



DECEMBER 2016 BRANCH LINE



Royal Canadian Legion Branch 340
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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. Anyone wishing to contribute to the Branch Line, please submit your articles to Branch340newsletter@gmail.com

Once again our Branch will be collecting donations for our annual toy drive. The collection box is located in the Canteen lounge room. We will be partnering with the Iota Phi Sorority and the Salvation Army. A donation of an unwrapped gift (up to age 14) or a monetary donation would be greatly appreciated. Your donation will make Christmas much brighter for our children in our community.

Mark your calendar for the upcoming Turkey Draws happening this month. The dates are included inside.

We are pleased to announce the Branch will be hosting the annual New Year's Levee. "The Dann's" will be the entertainment for the afternoon.

The Branch will have Christmas Hours and the details are inside this issue too.

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

If you no longer wish to receive the Branch Line newsletter, please leave a message at Branch340newsletter@gmail.com

On behalf of my husband Bob and our family we would like to wish you and your family the beauty and love of the Christmas season. May warmth fill your home and may blessings fill your life in the upcoming year.

The Editor





PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Hello Comrades,

Hope this time of the year finds everyone healthy and happy. We are preparing for Mother Nature to start dealing us some snow. Hope you are as well.

November was a very important time for our Legion;

1. We continue to get new members signing up.
2. Our Remembrance Day ceremony was hugely successful with a large crowd at our Cenotaph joining us. Thanks to everyone that participated. Our Colour Guard looked great and Mike did another fine job as the Parade Marshall. Norma, once again organized a finely tuned ceremony. Great job Norma.
3. Our canteen was decorated with many of the poster and essays for our Remembrance Day ceremony. Thanks to Stacey and her dedication towards our Youth Education program.
4. The Santa Claus Parade was led by our Colour Party again this year. Nice job to Bob and his crew as this was not an easy task knowing the weather was not cooperating.
5. Our Turkey Raffles has been organized by Tom once again this year. The first raffle is this Friday December 2, 2016 and continues for the next 3 Saturdays. Come out and enjoy some fellowship with your comrades.

In closing, Cynthia and I would like to wish you all good health and happiness as we come up to the Christmas season for 2016. All the best to you and your family.

We will remember them.

Yours in Comradeship,

President Dan Kelly

Dankelly@bmts.com



1st VICE PRESIDENT



A new year will soon be upon us so at this time I would like to thank each and every volunteer who helps to keep our Branch one of the best in our Zone. With your help we have been able to raise significant funds to help our veterans and our community.

I would like to especially thank the Committee that constructed our new display case representing our modern veterans and brought the project to a reality. It was our new veterans who supplied all the pictures and equipment. I urge all members to come in and see the display.

A new monument has been erected in our Cenotaph Park to honour all our veterans. There will be a formal dedication planned for the spring of 2017.

These are only a couple of the items which we have accomplished and once again have proven to be one of the best Legion Branches.

I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

In Comradeship,

Robert Harrison

1st Vice President

bnrshow@eastlink.ca

BURSARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



The Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Command
Charitable Foundation
&
Royal Canadian Legion
Ladies' Auxiliary Ontario Command



OPEN TO STUDENTS OF:

- *Ex-Service personnel or currently serving members of The Canadian Forces (Regular, Reserve & Merchant Navy) & their children & grandchildren;
- Commonwealth war veterans & their children & grandchildren
- *Ordinary & Life Members of The Royal Canadian Legion - children & grandchildren
- * Associate members of The Royal Canadian Legion & their children only
- * LA members & their children & grandchildren

Apply early to avoid being disappointed!

Required Documentation

- *OSAP Documentation* *School Endorsement *
- *Bursary Assistance Application*
- *Membership verification from the Branch*
- *Proof of Service - discharge certificate/record of service*
(proof of relationship required)

Download the application from on.legion.ca



Contact your local Royal Canadian Legion Branch,
Ladies' Auxiliary, Financial Aid Office,
Ontario Command or Service Bureau Office for
an application



Applications **must** be sent to Ontario Command

Program **opens September** and closes the last Friday of March each year.

The Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Command
89 Industrial Parkway North, Aurora Ont. L4G 4C4
1-888-207-0939 info@on.legion.ca

The season is now half over. Remember applications received after the last Friday of March deadline date will not be given consideration.

This is a \$500.00 per year program. For more information please refer to the poster included in the newsletter or contact the undersigned at any time. If you need any help with the paperwork please feel free to contact me.

Happy Holidays,

Robert Harrison
Bursary Chairman
bnrshow@eastlink.ca

Greetings Comrades

On Remembrance Day this year 60 members were recognized with their years of service Legion lapel pins. The lapel pins come in 5 year increments and unfortunately only a few were in attendance to receive them however please feel free to contact myself to receive your award.

"RECOGNITION - the acknowledgement of achievement, service and merit."

The volunteer H & A position is to recognize our #340 members for service to their Branch. I'll take this opportunity to draw your attention to those that gave their time to the Remembrance Day proceedings as they deserve special recognition.

Our Veterans WWII; Bob Maas, Korea; Chris Kemp, Afghanistan; Mike Hobson ingratiated the local news with being advocates for not only each of their era but advocates for 'remembering' their fellow comrades and justifying the fact that many paid the ultimate sacrifice and are on Gods honour roll.

Our property chairman Don Dudgeon did a splendid job of hanging our new outdoor banner. It is most definitely visible during the two weeks of Remembrance and it brought a heightened awareness to the public of Poppy season.

Remembrance Day was precarious with weather and thanks again to everyone that assisted in setting up the Cenotaph. Our Remembrance Day Chairlady, Norma Dudgeon and Veteran Terry Mills, your continued efforts certainly don't go unnoticed and both of you deserve not only a huge thank you but a standing ovation.

Our Colour Guard under the direction of Robert Harrison was exemplary and Parade Marshall Mike Hobson, we certainly are thankful and your commands were not only heard but couldn't be improved upon. Well done to both you gentlemen.

PRO, Rhonda without you as Public Relations the photos and Legion publicity would not happen. Excellent job, Rhonda. Your years of experience are truly appreciated.

Our newly elected Youth Education Chairman, Stacey Hobson did a wonderful job in posting our school winners for the Remembrance Day Poster and Literacy contest. Everyone was keen to see the accomplishments of our students.

Our #340 Ladies Auxiliary, lunch was lovely, and we were delighted as members that the concession was made to have it all downstairs in our members lounge. I believe next year, considering it will be a Saturday that this Branch will give a lot of extra hands to make this possible also. It's going to be very busy in 2017 with the 'Dann's playing' in the afternoon. Yes, our friend gave us a signed contract, on a cocktail napkin.....we ran out of proper paper! 'The Dann's are playing' next Remembrance Day!! Our heartfelt thanks Leo and friends. I'll be retiring home for a big nap somewhere between Service Pins andoh yes'The Dann's are playing, in case you missed that!!!!!!

In closing, our Executive staff deserves thanks, our members deserve thanks however the most important ones are 'The Veterans'. We humbly thank you, all of you for our freedom, rights and liberties in this land called CANADA.

On behalf of the Honours & Awards Chair, it's been my privilege to oversee this position and serve on the 2016/2017 Executive Council.

Elizabeth Eby
Honours & Awards Chair
bizebys@gmail.com

On November 11th recipients for Years of Service Pins were recognized.



Cde Jack Chapman received his Branch Service Medal from Cde Elizabeth Eby, H & A Chairman



Cde Tom Steel receives his pin for 55 Years of Service



Cde Mike Hobson receives his pin for 5 Years of Service

SERVICE PINS - 2016

ORDINARY				
<u>5 Years</u>	<u>10 Years</u>	<u>15 Years</u>	<u>20 Years</u>	<u>30 Years</u>
Mike Hobson	Gregory Briggs	Ralph Zadow	Jack McDonald	Dean Bousquet
Dave Kinsmen	Michael Corrigan			Merv Brand
James Spaetzel	Demick Hamer			Clint Morten
	Dan Rivett			
	Tom Rivett			
<u>35 Years</u>	<u>40 Years</u>	<u>45 Years</u>	<u>55 Years</u>	
Terry Hill	Terry Mills	George Harris	Tom Steel	
		Jorgen Lassen	Norm Kaufman	
ASSOCIATE				
<u>5 Years</u>	<u>10 Years</u>	<u>15 Years</u>	<u>20 Years</u>	<u>20 Years Cont</u>
Earl Anderson	Shirley Dadswell	Lynn Gorwill	Jay Arbuckle	George Jacklin
Martin Corbett	Roger Goulet	Kimberly Koevoet	Steve Caloren	Shirley Jacklin
Larry De Moor	Mike Myatt	Peter Koevoet	Laverne Campbell	Jeffrey Schultz
Jeffrey Dennis	David Scotto	Lyle Lawson	Melanie Carr	Billy White
Robert Grey	Janice Virtue	Carol Purbrick	Derrick Coulter	Brad White
Brinda Smits	Garry Winnitoy	Robert Sturgeon	Eldon Earl	
Hector Therman				
<u>25 Years</u>	<u>30 Years</u>	<u>45 years</u>		
Fred Knibb	Michael Conway	Don Dudgeon		
Dennis Dudgeon	George Walker			
James Galivan				
Richard Przybysz				
Margaret Schell				
Rick Schell				
Karen Smith				
Noel Smith				
AFFILIATE VOTING				
<u>5 Years</u>	<u>10 Years</u>			
Barb Cobean	Bob Clarence			
Claude Foy	Sally Clarence			
	Erin Fenton			
	Joanne McArthur			
	Ernest Oliver			
	Doug Virtue			



Members are reminded to ensure their current information is up to date such as addresses and phone numbers. If you have recently had a change of address or other changes please leave the particulars with the Bar Steward and the Membership Register can be updated; or contact the undersigned.

The Early Bird Campaign ended November 30th. Membership Fees are now \$55.00 as of December 1st. Thank you to the members that took advantage of the early payment discount.

It is no longer necessary to have any type of military background to become a member of the Royal Canadian Legion. We are always looking for new members and would like to see more people join our Branch. Please see the Bar Steward for applications.

As members please attend the General Meetings which are held on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. (July and August are exempt). This is your Branch and the meetings are for your benefit so you will know what is happening in your Branch.



It was with great pleasure that we initiated Wayne Griffith and Brad Kauffeldt at our General Meeting November 1st, and also Roger Bentley the next day. Welcome to this great Organization.

We continue to receive applications and look forward to having you join us.

L-R: Cde Sharen Maas, Membership Chairman, Cde Wayne Griffith, Cde Brad Kauffeldt and Cde Gord Kelly.



Last Post

Yvonne "Chip" Inkster

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.

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



This year, it was a cold, windy day to honour our Veterans and Fallen Comrades but what a pleasure it was to see so many of our Comrades, children and members of the community join us for our Cenotaph service.

We had many compliments this year of what a beautiful Cenotaph service we presented but this could not have been done without all the help "behind the scenes". Every year, our faithful volunteers help with preparing the Cenotaph with the wreaths and then putting everything away. The church set-up / the co-ordination of the wreaths that were purchased / the crosses / crowd control, the parade, etc. is only a tip of the iceberg of things that need to be done.

So, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped me at the Cenotaph, the church and behind the scenes – 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. And when you need help ASAP, call your President – thanks Dan!

Having said that, I will list a few of our key people that help make our special day a success:

Poppy Chairman:	Elizabeth Eby
Parade Marshall:	Mike Hobson
Colour Sergeant:	Bob Harrison
Cenotaph Sgt at Arms:	Andrew Reinhart
Sound System:	Terry Mills
Crosses:	Jack Chapman

We did have a bit of a glitch this year with the sound system but I know our Terry Mills will have the bugs worked out for next year.

It was such a great pleasure working with our Poppy Chairman, Elizabeth Eby as she is well organized and very efficient. Thanks Elizabeth!

Also, our ladies provided us with an excellent lunch – as always. Our Colour Party did us proud along with the Pipe Band and our Air Cadet's role at the Church and the Cenotaph was superb.

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

Norma Dudgeon
Remembrance Day Chairman



Members of the Branch Colour Party attend the Remembrance Day Church Service on Sunday, November 6, 2016

Air Cadets FSgt Fallon Laur and WOII Allison Wilson place poppies in remembrance of our fallen Comrades.

Greetings Comrades

I understand you would like my comments on the 2016 Poppy Campaign as well as a monthly breakdown on the Poppy Trust expenditures at #340. The monthly balance sheet will be available and read at each of our General Meetings, on the first Tuesday of each month according to our By-laws. We are looking forward to seeing you in attendance for these meetings and commentary.

Although the Poppy Campaign commences the end of October and comes to fruition on November 11, the Poppy Trust Fund is open for business on a year round basis. When Remembrance Day has passed it certainly doesn't mean that the carpet gets rolled up and the doors shut. The needs of ALL Veterans, Veterans Comforts, Air Cadets and allowable expenditures like assisting to disaster relief or the wish lists of our local and regional Hospitals or Hospice care, etc. does not cease. The financial needs and requirements are still coming in all year and becoming more so. The #340 Poppy Trust Fund recognizes zero dollars from Membership dues, bar sales or our special dinners, it comes from the public.

Quoted from the 2016 revision of the Poppy Manual.

"Poppy Funds are made available through the generosity of the Canadian public and are part of the public trust fund between Canadians and the Legion. To safeguard this bond, Poppy Trust Funds must be held in trust at each Branch and Command level of the Legion. They may not be used as, or in place of, general or any other Branch funds."

"In order for the Poppy Campaign to be successful, all Legion members at each level of the organization must cooperate and communicate with each other to the fullest. There is a saying 'a chain is only as strong as its weakest link' - and this holds just as true for the Poppy Campaign as anything else. In short, it is through the cooperative effort of each member that we achieve success."

The Branch #340 Poppy Campaign is an administrative chore handled up until now and strictly by the Poppy Chairman. The #340 Poppy Chair has over the last 4 terms identified a solid Vice Chair role to the campaign and this coming year will be identifying a 'Poppy Committee' to facilitate the administrative demands of our campaign.

COMRADES, by statistics, less than 0.05% of our Royal Canadian Legion Port Elgin Branch #340 Membership assisted with the 2016 Poppy Campaign. A staggering fact is that by stats even less than that recognized a conscious financial donation to the Poppy Trust Fund which aids greatly in our own community.

It was a sworn oath each of us took upon being granted 'membership' to assist with our biggest endeavour of the year, Poppy. It is also, and still is, a sworn oath of duty by each Ladies Auxiliary Member to assist with the Poppy Campaign.

To those of you that honoured your sworn oath of assisting with the Poppy Campaign, I would say 'Thank You, God Bless you and give you a proper General Salute, white gloves and beret included'. You are truly Canadians and salt of the earth respectable people.

Do you have what it takes to give more than 0.05% to the #340 future Poppy Campaign?

Donations to the trust fund are greatly appreciated. Please make cheques payable to the 'Royal Canadian Legion #340 - Poppy Trust Fund' and a receipt of donation will be sent to you.

My humble thanks and gratitude to our District Poppy Chairman Robert Grey, our Zone Poppy Chairman Robert Butchart, our Branch #340 Vice Poppy Chair Blair Eby, our Past Zone Poppy Chairlady Kathryn Eastwood, our Branch #340 Treasurer Norma Dudgeon, you all bring a paramount wealth of knowledge to what we as Legionnaires hold closest to our heart, the dignity and respect of all our Veterans.



Our Veterans: Bob Maas, WW11; Chris Kemp, Korea; and Mike Hobson, Afghanistan; Mike Hobson are advocates for not only each of their era but advocates for 'remembering' their fellow comrades and justifying the fact that many paid the ultimate sacrifice and are on Gods honour roll.

These Comrades were presented with their poppy to commemorate the beginning of the 2016 Poppy Campaign.

Lest We Forget

In Comradeship,

Elizabeth Eby
Executive Poppy Chair
bizebys@gmail.com



SERGEANT AT ARMS



At this time I would like to thank all the members of the Colour Party who participated in the various events this year. Especially to Cde Jack Chapman who has been a great supporter and still fills in if I am not available. Thank you, Jack.

We were all very proud to serve at the many events we were asked to attend this year. Next year we will have even more events with the 150th birthday of Canada and possible involvement in the Invictus Games and Torch Relay.

If you are interested and would like to be a flag bearer in the Colour Party please contact the undersigned.

Have a great holiday season and Happy New Year.

In Comradeship,

Robert Harrison
Sergeant At Arms
bnrshow@eastlink.ca

Did you know that according to the song, "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer", Santa has twelve reindeer? Sure, in the introduction it goes "There's Dasher and Dancer and Prancer and Vixen, Comet and Cupid and Donner and Blitzen..." That makes eight reindeer. Then there's Rudolph, of course, so that makes nine. Then there's Olive. You know, "Olive the other reindeer used to laugh..." That makes ten. The eleventh is Howe. You know, "Then Howe the reindeer loved him..." Eleven reindeer. Oh, and number 12? That's Andy! "Andy shouted out with glee." The proof is in the song!



MEMBERSHIP

The Royal Canadian Legion is unique in that it is a Canada wide non-profit Veteran's organization founded by Veterans for Veterans. Legion Branches are member oriented with a membership who believe in and promote the perpetuation of "Remembrance" and the welfare of our Veterans.

In 1926, the "Legion" in Canada was born out of a group of 15 Veterans organizations formed after WW1 to promote the welfare of its Veterans. The largest of this group was the "Great War Veterans Association" and the oldest was the "Army and Navy Veterans Association".

Thirteen of these organizations, including the "Great War Veterans Association" joined together to form the "**Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League**". In 1961, the "Act to Incorporate" was amended to change the name of the Canadian Legion to "**The Royal Canadian Legion**". The word "Royal" was conferred by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth in recognition of the Legion's 35 years of dedicated service.

Initially, the Legion was an organization composed entirely of Veterans. These members were ex-service men and women who came from all walks of life possessing the leadership skills and training learned as sailors, soldiers and airmen. As "Comrades-in-Arms" who shared a common background, they were part of a brotherhood who worked together over the years to improve pension benefits and living conditions for our Veterans and their families.

At present, there are **403** Legion Branches in Ontario, **1004** Branches in the rest of Canada, **14** Branches in the USA, **5** Branches in Europe and **1** Branch in Mexico, for a grand total of **1427** Branches. Legion Membership peaked at 602,000 members in 1984 and in **2016** that total now stands at nearly 300,000.

Today, there is no requirement to have a family link to a Veteran in order to become a member of the Royal Canadian Legion. Voting membership in the Legion is now open to any Canadian citizen of Federal voting age who supports the purposes and objects of the Royal Canadian Legion. Non-voting membership is also available to any non-Canadian citizen who is of Federal voting age.

Comrades, the Royal Canadian Legion is the cornerstone for many towns in Ontario. We continue to support our veterans as well as give back to the community. Last year we donated just over \$17,000 to many groups in our community including both of our area hospitals. If you know of people who may be interested in joining please invite them in. All new members will be welcomed.

President Dan Kelly
Dankelly@bmts.com





Our new adopted Veteran from Parkwood Hospital in London is William Gould, he prefers to be called Bill. I had the pleasure to go and get acquainted with him a few weeks ago and took him some gifts from the Branch. He was very appreciative of our gesture to be our adoptive Veteran. He was born September 24, 1924 and he served in WW II R.C.A.F. As he put it he was looking out for you guys on land and in the sea. His working life was spent at London Life. He was married with 4 children and his wife has passed.

When I was talking to him he remembered coming to Port Elgin as a young man and taking a girl by the name of Margie Mayat to a dance at the Cedar Crescent Casino but as he said that was a long, long time ago.

So if you are ever in London and you have a few minutes and would like to visit William, as he said his friends call him Bill, he would be glad of the company. He is at Parkwood Institute, Unit 2 Perth, Room, 190B Western Counties Wing.

His mailing address is Parkwood Institute, 550 Wellington Road, London Ontario N6C 0A7, Attention William Gould, 2 Perth.

A card or a note would be appreciated by him especially at Christmas and if you were so inclined his clothing size would be Large to Extra Large for sweat suit or PJ'S. He does have a sweet tooth, Werther's Original's he likes.

Submitted by Mike Atkinson



It's a romantic full moon, when Pedro said, "Hey, mamacita, let's do Weeweechu."
Oh no, not now, let's look at the moon!" said Rosita.
Oh, c'mon baby, let's you and I do Weeweechu. I love you and it's the perfect time," Pedro begged.
"But I wanna just hold your hand and watch the moon." replied Rosita.
Please, corazoncito, just once, do Weeweechu with me."
Rosita looked at Pedro and said, "OK, one time, we'll do Weeweechu."
Pedro grabbed his guitar and they both sang.....
"Weeweechu a Merry Christmas, Weeweechu a Merry Christmas, Weeweechu a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year."

As the "Keepers of Remembrance", Ontario Command is proud to publish an annual Military Service Recognition Book to identify and recognize many of our Veterans in Ontario, who have either served or are still serving in our Canadian Armed Forces, the Commonwealth or Allied Forces.

We invite you to visit your local Legion Branch to obtain more information regarding this Remembrance program and more importantly, to submit a story and photo of a Veteran. Everyone is welcome to submit a story, including Veterans, relatives or friends.

Drop off or send your histories and stories to your local Legion Branch early. We accept them year-round. Please do not drop them off or mail them to our Provincial Command office.

This project not only produces an annual Military Service Recognition Book, but also raises funds through a telephone appeal to the general public and through advertising sales.

The book publisher, Fenety Marketing, conducts a telephone appeal on our behalf to private citizens and the business community throughout Ontario.

The funds raised through the program will be utilized to support many important Legion initiatives that in turn will assist our Branches and our membership within Ontario Command.

We invite you to share your story or the story of a loved one through your local Legion Branch.



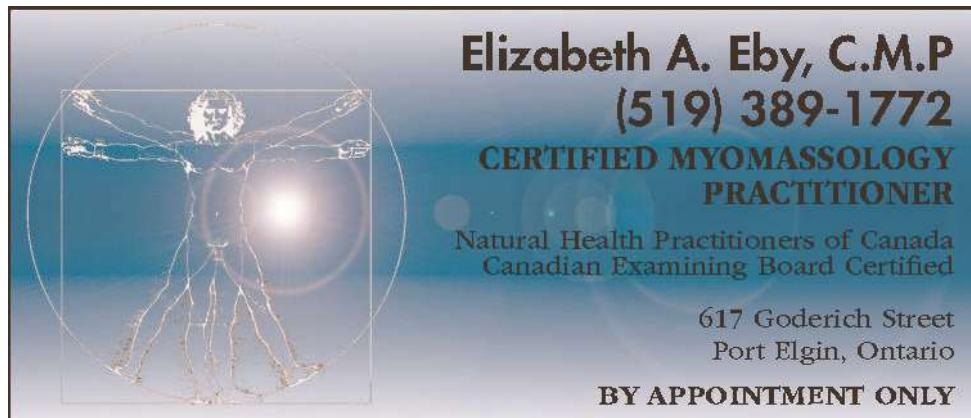
AIR CADETS
340 (Griffin) Squadron, Port Elgin



This month's Cadet focus is Sgt Connor Drole. Connor is a 17 year old Grade 12 student at SDSS and is in his 4th year of Cadets. This past summer he was a Civilian Instructor at CFB Trenton.



My experience during the summer as a Camp Staff Cadet will be one of the most memorable experiences of my young life. Working for the summer as a Sergeant is extremely rewarding, as you get to work in a military environment, and have young, aspiring Cadets look up to you almost like a teacher. Alongside the teaching experience, you as a Cadet can experience things that regular civilians never have a chance to do, such as a flight in a Boeing C-17 Globemaster troop transport or fielding training exercises where you can learn survival skills from fellow Cadets and members of the Canadian Forces. Where most summer camps require payment, you as a Cadet are paid for being trained through the military and experience things that you will remember for a lifetime.



Elizabeth A. Eby, C.M.P
(519) 389-1772
CERTIFIED MYOMASSOLOGY
PRACTITIONER
Natural Health Practitioners of Canada
Canadian Examining Board Certified
617 Goderich Street
Port Elgin, Ontario
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY



Photos courtesy of S. Rackley

RCL Branch 340 Support the Saugeen Shores Winterhawks

On Friday November 11, 2016 our Colour Party was present at the opening ceremony of their Senior Game against the Shallow Lake Crushers. There was a full complement of flag carriers and our own Mike Hobson dropped the opening puck on behalf of all our veterans.

Thanks to our Colour Party (Bob Harrison, Anne Marie Kinsman, Rhonda Harrison, Stacey Hobson, Connie Grieve, Don Turner, Blair Eby, Elizabeth Eby and Mike Hobson). Your support was very much appreciated. Way to go gang!

The night was special as the Winterhawks played in special camouflaged jerseys that they auctioned off after the game. All proceeds from the auction will be donated to the Legion to help support our cause.

Thanks Winterhawks.

The Day After Christmas

T'was the day after Christmas, and all through the house, every creature was hurtin' even the mouse.

The toys were all broken, their batteries dead; Santa passed out, with some ice on his head.

Wrapping and ribbons just covered the floor, while upstairs the family continued to snore.

And I in my T-shirt, new Reeboks and jeans, I went into the kitchen and started to clean.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter, I sprang from the sink to see what was the matter.

Away to the window I flew like a flash, Tore open the curtains, and threw up the sash.

When what to my wondering eyes should appear, but a little white truck, with an oversized mirror.

The driver was smiling, so lively and grand; the patch on his jacket said "U.S. POSTMAN."

With a handful of bills, he grinned like a fox. Then quickly he stuffed them into our mailbox.

Bill after bill, after bill, they still came. Whistling and shouting he called them by name:

"Now Dillard's, now Broadway's, now Penny's and Sears, Here's Robinson's, Levitz's and Target's and Mervyn's.

To the tip or your limit, every store, every mall, Now chargeaway--chargeaway--chargeaway all!"

He whooped and he whistled as he finished his work. He filled up the box, and then turned with a jerk.

He sprang to his truck and he drove down the road, Driving much faster with just half a load.

Then I heard him exclaim with great holiday cheer, "ENJOY WHAT YOU BOUGHT.....
YOU'LL BE PAYING ALL YEAR!"



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





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630 Green Street, Port Elgin
519-389-9917
www.branch340.ca



TURKEY DRAWS & Assorted Meat Draws

Friday December 2 8:00 pm

Saturday December 3 4:00 pm

Saturday December 10 4:00 pm

Saturday December 17 4:00 pm

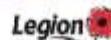
Everyone Welcome

Bring your friends for a great time

We hope to see you there



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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.

November 19 marks the kickoff of our Annual Toy Drive and will run to December 9.

Or, leave a donation in the Toy Drive Jar and the Iota Phi Sorority can purchase items which are needed.

We are pleased to be in partnership with the Salvation Army and the Iota Phi Sorority.

All gifts will be donated to the Iota Phi Sorority for packaging and distributed by the Salvation Army.

Thank you for your generosity.

**Iota Phi
Sorority**





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HOLIDAY HOURS

Saturday, December 24
1:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Sunday, December 25
CLOSED

Monday, December 26
3:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Saturday, December 31
1:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Sunday, January 1, 2017
New Year's Day Levee
Entertainment by "The Dann's"
1:00 pm – 7:00 pm

*May the message of Christmas fill your life with joy
and peace. Best wishes to you and your family during
this holiday season.*

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New Year's Day Levee

Sunday, January 1, 2017
1:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Entertainment by the

The Dann's

Join us for social time as we welcome in
the New Year with Family & Friends

You are Welcome



December 2016



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1 EUCHRE 7:30 PM	2 TURKEY & MEAT DRAWS 8:00 PM 	3 EUCHRE 1:30 PM TURKEY & MEAT DRAWS 4:00 PM 
4	5 DART LEAGUE 8:00 PM	6 LADIES CARD GROUP 1:30 PM <hr/> GENERAL MEETING 7:30 PM	7 BINGO 7:30 PM	8 EUCHRE 7:30 PM	9	10 EUCHRE 1:30 PM TURKEY & MEAT DRAWS 4:00 PM 
11	12 DART LEAGUE 8:00 PM	13 LADIES CARD GROUP 1:30 PM <hr/> LA GENERAL MEETING 7:30 PM	14 BINGO 7:30 PM	15 EUCHRE 7:30 PM	16 DANCE CLUB 8:00 PM	17 EUCHRE 1:30 PM TURKEY & MEAT DRAWS 4:00 PM 
18	19 DART LEAGUE 8:00 PM	20 LADIES CARD GROUP 1:30 PM	21 BINGO 7:30 PM	22 EUCHRE 7:30 PM	23	24 EUCHRE 1:30 PM
25 	26 DART LEAGUE 8:00 PM 	27 LADIES CARD GROUP 1:30 PM <hr/> EXEC. MTG 7:30 PM	28 BINGO 7:30 PM	29 EUCHRE 7:30 PM	30	31 EUCHRE 1:30 PM

❖ Please join us for our various events ❖
 ❖ Event Times and Dates Subject to Change ❖