



**Royal Canadian Legion**  **Port Elgin Branch 340**

# Branch Line

**April 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.

**Due to the provincial lockdown the Legion will be closed until we are able to re-open.**

**Effective Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> - 12:01 am**

**The scheduled Meat Draws will be postponed until further notice.**

A Meat Draw Schedule is included in this bulletin – please save for future reference. At the time of producing the bulletin no lockdown was imposed. All dates are subject to change.

A few dates to celebrate in April noted inside. We wish you a Happy Easter weekend as 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



## 2019 – 2020 BRANCH 340 EXECUTIVE

<b>President</b>	Robert Harrison	bnrshow@eastlink.ca	519-389-4806
<b>Immediate Past President</b>	Dan Kelly	dankelly@bmts.com	519-389-2352
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</b>	Alex Taylor	alex.taylor@bmts.com	519-389-2616
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b>	Rhonda Harrison	bnrshow@eastlink.ca	519-389-4806
<b>Secretary</b>	Norma Dudgeon	Branch340@eastlink.ca	519-389-2876
<b>Treasurer</b>	Norma Dudgeon	Branch340@eastlink.ca	519-389-2876
<b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b>	Mike Hobson	hobson@eastlink.ca	519-386-6078
<b>Sports Officer</b>	Gord Kelly	gordonakelly1973@gmail.com	519-389-6057
<b>Chaplain</b>	Chuck Beaton	cjbeaton5@gmail.com	519-797-5586
<b>Executive</b>	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
<b>LA Liaison</b>	Patty Kelly	gpkelly@bmts.com	519-389-6057
<b>Bar Chairman</b>	Norma Dudgeon	Branch340@eastlink.ca	519-389-2876
<b>Bursary</b>	Robert Harrison	bnrshow@eastlink.ca	519-389-4806
<b>By-laws</b>	Norma Dudgeon	Branch340@eastlink.ca	519-389-2876
<b>Charity</b>	Rhonda Harrison	bnrshow@eastlink.ca	519-389-4806
<b>Hall Rental</b>	Norma Dudgeon	Branch340@eastlink.ca	519-389-2876
<b>Honours &amp; Awards</b>	Tom Jacques	thjacques@bmts.com	519-832-6837
<b>Leadership Development</b>	Robert Harrison	bnrshow@eastlink.ca	519-389-4806
<b>Membership</b>	Dan Kelly	dankelly@bmts.com	519-389-2352
<b>Poppy</b>	Alex Taylor	alex.taylor@bmts.com	519-389-2616
<b>Property</b>	Don Dudgeon	Branch340@eastlink.ca	519-389-2876
<b>Public Relations</b>	Rhonda Harrison	bnrshow@eastlink.ca	519-389-4806
<b>Seniors</b>	Mike Hobson	hobson@eastlink.ca	519-386-6078
<b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b>	Mike Hobson	hobson@eastlink.ca	519-386-6078
<b>Service Officer</b>	Mike Hobson	hobson@eastlink.ca	519-386-6078
<b>Sports</b>	Gord Kelly	gordonakelly1973@gmail.com	519-389-6057
<b>Veteran Services</b>	Mike Hobson	hobson@eastlink.ca	519-386-6078
<b>Ways &amp; Means</b>	Tom Jacques	thjacques@bmts.com	519-832-6837
<b>Youth Education</b>	Patty Kelly	gpkelly@bmts.com	519-389-6057
<b>Air Cadets Liaison</b>	Elizabeth Eby	bizebys@gmail.com	519-832-3133
<b>Nevada</b>	Andrew Reinhart	andyreinhardt@hotmail.com	519-708-0553
<b>Track &amp; Field</b>	Robert Harrison	bnrshow@eastlink.ca	519-389-4806

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<b>2019-2020 LADIES AUXILIARY EXECUTIVE</b>	
<b>President</b>	Diana Tripp
<b>Immediate Past President</b>	Marg Esplen (Servant of God)
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</b>	Anne Marie Kinsman
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b>	Sharen Maas
<b>Treasurer</b>	Diane Mills
<b>Secretary</b>	Vicky Taylor
<b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b>	Anne Marie Kinsman
<b>Sports Officer</b>	Diane Mills
<b>Executive</b>	Meryl Cramp
	Linda Virgo



	<b>President's Report</b>	
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Things are still very slow during the week at the Branch with only Friday showing a good crowd. It would be great if more members could come in to support us during the week and to those that are, we thank you.

We had a successful Meat Draw on March 13<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately we had to turn away a few people as we fill to capacity of 50 people very quickly. For all upcoming Meat Draw dates please see inside the bulletin, save it for reference and be advised that the dates are subject to change.

We have also renovated the Ladies washroom in the Club Room to rave reviews. A special thanks goes to Don and Norma Dudgeon, Paul and Lynne Dennison. Don Dudgeon and Marshall Dolbeck also laid new flooring in the Club Room behind the bar, so we thank them for that also.

I am also very pleased to announce that we applied and will be receiving funding from the Provincial government in the near future. We applied under the Ontario Small Business Support Grant and a special thanks to Lisa Thompson, MPP, and her associate John McPhee, Communication Specialist, to ensure we were aware of this opportunity. What a great way to end the month with such good news during these trying times and the funding will help with Branch operating costs.

That's it for now. Please join us at the Branch when you can and we do appreciate the support.

President Robert (Bob) Harrison  
bnrshow@eastlink.ca



	<b>Bursary Report</b>	
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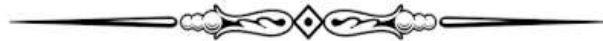


Bursary season is now over but will resume September 1<sup>st</sup>. It has been a very slow season for bursaries due to COVID-19. Some students simply took the year off as they could not get the hands-on training that they wanted.

We did hand out 1 Branch 340 bursary to a resident of Port Elgin attending their 2<sup>nd</sup> year in university. The student was very thankful for the support.

If you have any questions about the program please give me a call and I will be glad to help you.

Cde Robert Harrison  
Bursary Chairman  
bnrshow@eastlink.ca  
519-389-4806



## WOMEN AND MEN...

### WOMEN

- Women are honest, loyal, and forgiving. They are smart, knowing that knowledge is power. But they still know how to use their softer side to make a point.
- Women want to be the best for their family, their friends, and themselves. Their hearts break when a friend dies. They have sorrow at the loss of a family member, yet they are strong when they think there is no strength left.
- A woman can make a romantic evening unforgettable.
- Women come in all sizes, in all colors and shapes. They live in homes, apartments and cabins. They drive, fly, walk, run or e-mail you to show how much they care about you.
- The heart of a woman is what makes the world spin! Women do more than just give birth. They bring joy and hope. They give compassion and ideals.
- They give moral support to their family and friends. And all they want back is a hug, a smile and for you to do the same to people you come in contact with.

### MEN

- Men are good at lifting heavy stuff and killing spiders.

	<b>Hall Rentals</b>	
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**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](mailto:Branch340@eastlink.ca)



	<b>Honours &amp; Awards</b>	
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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](mailto:thjacques@bmts.com)

Why is Monday  
so far from  
Friday, and  
Friday so close  
to Monday?



*I asked my wife if she ever fantasizes about me, she said yes - about me taking out the trash, mowing the lawn, and doing the dishes.*



	<b>Leadership Development</b>	
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**Veterans and service dogs: Legion commits significant funds  
Mar 22, 2021**



The Legion's Ontario Command, its Branches, and Ladies' Auxiliaries have made a crucial donation to Wounded Warriors Canada (WWC) to help continue its work to pair more Veterans with life-changing service dogs. These exceptional dogs are trained to help reduce Veteran anxiety in public settings, redirect attention to more positive activities, help with nightmare interruption and in stabilizing sleep patterns.

"Through our Operation Service Dog program, we have contributed close to a million dollars in Poppy Funds to help ensure Ontario Veterans who need this sort of specialized care and companionship, receive it," says Garry Pond, Ontario Command President.

Pond recently presented a \$350,000 donation to Phil Ralph, the Director of Health Services at WWC. The funding supports the WWC PTSD Service Dog program which includes everything from training to placement. Since the initial donation by Ontario Command, WWC has facilitated the placement of 11 PTSD Service Dogs to Ontario Veterans, with approximately 30 others currently in training.

"We are beginning to see desired results," says Ralph. "Operation Service Dog and the incredible partnership with WWC is



profoundly impacting not only the lives of Veterans but also the lives of their families.“ While the WWC Service Dog program has had to work through additional challenges due to the pandemic over the past year, Ralph notes they have made good progress. “We were able to add another Service Dog provider in Ontario and have been able to maintain financial support to our providers so they can emerge from this period in good shape.”

Ontario Command and Wounded Warriors Canada began their partnership in 2018 with a view to pairing as many injured Veterans with trained dogs as feasible. Other Legion Provincial Commands such as Nova Scotia/Nunavut and British Columbia/Yukon are also partnering with various organizations to provide Service Dogs to Veterans in their communities.

Nationally, The Royal Canadian Legion has been pushing the federal government for National Standards for Service Dogs for years. While a commitment to create such standards has been made, nothing has been released to date. In the interim, Wounded Warriors Canada has established a set of standards required of all Service Dog providers it works with.

To learn more about the WWC program please visit: <https://woundedwarriors.ca/our-programs/ptsd-service-dogs/>

*Credit - News releases and articles from Dominion Command of The Royal Canadian Legion.*



	<b>Membership</b>	
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Membership is pretty quiet this time of year and we are up to date with issuing out 2021 stickers to members in good standing with a few exceptions. There are a few people that have paid their 2020 dues late last year, so their 2021 stickers were not issued out in August.

Membership is still fairly strong in Branch 340 and we are looking forward to a great year.

Cde Dan Kelly  
Membership Chairman  
[dankelly@bmts.com](mailto:dankelly@bmts.com)

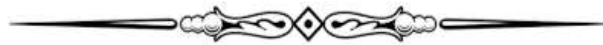




### Going Out for Two

Wife: "I am going out for two hours. Do you want anything?"

Husband: "No, that's enough."

*"Spring is painted in daffodil yellows, robin egg blues, new grass green and the brightness of hope for a better life." — Toni Sorenson*



	<b>Poppy</b>	
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With the challenges the COVID-19 pandemic presented, Port Elgin Legion's 2020 Poppy Campaign, unexpectedly, was highly successful raising over \$41,300.00, over a 44% increase over 2019. Through our Ad Mail Campaign, Port Elgin households and businesses donated over \$10,500 alone to the Poppy Campaign. Again, a campaign this large could not come off without the support of our dedicated Branch Member volunteers who stuffed Ad Mail Envelopes and Canvassed at stores that had sufficient space to allow for Canvassers to properly social distance and the many Port Elgin businesses who displayed over 107 Poppy boxes collecting funds for this year's Poppy Campaign.

Our businesses and organizations even with the negative impact of COVID-19 still sponsored 104 wreaths, another key to the success of this year's Poppy Campaign. Thank you to all those who purchased wreaths or made donations. Our Veterans rely on us and the Poppy Funds, we raise, to assist them in their time of need.

As a result, 9 donations to date exceeding \$22,000 including a local Bursary have been approved by our Executive for Veterans and their families, one still subject to Ontario Command's approval. Current Poppy Trust Fund balance before the donations and bursary payments is \$54,540.16.

The call for canvassing volunteers was again answered by a number of our dedicated members. Due to the significant funds raised by our Canvassers distributing poppies, in stores, as well as the generous contributions to in-store Poppy Boxes, we appreciate you.

Heartfelt thanks go out to those Branch Members who volunteered over 250 hours of their valuable time this year to stuff Ad Mail Envelopes and/or Canvass:

Carolyn Russell	Mike Howe	Mary Galliher	Terry Mills	Scott Davidson
Dan Kelly	Laurie Laur	Glenna Snider	Janice Pepe	Shelley Hewson
Melinda Myette	Vicky Taylor	Mickey Kinsman	Rhonda Harrison	Bob Harrison
Shirley Jacklin	Wayne MacKinnon	Grant Virgo	George Jacklin	Shirley Alpaugh
Thelma Kennedy				

Ken and Evelyn Martin helped me to meet the Poppy Audit requirements for our 2019-2020 financial reports by reviewing the Poppy Trust Financial Records.

Thanks also to Shelley Hewson who helped distribute and pick up Poppy Boxes and Thelma Kennedy for helping sign out canvassers and counting money with the other money counters, Randy Shultz, Jim Connan, Glenna Snider, Larry Dudgeon, Dan Kelly, and Shelley Hewson. Again, I would like to thank Don Dudgeon along with Blair and Brock Eby and Kirk Virtue for erecting and taking down respectively the Poppy Banner on the side of our building.

Norma's support and advice this year to the Poppy Campaign was again greatly appreciated! Most important is her dedication to the organization, in spite of the challenges COVID-19 presented, for this year's Private Remembrance Day Ceremony!

A sincere **THANK YOU** to all those who volunteered their time this year!

**LEST WE FORGET!**

In Comradeship,

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



	<b>Veteran Services</b>	
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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.



	<b>Ways &amp; Means</b>	
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Meat Raffles are continuing at this point in time and the next 2 dates are Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> starting at 4:00 pm. All safety guidelines and protocols will be in place for your safety. We are also looking at how we are monitoring the attendance.

There will be no saving chairs and first-in, first-served for the fifty people.

Branch 340 appreciates your continued support.

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



	<b>Youth Education</b>	
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I am very pleased to announce that a video submitted by our local Northport Elementary School placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Provincial Remembrance Video Competition.

The students' entry was submitted in the Video II Category (Group) in the Grades 4-8 Division. Congratulations to all who were involved in the making of the video. I would like encourage everyone to take the time to watch their video.

#### **GRADE 4– 8 VIDEO II GROUP ENTRIES (Link, Students, School & District)**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place**

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=share&v=SzsgMmcEShs>  
(Northport Elementary School, Port Elgin, District C)

Cde Patty Kelly  
Youth Education Chairperson  
gpkelly@bmts.com



#### **The Juggler**

A juggler, driving to his next performance, is stopped by the police. "What are these matches and lighter fluid doing in your car?" asks the cop.

"I'm a juggler and I juggle flaming torches in my act."

"Oh yeah?" says the doubtful cop. "Let's see you do it." The juggler gets out and starts juggling the blazing torches masterfully.

A couple driving by slows down to watch. "Wow," says the driver to his wife. "I'm glad I quit drinking. Look at the test they're giving now!"



## National Notable Dates April 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.

### APRIL

- Month of the Military Child
- 3 Battle of Moreuil Wood (1918)
- 4 NATO Accord signed (1949)
- 9 Battle of Vimy Ridge (1917) - *Legion flags lowered to half mast*
- 18-24 National Volunteer Week
- 21 Queens birthday 1926
- 25 Anzac Day
- 25 Battle of Kapyong (1951)





Royal Canadian Legion  
Port Elgin Branch 340  
630 Green Street, Port Elgin  
519-389-9917



# What's Happening

## 2021 Meat Draws

**Saturdays starting at 4:00 pm**

April 3 & 17	May 8 & 22
June 12	July 3, 17, 31
August 14	September 4, 18
October 9, 30	November 13
December 3 at 8:00 pm	
December 4, 11, 18 at 4:00 pm	



🍷 Event dates are subject to change 🍷

Our Branch members have more or less been shut-in for a year now and we are trying to accommodate everyone by opening for shorter hours and bring some activities back so that our members can enjoy the legion comradeship that they have missed these past months.

The games room is open to members playing some snooker and shuffleboard in the afternoon with protocols in place – bring your own cue and chalk / wipe the balls and rocks after using / wipe tables & chairs before leaving.

We certainly appreciate everyone dropping into the Branch and value your continuous support which is essential to keeping our Branch viable.

Our Meat Raffle on Saturday, 13 March was quite successful but there are always a few glitches; because we had to turn members away, we cannot have people saving chairs for their friends and guests and it caused a problem when these friends did not show up.

Therefore, we ask that if you come as a group please come in together and claim your spot. This should ensure that everyone will have a seat.

COVID rules according to our Provincial legislation mandates:

- No more than 50 people in the clubroom; staff excluded
- Everyone must wear a mask except when seated
- Everyone must be seated / no standing permitted
- The guest book must be signed by everyone as you enter with phone numbers / this is for contact tracing
- Tables cannot be moved together / chairs can be moved around / no more than 8 - 10 people to a table
- Remember to social distance when standing at the bar waiting for a drink
- Bottles and glasses must be returned to the bar before leaving / set glasses on the tray on the counter

This is your Branch and you are a valued member; we want everyone to enjoy themselves when they come in and staying safe is a priority. Have fun and eventually, we will get back to “normal” and we’ll leave this virus in the dust!

Norma Dudgeon  
Bar Chairman



*When an employment application asks who is to be notified in case of emergency, I always write, "A very good doctor".*



## Branch 340 Ladies Auxiliary



*Happy Easter to you all. Enjoy your chocolate.*

Greetings from Branch 340 Ladies Auxiliary.

Spring is certainly in the air, the sun is shining and our snow is all gone and there's no more ice on the lake. April showers will bring the May flowers. Have you noticed how low the water level is?

Grey Bruce is in the **Green** but the Owen Sound Hospital (6<sup>th</sup> Floor) is currently in lockdown. That hurts.

There are still no activities occurring for us though. We just have to wait it out and hope we can be back together again real soon.

For those of us born in 1946 and before you can now book your vaccine appointment. The on-line system currently is not working properly but the phone line is (1-833-943-3900) this is the Provincial Booking call in service. I called on March 22<sup>nd</sup> but I think they were very busy and it took two calls and being on hold for several minutes and when I got through I was advised all time slots were taken, they took my information (health card number, birth date etc.) and put me on a waiting list and asked me to call again the next day (March 23<sup>rd</sup>) and I got through right away and was booked for Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at the Kincardine hub. All in all I feel it was handled very well. Give them a call and book your appointment.

Stay safe everyone. Keep wearing that mask and washing your hands.

Remember – This too shall pass.

Cde Vicky Taylor  
vicky.taylor@bmts.com







<p><i>Legion masks on sale in the Clubroom – Large and Small \$10 + HST</i></p>	



Just burned 2,000 calories. That's the last time I leave brownies in the oven while I nap.



	<b>AIR CADETS</b> <b>340 (Griffin) Squadron, Port Elgin</b>	
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ANNUAL AIR CADET CASH LOTTERY with over \$70,000 in Cash Prizes to be WON closes out on April 30, 2021. To purchase tickets please visit [www.aircadetlottery.com](http://www.aircadetlottery.com) PLEASE ensure when purchasing under 'Organization' you scroll down to #340 Port Elgin and click on our Squadron as a percentage of the sales are returned to our Squad which help with our activities of 'Air Related Summer Training'.

With the anticipation of Spring now upon us, the #340 Griffin Air Cadet Squadron would like to extend warm greetings to our many Legion Branches, Executive, Members and Legion friends that have supported the Squadron in the past and continue to do so in the future.

It is hard to believe a year has passed since our world took a dramatic change last March. As Liaison to the Cadet Squadron and on behalf of Captain Robert Herborth, Sponsoring Committee and Officers we humbly say 'thank you' for the continued Legion financial support to the Air Cadet program.

Our Cadets received some fantastic news of reconvening in person for March 16<sup>th</sup> and they were very excited to show off their 'Cadet Style Spring Haircuts' and don their new field training uniforms. Three new potential Cadets were welcomed into the Squad and I must say they are all a very impressive group of likeminded young people that we are very proud of. Let's hope in person training 'sticks' this time!

Captain Herborth has started running Range Practice in an attempt to compete in an Area Shooting Competition at the end of April as well as the Air Cadet League Effective Speaking Competition. The Squadron is hopeful this year to conduct the Annual Cadet Review with a tentative date of May 30<sup>th</sup>.

Two summer training courses have been offered by DND for a Cadet currently in levels 3-5 and at least 14 years of age. The 'in person' courses are Aerospace which will be conducted at the St. Jean Cadet Training Centre in Quebec and Survival will be at the Connaught Cadet Training Centre near Ottawa.

*The aim of the Advanced Aerospace course is to develop a specialist with the skills and subject matter knowledge required to be an instructor and team leader for aerospace activities within the Air Cadet program. This aim will be accomplished through the development of skills and knowledge relevant to various aspects of science & technology, and by providing ample opportunity for practical application within the format of a simulated space mission project.*

*The Survival Instructor Course provides Cadets with an opportunity to develop as a specialist with the skills and subject matter knowledge required to be an instructor and team leader for aircrew survival activities within the Air Cadet Program. Activities include instructional technique, first aid, survival field training and ground navigation. A 'solo' will be required for graduation of this program.*

Both of these courses are 6 weeks in length whereby one Cadet from each Squadron can apply for acceptance to the program. Due to COVID-19 protocols visitors and external leave will be prohibited.

Summer staffing opportunities are also available for senior Cadets in a paid summer position. Positions are available at Trenton Air Cadet Summer Camp, St. Jean Training Centre, Connaught Cadet Training Centre and Rocky Mountain Cadet Training Centre (Alberta).

The #340 Griffin Air Cadet Squadron looks forward to its continued Legion collaboration, successes and a very hopeful path moving in a positive direction this Spring and Summer. The Squadron wishes everyone the brightest of days, good health and happiness.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cde Elizabeth Eby, Liaison  
RCACS #340  
519 832 3133 Home  
bizebys@gmail.com



### #340 Air Cadet Amendment to April Newsletter Report

At the time of writing the original report to membership on the status of the #340 Air Cadet Griffin Squadron, the plan of summer instructional camps looked very promising via the correspondence of the Department of National Defense. Even as 'parents' we understood 'if' these projects came to fruition, Cadets would have to adhere to strict protocols of COVID-19 safety and quarantine regulations.

Effective immediately and as an amendment to the original update, all in-person summer instructional programs/camps for 2021 have been cancelled and staffing positions at various Cadet Training Centers are now moved to online training. All Cadet applications for in-person training are now void.

On behalf of the Squadron, I thank all Legion members for their continued support in purchasing on-line tickets for the Lottery Draw and wish you good luck with your tickets.

In Comradeship,  
E. Eby, Liaison  
#340 RCACS





**MILLER'S  
MEDAL MOUNTING**



SANDY MILLER  
CONTACT: [sandybr464@yahoo.ca](mailto:sandybr464@yahoo.ca)  
PHONE: 519-379-5989



It is not boring at all  
to stay in the house.  
But how come a bag  
of rice has 7,456  
pieces and the other  
bag 7,398?