



Royal Canadian Legion ☙ Port Elgin Branch 340

Branch Line

December 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.

Please support our Christmas Toy Drive and Christmas Basket Raffle as proceeds will be earmarked for youth programs in the community.

Christmas holiday hours will be in effect, again see inside for more information.

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

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



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2019 – 2020 BRANCH 340 EXECUTIVE

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2nd Vice President	Rhonda Harrison	bnrshow@eastlink.ca	519-389-4806
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Treasurer	Norma Dudgeon	Branch340@eastlink.ca	519-389-2876
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Sports Officer	Gord Kelly	gordonakelly1973@gmail.com	519-389-6057
Chaplain	Chuck Beaton	cjbeaton5@gmail.com	519-797-5586
Executive	Mike Hobson	hobson@eastlink.ca	519-386-6078
	Tom Jacques	thjacques@bmts.com	519-832-6837
	Patty Kelly	gpkelly@bmts.com	519-389-6057
	Gord Kelly	gordonakelly1973@gmail.com	519-389-6057
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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
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



Is it just me or is time flying by very quickly this fall!!!

Cde Alex Taylor has once again run a very successful Poppy Campaign. It started with members stuffing envelopes for the Poppy Fundraising AD Mail Campaign. These envelopes were sent to all the homes, apartments and businesses in Port Elgin. This went fairly quickly thanks to his great team of volunteers. This was followed by other members who canvassed poppies at various locations in town to give that personal touch to accepting donations. The Air Cadet canvassers are also to be recognized for their time and for supporting the Branch. Yet, another group of volunteers spent hours to count the money that was donated. I would like to thank all of these dedicated volunteers and a huge thanks for a job well done.

I would be remiss if I did not thank all of the businesses, groups, organizations and families who also supported our Poppy Campaign by purchasing wreaths. Even with the pandemic and uncertain times these businesses and all still supported the campaign and it is truly appreciated.



The Remembrance Sunday service was held at the Tolmie Presbyterian Church and was live streamed for the public to view. Thanks to Peter and Ann Little for organizing again this year. Our Padre Chuck Beaton led the service. A full Colour Party was also present. We thank Matthew Patterson, R.C.R as he spoke on "Remembering Modern Wars – Afghanistan".

The Remembrance Day Service was once again a huge success with a good number of veterans and community members in attendance. We thank Pastor David Baker and his crew for live-streaming the service so the community could view on-line.

Sgt-at-Arms Mike Hobson marched on the colours at 10:55 am. Norma Dudgeon, Remembrance Day Chairman and Padre Chuck Beaton led the service and wreath-laying. After the service we were invited back to the Branch where the Ladies Auxiliary had a hot lunch ready for all to enjoy and we thank them for being available to do this.

As part of the afternoon itinerary, Years of Service pins were announced to the respective members and the Ladies Auxiliary President presented donations to the Branch and Cenotaph Fund.

I express my thanks again to all of those who volunteered their time to help on this very important day. Foremost, to Norma Dudgeon who coordinates this annual event from start to finish; it is with her direction and dedication that we have a well-planned event. We definitely owe her a huge thank you.

The Club Room is now fully opened but we are still required to provide proof of double vaccination, sign in daily for contact tracing, wearing a mask when entering and moving around in the building. It is great to see that we are not having any issues with patrons and everyone has been very understanding as we try to keep everyone safe.

Meat Draws are now back on a regular basis and have been well attended. Please plan to join us at one of our upcoming events.

As you are aware we have not been able to conduct any General Meetings since the onset of COVID-19 in March 2020. Due to the recent changes in protocols Branches are now allowed to conduct these meetings with safety guidelines in place: proof of double vaccinations, ID and contact tracing. Our next General Meeting is on Tuesday December 7th at 7:30 pm. We would appreciate your attendance in ratifying Branch business that your Executive has completed on your behalf. Every measure has been taken to conduct this meeting as quickly as possible. All business matters have been condensed.

Rhonda and I would like to wish you all a safe and happy holiday and all the best in the New Year.

President Robert (Bob) Harrison
bnrshow@eastlink.ca





General Meeting



**Tuesday, December 7th at 7:30 pm
in the Main Hall**

**As members, your presence is appreciated
for approval of Branch business.**

Please support your Branch



Bursary Program



Attention fellow members...Bursary season is in full swing right now. Any student (see eligibility) wishing to apply for a \$1,000.00 bursary should do so now. You can obtain a bursary form which is up to date (2019 or 2022) on-line at legion.ca or call 1-888-207-0939 for more information. Please do not submit the application until you can prove admission to your second semester.

This year we have a \$400,000 budget. Bursaries were down by 184 last year and we attribute this to COVID-19. This year I hope students will take advantage of this great program and submit an application.





**The Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Command Charitable Foundation
The Royal Canadian Legion Ladies' Auxiliary, Ontario Command
Bursary Assistance Program**

OPEN TO:

- Ex-Service or Currently serving personnel of the Canadian Forces (Regular, Reserve & Merchant Navy); Commonwealth War Veterans children & grandchildren
- Ordinary/Life & Ladies' Auxiliary Members of The Legion children & grandchildren
- Associate Members' children only

PROGRAM OPENS EVERY SEPTEMBER & CLOSES THE LAST FRIDAY OF MARCH IN THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

Download the application form on legion.ca

1-888-207-0939 or bursary@on.legion.ca

Supporting Documentation Required:

- OSAP Documentation
- Proof of Service & Relationship (Discharge Certificate or Record of Service)
- Branch / Ladies' Auxiliary Endorsement
- School Endorsement

Eligible students can apply for 5 years provided the same course of study is taken

A new application must be submitted each year

Applications must be submitted to Ontario Command

Cde Robert Harrison

Bursary Chairman

bnrshow@eastlink.ca





Hall Rentals



NOTE: Hall rentals are now being accepted

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.

On Remembrance Day, Years of Service Pins were announced. Please check the listing and if you are a recipient, please contact me.



2021 Years of Service Pin List:

**If you were not in attendance on Remembrance Day to receive your pin,
please contact me**

ORDINARY				
5 Years	10 Years	15 Years	20 Years	35 Years
Tammi Morash	Dave Kinsman	Roger Goulet	Ralph Zadow	Merv Brand
Andre Robert	Brent Luxon	Derek Hamer		
Alice Winter	Jim Spaetzel	Charles Wanner		
	Ed Wahrbickler			
45 Years	50 Years	60 Years		
Terry Mills	H C Horsnell	Norman Kaufman		
		Tom Steel		
		ASSOCIATE		
5 Years	10 Years	15 Years	20 Years	25 Years
Susan Hamer	Earl Anderson	Shirley Dadswell	Bill Inkster	Steve Caloren
Peter Harrington	Martin Corbett	Mike Myatt	Lyle Lawson	Todd Eby
John Morris	Sean Fowler		Carol Purbrick	Bill White
Scott Thede	Anne Marie Kinsman		Bob Sturgeon	Brad White
	Brinda Muth		Peter Tomlinson	
30 Years	35 Years	50 Years		
Anthony Hill	Mike Conway	George Harris		
Richard Przybysz				
Marg Schell				
Rick Schell				
Fred Knibb				
		AFFILIATE-VOTING		
5 Years	10 Years	15 Years	45 Years	
Peter Turi	Barb Cobean	Erin Fenton	Mark Seaman	
		Ernest Oliver		

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





Membership



To date we have 405 paid members for 2021 including 35 new members this year. Our Early Bird Campaign went well with many people taking advantage of the lower membership fee. Membership per capita is up to date as of November 18, 2021. Your stickers will be at the bar for those who paid before then.

I would like to thank all our members that have come in to pay their membership. It has been a tough couple of years and it is so nice to see people continuing to support our cause.

Cde Dan Kelly
Membership Chairman
dankelly@bmts.com





MEMBERSHIP

Renewal dues have increased on
December 1, 2021
to \$55.00

Dan Kelly, Membership Chairman

[Renew today!](#) 





Last Post



Alan Patrick Ordinary 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.





Poppy



With the continued challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic presented, Port Elgin Legion's 2021 Poppy Campaign has successfully raised over \$38,900, close to matching our highly successful 2020 campaign.

Through our Ad Mail Campaign, Port Elgin households and businesses have again donated over \$9,000 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 in the Campaign at stores that had sufficient space to allow for canvassers to properly social distance and the many Port Elgin businesses who displayed 107 Poppy boxes collecting funds for this year's Poppy Campaign. Our businesses and organizations even with the continued negative impact of COVID-19 sponsored 107 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.

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 the in-store Poppy Boxes.

Heartfelt thanks go out to those Branch Members who volunteered over 310 hours of their valuable time this year to stuff Ad Mail Envelopes and/or Canvass:

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

Thanks to Air Cadet Canvassers Sophie Penner, Cardin Penner, Ibrahim Shad, Daniel Griffin, Ethan Ronholm, Teagan Penner, Evan Clarke, Armeet Walia, Jaskaran Walia, Curtis Metcalf & Cap. Rob Herborth

Ken and Evelyn Martin helped me to meet the Poppy Audit requirements for our 2020-2021 financial reports by reviewing the Poppy Trust Financial Records.

Thanks also to Shelley Hewson who helped distribute and pick up Poppy Boxes, count money and Thelma Kennedy for helping sign out canvassers and count money along with the other money counters: Randy Shultz, Jim Connan, Vicky Taylor, Glenna Snider, Larry Dudgeon, Dan Kelly, Jim Allen, Rhonda and Bob Harrison



As always, Norma's support and advice was invaluable this year again to the Poppy Campaign and greatly appreciated! Most important is her dedication to R.C.L Branch #340 and this year's Remembrance Day Ceremony!

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

LEST WE FORGET!

Alex Taylor
Poppy Chairman
Cell: 519-385-0816
Home: 519-389-2616
alex.taylor@bmts.com


**I found \$20 in a
parking lot and
thought to myself,
What Would Jesus
Do?**

**So, I turned it into
wine.**



**Got up at 5am, 8km run
completed, came back
prepared a vegetable
smoothie for
breakfast....
Don't remember the
rest of the dream....**





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.



As you know, it is very important for Santa and his reindeer to be very quiet when they deliver presents on Christmas Eve so no one will know they are there. One Christmas Eve as Santa Claus landed on a rooftop, he suddenly heard a very loud “Snort sniff honk honk snort!” coming from one of his reindeer.

Since he was in the sleigh behind them, he didn’t know which one it was. It happened again, only louder this time: “Snort sniff honk honk snort!” Dogs in the neighborhood began to bark. “Shhh!” Santa hissed. “Please be quiet!”

He went to work lifting the sack of toys out of the sleigh when he heard it again, only a lot louder this time. “SNORT SNIFF HONK HONK SNORT!” Lights came on all over the neighborhood and some people even stuck their heads out of their windows.

Santa was horrified. Jumping back into the sleigh, he drove quickly back to the North Pole. He lined up all the reindeer and announced, “We are not going to deliver another present until the reindeer who is making funny noises with his nose steps forward and apologizes!”

None of the reindeer stepped forward. Santa held up a piece of paper. “I know who it is, and I have written your name on this paper. But I want to give you a chance to do the right thing on your own.”

Still none of the reindeer came forward. So Santa did the only thing he could do. Read off the rude-nosed reindeer...





Youth Education



The Remembrance Poster & Literary Competition for the Branch is wrapping up for this year. The participation was significantly high with 350 entries. Thank you to all the students who demonstrated respect by their participation. Teachers and the parents offering their encouragement to the students which was evident by the increased number of entries.

My sincerest thank you to the Judges and those who assisted with this year's project. You volunteered your time on a Sunday with enthusiasm and patience.

We are still waiting on some of the Media Releases to be submitted. Hopefully by the January edition of the Branch Line I will be able to report the names of the students with the winning entries.

The overall First Place Winners will go on to the next level of the competition. I trust we all wish our students the best in the Zone C-4 Competition while appreciating all students who competed in our Branch Competition.

We Will Remember Them,

Patty Kelly
Youth Education Chairman
branch340youthed@gmail.com



WOMAN'S ASS SIZE STUDY

There is a new study about women and how they feel about their asses, the results were very interesting.

10% Of women think their ass is too skinny.

30% Of women think their ass is too fat.

60% Say they don't care, they love him, he is a good man and they wouldn't trade him for the world.





Branch 340 Ladies Auxiliary



Wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas. Enjoy the season with family and friends.

The pulled pork lunch served on Remembrance Day was enjoyed by all.

We are starting to receive requests for functions and are eager to accommodate them but for now would prefer to offer menu items that are easier to prepare. In time, we will once again offer up those full course meals for your enjoyment.

We have one event scheduled for this month. Please mark your calendar for the LA meeting; we have lots to discuss – Tuesday, December 14th at 7:30PM in the upstairs Legion hall. Please plan on attending.

Interested in becoming a member, join us at our monthly meeting.

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

Cde Vicky Taylor
vicky.taylor@bmts.com



AIR CADETS 340 (Griffin) Squadron, Port Elgin



The wintery weather has returned upon us and the #340 Griffin Air Cadet Squadron would like to extend warm Christmas 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.

The Cadets are enjoying being able to train in-person more. A movie night with popcorn was held on November 9th while the senior Cadets practiced for cenotaph duty. The kids were very pleased to be able to assist with this year's Poppy campaign and Remembrance Day Ceremonies.



Recently 4 Cadets competed in an area run-and-shoot biathlon. The course was 1km of running three times with 5 shots using the air rifle in between. The rain held off for this 3 km trek and the Cadets had a lot of fun with the drill. On a very happy note, Faith Lutheran Church has given the ok to use their facility for some of the in-person drill nights or indoor sports when more space is needed. A huge thank you to Faith Lutheran for the use of their premises.

Captain Herborth is starting shooting practice at the Griffin on Sunday afternoons from 1:00 – 4:00. These practices are to prepare for a Zone Shooting Competition in the New Year and any interested Cadet may attend.

Although it has been almost 2 years since the community has seen our Cadets in uniform and participating in parade, it was very disappointing to not have permission again this year from the Colonel in charge of Cadets Ontario to be eliminated from our Christmas parades in Saugeen Shores. The Cadets seem to have never ending patience during these difficult times and look forward to a return to a new normalcy for the Squadron hopefully very soon.

Of course, we are always looking for new recruits. If you know of a young person turning 12 (or are already 12 – 18) please have them check out the Air Cadet program.

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 coming new year of 2022. The Squadron wishes everyone the brightest of days, good health, happiness and a very Merry Christmas.

Respectfully submitted,

Cde. Elizabeth Eby
#340 RCACS
#519 832 3133 Home
bizebys@gmail.com





100th Anniversary – Canadian Red Ensign



This year celebrates the 100th Anniversary of the Poppy and the Royal Canadian Legion is also celebrating its own 100th Anniversary from June 2025-2026. A Centenary Booklet is being compiled to highlight stories from the Branch archives. To commemorate these and the 100th Anniversary of the design of the Canadian Red Ensign Flag formerly established in 1921 and to honour all those of the Canadian Forces who served under it, a machine stitched Dominion Red Ensign Flag manufactured by SCYCO, no longer in business, of the 1921 design is being donated to Branch 340 Port Elgin.

The Canadian Red Ensign Flag was the official de facto Canadian national flag from 1868 until 1965 when it was replaced by the distinctive maple leaf design. It was based on the ensign flown by British merchant ships and three successive formal designs produced in 1868, 1921 and 1957 bore the Canadian coat of arms. It was described by the Governor General, Lord Stanley, as "the flag which has come to be considered as the recognized Flag of the Dominion both afloat and ashore". Though it was never formally adopted as a national flag, it represented Canada as a nation until 1965.

Ensign is a generic term for a flag commonly used to indicate the nationality of a ship. The Red Ensign proper-a red flag with the Royal Union Flag (Union Jack) in the upper left canton next to the flagpole-had been flown by British merchant ships since 1707. Within colonial Canada, the ensign was used as a sign of Royal authority and variants were flown from forts and canoes of the Hudson's Bay Company (bearing the letters HBC) from 1682, as well as the North West Company from 1779. The Canadian Red Ensign, bearing the coat of arms issued in 1868 which also contained the arms of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, was authorized for use by Canadian-registered merchant ships by an Admiralty warrant issued February 2 1892. Several designs were unofficially produced before and after this date.

In 1921 a distinctive Canadian coat of arms was authorized to be placed on the Canadian Red Ensign. An order-in-council on January 26 1924 authorized the display of the flag on "all buildings owned or occupied by the Canadian Government and situated without Canada". On October 8 1957, the Canadian government made a change to the Canadian coat of arms; the colour of the three maple leaves depicted was changed from green to red in keeping with the national colours of red and white. During the 1963 federal election campaign, Liberal Party leader Lester Pearson promised to introduce a distinctive national flag for Canada. The end result was the maple leaf national flag known today. On February 15 1965 the Canadian Red Ensign was officially retired and was lowered on Parliament Hill being replaced by the new flag.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathryn Eastwood

Acknowledgments: John Colombo; Wikimedia/Fry 1989





Thank you Cde Kathryn for your generous donation to Branch 340

L-R President Bob Harrison, Cde Kathryn Eastwood and Cde Mike Hobson, Sgt-at-Arms



Christmas Holiday Hours

Friday, December 24 - Open 3:00 - 6:00 pm

Saturday, December 25 - Closed

Sunday, December 26 - Closed

Friday, December 31 - Open 3:00 - 6:00 pm

Saturday, January 1 - Closed



Life is short, live it. Love is rare,
grab it. Anger is bad, dump it.
Fear is awful, face it. Memories
are sweet, cherish them.



	<h1>Remembrance Sunday 2021</h1>	
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Branch 340 participated in Remembrance Sunday on November 7 2021 at the Tolmie Presbyterian Church. Guest Minister was our Padre Chuck Beaton.

	
<p>Branch 340 pose prior to prepare to march on the colours</p>	<p>Cdes Dan Kelly and Mike Hobson recite the names of our fallen veterans from the Book of Remembrance</p>
	
<p>Cdes Blair and Barrie Eby perform the Presentation of Poppies</p>	<p>Cdes Mike Hobson, Private, 1st Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment and Cde Matthew Patterson, Master Corporal (MCpl), 3rd Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment.</p>



Matthew Patterson - Military Biography



Matthew Patterson joined the Canadian Forces in 2001 and served for eight years. Over this time he completed nine courses, including his Platoon Support Weapons Qualification, Primary Leadership Qualification, and his Reconnaissance Course. As a military instructor, he trained hundreds of soldiers in various courses throughout the country. In 2003, Matthew Patterson competed in a military skills competition. The competition lasted for 30 straight hours and included everything from skeet shooting, first-aid, gas attacks, an obstacle course, and a night navigation event. Mr. Patterson won the competition out of 200 soldiers.

In 2004, Matthew Patterson served in the war in Afghanistan. He served with the reconnaissance team in the Royal Canadian Regiment. While on his 6-month tour of duty, he was awarded top soldier in his platoon, received three accommodations including an accommodation for vigilance from the NATO Task Force Commander in Kabul, and received the Campaign Star for serving in a theatre of conflict. Following his tour he was promoted to the rank of Master Corporal.

In 2008, Mr. Patterson began a new chapter in his life – to become a teacher. He decided to leave the military in 2009 and spent a year teaching in Mexico. In 2013, Mr. Patterson became the music teacher at Saugeen Central where he continues to teach today.



Cde Patterson was the guest speaker on Remembrance Sunday. His presentation has been included for your reading pleasure.

We Are The 40,000

Good Morning,

I am a part of the 40,000 – the largest Canadian military fighting force since World War II. We served in one of the longest conflicts in Canadian history and suffered the greatest casualties since the Korean War. We are the veterans of Afghanistan.

I had the honour of serving for over eight years in the Canadian Forces. I joined the military on the first night back in my third year of university. It was a Monday evening on September 10,



2001. 14 hours later, the United States would be under attack in what would simply be known as 9/11. I thought my military service would be to serve under the United Nations in a peacekeeping role. Little did I know that I would immediately start combat training for NATO operations in Afghanistan.

I was a member of 3rd Battalion Royal Canadian Regiment whose mission was the 3rd Rotation under Operation Athena. Our mission was to stabilize the capital city of Kabul, secure the results of the 1st Presidential election, and prepare for Canada's major offensive in Kandahar Province that would become the battle of Panjwai District. I was in Duke's Company – a reconnaissance team that was sent out on several missions to observe and provide surveillance on specific targets, assist the quick reaction force upon contact with the enemy or other immediate threats, and conduct regular patrols. The following events are stories from soldiers during my tour of duty from December 2004 – June 2005.

In February 2005, Canadians were conducting a general patrol in the capital city of Kabul when they were hit by an improvised explosive device. Upon gaining their bearings, as this was a new experience for them, two more improvised explosive devices exploded in front of them along with a 105mm shell fired at their G Wagon. These soldiers were a part of the most common form of attack that our Canadians would experience in this conflict. The next day there was an attempted attack on them from a suicide bomber. The attack never did take place as the section was able to move to a strong defensive position that would've hopefully stopped an attack on them.

Kabul was a city of 1 million citizens prior to our tour. By the spring of 2005, the city tripled in size as many refugees felt safe to return back to their home. Our biggest humanitarian problem we faced was the lack of infrastructure in the city. With 3 million people in the city, everyone drove a white Toyota corolla unless they were a taxi driver, in which they drove a white and yellow Toyota corolla. There was only one street light in the city and it didn't work. We experienced reports of car bombs or Vehicle Born Improvised Explosive Devices (or VBIEDs). Unfortunately for us, the description of car bombs were always white Toyota corollas, so it really was like trying to find a needle in a haystack. In March 2005, a recce team was patrolling the streets of Kabul when they decided to pull up to a hill for lunch. The hill was on the outskirts of a mountain range. Canadian soldiers were encouraged to improve relations with the locals by hanging out and meeting the public. Children would always come rushing to meet us and quite often these were nice encounters. However, on March 28 it would turn to tragedy. As the recce team was eating lunch, two kids no older than 10 years of age came running up the hill to meet the Canadians. As they ran towards the soldiers, one child stepped on a landmine. The explosion caused the boy to lose both legs. The Canadian soldiers were desperate to save the boy, and after 30-minutes of first aid and CPR, an American Blackhawk helicopter was able to take the boy to a NATO hospital. Unfortunately, I don't know what happened to the boy once he was transported from the scene, but this is simply another experience too common in the country. It is estimated that there were approximately 10 million landmines in the country, and at the current rate of clearing the land from these mines, it is believed it would take 2000 years to de-mine Afghanistan.



In April 2005, our team was sent to Kandahar to start the phase of the war that would eventually become Operation Medusa. This was the stronghold of the Taliban. Orders came down in our unit that Canada was prepared to experience a 25% casualty rate in this operation.

In May 2005, our recce team was tasked with providing security to our camp, which housed over 2000 soldiers. By this time we had two members seriously wounded in Duke's Company, and most days on duty were between 12-18 hours without a single day off in over two months. We were quite exhausted and honestly probably ready to come home. We were given the night security shift as the nights tended to be much quieter. The nation is almost entirely Muslim and very devoted to their faith. As such, their first call to prayer is 4:30 or 5:00 in the morning – early. Because of their devotion and having to get up so early, they are usually in bed early as well. However, on May 04, 2005 two gunmen broke into the Canadian camp. Our recce team received the call that they were in our Counter-Intelligence Building and to use deadly fire upon reaching them. A two-man detachment arrived on scene and when the first soldier charged through the building to face the first gunman, he realized that the gunman was the age of a high school student. Thankfully this kid wasn't strapped to any explosives as is usually the case and the team was able to detain him. The second gunman was caught by the quick reaction force without deadly force having to be used. Upon investigating, it was determined that the father of these two sons had a stockpile of weapons and ammunition at their home. When our team raided the house we learned that the uncle had bomb making materials and weapons as well. It was good to get those weapons off the street.

The stories that I have told you today are real and accurate because I was the soldier in every one of them. I'm nothing special. 40,000 of us have similar stories, and the majority are at a loss with the current events that are taking place in the country. These experiences have caused sleepless nights, nightmares, sadness. But they also brought my greatest strength, a vision of what I want for my loved ones, and my best friendships. I know there are a lot of questions for all of us. What is our role as Canadians? As humans? I think our modern veterans are suffering more today than they were during the war because they are nervous about the future. They probably won't speak much about it because they never served for attention, for recognition, and they never asked for help when they were in the military. We served because we believe in the values of this nation and were prepared to make that sacrifice for those values. We gave a generation in Afghanistan an opportunity – an opportunity to go to school, to work, to live. Prior to 9/11 only 150,000 boys went to school. During my tour, over 6 million kids went to school and 1 million were girls. Women became lawyers, doctors, professors, and even worked in the government. Those that lost their life in Afghanistan didn't die in vain. Their family and friends can know that there is a generation out there that know both the cost and what freedom is. I lost six of my friends, and I know they will live on because Canadians refuse to forget about them.

We will remember them.





Remembrance Day 2021



This year turned out to be a cool and windy day to honour our Veterans and Fallen Comrades but it didn't rain on us; as we are still in a pandemic, it was nice of the province to open up the capacity for cenotaph services and judging by the crowd of people, they took advantage of it – it was almost "back to normal" except for the lack of students and it was a wise decision to keep them at school for their own well-being.

We were very lucky this year to have Pastor David Baker and Andrew Baker of the SouthPort Pentecostal Church to live-stream our service so that our members and the community could watch at home and this turned out to be the perfect solution for everyone and we can't thank them enough for all their efforts.

I might do the planning and coordinating of Remembrance Day but there is so much work "behind the scenes" that most are not aware of; I would like to thank all the volunteers that physically helped me and hopefully I haven't missed anyone.

Sound System:

Pastor David Baker, Andrew Baker, Trevor Wardrop

Wreaths:

Cenotaph Setup & Dismantle / Pickup and Put Away

Dan Kelly, Curt Virtue, Gord Kelly, Brad Davies, Mike Hobson, Hayden Duplantis, Tony Atkinson, Bob Harrison, Rhonda Harrison, Mark Vander Bruggen, Les Virtue, Craig Bell

Wreath tags:

Anne Eby who has helped me for many years as it's quite a consuming job

Yard Detail:

Greg Briggs & son Jacob who cleaned up the dog poo at the cenotaph

Crosses:

Jack Chapman

This year we had steps made for the front of the cenotaph to put the official wreaths on – Bob Harrison made these and it worked out perfectly – thanks Bob, I love it when a plan comes together

This is only the tip of the iceberg of the preparation but it all comes together for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour on the 11th day of November. A few key people that help make our special day a success are:

Poppy Chairman: Alex Taylor

Alex spends countless hours on the poppy campaign and in the end, when we confer on the wreaths that need to be laid and pre-laid, it all comes together; Alex is also there when I sometimes vent my frustration but he takes it in stride – thank you Alex



Sgt at Arms: Mike Hobson

Mike has his Colour Party in precision step and we are all so honoured of seeing the flags blowing in the wind – thank you Mike for making our Legion proud

Cenotaph Sgt at Arms: Andrew Reinhart

Andrew is usually my Cenotaph Sgt at Arms and my right hand and this year he had the significant job of escorting the wreath bearers; I am so lucky to have Andrew look after the crowd control, order of wreaths and any little thing that may pop up – after all these years, he can read my mind and we're on the same page – thank you Andrew for making everything go smoothly and stepping in where needed

The trailer to haul and store the wreaths was once again donated by Curt Virtue – not sure where we would put 113 wreaths and get them to the cenotaph without the trailer – Thanks Curt!

We can't forget our Ladies Auxiliary who provided us with an excellent lunch; their numbers are dwindling but they all came out to help on a day so important to all of us – thank you!

Thank you Rev Chuck Beaton for your compassion and thoughtfulness to our Branch and our veterans; we are so lucky to have you as part of our Legion family.

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

Norma Dudgeon – Remembrance Day Chairman



	
	
<p>Cde Norma Dudgeon receives a cheque in the amount of \$500.00 from LA President Diana Tripp for the Cenotaph Fund.</p>	<p>On behalf of the Branch, President Bob Harrison receives a \$1,000 cheque from LA President Diana Tripp.</p>



**I LOVE TO MAKE LISTS
I ALSO LIKE TO LEAVE
THEM ON THE KITCHEN
COUNTER AND THEN
GUESS WHAT'S ON THE
LIST WHILE AT THE
STORE**





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.

- 3 International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- 5 International Volunteer Day
- 6 Halifax explosion (1917)
- 6 National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women
- 10 Nobel Prize for Peace awarded to peacekeepers (1988)
- 25 Christmas (Legion supports Operation Santa Claus)
- 25 Fall of Hong Kong (1941)
- Membership renewal reminders



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.



*What color Christmas candle burns longer, a red candle or a green candle?
Neither – Candles always burn shorter.*



“Christmas will always be
as long as we stand heart to
heart and hand in hand”

- Dr Seuss





Geoffrey Lynch-Staunton

The Mesopotamian Campaign



Most of us know about the Mesopotamian Campaign in WWI because of seeing Peter O'Toole in the movie Lawrence of Arabia. Well, here is a little story that gets this saga a little closer to home.

A few months ago, I was doing some research work on the Masonic Lodge in Southampton and found the name Francis Lynch-Staunton dominant in its beginning. He lived here from 1855 to 1866 and was a person of significant influence during that time.

He moved his family, including two sons that were born in Southampton, to Hamilton and in time they became very active in Provincial and Federal politics. His son George, who had been born here, became a lawyer and eventually was appointed to the Canadian Senate. At about this point in my research I found information that George had a son named Geoffrey who had died in WWI.

Knowing that, I immediately got very interested in the story of Geoffrey. My first step in chasing his story hit a brick wall very quickly. His Canadian Military record was a brief single page with only 5 lines. Here is what is said:

- Line 1: November 1, 1915 Taken on Strength (Reserve depot)
- Line 2: November 4, 1915 Granted 7 Days leave.
- Line 3: February 13, 1916 Transferred to England on King's Appointment
 - (L. G. 2/11/16) L. G. is Lieutenant Governor
- Line 4: February 13, 1916 Temp. Lieutenant in Werwickshire Yeomen 1st.

So with that he left the Canadian Expeditionary Force and became a member of the British Army as a 20 year old officer. And that is how he ended up fighting in the Mesopotamia Campaign. This is the campaign that saw Peter O'Toole nominated for an Academy Award. It was a campaign fought in the Middle East by the British Army and their Allies against mostly the Ottoman Turks.

This campaign was waged throughout the war and the final casualty counts were very substantial and consisted mainly of members of the British, Australian and Indian Armies.

Below is a breakdown of those casualties:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| • Killed | 11,008 |
| • Died of wounds | 5,281 |
| • Missing | 2,341 |
| • Captured (POW's) | 12,879 |
| • Wounded | 53,697 |
| • Died of Disease | 16,712 |
| • Evacuated Sick | <u>154,343</u> |
| • Total | 256,261 |



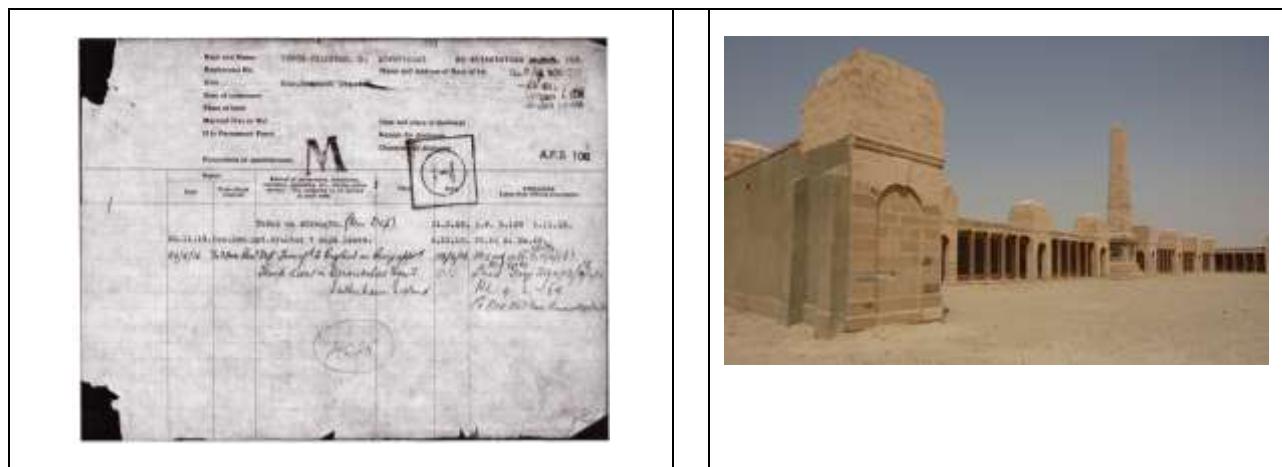
The Ottoman casualties are estimated to be very similar with 89,000 battlefields dead or wounded estimated.

Geoffrey Lynch-Staunton entered the campaign with the 13th British Hussars. He died on March 5, 1917. The week he died; the 13th Hussars were fighting at the gate of Baghdad in present day Iraq. The city was captured by the British and their allies on March 11th, 1917.

He is remembered on a large Commonwealth War Memorial in Basra Iraq. There are 33 other Canadians who are also named there who had made the supreme sacrifice.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Researched and Written by: G. William Streeter





On December 6, 1969 at Polytechnique Montreal fourteen young women were murdered in a violent act of misogyny. This act of violence shook our country and December 6th became a designated day of remembrance and action.

Still today in our local community vigils remember these young women. While we also remember all women who have experienced gender-based violence and those too who have lost their lives to femicide. The other significant part of the day is to consider the action to end the violence against women and girls. What action will you do?



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

What's Happening

2021 Turkey & Meat Draws

December 3 at 7:00 pm
December 4, 11, 18 at 4:00 pm



Event dates are subject to change.

Santa claws: The long lines you see down the sloped roof of your house when Santa falls off of your chimney.



A QUIET MAN
IS A THINKING MAN.
A QUIET WOMAN IS
USUALLY MAD.



Port Elgin Legion Branch 340



Santa's Surprise

Christmas Raffle

Wine Themed Basket (\$150)

Draw Date on
Saturday, December
18th at 6:00 pm
Branch Classroom



Tickets: \$2.00 each or
3 for \$5.00
Legion License
#1403000

Proceeds for Community & Youth Programs
Must be over 19 years of age to purchase ticket



Did you know that
14 muscles are
activated when
opening a bottle
of wine? Fitness
is my passion 😊



*What is the difference between a knight and Santa's reindeer?
One slays the dragon and the other is draggin' the sleigh.*



PORT ELGIN LEGION – BRANCH 340
2022 - MONTHLY EVENTS
(Event Dates subject to change)

Statutory Holidays

Meat Draws

BBQ/Dinners

Dates to be determined

JANUARY 2022							FEBRUARY 2022							MARCH 2022							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
						1			1	2	3	4	5			1	2	3	4	5	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				27	28	29	30	31			
30	31																				
APRIL 2022							MAY 2022							JUNE 2022							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
						1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6	7		1	2	3	4	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31					
JULY 2022							AUGUST 2022							SEPTEMBER 2022							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
						1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6			1	2	3		
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31				
OCTOBER 2022							NOVEMBER 2022							DECEMBER 2022							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
						1			1	2	3	4	5				1	2	3		
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	31			
30	31																				

2022 Meat Draws & BBQ/Dinners

