40 Years of Service pin.



Cde Mike Atkinson is presenting Cde Andrew Haggins with his 40 Years of Service Pin.



Cde Mike Atkinson presents Cde Wayne Eagles with his 45 Years of Service Pin.



PRESENTATIONS TO BRANCH 340

2 of the Presentations made on November 11th.

(Left Side) L/A President Diane Mills presented Cde Mary Alexander, Poppy Chairman, with a cheque for \$5,000. Proceeds to the Branch General Fund.

(Right Side) Cde Mike Atkinson accepts a cheque in the amount of \$1,000. from L/A President Diane Mills. Proceeds to the Cenotaph Fund.



Cadets from the Squadron are invited to join us for the Luncheon which our Ladies Auxiliary graciously prepared for us this day. The Corps marched in the Parade; others assisted at the Cenotaph, they provided the band at the Cenotaph and canvassed poppies during the Campaign.



It was very nice to see our Veterans, Members and loved ones join us for luncheon after the Church Service. After an enjoyable luncheon provided by the Ladies Auxiliary, Cde George Sicord presented Years of Service Pins for Comrades who have achieved 5 Years of Service and up to and including one Comrade with 65 Years of Service.



**AIR CADETS
340 (Griffin) Squadron, Port Elgin**



It's been another great start to a new season with the 340 Port Elgin Air Cadets. The new season started with 6 new recruits and 2 transfers from other Squadrons. The Squadron's strength now stands at 32 Cadets, and they hope to continue to grow that number as the season progresses. Also in September, 25 Cadets from 340 Squadron joined with 25 Cadets from 19 Stratford Squadron for a Fall Survival Camp where they practiced starting fires, building shelters, and using a compass. All survived!!

At Pumpkinfest, a number of Cadets helped with the Legion Breakfasts, several others assisted the Lion's Club with the BBQ, and still others helped put on a Cadet display in front of Maple Square Mall with the assistance of a demonstration glider loaned to the Squadron from Western Ontario Cadet Gliding Centre. Many people came to see the glider and many young people took the opportunity to sit in the glider and have their picture taken.

The next major event for the Cadets was the Poppy Campaign. Fifteen Cadets and 5 CIC Staff had the honour of participating in the 2012 Poppy Campaign on 2 successive Saturdays, followed by participation in Remembrance Day on November 11th. The SDSS Band was not available this year, so a number of Cadets were brought together to form a band for the Remembrance Day services. Still others were involved in the march to the Cenotaph, and other Cadets helped dignitaries to lay wreaths.

By the time you receive this newsletter; the Cadets will have also accompanied RCL Branch 340 in the Port Elgin Santa Claus Parade on November 24th and will be preparing to assist RCL Branch 155 in the Southampton Santa Claus Parade on December 7th.

Steven Pellow, Squadron Director
Member of the Ontario Provincial Committee of the Air Cadet League
Branch 340 Air Cadets Liaison
Steve.pellow@gmail.com

BRANCH BARBECUE – Friday, November 23, 2012

Although Baked Beans and Hotdogs aren't exactly "barbecue", we had a good time none the less. Thanks to Brian Henderson of "Hoof 'n It" who sponsored this months event. It was very good and filling.

PRO Dan Kelly will be creating a calendar consisting of dates starting January 2013, which will be open to anyone or some ones that wish to host an event. Again, it doesn't have to be barbecue – but whatever you want. For more information contact Cde Dan.

Proceeds have been earmarked to the Building Fund. As you are aware the Branch has been under going various renovations, other projects are on-going and we still have more to do. Your continued support is appreciated

Cde Dan Kelly
Public Relations Chairman
519-389-2358
dankelly@bmts.com

TURKEY & MEAT RAFFLES

PORT ELGIN LEGION, 630 GREEN STREET
519-389-9917

Friday	December 7	8:00 pm
Saturday	December 8	4:00 pm
Saturday	December 15	4:00 pm
Saturday	December 22	4:00 pm

Variety of other meat prizes to be won

Everyone Welcome

**Bring your friends for a great time
We hope to see you there**



17 Ways To Cook A Turkey

1. Go buy a turkey
2. Take a drink of whisky
3. Put turkey in the oven
4. Take another 2 drinks of whisky
5. Set the degree at 375 ovens
6. Take 3 more whiskys of drink
7. Turk the bastey
8. Whisky another bottle of get
9. Ponder the meat thermometer
10. Glass yourself a pour of whisky
11. Bake the whisky for 4 hours
12. Take the oven out of the turkey
13. Floor the turkey up off of the pick
14. Turk the carvey
15. Get yourself another scuttle of botch
16. Tet the sable and pour yourself a glass of turkey
17. Bless the dinner and pass out

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."





CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S DAY HOURS

Monday, December 24
Canteen Open 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm



Tuesday, December 25
CLOSED



Wednesday, December 26
Canteen Open 3:00 pm - Midnight



Monday, December 31
Canteen Open 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm



Tuesday, January 01
New Year's Day Levee

1:00 pm - 7:00 pm



***Wishing you and your loved ones Peace, Health, Happiness and
Prosperity in the coming New Year***

Port Elgin Legion Br. 340
630 Green Street

New Year's Day Levee

Tuesday, January 01, 2013
1:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Entertainment provided by
“Slight Return”

Join us and bring in the New Year
with old friends and new ones!

Social Time and Entertainment
Open to the Public



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 519-389-9917

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2 JAMBOREE 2 – 5 PM	3 MONDAY NIGHT DART LEAGUE 8:00 PM	4 LADIES CARD GROUP 1:30 PM GEN. MTG. 7:30 PM	5 BINGO 7:30 PM	6 EUCHRE 7:30 PM TOY DRIVE ENDS	7 DANCE CLUB 8:00 PM MEAT ROLL 8:00 PM	8 MEAT ROLL 4:00 PM
9	10 MONDAY NIGHT DART LEAGUE 8:00 PM	11 LADIES CARD GROUP 1:30 PM L/A GEN. MTG. 7:30 PM IN-HOUSE CRIBBAGE 7:30 PM	12 BINGO 7:30 PM	13 EUCHRE 7:30 PM	14 DANCE CLUB 8:00 PM	15 MEAT ROLL 4:00 PM
16	17 MONDAY NIGHT DART LEAGUE 8:00 PM	18 LADIES CARD GROUP 1:30 PM EXEC MTG 7:30 PM	19 BINGO 7:30 PM	20 EUCHRE 7:30 PM	21 DANCE CLUB 8:00 PM	22 MEAT ROLL 4:00 PM
23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26 BINGO 7:30 PM CANCELLED	27 EUCHRE 7:30 PM	28 DANCE CLUB 8:00 PM	29
30	31	JAN 01/13 NEW YEARS LEVEE Everyone Welcome				

~ Please join us for our various events and help support your Branch ~