



Royal Canadian Legion ☙ Port Elgin Branch 340

Branch Line

February 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 Branch 340 is closed until further notice due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

There are a few dates to celebrate this month:

- Happy Groundhog Day According to folklore, if the groundhog sees its shadow on February 2 it will return to its burrow and there will be six more weeks of winter. If it does not see its shadow, then spring is on the way.
- Valentine's Day is just around the corner so go ahead and indulge in your chocolate!
- And, from our family to yours Happy Family Day! Enjoy your time together!!!

Please adhere to the safety protocols and stay safe and be well.

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	
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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
LA Liaison	Patty Kelly	gpkelly@bmts.com	519-389-6057
Bar Chairman	Norma Dudgeon	Branch340@eastlink.ca	519-389-2876
Bursary	Robert Harrison	bnrshow@eastlink.ca	519-389-4806
By-laws	Norma Dudgeon	Branch340@eastlink.ca	519-389-2876
Charity	Rhonda Harrison	bnrshow@eastlink.ca	519-389-4806
Hall Rental	Norma Dudgeon	Branch340@eastlink.ca	519-389-2876
Honours & Awards	Tom Jacques	thjacques@bmts.com	519-832-6837
Leadership Development	Robert Harrison	bnrshow@eastlink.ca	519-389-4806
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
Public Relations	Rhonda Harrison	bnrshow@eastlink.ca	519-389-4806
Seniors	Mike Hobson	hobson@eastlink.ca	519-386-6078
Sergeant-at-Arms	Mike Hobson	hobson@eastlink.ca	519-386-6078
Service Officer	Mike Hobson	hobson@eastlink.ca	519-386-6078
Sports	Gord Kelly	gordonakelly1973@gmail.com	519-389-6057
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	andyreinhart@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
	Linda Virgo



President's Report



Good news, winter is 1/3rd over with only 48 days until spring. This has been one of the best January's (weather wise) that I can remember; very little snow and with warm temperatures. Have you noticed how much longer the days are getting? It will soon be time to think about golfing, gardening and I hope re-opening the Branch.

Don and his team have done a few more renovations. The downstairs men's washroom has been renovated and some new flooring behind the bar has been laid. Thank you Don and your volunteers.

I can only hope that we can re-open in April. We will not re-open of course until we get full approval from the government and Ontario Command.

The Executive is still looking after day to day business and we are holding electronic Executive Meetings. The Branch is being inspected at least every second day to make sure all is well and dry inside – thanks to Don and Norma. Pam is still coming into the Branch to clean and to keep the Branch fresh so when we get the green light to re-open we will be ready.

Very little news from Ontario Command as there is little left to say about COVID that hasn't already been said. However, a very optimistic date of Sunday, March 21st has been set for our

Zone C-4 Council and Convention in Owen Sound. We will see how that plays out closer to the date.

A letter has been sent to Ben Lobb, MP, thanking him and the Federal government for their generous donation from the Veteran's Organization Emergency Support Fund. The money will be used to cover our monthly expenses. The Branch has received a \$250. donation from the Saugeen Shores Fire Department which will also be used to cover expenses – thank you.

President Robert (Bob) Harrison
bnrshow@eastlink.ca



Bursary



Bursaries are all off to a slow start this year. We have only 57 applications to date in Ontario. We think some of the drop is down due to students not being able to get the hands-on training they need so they are opting out this year.

We have once again had incomplete forms with some not even signed by the students. Please tell the student that the form must be filled in completely.

Students are also having trouble getting the application signed by the Branch. If this happens this year we are requesting a copy of the membership card so that it can be verified with Dominion Command that the member is in good standing.

Endorsement – this year we will accept the following documents that are all accessible from the students' on-line profile – verification of enrollment or confirmation of enrolment or unofficial transcript. The students name, school program and date will be listed.

As usual our deadline is the last Friday in March which is Friday, March 26, 2021.

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

Cde Robert Harrison
Bursary Chairman
bnrshow@eastlink.ca



I know they say that money talks, but all mine says is 'Goodbye.'



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

This guy was watching TV as his wife was out cutting the grass during the hot summer. He finally worked up the energy to go out and ask his wife what was for supper.

Well, his missus was quite irritated about him sitting in the air conditioned house all day while she did all the work, so she scolded him. "I can't believe you're asking me about supper right now! Imagine I'm out of town, go inside and figure dinner out yourself." So he went back in the house and fixed himself a big steak, with potatoes, garlic bread and tall glass of iced tea.

The wife finally walked in about the time he was finishing up and asked him, "You fixed something to eat? So where is mine?"

"Huh? I thought you were out of town."



Leadership & Development



The Royal Canadian Legion
Ontario Command
89 Industrial Parkway N.
Aurora, Ont. L4G 4C4

TO: Ontario Command Branches, P.E.C. Members and L.A. S.E.O.'s
FROM: MSRB ting Program Chairman
DATE: January 15, 2021
SUBJECT: Volume V111 MSRB

Good Day Comrades

As we all know far too well, these are certainly unprecedented times that we have been living through for close to a year now. And it certainly has not been easy for our Branches to properly operate with all of the various restrictions that have been placed on them over this past year. But thankfully, all have managed to do so. This also includes the recruiting and processing of Veteran submissions for our annual Military Service Recognition Book Program.

Even with the various roadblocks that we have had to face, Branches have continued to work on behalf of our Veterans and assist them and their families through our pandemic. All of you are to be congratulated for your continued work with our Veterans and the assistance you have provided in this respect.

As you know, we were able to recruit sufficient Veteran MSRB submissions for our Volume #7 that was published and distributed in October of this past year as scheduled. Again, I applaud all of the Branches who had processed and sent in these submissions for our Volume #7.

We of course are now well into year #8 of our program. And there is a need for the recruitment of more Veteran submissions for publication into our Volume #8 which is scheduled to be printed in October of this year. However, we are going to need a concentrated effort from everyone in order to reach our goal of having sufficient submissions for publication into this book.

We now only have five months remaining for our Coordinators Carolyn McCaul and Mary Ann Goheen to receive submissions for Volume #8. To date, we only have 308 submissions that have been processed and passed onto our publisher, Fenety Marketing for this book.

This therefore means that since we are now publishing approximately 700 submissions into our books, we will require an average of 78 submissions each month from now until the end of May this year.

With Branches currently closed due to the restrictions that have been imposed upon us due to COVID-19, we realize that this is not an easy task. However, through contact with our Branch members and family members through social media, telephone and other electronic means, recruitment can still take place in assisting with the recruitment of Veteran or family member submissions in recognizing our Veterans during these most difficult times.

Keep up the great work regarding Remembrance and in showcasing the tremendous stories and pictures of our Veterans. And again, a big thank you to all of you for being involved in our program and making it the success that it has been to date. Your support and dedication is truly appreciated.

May you stay safe and healthy, and hopefully, 2021 will be a much better year for all of us.

Yours in comradeship,

Ron Goebel
Chairman
Military Service Recognition Book Program
The Royal Canadian Legion
Ontario Provincial Command



Ontario Provincial Command
Military Service Recognition Book – Submission Form

Downloadable at www.on.legion.ca

Information Required for Story Submission		Please ensure all information is accurate		
Name of Military Person being recognized		Last name	First name	Middle Name
Place of Birth	Date of Birth (m/d/y)		Date of Death (m/d/y) (if applicable)	
Resides/Resided in which Ont. Community _____		Date of Residency _____		
Service: <input type="radio"/> Regular Force <input type="radio"/> Reserve Force <input type="radio"/> Primary Reserve <input type="radio"/> Cadet Instructor Cadre Officer <input type="radio"/> Canadian Rangers <input type="radio"/> RCMP (Tick applicable area)				
Branch of Service: <input type="radio"/> Navy <input type="radio"/> Army <input type="radio"/> Air Force <input type="radio"/> Merchant Navy <input type="radio"/> Ferry Command <input type="radio"/> Other (Tick applicable area)				
Service Unit: e.g. - North Shore, Carleton York, CWAC, names of Ships, Squadrons, etc.	Date of Enrollment		Date of Release	
Deployments (Mission, Area/Region or Conflict) e.g. - WWI, WWII, Afghanistan, Canada, High Seas, England, WWII, etc.				
Killed in Service? (Tick applicable area)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	Date of Death _____	Where Killed _____	
Was/Is a Member of Legion (Name & #): (Tick applicable area)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	Branch _____	How many years? _____	
This Section MUST be completed.				
Submitted by (Name) _____	Date: _____	Tel # _____ (m/d/y)		
Email _____	Branch Name & # _____			
Was permission given by individual or family to use submission? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No _____ (Tick applicable area) _____ (Signature of Veteran or Family Member)				

Additional Information: Please attach a paragraph if you wish, **maximum 200 words**.
For example: special things the veteran did in the service, was he/she wounded, POW, special unusual awards, awards for bravery, e.g., VC, OM, SC, SM, MMV, MB, MSM, etc., or perhaps what the veteran did upon return to civilian life.

Please include photograph, but do not use staples, paper clips or tape.

Also, do not write on the back of the photograph as this could damage the photo.

Faxed and emailed copies will not be accepted.

Actual photos will only be accepted.

Please return your completed Submission Form and photograph to your local Legion Branch.

If you indicated 'other' in the Branch of Service above, please explain as additional information and attach to your submission form.

**PLEASE NOTE:
WE DO NOT RETURN PHOTOGRAPHS THAT ARE
SENT TO US.**

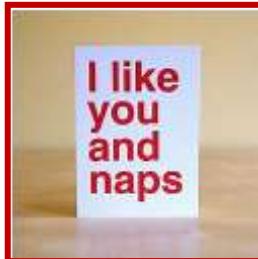
Revised January, 2001



Direction provinciale de l'Ontario
Livre reconnaissant le service militaire – Formulaire de soumission
Téléchargeable au www.on.legion.ca

Informations requises pour la soumission d'histoire		Veuillez vous assurer que toutes les informations sont exactes		
Nom de la personne militaire reconnue		Prénom	Deuxième nom	
Nom de famille				
Lieu de naissance	Date de naissance (m/j/a)	Date de décès (m/j/a) (si applicable)		
Résidé/résidait dans quelle communauté en Ontario _____			Date de résidence _____	
Service: <input type="checkbox"/> Force régulière <input type="checkbox"/> Force de Réserve <input type="checkbox"/> Première réserve <input type="checkbox"/> Officiers du Cadre des Instructeurs de Cadets (CIC) <input type="checkbox"/> Rangers canadiens <input type="checkbox"/> GRC (Cochez où applicable)				
Branche de service: <input type="checkbox"/> Marine <input type="checkbox"/> Armée <input type="checkbox"/> Aviation <input type="checkbox"/> Marine marchande <input type="checkbox"/> Ferry Command <input type="checkbox"/> Autre (Cochez où applicable)				
Unité de service: ex: North Shore, Carleton Ybrk, CWAC, Noms de navires, Escadrons, etc.		Date d'inscription	Date de sortie	
Déploiements (mission, zone/région ou conflit) ex: Première ou Deuxième Guerre mondiale, Afghanistan, Canada, haute mer, Angleterre, etc.				
Tué au service? <input type="checkbox"/> Oui <input type="checkbox"/> Non (Cochez où applicable)	Date de décès _____	Lieu de décès _____		
Était/est un membre de la Légion (Nom et #) <input type="checkbox"/> Oui <input type="checkbox"/> Non (Cochez où applicable)	Filiale _____		Combien d'années? _____	
Cette section DOIT être complétée				
Soumis par (Nom) _____		Date : _____ (m/j/a)	Tél : _____	
Courriel _____		Nom de filiale et # _____		
La personne ou la famille a-t-elle donné l'autorisation d'utiliser la soumission? <input type="checkbox"/> Oui <input type="checkbox"/> Non (Cochez où applicable) _____				
Signature du vétéran ou membre de famille				
Informations complémentaires: Veuillez joindre un paragraphe de 200 mots maximum si vous le souhaitez. Par exemple: choses spéciales que le vétéran a faites dans le service, était-il blessé, prisonnier de guerre, récompenses spéciales inhabituelles, récompenses pour le courage, c.-à-d. VC, OM, ÉC, MS, MVM, MB, MSM, etc., ou peut-être ce que le vétéran a fait au retour à la vie civile.		Veuillez inclure une photo, mais n'utilisez pas d'agrafes, de trombones ni de ruban adhésif. De plus, n'écrivez pas au verso de la photo car cela pourrait l'endommager. Les copies envoyées par fax et par courrier électronique ne seront pas acceptées. Seulement les photos réelles seront acceptées. Veuillez retourner votre formulaire de soumission rempli et la photo à votre filiale locale de la Légion. Si vous avez indiqué « autre » dans la branche de service ci-dessus, veuillez expliquer en tant qu'informations supplémentaires et joindre à votre formulaire de soumission. VEUILLEZ NOTER : NOUS NE RETOURNONS PAS LES PHOTOS QUI NOUS SONT ENVOYÉES		

Revisé Janvier, 2021



Membership



Hello Comrades:

Hope you are all doing your share to keep this pandemic as small as we possibly can.

Branch 340 Membership has done pretty well with the early bird program. There were many people paying online, in person and through phone calls. To date our membership is 403 which is down a bit from last year but with all the issues we have been having it isn't too bad. Our membership number is important as it will determine how many votes we get at Dominion Convention this August in Saskatchewan.

In December we transferred in 2 members who have just moved into town and initiated 8 new members. That was very nice to see in December.

Please help me welcoming the following people to Branch 340:

Robert Kilpatrick from Branch 238 Fenlon Falls

Derek McChesney from Branch 302 Gravenhurst

New Members: Patricia Kuntz, Kristen Ericson, Brad Vokes, Kevin MacDonald, John McLeod, Hec Kingswell, Debbie Kingswell and Heather Hutton.

Our dues remain at \$55 as they have been for the past 3 years. This is great at this time as everything is going up; the Royal Canadian Legion is trying to keep yours and our cost as low as we possibly can. We in Branch 340 have a strong membership. Let's keep it strong by renewing your membership and inviting your friend to come join.

Cde Dan Kelly
Membership Chairman
dankelly@bmts.com



Last Post



Elaine Harris
Jane Hewitt

Associate
Affiliate Voting

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.



Poppy



Our current COVID-19 lockdown has limited any proactive steps that we can take.

Poppy while a year around endeavour to help our Veterans at home and abroad in their time of need is limited in any actions that it can pro-actively take. 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 or Mike Hobson, our Branch Service Officer who can contact the veteran directly to assess any support that may be required.

Poppy also supports the children and grandchildren of our Veterans through our Branch Bursary program. For more information, please contact me or our Bursary Chairman, Robert Harrison for further information and application forms.

The needs of our Veterans are not limited to October/November when we have our Poppy Fund Drive. We appreciate any donations made throughout the year. While this year has a number of unique challenges, each year we have Veterans and projects that need assistance.

Lest We Forget!

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



Did you ever notice, whenever you need your keys the most, that's when they're the hardest to find?



Veteran Services



Port Elgin Legion Branch 340

During this time of crisis any veteran that requires assistance including financial aid may contact the Port Elgin Legion Veterans Service Officer for assistance and we will do our best to accommodate your needs.

Contact: Port Elgin Legion Branch 340
Veteran Service Officer
branch340@eastlink.ca
519-832-2903

Your Royal Canadian Legion is committed to making a difference in the lives of Veterans and their families, providing essential services in our communities, and remembering the men and women who sacrificed for our country.





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



At The Bar

I was sitting at a bar with a friend the other night when he casually pointed across the bar from us and said, "see those two old drunks sitting there...that's going to be us in ten years."

I looked and him and said, "that's a mirror stupid!"



National Notable Dates February 2021

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.

FEBRUARY

- Black history month - <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/black-history-month.html>
- 14 Valentine's Day
- Family Day (day varies by province)
- 15 National Flag of Canada Day - <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/national-flag-canada-day.html>
- 28 Gulf War ends (1991) -
<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/classroom/persian-gulf>



AIR CADETS
340 (Griffin) Squadron, Port Elgin



The #340 Griffin Air Cadet Squadron sends February greetings to all our Legion friends.

The Squad has returned to online Tuesday Zoom meetings and certainly looks forward to being together again.

As many know the Cadets are obligated to sell 'Air Cadet League Draw Tickets'. The tickets are part of the annual fundraising for the Squadron. Proceeds from the tickets go towards 'Air Related Cadet Summer Training' (i.e.: Power Pilot Training, Glider Pilot Training, etc.) with some of the proceeds being returned to the Squad to assist in their operating expenses. The Air Cadet League now has in place a way by which we may get tickets online over the next few weeks. The link is <https://www.aclop5050.com/>

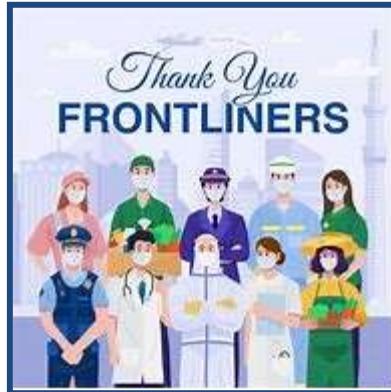
When purchasing any amount of tickets please remember to check "340 Squadron" on checkout to enable our Squadron to receive our proceeds from the Air Cadet League.

The Cadets, Officers & Instructors thank you for your continued support and wish everyone

Good luck & good health.

In Comradeship,
Elizabeth Eby, Liaison
#340 RCACS





Commanders' Corner
Joint e-Training for Branch and LA Members
January 20 2021



The theme for training this current term has been "Back to Basics and Putting the Fun in **Fundamental**" and this present lockdown is an ideal time for Branch and LA members to have a refresher course on the special relationship that exists between them and how consideration and respect for each other benefits the Branch. Our members have been working hard together, even during this crisis, and joint planning and co-operation has provided fundraising ideas and unique opportunities to prepare for the eventual re-opening of the Branch.

It is important for everyone to have the same basic information whether a long term member or new to the organization, so the structure of the Branch needs a little explaining. The Branch is the legal entity and all the buildings, common areas, chattels and financial acquisitions belong to it not to Branch or LA members so if the Charter is ever surrendered then all real property reverts to Provincial Command. This means that they share areas of the Branch and use everything within it without actually owning anything outright themselves.

Having regard for each other is paramount to the success of the Branch. Think of an equilateral triangle where the Branch is at the pinnacle and General Membership of both forms the base line and the sides of the triangle represent each organization. The members provide the foundation and the Branch and LA work equally side by side to keep the Branch supported and stable. Without everyone's constant support the Branch would fall.

Each organization is separate and has its own bank account(s) and is responsible for administering its funds. It is not unusual to make the same purchases, e.g. catering supplies, as both can use the kitchen for events and on many occasions work together. It is a common courtesy for each to keep the other informed as quite often scheduling conflicts can

inadvertently occur. Also if individual supplies have been used, it should be reported to the other so they can be replaced or compensated for as whoever has paid for them owns them and they may have been set aside for a particular function. Nothing worse than finding a shortage in needed supplies.



It is important to maintain communication between the two groups and to do this there is a Liaison appointed by the Branch who attends meetings of the LA and passes information backwards and forwards. They hold no authority over the LA and cannot be a part of any discussion, but can relay any issues of concern. The Branch and LA also hold at least two joint meetings every year, usually Spring and Fall, to discuss important matters or upcoming activities that might involve one or both of them e.g. Remembrance Day, funerals or conventions.

This is essential as neither can pass motions that effect the operations of the other. For instance the usage or non-usage of an area such as the kitchen. Most Branches and their LA have either separate or joint contracts for use of the kitchen and or hall that specifies the terms and conditions, rules for cleaning up afterwards or who is responsible for what. There are some exceptions to the rule, such as approval of the spending limits of the LA and the adoption of their By-laws that have to be approved by the Branch General Membership.

Working as a team both Branch and LA members get the Branch moving. The Branch is like a bus, there has to be an engine and wheels to make it go. Some members are engine parts constantly moving, exerting energy and quietly working in partnership with others to keep things running smoothly. Some are wheels, they don't want to be main components, but are happy to share the load. Some members just like being passengers and are only along for the ride and to have fun. Fuel needed to get the engine working and to impel the bus along comes from funds provided by the membership fees, donations, of which the LA provides a generous portion, sales and the generation of income through fundraising and various Ways and Means events etc.

Now we have a bus with an engine, wheels, passengers and fuel but, wait, don't we need a driver! Someone to start the engine, drive the bus and steer it in the right direction. To watch the road ahead for roadblocks and to care for the engine, look after the wheels and instruct the passengers. Of course we do, and that person is the President and the most deserving of our respect, whether of the Branch or the LA . Without them the bus is ready to go but just idling. As a team they consult together, plan the route and have each other's back.

All types of members make up the Legion and each one needs to decide what kind of volunteer they want to be and how much they want to be involved. Whatever type chosen, in all instances respect and courtesy for each other must be demonstrated and a team member willingness committed to. We are all in this together.

Thank you everyone for your hard work and good luck in the coming weeks. Stay safe and well and be happy.

We're proud of all of you.

Yours in Comradeship,

Zone C-4 Commander Kathryn Eastwood

Zone C-4 LA Commander Marg Smith

Reference Materials and Resources:

- www.on.legion.ca
- www.legion.ca
- The General By-Laws of the Ontario Provincial Command of the Royal Canadian Legion
- General By-Laws of The Ladies Auxiliary to the Provincial Command
- The General By-Laws for Branches of the Ontario Provincial Command
- The Royal Canadian Legion Officer's Manual
- Guidelines for Branch Regulations



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!

Legion 

Thoughts From A Quarantine...

By I Might Be Funny

1. Forget toilet paper. What we *REALLY* needed to stock up on was dishwasher detergent.
2. You know, I always thought homeschooling was *NOT* for me. And I was so, so right.
3. Not to brag, but I've been stuck in the house for 30 days and I'm still not caught up on laundry... *THAT'S* how good of a procrastinator I am.
4. I kind of like the pajama life. In fact, I may never wear jeans again. I definitely will never wear the same *SIZE* jeans again.
5. I WOULD RATHER WALK BAREFOOT ACROSS A LEGO-COVERED FLOOR THAN COOK ONE MORE DINNER RIGHT NOW.

 I Might Be Funny





Branch 340 Ladies Auxiliary



Greetings from Branch 340 Ladies Auxiliary.

Wishing you all a Happy Valentine's Day. Eat Chocolate.

For those of you who may not have watched the Presidential Inauguration you may also have missed Amanda Gorman's poem, The Hill We Climb. You can view it at [@TheAmandaGorman](#). It is so powerful, she is one amazing young lady.

We're currently in a Total Lockdown. I do hope that you are all keeping in touch, emailing or phoning with your family and friends to help you get through this. A short phone call can make someone's day.

We 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.

According to Grey Bruce COVID website we have received 200 vaccines and 200 individuals have been inoculated.

Stay safe everyone.

Cde Vicky Taylor
vicky.taylor@bmts.com



Branch 340 Remembers "A War Time Treasure"



Gail Hill is the widow of my cousin Ray Hill who was raised in Arran Township near Elsinore. Gail lives in Georgian Bluffs. We were exchanging well wishes via phone on Xmas Day and we got talking about WWII. She told me the story of her Uncle.

Gail's family are of Portuguese descent and immigrated to Canada from what today is Guyana in South America. In WWII, the country was then known as British Guiana. Gail's Uncle, Frank Gonsalves, had volunteered into the British Royal Air Force. He was sent to South Asia. In August of 1945, shortly after the war had ended, he was in an aircraft that had crashed into the sea and all on board were never found. Franks personal effects including a parachute that he had used in training was sent home to his mother.

A short time after the war ended, the family immigrated to Canada where Gail was born in 1951. She was the first grandchild born and her grandmother made her a baptismal dress from the material in the parachute of her Uncle Frank Gonsalves. Gail still has this treasured dress today. The family never knew anything more about Frank's military life. They had tried to find out more but that was what all that they knew.

I just had to get on the computer to see what I could find out. Here is what I can add to the story after a few hours of researching, assembly and writing:

The families of Diego and Anita Gonsalves had been immigrants to British Guiana from Portugal where their eldest son, Frank Winston Gonsalves, was born in 1917, in the city of Georgetown. On October 10, 1943 he volunteered into the British Royal Air Force. His training was in England and in May of 1944 he was assigned to the 356th Squadron as a Flight Sergeant Air Gunner. The following September he was a member of the crew that was given the responsibility of caring for a brand-new B-24 Liberator Bomber. This aircraft was an American made Heavy Bomber which was a highly modern aircraft for its day.

It was given serial number KH218 and arrived in Montreal on September 15, 1944 for delivery to the British Royal Air Force. Upon arrival in England, Frank and his fellow crew members took possession and headed to Singapore via India and East Pakistan arriving in Singapore on September 24th at the British Air Force base.

The crew of 8 consisted of Flight Sergeant Frank Winston and consisted of volunteers from around the British Commonwealth. They were:

- Navigator P/O – Walter Frederick Mons Skipworth of Dover England
- Captain F/O – Roydon Hubert McLeod of Mather, Manitoba
- Air Bomber F/O – Ernest Albert Penfold of Essex, England
- WOP/ATR F/S – Sidney Solomon Aarons Family Location Unknown
- Air Gunner F/S – Robert Henry Lacey of Hamilton Ontario
- 2nd Pilot F/S – John Stewart of Essex England

- Flight Engineer F/S – George James Harry Snewing of Essex England
- Air Gunner- F/S – Frank Winston Gonsalves of British Guiana

For the next 11 months they flew bombing and surveillance mission against the Japanese, originally from Singapore before being moved to the Cocos Island base in the central Indian Ocean, in early 1945. On August 6 and 9 atomic bombs were dropped on Japan that quickly brought an end to the war. Surveillance and supply missions continued, for the weeks that followed, to ensure that there was no further aggressive Japanese activity.

On August 18th the B-24 Liberator Aircraft serial number KH218 left the RAF Station on Cocos Island for a Surveillance and Supply Drop Operation to a POW camp in Central Malaya. Following are comments from the report prepared by the 356th Commanding Officer, F. H. Hall, in the “Circumstantial Report” for that mission:

Section 1 of the Report

- Left Cocos Island for a Supply Drop Operation in central Malaya.
- On return, an early E. T. A. was signaled.
- Shortly after, a S. O. S. was sent out but was quickly cancelled.
- Soon after, another S. O. S. was received saying the aircraft was ditching.
- It gave course, height, approximate position and airspeed.
- No reason for ditching was received.
- It is believed that some mechanical defect developed because the message was very hurried.

Section 2 of the Report

- An intensive search was instituted.
- Sixteen sorties were flown over the next 4 days.
- On Aug. 20 a light was seen on the water by an aircraft doing the search. They circled and reported this to base.
- Based on this information 2 HSKs and 3 Corvettes joined as well as a Catalina aircraft that was sent to relieve the other aircraft.
- Nothing further was reported, and the search was called off on August 22nd.

Section 3 of the Report

- The aircraft had completed a satisfactory mission and they made a very successful drop.
- The Captain, F/O McLeod, was a steady and experienced pilot.
- There is no evidence that his handling of the situation was open to question.

All 8 Crew members are remembered on the Singapore War Memorial that contains 24,318 names of those from the British Commonwealth that died in that area while fighting the Japanese in WWII. Included are 2,442 that were members of the British Royal Air Force.

We Shall Remember Them.

Researched and Written by: G. William Streeter

INCIDENTAL REPORT:

LIBERATOR (L.S.) 20 816.

CAPTAIN	F/O	H.H. Sealeod	Q.A.R. 7.44389
2nd Pilot	F/O	J. Stewart	1950388
NAVIGATOR	F/O	W.F.H. Chipworth	195407
AIR CREW	F/O	A.E. Penfold	194096
FLT/SESS.	F/O	Assisting, G.J.M.	194186
W/C/AIR	F/O	H. Aaron	2000115
A/C	AGT.	H.H. Loney	Q.A.R. 193333
A/C	F/O	F.H. Commissives	0026407

On 19th August, 1943, the above aircraft and crew took off from RAF Station 02000 (Liphook) for an O.T.O. operation in Central Europe. On return trip an early E.T.O. was signalled. Shortly afterwards an O.T.O. was sent out which, a few minutes later was cancelled. Another O.T.O. was then received followed by the message that the aircraft was ditching and giving course, height, approximate position and airspeed. No indication of the reason for ditching was received, but as the ditching procedure was rather hurried it is thought that some mechanical defect developed rapidly.

2. An intensive A.T.R. search was instituted. A total of 16 sorties were flown during the next 4 days, weather and visibility being fair throughout. On 20th Aug, a light was seen on the water by an aircraft engaged in the search, whilst circling the position the light was again seen the position being signalled to base. On this information 2 Miles and 2 corvettes joined in and a Catalina was sent to relieve the sighting aircraft. Nothing further was reported and the search was called off on the 2nd, August.

3. A report from the Field stated that this aircraft had completed a mine-laying mission and had made a very successful drop. The Captain, F/O Sealeod, was a steady and experienced pilot and there is no evidence to suggest that his handling of the situation was open to question.

(2000) T.H. Hall F/LT.

For Officer Commanding,
No. 200 Squadron,
H. A. F.



Brain Teasers for You

Questions:

1. 84% of people reading this will not find the the mistake in this A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,I,J,K,L,M,N,O,P,Q,R,S,T,U,V,W,X,Y,Z.
2. How can you throw a ball as hard as you can and have it come back to you, even if it doesn't bounce off anything? There is nothing attached to it, and no one else catches or throws it back to you.
3. What occurs once in every minute, twice in every moment, yet never in a thousand years?
4. What's full of holes but still holds water?
5. What flies without wings?
6. Where will you find roads without vehicles, forests without trees, and cities without houses?
7. What are two things you cannot eat for supper?
8. What word looks the same upside down and backward?
9. What five letter word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it?
10. A boy was rushed to the hospital emergency room. The ER doctor saw the boy and said, "I cannot operate on this boy. He is my son." But the doctor was not the boy's father. How could that be?
11. What can you keep but cannot share and once you share it, you can't keep it anymore?

Answers

Answer 1 – "The" is repeated.

Answer 2 – Throw the ball up in the air.

Answer 3 – The letter "M".

Answer 4 – A sponge.

Answer 5 – Time.

Answer 6 – A map.

Answer 7 – Breakfast and Lunch.

Answer 8 – SWIMS.

Answer 9 – The word short.

Answer 10 –The doctor was his mom.

Answer 11 – A secret.

