



Royal Canadian Legion  **Port Elgin Branch 340**

Branch Line

January 2021

P.O. Box 359, 630 Green Street
Port Elgin, Ontario N0H 2C0 519-389-9917
Branch340@eastlink.ca www.Branch340.ca

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.

Under provincial rule as of December 26, 2020 Branch 340 is closed until further notice due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please adhere to the safety protocols being issued and stay safe and be well. Remember to practice social distancing.

From our family we wish you a Happy New Year with hope that you will have many blessings in the year to come.

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
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2019 – 2020 BRANCH 340 EXECUTIVE

President	Robert Harrison	bnrshow@eastlink.ca	519-389-4806
Immediate Past President	Dan Kelly	dankelly@bmts.com	519-389-2352
1st Vice President	Alex Taylor	alex.taylor@bmts.com	519-389-2616
2nd Vice President	Rhonda Harrison	bnrshow@eastlink.ca	519-389-4806
Secretary	Norma Dudgeon	Branch340@eastlink.ca	519-389-2876
Treasurer	Norma Dudgeon	Branch340@eastlink.ca	519-389-2876
Sergeant-at-Arms	Mike Hobson	hobson@eastlink.ca	519-386-6078
Sports Officer	Gord Kelly	gordonakelly1973@gmail.com	519-389-6057
Chaplain	Chuck Beaton	cjbeaton5@gmail.com	519-797-5586
Executive	Mike Hobson	hobson@eastlink.ca	519-386-6078
	Tom Jacques	thjacques@bmts.com	519-832-6837
	Patty Kelly	gpkelly@bmts.com	519-389-6057
	Gord Kelly	gordonakelly1973@gmail.com	519-389-6057
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Membership	Dan Kelly	dankelly@bmts.com	519-389-2352
Poppy	Alex Taylor	alex.taylor@bmts.com	519-389-2616
Property	Don Dudgeon	Branch340@eastlink.ca	519-389-2876
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Veteran Services	Mike Hobson	hobson@eastlink.ca	519-386-6078
Ways & Means	Tom Jacques	thjacques@bmts.com	519-832-6837
Youth Education	Patty Kelly	gpkelly@bmts.com	519-389-6057
Air Cadets Liaison	Elizabeth Eby	bizebys@gmail.com	519-832-3133
Nevada	Andrew Reinhart	andyreinhardt@hotmail.com	519-708-0553
Track & Field	Robert Harrison	bnrshow@eastlink.ca	519-389-4806

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2019-2020 LADIES AUXILIARY EXECUTIVE	
President	Diana Tripp
Immediate Past President	Marg Esplen (Servant of God)
1st Vice President	Anne Marie Kinsman
2nd Vice President	Sharen Maas
Treasurer	Diane Mills
Secretary	Vicky Taylor
Sergeant-at-Arms	Anne Marie Kinsman
Sports Officer	Diane Mills
Executive	Meryl Cramp
	Bernice Ellis
	Betty Earnshaw
	Trish Frizzell
	Valerie Grieve
	Linda Virgo



President's Report



I hope everyone had a safe and happy Christmas. It certainly was one of the whitest I can remember.

I am pleased to report that Branch 340 applied for the Veterans Organization Emergency Support Funding and we were successful. We received a cheque for \$10,845.04, this will certainly help cover some of our bills but certainly not all of them. I will, when we are able to, be reaching out to Ben Lobb, MP, to personally thank him.

Although all sports at the Branch have been cancelled, the Club Room was just starting to get a little closer to normal. Unfortunately, COVID-19 is getting a lot more serious in Ontario and the government has ordered a province-wide shutdown except essential services. Branch 340 shut down effective December 26th and will not be open until further notice.

The Branch Executive will still be taking care of the Branch day to day needs. All Executive Meetings will once again be handled electronically and we will keep the membership informed as best we can.

I wish you all a safe and Happy New Year.

President Robert (Bob) Harrison
bnrshow@eastlink.ca



Bursary



Now is the best time to apply for a bursary. Students have to prove that they are in second semester before they mail their application to Ontario Command.

As they are now starting in their second semester and they cannot get a letter or a stamp from the school this year due to COVID to verify enrollment in the second semester they can use the following: Verification of enrollment; Confirmation of enrollment or an unofficial transcript. These 3 documents can be printed from a student's on-line

profile.

If you have any questions or need assistance please call me at 519-389-4806.

Cde Robert Harrison
Bursary Chairman
bnrshow@eastlink.ca





Hall Rental



NOTE: Hall rentals have been suspended until further notice.

Once this COVID-19 pandemic is over 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.

Please contact Norma Dudgeon at the Legion phone number (519) 389-9917 or email: Branch340@eastlink.ca



Honours and 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 confidentially the H&A Committee will evaluate the nomination.

Cde Tom Jacques
Honours & Awards Chairman
thjacques@bmts.com



Membership



If you have not paid your dues for 2020 please consider doing so to keep your years of service intact. If you do not or can't come in due to the COVID pandemic you can always join on line at Legion.ca. It is straight forward and easy to do. You can also pay your dues on line at the same address. Many of our members have taken advantage of paying on line this year and we are glad they can do that.

If you know of anyone interested in joining please let us know. There are membership applications at the bar in the clubroom.

Hope you all are staying safe and hope to see you in the future.

Cde Dan Kelly
Membership Chairman
dankelly@bmts.com



Last Post



George Walker

Associate

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.



We love them.
We miss them.
We grieve them.
And so, we live our lives
to make them proud.





Poppy



After a highly successful 2020 Poppy Campaign and in spite of the challenges of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Vicky and I wish you and your families **A Happy Holiday Season**, the **Best for the New Year, 2021!**

Our Veterans' needs are a year around endeavour and this year's Poppy Campaign success will mean that more Funds are available to be used to address their most urgent needs. We appreciate any donations made throughout the year. Each year we have Veterans and projects that need assistance.

With the limitations put us due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, we will look forward to seeing you, at what limited events our members and friends can participate in over the upcoming year. In particular, our Friday evening get-together's at the Legion provide us with some social interaction as we continue to strive to assist and comfort our Veterans who have served us so well!

Lest We Forget!

Cde Alex Taylor
Poppy Chairman
Home -519-389-2616 or cell 519-385-0816
Email: alex.taylor@bmts.com



Life is short.
break the RULES
FORGIVE quickly,
KISS slowly, LOVE truly,
LAUGH uncontrollably,
and NEVER REGRET
anything that made
you SMILE. 



Veteran Services



Ways & Means



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic all events have been cancelled until further notice.

Branch 340 appreciates your continued support when the Branch is re-opened.

Please stay safe.

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



Female Hormones in Beer

Yesterday, scientists revealed that beer contains small traces of female hormones.

To prove their theory, they fed one hundred men twelve pints of beer and observed that 100% of them started talking nonsense and couldn't drive.



Youth Education



The Youth Education Remembrance Poster and Literary Competition has been completed for the year of 2020. We received a total of 155 entries while recognizing 43 of the entries. First, Second and Third place prizes were offered in each Division and by Category. The schools that participated in the competition were as follows: Saugeen District Senior School; St. Joseph's School; Northport Elementary School; Ecole Port Elgin Central School and the new Bluewater District School Board Remote School.

Considering the challenges of a pandemic during the Fall/Winter semester the children and youth in our community are to be commended for honouring Remembrance with their keen participation. Thank you is extended to the teachers and parents who supported the program they encouraged the students while providing learning time in the classrooms and at home to work on their entries.

A thank you is extended to our Branch volunteers who are quite dedicated to this Youth Education Remembrance Programme. I am grateful to Jack & Joyce Chapman, Stacey, Mike, & Maddie Hobson and Rhonda & Bob Harrison for making this project possible by their acts of volunteerism.

We will Remember them,

Cde Patty Kelly
Youth Education Chairman
Branch340youthed@gmail.com

A lot of walking away will do your life good.

Walk away from arguments that lead you to anger and nowhere. Walk away from people who deliberately put you down. Walk away from the practice of pleasing people who choose to never see your worth. Walk away from any thought that undermines your peace of mind. Walk away from judgmental people, they do not know the struggle you are facing and what you have been through. Walk away from your mistakes and fears, they do not determine your fate. The more you walk away from things that poison your soul, the healthier your life will be.

— Dostoevsky



Commander's Corner



As the old year ends and this new year begins, albeit under another lockdown, it is a good time to reflect on the highs as well as the lows and all that has been achieved despite the challenges and imposed restrictions. Branches, and especially Executive Committee members, have shown imagination and resilience in the face of adversity. Unique new fundraising ideas and adaptability to continuing Legion services in a different format has demonstrated leadership at a high level.

While most of us are Baby Boomers, we can now also consider ourselves "Zoomer Boomers" having mastered the art of teleconferencing. This is the new normal as is electronic training such as the District C Treasurer's Workshop in which, by the way, our Branch Treasurers performed brilliantly. Year-end financial reporting was completed on schedule at the end of May and in the Fall, Branch Inspections were completed in record time with all the information excellently prepared.

Although not able to hold a Zone Convention, we were fortunate enough to host several training seminars and a Zone Council meeting in person, all safety protocols in place of course. These were well attended and, by the improvement in reporting to the Zone Chairs, were very successful. Instead of complaining about an extended term, our Branch and Zone Officers have stepped up to the plate and embraced their responsibilities with renewed determination. It is

unfortunate that General Meetings and especially Elections are unable to take place due to the maximum 50 person limit as the extra duties are wearying Executive members with no relief in sight. Please consider running when the restrictions are lifted.

Poppy Campaigns and Remembrance Day Services were very successful this year despite the impact of the coronavirus and were conducted in unique and different ways, yet all retained the solemnity and dignity of the occasion. Youth Ed programs also underwent change, cancellation of the Public Speaking for instance, however schools and parents gave the students much needed support and the Remembrance Day Posters and Literary Contest went ahead as planned.

Emergency funding from several sources became available to Branches throughout the year and many were successful receiving much needed funds to cover extra unexpected expenses due to the requirements of health regulations and loss of revenue. Non-renewal of membership fees has also had an impact and unfortunately this is not covered by them, though it is extremely heartening to know that membership applications have increased despite buildings being closed. Sad to say, we have had to say goodbye to many beloved comrades and especially WWII veterans in the past year and we are richer for having had the privilege of knowing them. We extend our deepest sympathy to the families of them.

I'm looking forward to visiting the Branches someday soon to see all the improvements carried out while Branches have been closed or on reduced hours of opening. Many hands do indeed make light work and Kim and I would like to thank all the Branch and Ladies Auxiliary members who have worked tirelessly this last year on behalf of all Branch members.

Our best wishes to all going forward into the New Year. Stay safe, stay healthy and stay hopeful. This too shall pass.

In Comradeship,

Kathryn Eastwood
Zone C-4 Commander



Branch 340 Notice



MEMBERSHIP



Renewal fees are now \$55.00

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

Dan Kelly, Membership Chairman

Renew today!



10 FUN FACTS

1. You can't wash your eyes with soap.
2. You can't count your hair.
3. You can't breathe through your nose, with your tongue out.
4. You just tried no. 3
6. When you did no. 3 you realized it's possible, only you look like a dog.
7. You're smiling right now, because you were fooled.
8. You skipped no. 5
9. You just checked to see if there is a no. 5
10. Share this with your friends to have some fun too! :-)



Branch 340 Ladies Auxiliary



Greetings from Branch 340 Ladies Auxiliary.

Welcome to 2021 and once again we are in lockdown, it's called being in the Grey zone. But who cares, the day it started we woke up to a blanket of snow so deep that it should keep most of us in our warm sanctuaries for a while. But, for those essential workers who must get out I say thank you for what you do.

Our membership is fully paid up for the 2021 year and I thank each and every one of you for that. The current membership in our Branch 340 LA stands at 31 and once we get this pandemic behind us and we can get back to doing what we do it is hoped that we can add some new members to our team. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please let us know.

We currently have 4 vacancies' on our Executive that need to be filled, please let us know if you would be interested in serving in this capacity.

2020 has taught us to cherish our family and friends, the earth healed a little, the sun shone brighter, the waters were blue and clear as we were staying in our homes in order to curb the spread as much as possible. 2021 will be the year to celebrate what we have learned and getting together with family gatherings and having friends for BBQs. So, isolate now and beat this thing.

Stay safe everyone.

Wishing you the very best for 2021.

Cde Vicky Taylor
vicky.taylor@bmts.com



Boy: "I love you so much; I could never live without you."

Girl: "Is that you or the beer talking?"

Boy: "It's me talking to the beer."



My new year's resolution is to be more optimistic by keeping my cup half-full with rum, vodka,
or whiskey



Branch 340 Annual Toy Drive



L-R Berry Biederman, Iota Phi Sorority; Cde Stacey Hobson, Meridian Credit Union; President Robert Harrison and Cde Rhonda Harrison.

On behalf of Iota Phi, THANK YOU to all the members of the Port Elgin Legion for their generosity and thoughtfulness in providing such wonderful gifts for the annual Toy Drive. Even though this year proved to be very challenging, you can always count on the members of the Legion!

Take care and stay safe!

Berry Biederman, Iota Phi Sorority

As Conveners we also thank everyone who donated gifts and money for the success of this project. With your goodwill many children in our community will have received a gift to make their Christmas morning a little brighter.

Bob & Rhonda Harrison
bnrshow@eastlink.ca



Tis the Season Christmas Raffle



Congratulations to Kendall Sawyer, Southampton, who was the winner for this Christmas Draw.

A special **Thank You** to all who purchased tickets and to all our sellers to help make this draw as successful as it was. Proceeds will be donated to our community and youth programs.

The Committee will be having another draw at Easter time. We thank you in advance for your support with this project at that time.

Branch 340 Charity Committee



AIR CADETS

340 (Griffin) Squadron, Port Elgin



With the New Year of 2021 now upon us, the #340 Griffin Air Cadet Squadron would like to acknowledge and extend greetings to our many Legion Branches, Executive, members and Legion friends that have supported us in the past and continue to do so in the future.

The past year has been unlike any other in recent memory as our world took a dramatic change last March. As Liaison to the Cadet Squadron and on behalf of Captain Robert Herboth, Sponsoring Committee and Officers there are simply not enough expressions of thanks for the continued Legion financial support to the Air Cadet program.

Despite many obstacles to overcome and the transition into online Cadet virtual learning, somehow the Squadron conquered many tasks over the last year. Meetings and online learning is not always ideal, yet through all of this the Cadets have persevered and continued to learn and grow.

In reflecting on the past many months, there are some noteworthy accomplishments and successes despite the challenging reality of a global pandemic. In the beginning stage of this pandemic the Cadets quickly moved into weekly Zoom meetings for their Tuesday evening session where attendance is taken.

Due to circumstances beyond the control of the Squadron, in early summer the administration headquarters needed to be moved to the Griffin site in Southampton. With the hard work of many, the administration trailer was repurposed into a couple of classrooms as well as an area for supply. With the donation of paint, baseboard and extra materials from the Port Elgin Home Hardware, there is a fresh new look inside. In the late fall the Cadets were able to resume some in person, yet physically distanced outdoor training along with virtual learning.

The Cadets all received new combat fatigues from the Department of National Defence to be worn at future meetings as these are more comfortable for outdoor physical training and parade exercises. Classroom virtual learning maintains a consistency of general Cadet knowledge, precision drill, avionics and survival skills which will be resumed after the Christmas break.

In the spring of 2021 the Air Cadet League will have in place a way to purchase the 50/50 annual fundraising tickets with the proceeds going towards 'Air' related training (i.e. Power Pilot Training, Glider Pilot Training, etc.) with some of the proceeds being returned to the Squadron. As the link becomes available to purchase online tickets, I will post a message in the bulletin.

As the Cadets acknowledge the hard work, creativity and adaptability of their Officers that saw them through the unique circumstances of the past year, they also would like to take this opportunity to embrace what is yet to come. The #340 Griffin Squadron looks forward to its

continued Legion collaboration, successes, and a hopeful path forward in 2021. May the New Year bring you and those closest to you the brightest of days, good health, happiness and prosperity.

Happy New Year!

#340 RCACS
Cde. Elizabeth Eby
Air Cadet Liaison



Photo provided by E. Eby



Snow Plow

A blonde driving a car became lost in a snowstorm.

She didn't panic however, because she remembered what her dad had once told her. "If you ever get stuck in a snowstorm, just wait for a snow plow to come by and follow it."

Sure enough, pretty soon a snow plow came by, and she started to follow it. She followed the plow for about forty-five minutes.

Finally the driver of the truck got out and asked her what she was doing.

And she explained that her dad had told her if she ever got stuck in a snow storm, to follow a plow.

The driver nodded and said, "Well, I'm done with the Wal-Mart parking lot, do you want to follow me over to Best Buy now?"

A Quiz for people who know everything:

There are only nine questions. These are not trick questions. They are straight questions with straight answers.

1. Name one sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score of the leader until the contest ends.
2. What famous North American landmark is constantly moving backward?
3. Of all vegetables, only two can live to produce on their own for several growing seasons. All other vegetables must be replanted every year. What are the only perennial vegetables?
4. What fruit has its seeds on the outside?
5. In many liquor stores, you can buy pear brandy, with a real pear inside the bottle. The pear is whole and ripe, and the bottle is genuine; it hasn't been cut in anyway. How did the pear get inside the bottle?
6. Only three words in Standard English begin with the letters "dw" and they are all common words. Name two of them.
7. There are fourteen punctuation marks in English grammar. Can you name at least half of them?
8. Name the only vegetable or fruit that is never sold frozen, canned, processed, cooked, or in any other form except fresh.
9. Name six or more things that you can wear on your feet beginning with the letter "S".

Answers to Quiz:

1. ***The one sport in which neither the spectator nor the participants know the score or the leader until the contest ends: Boxing.***
2. ***North American landmark constantly moving backward: Niagara Falls. (The rim is worn down about two and a half feet each year because of the millions of gallons of water that rush over it every minute)***
3. ***Only two vegetables that can live to produce on their own for several growing seasons: Asparagus and rhubarb.***

4. The fruit with its seeds on the outside: Strawberry

5. How did the pear get in the brandy bottle? It grew inside the bottle. The bottles are placed over pear buds when they are small, and are wired in place on the tree. The bottle is left in place for the entire growing season. When the pears are ripe, they are snipped off at the stems.

6. Three English words beginning with the letters "dw": Dwarf, dwell and dwindle.

7. Fourteen punctuation marks in English grammar: Period, comma, colon, semicolon, dash, hyphen, apostrophe, question mark, exclamation point, quotation mark, brackets, parenthesis, braces and ellipses.

8. The only vegetable or fruit never sold frozen, canned, processed, cooked, or in any other form except fresh: Lettuce.

9. Six or more things that you can wear on your feet beginning with the letter "S": Shoes, socks, sandals, sneakers, slippers, skis, skates, snowshoes, stockings and stilts.

I have only one resolution. To rediscover the difference between wants and needs.
May I have all I need and want all I have. Happy New Year!



Pickup Truck

A police officer sees a man driving around with a pickup truck full of Squirrels. He pulls the guy over and says...

"You can't drive around with squirrels in this town! Take them to the zoo immediately."
The guy says "OK"... and drives away.

The next day, the officer sees the guy still driving around with the truck full of squirrels, and they're all wearing sun glasses. He pulls the guy over and demands...
"I thought I told you to take these squirrels to the zoo yesterday?"

The guy replies... "I did . . . today I'm taking them to the beach!"

