



Royal Canadian Legion & Port Elgin Branch 340

Branch Line

September 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.

Another long weekend to enjoy! Reminder our children will be heading back to school so please be careful as they will be walking and getting on and off school busses.

Meat Draws will continue, so please keep the schedule enclosed for handy reference. Dates are subject to change however. Hope to see you out and about!

The Branch is now open Sundays effective Sunday, September 12th. Check out the hours in this issue

Wishing everyone a very Happy Labour Day weekend! Enjoy and stay safe!

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



	<p style="text-align: center;">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</p>	
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2019-2020 LADIES AUXILIARY EXECUTIVE	
President	Diana Tripp
1st Vice President	Anne Marie Kinsman
2nd Vice President	Sharen Maas
Treasurer	Diana Tripp - Interim
Secretary	Vicky Taylor
Sergeant-at-Arms	Anne Marie Kinsman
Sports Officer	Linda Virgo
	Sharen Maas
Executive	Elaine Esplen
	Linda Virgo
	Marilyn Noble
	Meryl Cramp



President's Report



Well it's been quite the summer from torrential rainfall to a blistering heat wave; what will Mother Nature give us next? With fall, my favourite season, just 21 days I am looking forward to some cooler weather.

At the Branch we have had a very slow month as people are on summer vacations and outside doing summer sports.

With the summer months behind us I am hoping that we will all get back to our regular routines and that more comrades will come to the Branch for some camaraderie.

It is very important that our membership come to the Branch to support us; because without membership participation we cannot survive.

Please consider dropping in to our renovated Clubroom. It's fully air conditioned and has the best beverage prices in town.

We are back on track with our bi-weekly meat draws. Our format has changed slightly due to COVID-19 protocols. We now deliver the tickets to your table so everyone stays safe as we



follow social distancing guidelines. Please consider coming to our next draw on September 4th at 4:00 pm.

Dominion Convention was held August 13-15, 2021 with delegates registered on-line for the virtual convention. Branch 340 was represented and I thank those who participated. We are having our Zone Convention on September 26th. This will be an in-person format and we can be back to a more normal way of conducting business.

The Games Room is open again for pool and darts and people are inquiring about fall leagues; however we still cannot allow card playing.

On a final note we are still short-handed on the Executive and we will be needing help with the upcoming Poppy Campaign. Please consider volunteering. We need you to help make this great organization be successful.

If you have any questions, please contact me or call the Branch.

President Robert (Bob) Harrison
bnrshow@eastlink.ca



Bursary Report



With students heading back to school in September the Bursary program will once again start up. We will still have an operating budget of \$400,000 for 2021-2022. There have been a few more changes this year but the best one is that they have raised the amount of the bursary award from \$750.00 to \$1,000.00.

If you have any questions about eligibility or how to apply please contact me and I will be happy to guide you through it.

For more information go to www.on.Legion.ca/remembrance/youth-programs for the current Bursary form. If you have any questions or need assistance please call me at 519-389-4806.

Cde Robert Harrison
Bursary Chairman
bnrshow@eastlink.ca





Hall Rentals



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 & 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.

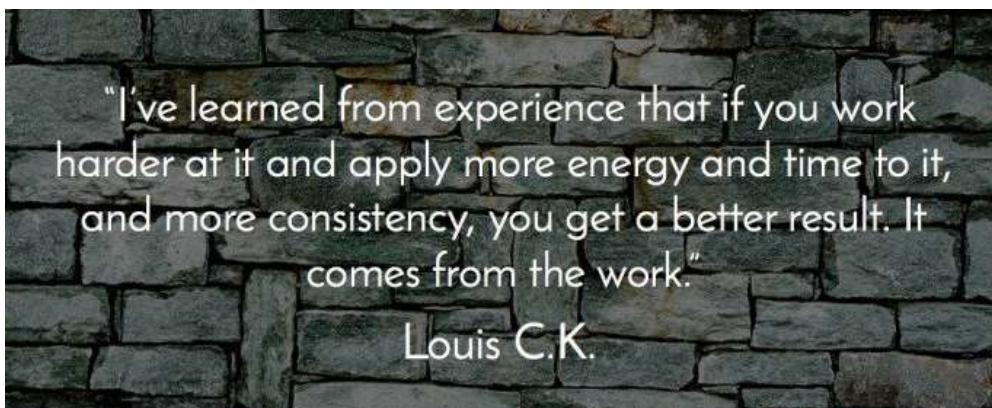
Cde Tom Jacques
Honours & Awards Chairman
thjacques@bmts.com



A lawyer runs a stop sign and gets pulled over by a sheriff. He thinks he's smarter being a big shot lawyer from New York and has a better education than a sheriff from West Virginia. The sheriff asks for license and registration. The lawyer asks, "What for?" The sheriff responds, "You didn't come to a complete stop at the stop sign." The lawyer says, "I slowed down and no one was coming." "You still didn't come to a complete stop. License and registration please," says the sheriff impatiently. The lawyer says, "If you can show me the legal difference between slow down and stop, I'll give you my license and registration and you can give me the ticket. If not, you let me go and don't give me the ticket." The sheriff says, "That sounds fair, please exit your vehicle." The lawyer steps out and the sheriff takes out his nightstick and starts beating the lawyer with it. The sheriff says, "Do you want me to stop or just slow down?"



Math Teacher: "If I have 5 bottles in one hand and 6 in the other hand, what do I have?"
Student: "A drinking problem."





Leadership & Development Military Service Recognition Book



Ontario Command is very pleased and proud to publish the Military Service Recognition Book. A book that will assist us in identifying and recognizing many of our Veterans within the Province of Ontario, while at the same time assist us in our job as the “Keepers of Remembrance”.

We invite Legion members and the general public to visit their local Legion Branch to obtain more information regarding this Remembrance program and more importantly, to submit a story and photo of a Veteran. We cannot expect those who have served or are still serving to write their own stories for publication. So we are asking members of The Legion and the general public to accept the responsibility and fulfil our mandate to do this on their behalf.

This annual publication will help identify and recognize many of the Veterans of Ontario who served their country extremely well. As “Keepers of Remembrance”, the Royal Canadian Legion strives to perpetuate the sacrifices that our soldiers and their families sacrificed for our freedom. This Military Service Recognition Book will serve as a reminder for generations to come, of the contributions made towards the creation of our nation and the continuance of Canada as a protector of freedom.

Although this program is all about Remembrance and the history of our Veterans, funds will be raised for the Legion through a telephone appeal to the general public and businesses through advertising sales for the book. The book publisher, Fenety Marketing, is currently conducting a Telephone Appeal on our behalf to private citizens and the business community throughout the Province of Ontario.

The funds raised through the program will assist and support many Legion initiatives and to assist Branches to remain a viable partner in their communities.

We invite you to submit stories of Veterans who have touched your life through your local Legion Branch. Recognition for our Veterans both past and present should be very important to us all. Please show your support to our Veterans.





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: _____ (m/d/y)		Tel # _____	
Email _____	Branch Name & # _____			
Was permission given by individual or family to use submission? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	(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



CONTACT TRACING RECORD

Please provide your name and phone number when entering the Club Room

This information is necessary should we need to contact you as the Branch needs this information immediately for your health protection.

Your cooperation is appreciated.

Branch 340 Executive



Golf is what you play when you're too out of shape to [play baseball](#)



Membership



We are into September and hopefully the kids are going back to school.

September is also the start of our Early Bird Campaign. As in the past three years, if you renew your 2022 Legion membership before November 30, 2021 we will take \$ 5 off the renewal price. Until November 30, 2021 your membership renewal cost will be \$ 50 the same as the past four years. After November 30, 2021 the cost will go back up to \$ 55. So why not be an Early Bird and save yourself some cash.

Last year in our Early Bird Campaign, we had just under 90% of our members renew their membership. I am very pleased with the response and support that Branch 340 has been given over the past two years. COVID-19 has been hard on many people and businesses. Branch 340 has been helping out our veterans and youth over these trying times in any way we can.

Please continue to support our Legion by becoming an Early Bird member and so we can continue our work. September 1, 2021 to November 31, 2021 is our Early Bird Campaign. Why not join early. Below is a document on our early bird campaign and how you can renew early.

Cde Dan Kelly
Membership Chairman
dankelly@bmts.com





Renew your membership today!

The Legion's Early Bird Campaign is on until November 30th — don't miss your opportunity to maintain the many benefits of your Legion membership.

When you renew your membership by the early bird deadline, you:

- Keep your account in good standing
- Maintain years of continuous service
- Support the Branch and its programs
- Ensure delivery of LEGION Magazine

To renew your membership, visit our Branch before November 30th or mail your membership dues in the amount of \$50.00 directly to our address below.

For your convenience, you can also renew online at portal.Legion.ca. Once registered online, you have the option to set your membership to auto-renew to be billed automatically each year.

Encourage a friend or family member to join, too! Every member makes a difference.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Branch Contact Information

Contact name: Daniel Kelly

Address: 630 Green Street, P. O. Box 359

Port Elgin, Ontario N0H 2C0

Telephone: 519-389-9917

E-mail: Branch340@eastlink.ca

Renew today!



A retired man now volunteers to entertain patients in assisted living homes and hospitals. He visited one hospital in Brooklyn and brought along his portable keyboard.

After telling jokes and singing songs at patients' bedsides, he said farewell and, "I hope you get better."

One elderly gentleman replied, "I hope you get better, too."





Last Post



Alma Voyce

Affiliate Member

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.



Branch 340 Hours

Monday to Thursday 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Friday 3:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Saturday 3:00 – 7:00 pm
Sunday 4:00 – 7:00 pm

Until further Notice





Poppy



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 such as those shown above. We appreciate any donations made throughout the year. Each year we have Veterans and projects that need assistance.

As always, if any member is aware of any veteran, whether a Legion member or not, who may need assistance, especially during these challenging times in Afghanistan, 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.

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

Below is an article showing your Poppy Donations at work helping our Veterans address PTSD.

LEST WE FORGET!

In Comradeship,

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



Below is an article showing your Poppy Donations at work helping our Veterans address PTSD

<p><i>Meet Smeagle (male) and his sister Kili (female) from the Hobbit litter. They are Black Retriever, Labs and are 15 months old.</i></p>	<p><i>attack sets in and will go to our six when in a line up so folks can't come up from behind and startle us to name a few. These dogs provide us with a meaningful purpose, having responsibilities such as feeding, watering, walking, and socializing the dogs. The biggest one is the overall well being of the dog.</i></p>	
<p><i>Smeagle's handler is Gail Morgan-Smith from Barrie, Ontario. Kili belongs to Maggie Van Tassell of Craighurst Ontario. Both dogs are certified service dogs for PTSD.</i></p>	<p><i>We trained for a week in Kansas at CARES, INC with the dogs to learn how to be handlers. We practiced the proper words of command and had to pass a public access test.</i></p>	
<p><i>The dogs were trained and tested by CARES, INC in Concordia, Kansas. Their foster raisers were from Ft. Leavenworth Correctional Facility and Ellsworth Correctional Facility.</i></p>	<p><i>It was an amazing experience and we are soooo grateful, thank you to CARES INC, Paws Fur Thought, Ontario Command Branches and Ladies Auxiliaries' (Operation Service Dog) and Wounded Warriors Canada".</i></p>	
<p><i>These dogs are trained to perform tasks such as – nightmare intervention, anxiety awareness – keeping us grounded before a panic</i></p>	<p><i>Respectfully,</i></p>	
	<p><i>Gail Morgan-Smith & Smeagle</i> <i>Maggie Van Tassel & Kili</i></p>	



When you're 20 and you drop something, you pick it up.
When you're 80 and you drop something, you decide you don't need it anymore.



Veteran Services



 **Port Elgin Legion Branch 340**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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.



Two Irishmen walking by a lumber yard and they see a sign which reads "Tree Fellers Wanted". One turns to the other and says "Shame there's only the two of us."



Youth Education



September has arrived with students heading back to school with them wondering will they really be in the classroom or will it turn into virtual learning yet again.

Last spring, I witnessed some of my Granddaughter's grade seven virtual classes. After the Residential Schools findings of the numerous unmarked graves of children her elementary school was having class



discussion groups after viewing educational videos. We watched the video together and after her school day was finished, we talked. She told me that she learned about Residential Schools last year. Her thoughts were that she would not want to go to one and to leave her mom and dad. Further she did not think any child should have had to go to a school where bad things would happen to them. While I sat hugging her, she shared she was feeling sad for all those children. "I am having a really bad day Grandma but just think of all of the bad days those children had".

As an adult I too knew about the Residential Schools but not from any of my classes in elementary or secondary schools. Unfortunately, it was not part of Canada's history that was taught to my generation of students.

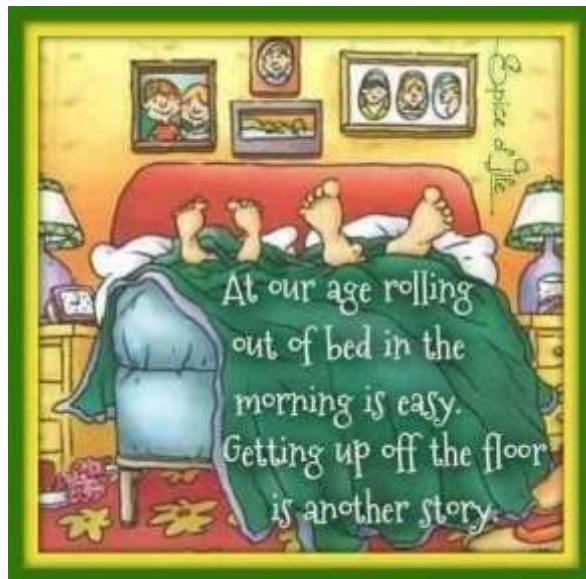
Our generation now has the responsibility to educate ourselves. As I now live in Bruce County I wanted to know where the children were sent which I learned was Spanish. Personally, as part of my learning I have decided to check out what our children are now learning in the classroom.

Below I have shared a link for those who might be interested.

<https://www.oasdi.ca/k-12-education-in-ontario/curriculum/>

We will Remember Them

Patty Kelly
Youth Education Chairman
branch340youthed@gmail.com



A pretty terrible golfer was playing a round of golf for which he had hired a caddie. The round proved to be somewhat tortuous for the caddie to watch and he was getting a bit exasperated by the poor play of his employer.

At one point the ball lay about 180 yards from the green and as the golfer sized up his situation, he asked his caddie, "Do you think I can get there with a 5-iron?" And the caddie replied, "Eventually."



Branch 340 Ladies Auxiliary



We continue to make our way through this pandemic with no activities happening for us but we did have a meeting this month to update and fill some of the positions that need to be filled:

- Treasurer: Diana Tripp – interim
- Sports Officers: Sharen Maas and Linda Virgo
- Convenors for Events: Each Convenor will purchase the supplies required for that event.
- Marilyn Noble has been added to our Executive and Phoning List.

Our Current Executive is:

- President: Diana Tripp
- 1st Vice: Anne Marie Kinsman
- 2nd Vice: Sharen Maas
- Treasurer: Diana Tripp – Interim
- Secretary: Vicky Taylor
- Sports Officers: Sharen Maas and Linda Virgo
- Honors and Awards: Vacant
- Executive: Elaine Esplen, Meryl Cramp, Marilyn Noble, Linda Virgo
- Phone Captains: Sharen Maas, Linda Virgo, Elaine Esplen, Meryl Cramp, Marilyn Noble



We currently have 31 members but, we are always looking for new members. Please keep an eye out for anyone that you feel may be interested and let us know. The members we currently have are ladies that have served for many years and we are hoping that we can find others who would like to commit to our Auxiliary. When we get back to catering functions we need energetic young ladies to join us.

We have scheduled our first General Meeting to be held on Tuesday, October 12th at 7:30PM in the upstairs hall. Please plan to attend.

Thank you everyone for your help and support and stay healthy.

Cde Vicky Taylor
vicky.taylor@bmts.com



**MEMBERSHIP**

Renewal dues will be increasing as of December 1, 2021 to \$55.00

Pay today to receive the Early Bird Discount - \$50.00

Dan Kelly, Membership Chair

Renew today!





Hoof'in It –Your Local Butcher
1199 Goderich St #A Port Elgin (519) 389-6328

Due to COVID-19 Hoof'in It would like to offer Branch 340 members
a 10% discount.



National Notable Dates September 2021

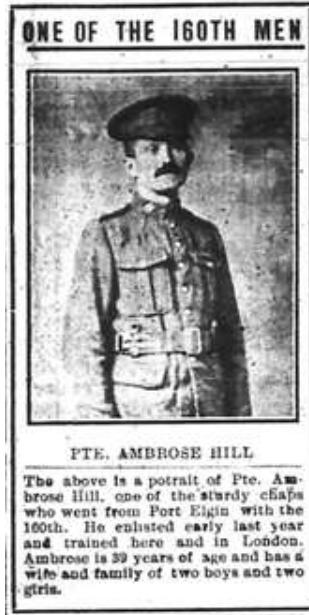
- Legion Early Bird campaign / Renewals
- 2 Second World War ends (1945)
- 3 Merchant Navy Veterans Day
- 8 Battle of Medak Pocket (1993)
- 10 World Suicide Prevention Day
- 11 September 11 attacks (2001)
- TBD: Canada Army Run
- 17 Operation Medusa (2006)
- 21 International Day of Peace
- 3rd Friday Military Family Appreciation Day
- 3rd Sunday Battle of Britain (1940)
- Last Sunday Police and Peace Officers Memorial





We Will Remember Them

Ambrose Marten Hill



Ambrose was born on May 13, 1877 in Bruce Township. The family farmed on Bruce County Road 20 close to the Shiloh Community Church. His parents, William and Jane (nee Hunter) had arrived there about 15 years earlier from their family's farm near Uxbridge Ontario. His older brother, Andrew was my Grandfather and 13 years older than him. Ambrose had 2 sisters, Mary Jane and Helen Margaret and another brother, William.

On October 18, 1905 Ambrose married Sarah Elizabeth Strachan in Kincardine. He and Sarah remained on the family farm until 1911 when they moved to Port Elgin where he found work as a Factory Hand at the Stephens Hepner Brush factory. They raised a family in Port Elgin that included two boys, James and Lorenzo and a daughter Maggie.

With the war raging in Europe and there being the critical need for fresh recruits in late 1915 the call went out to form a Bruce County Battalion. Recruitment began in December 1915 and by April 1916 close to 1,200 young men from across Bruce County had enlisted in the 160th Bruce Battalion.

One of these was 39-year-old Ambrose Hill. He enlisted on January 2, 1916 in Port Elgin. Training began immediately and that April all of the recruits from throughout the county gathered in Walkerton. On June 4, after marching to Chesley from Walkerton the 160th received their Battalion Colour Banners from the Premier of Ontario, William Hearst. They returned to Walkerton and soon after arrived in London Ontario to complete their indoctrination and continue training for their future in Europe.

That October 17th, 1,171 of Bruce Counties finest young men boarded the S. S. Metagama in Halifax. Eleven days later, on October 28th they arrived in Liverpool and immediately went to their prepared camp at Bramshott in East Hampshire, near Salisbury Plain, to prepare for the move to the European mainland. Canada had 4 full army divisions at the front and the 160th was planned to become a part of a new 5th Division.

But after more than a year, that took until February 1918 before there was a decision that there would not be a 5th Division. Instead, the new recruits would become part of a Reserve Group and would replace the many men that had been killed or injured during the war up to that time. This would mean breaking up the 160th and small groups of them being assigned to other Canadian Battalions from across Canada. This would strengthen the existing groups and make the allied army better prepared for the push to end the war late in 1918.



For Ambrose it was April 25, 1918 when he reached France and became a member of the 47th Battalion Western Ontario Regiment. This was originally the British Columbia Regiment but by 1918 its losses had been so large there were more men from Western Ontario in it, so it was renamed the Western Ontario Regiment. For more than 3 months they spent their time doing 14 days on and off in the trenches of France. Each day involved 12 hours of being on or off duty with another 12 hours of rest and preparation. The 14 days of being off duty meant being in barn like quarters or billets back from the front lines.

This all came to a sudden end when on August 8, 1918, the allies started the big push which is known as the 100 Day Offensive, that led to the war's end on November 11. It was during this time that the Canadians fought in the most extreme fighting of the war. The 47th Battalion was right in the middle of it right from the start.

By early September 1918, the intense fighting for the 47th, centred on the Drocourt-Queant Line of trenches between the two French cities of the same name. Germany had constructed their trenches here as part of the Hindenburg Line, a vast German defensive system that ran through Northeastern France. On September 2nd at 5 a.m. Canadian and British forces attacked the German Line supported by tanks and aircraft. The 4th Division, including the boys of the 47th, attacked the south end of the trench line south of the River Sence. On September 3rd, the Germans were in retreat with the Canadians and British taking many prisoners. BUT Ambrose Hill had been shot in the battle and was taken to a close by Field Hospital.

He had been shot in the head and the right hip. Six days later, on Sept. 9, he arrived in the Hospital in Boulogne France and was declared "Dangerously Ill".

On September 26th Ambrose was taken to England and was treated at London General Hospital before finally going to the Canadian Hospital in Orpington where he stayed until February 6, 1919. He was in a Convalescence Hospital in Kirkdale, near Liverpool when he was invalided to Canada in March 1919. He boarded the hospital ship Araguaya.



On his arrival in Canada, he was taken to the Army Hospital in London Ontario. Following is a transcription of a handwritten medical review dated April 11, 1919 for a test known as "Stereoscopic Imaging".

As written:

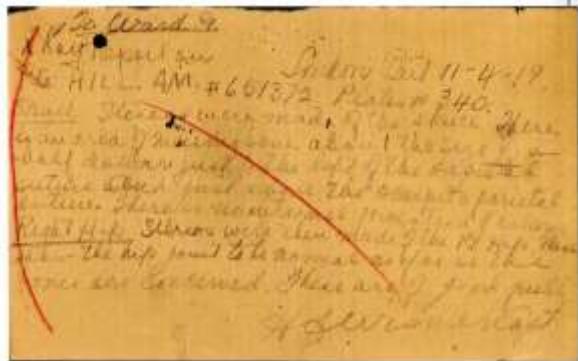
To Ward 9, Report on Pte. HILL, A.M. R. N. 651372 Plates #340

SKULL. Stereos were made of the skull. There is an area of missing bone about the size of a half dollar just to the left of the sagittal suture and just above the occipital parietal suture. There is no ureteral formation of callous.

RIGHT HIP. Stereos were then made of the right hip. They show the hip joint to be normal as far as their bones are concerned. These are of a good quality.

Signed: _____ H. S. Wismer Captain





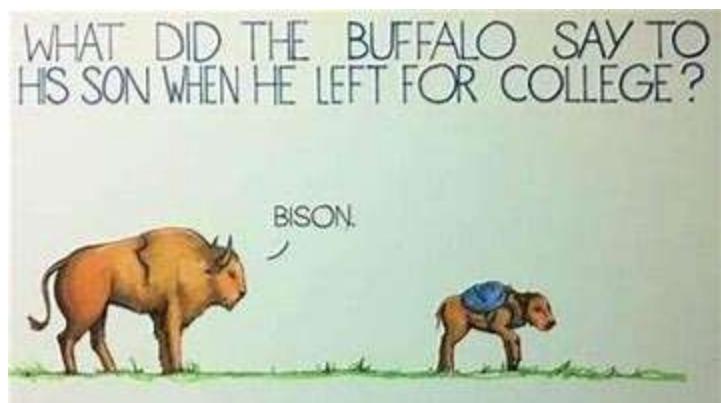
On May 9, 1919, Ambrose Martin Hill was discharged from Hospital in London Ontario and declared 'Medically Unfit'. He did shoe repairs for a few years after his discharge but never had good health.

He died on Feb. 14, 1930, at age 52. He was a patient in Victoria Hospital in London at the time of his death.

He is buried in the Shiloh Willow Creek Cemetery on County Road 20 in Kincardine close to where he was born.

We Shall Remember Them

Researched and written by: G. William Streeter





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



What's Happening

2021 Meat Draws

Saturdays at 4:00 pm

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 ❖

Please keep this schedule of dates for handy reference. As noted events dates are subject to change but hopefully we won't have to cancel because of COVID. Hope you can join us and you will be fortunate to win a prize from the meat selection.

