



MARCH 2021 EDITION

Newsletter of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 270 Coldwater

(705) 686-3388 • 2 Michael Anne Drive, P.O. Box 89, Coldwater, ON, L0K1E0 <u>branch270@rogers.com</u> • <u>www.coldwaterlegion.com</u> • <u>www.facebook.com/Coldwaterlegion</u>

MILITARY SERVICE RECOGNITION BOOK

Comrades,

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

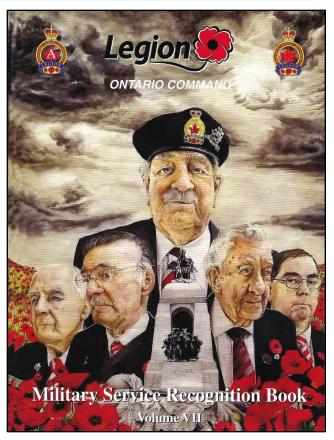
Even with the various roadblocks that we have had to face, Branches have continued to work on behalf of our Veterans and assist them and their families through our pandemic. All of you are to be congratulated for your continued work with our Veterans and the assistance you have provided in this respect.

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

[...] We of course are now well into year #8 of our program. And there is a need for the recruitment of more Veteran submissions for publication into our Volume #8, which is scheduled to be printed in October of this year. With Branches currently closed due to the restrictions that have been imposed upon us due to COVID-19, we realize that this is not an easy task. Keep up the great work regarding Remembrance and in showcasing the tremendous stories and pictures of our Veterans. And again, a big thank you to all of you for being involved in our program and making it the success that it has been to date. Your support and dedication is truly appreciated.

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

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



Volume VII of Ontario Command's Military Service Recognition Book contained write-ups on 21 soldiers from the Coldwater area who were killed in action in the First World War. We are working on Volume VIII.

Inside **The Maple Leaf** this month

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy March everyone!

As you might have expected, there isn't much to report on our activities this month. At least, not much on our "public" activities. But I can assure you that your Executive is still busy keeping the branch alive, finding ways to bring in some revenue to be able to pay the bills (Yes, these are still coming in every



month), and ultimately preparing for a healthy reopening, whenever that is. You can read about our Bottle Drive in the Ways & Means report in this issue. Members of the Executive continue to meet virtually through Zoom twice a month to deal with administrative issues, and to plan for (hopefully) a mask free future.

At the risk of being accused of "dwelling on the negative", I feel I have to remind you of some of the great things we will be missing this month. Arguably the best branch party of the year, our St. Patrick's Day gathering was becoming THE annual event at the branch, if not in the village, until this pandemic shut it down last year. In fact, the first day of the lockdown was on St. Patrick's Day last year. Hopefully next year we will be parading on Coldwater Road, dressed in green, and then celebrating inside the branch in a warm and cozy ambiance.

In terms of cancelled programs, the Legion's Public Speaking Competition is one that kids will be missing again this year. Anyone who has attended one of those public speaking sessions can testify to the hard work some of the students put in preparing for their speech, and the pride they express in being presented an award. Again, sorry kids. We will have to wait another year.

At least we do have one public program that runs this year, one that is actually gaining momentum and expanding in spite of the pandemic. Our Seniors Literary Competition is now in full swing and waiting for your submissions. Our coordinator has set-up a completely contact free submission process, where only electronic files are accepted, sent in by email only. So, get writing, seniors! Finally, I want to remind everyone that the best way to avoid catching and spreading COVID-19 is to wear a mask, wash your hands frequently with soap, and practise social distancing, including staying home whenever possible. Stay safe! And yes, Happy St. Patrick's!

Yours in comradeship, Norm Marion, President

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Wayne Tutt, Membership Chairman Good day Comrades.

Our membership is at 203. Life 3, Ordinary 36, Associate 109, and Affiliate 55.

Thank you all for your membership. Hope to see you soon.

SICK & VISITING REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Betty-Anne Burnie, Sick and Visiting Chairperson

I have been keeping in touch with those I know are ill or not well. If there are any issues that require my attention please let me know. Home phone (705) 686-3270 or email bburnie6@hotmail.com.

POPPY REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Betty-Jean Murray, Poppy Chairperson & Immediate Past President

At February 22, 2021, the Poppy Account stands at \$11,623.28 with one outstanding cheque in the amount of \$200.00. We have assisted the family of a Veteran for an amount of \$1,000. While this financial assistance was urgently required, we anticipate recovering a significant portion of this amount from the insurance carrier.

THE MAPLE LEAF

The Maple Leaf is the award-winning newsletter of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 270 Coldwater, published each month in the first week of the month. It is primarily an internal communication tool through which the Branch Executive and Committee Chairpersons disseminate information and report to the membership on their respective activities. Opinions expressed in feature articles are those of the writers and do not imply endorsement by the Branch or the Legion.

Committee reports and pre-arranged articles must be received no later than the 21st of each month in order to be published in the following month's issue. Please submit by email addressed to: Branch PRO — Maple Leaf at branch270@rogers.com.

GENERAL MEETING

Due to the COVID-19 virus pandemic emergency, General Meetings are suspended until further notice. Branch General Meetings normally take place on the fourth Wednesday of each month, from September to June, in the upstairs hall at 6:30 p.m.

SERVICE OFFICER REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Randy Rice, Branch Service Officer Did you know?

When a VETERAN dies, support from the Last Post Fund is available to help cover funeral costs. In addition to the Last Post Fund, Veterans Affairs (VAC) Canada also has benefits and services to help cover funeral expenses in the form of Funeral and Benefit assistance and works as follows:

Matter-of-Right: A VETERAN who dies while on treatment strength of VAC, or a disability pensioner who is deemed to have died either from a pension condition(s) which can be related to military service may be entitled to full funeral and burial benefits up to the maximum amounts payable under current legislation as a Matter-of-Right (no means test is performed on the estate of the deceased).

Arrangements may also be made for funeral and burial benefits when a VETERAN dies without next-of-kin.

Means tested: funeral and burial assistance may be provided to:

- Canadian Armed Forces or Merchant Navy VETERAN of the Second World War (1 Sep 1939 -1 Apr 1947).
- A Canadian VETERAN of the Korean War who served in the theatre of operations, or has been part of the Special Forces designated to go to the Republic of Korea any time before 31 Oct 1953.
- An allied VETERAN who served with the allied forces during the Second World War or the Korean War and has also lived in Canada for at least 10 years, or lived in Canada prior to enlisting and was living in Canada at time of death.

If the estate of the deceased and the financial resources of any surviving spouse are not sufficient to pay the expenses of the funeral and burial (as determined by a means test) then assistance may be provided to cover all or part of the cost.

For more information on details to these benefits and services contact:

- www.veterans.gc.ca
- Email: information@vac-acc.gc.ca
- 1 866-522-2122, English,
- 1866-522-2022, French, or write
- Veterans Affairs Canada
- P.O. Box 7700, Charlottetown, P.E.I., C1A 8M9, Canada.

SPORTS REPORT

We are still looking for someone to take over the duties of Sports Officer. Please contact the Branch office if interested, 686-3388, email: branch270@rogers.com.

TREASURER REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Norm Marion, President
As at February 22, 2021, the General Account bank balance was \$50,079. Allowing for the usual restricted assets and outstanding cheques, our Operating Account balance is approximately \$8,000. The Building Account balance at February 22, 2021 was \$19,173.75 with a payment of \$1,238.34 due on February 28, 2021. And the Nevada account balance at February 22, 2021, remains at \$237.61.



JOKE OF THE MONTH

A boy asks his father, "Dad, are bugs good to eat?" "That's disgusting. Don't talk about things like that over dinner," the dad replies. After dinner the father asks, "Now, son, what did you want to ask me?" "Oh, nothing," the boy says. "There was a bug in your soup, but now it's gone."

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Norm Marion, Public Relations Officer

LOCAL MEDIA - During the branch closure we continue to update the branch website and Facebook page, and we continue to publish our monthly newsletter *The Maple Leaf*. *The Maple Leaf* is published electronically on the first business day of the month. A limited number of B&W hard copies are available. If anyone requires a hard copy during the closure, please contact the branch and leave a phone or email message so we can arrange pick-up or delivery. LEGION MAGAZINE — We had two more photos published in the Legion Magazine in the January-February edition, and another one was submitted this month. In the past three years we had 16 branch photos published, spread

ENTERTAINMENT/WAYS & MEANS

among 10 different issues.

Submitted by Comrade Carol Baird, Entertainment/Ways & Means Chairperson

Even though we've been on and off lockdown in recent weeks, donations of bottles and cans for our Bottle Drive keep on coming. During the short period of our return to "red" level, we received thousands of cans and bottles. And we don't have to return them ourselves to the Beer Store; they send a truck to pick them up. So far, our "Phase 2" Bottle Drive has raised \$4,250, not counting what's waiting to be picked-up.



Our Bar Steward Cheryll Barr has been busy sorting and counting, and sorting and counting; and yes, more sorting and counting. Thank you Cheryll!

Quote of the Month

"The time you enjoy wasting is not wasted time."

- Bertrand Russell

BURSARY OFFICER REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Rick Morse, Branch Bursary Officer Good day Comrades. It is hoped that this finds the membership of Branch 270 well and we are staying safe during these unique times.

With Post-Secondary studies in full swing, time is running out to make application for the 2020/2021 Royal Canadian Legion Bursary. Completed applications must be received at Ontario Command the last Friday of March, (the 26th). One of the following categories must be met to be eligible to apply:

- Ex-service member, currently member of the Canadian Forces (Regular, Reserve, Merchant Navy) their children or grandchildren;
- Ordinary or Life member, their children or grandchildren;
- Associate member of a Branch, their children; or
- Member of the Ladies Auxiliary, their children or grandchildren.

Category of Membership is important so please ensure yours is correct.

Complete details on how to submit your application is laid out in the following link:

https://www.on.legion.ca/remembrance/youth-programs/bursaries

Bursary applications can be picked up at the Branch, however, with the current situation it would be safer to obtain the application directly from the Legion website at the above link. Both English and French forms are available. Should you need additional information, I may be contacted at email rpmorse@rogers.com or phone at (705) 538-0491.

GOOD LUCK AND STAY SAFE

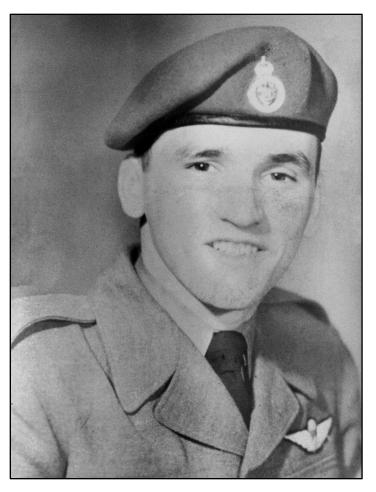
BRANCH HISTORIAN REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Norm Marion, Branch Historian MILITARY SERVICE RECOGNITION BOOK: Seven more submissions for the Military Service Recognition Book (MSRB) were sent in this week. Those include some current Veterans members of the branch, and First World War soldiers who were wounded or decorated for bravery, or both. If you served in the military or would like to submit someone who served, Ontario Command is working on Volume VIII of the MSRB and we would be happy to submit your story and photo.

DONATION OF ARTIFACTS: Thank you to Comrade Rick Morse for donating some interesting military memorabilia pieces to the branch collection. The items are related to his dad, Frederick Morse, who served with the PPCLI in Korea in the early 50s. A photo of Frederick Morse will be added to the past Veterans PowerPoint presentation, and will be submitted for inclusion in the upcoming MSRB.



This "Jumper" statue representing a Canadian military paratrooper is one if the items donated to the branch collection by Comrade Rick Morse, in memory of his dad Fred Morse.



Fred Morse served a 10-month tour in Korea with the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

FOR MILITARY SERVICE RECOGNITION BOOK: MEET FRED MORSE

Frederick George Morse was born in Halton County, outside Burlington, Ontario, on July 30, 1933. With the August 1950 outbreak of hostilities in Korea, he joined the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) and served from 1951 to 1954. Private Morse earned his paratrooper wings in 1952 and served a 10-month tour in Korea with the Third Battalion. The Third Battalion relieved the First Battalion in the fall of 1952 and was occupying Hill 355, "Little Gibraltar," when the Korean War ended on 27 July 1953. Upon return to Canada, Private Morse was discharged from the Garrison in Petawawa, Ontario, on January 8, 1954. He was a former member of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 163, Hamilton, Ontario and a 35 year veteran of the Hamilton Fire Department. Fred passed away on August 30, 2020.

SENIORS LITERARY COMPETITION

Submitted by Comrade Betty-Jean Murray, Seniors Literary Competition Chairman

I have posted notices stating the competition is now open for submissions and have received four so far.

Branch 375 Richmond Hill has advised they anticipate having some entries from their members again this year, and has sent us \$500 to share the expenses of the Awards Ceremony.

I have sent out reminders to all branches in District E that the competition is now on and asking them to help promote it through their branches.

If anyone knows of any retired school teachers or librarians who may be interested in acting as a judge, please pass on their name to me and I will try to recruit them.

IN DEFENCE OF HANGING OUT

Last month we featured an essay written by Mr. Ron LaCombe that tied for 1st place in its category in last year's Legion Seniors Literary Competition. So, it's only fair that this month we present the other essay that tied for 1st place in this category, written by Diane Skinner. Enjoy!

In Defence of Hanging Out

by Diane Skinner

It is a warm and slightly breezy day and that means perfect conditions for hanging out your washing. When I was little I loved to help my grandmother with the laundry. I liked pulling the clothes from the wringer though she would never allow me to feed the wet clothes into the roller. Too risky! I would place them into the large galvanized tub sitting on the floor of the porch. Then I would hand her the clothespins as she hung the clothes on the line. I probably was not as useful as I imagined but my happy, loving grandmother never minded that one bit.

When you live in the city you rarely have the luxury of having a clothesline and some municipalities do not allow them. Why? Some councillors feel they look 'tacky.' Forgive us if we disagree, dear councillors. Are these elected officials aware of the cost of hydro? On top of that, a line of freshly washed laundry blowing in the wind is a beautiful thing to behold. It is colourful and unique. No two lines are alike.

Every person has their own style of 'hanging out.' Most people hang out the big things first. This is to allow for the length of sheets, blankets or quilts. Next come towels. Then pants, shirts and t-shirts. Followed by socks and other assorted smaller items. There is some differing of opinion when it comes to 'unmentionables.' Undergarments. Some people dry those inside, discreet and unobserved by

the neighbours. Others put those undies on the line and allow them to flap freely in the breezes. But be prepared, for those neighbours will know whether you wear black, white or colours, briefs or boxers, high-cut or comfy. It takes confidence to hang those items on the line.

Early morning is the very best time to hang out the laundry. Then you can bring it in by lunch.

Never, ever leave your laundry out all night. People will consider you a poor housekeeper who cares not at all for your laundry. Never hang out something that is tattered or torn. It invites criticism. It is perfectly acceptable to hang out laundry in the winter and take it into the house dried but frozen. In fact, it is fun to do because the jeans can stand up by themselves.

The smell of the laundry off the line is wonderful. Yes, it smells clean, yet it is more than that. It smells like outdoors, nature and fresh air. It is perfectly acceptable to sniff your laundry. Don't hold back. Close your eyes and sniff. I recently bought a candle and the scent is called Fresh Laundry. It doesn't measure up; I am sorry to report.

Now, let's discuss clothespins. Plastic or wooden? If you love tradition, then it's got to be wooden. Besides, I believe that they last longer and are more environmentally friendly. The Earth has more plastic on it than it should. What do you store your clothespins in? You might be lucky and have the container that belonged to your mother or grandmother.

Anyway, take great pride in your clothesline and the beautiful laundry blowing in the breezes. Have a great week of seeing the beauty in ordinary, everyday things.

THIS MONTH WE REMEMBER THE **BATTLE OF NEUVE-CHAPELLE**

Fought between March 10 and 12, 1915, early on in the First World War, the Battle of Neuve-Chapelle was significant for Canadians because it was the first time that the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) had been involved in action with the enemy with the exception of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry when serving with a British brigade. The 1st Canadian Division had just moved to France and prepared for its first experience of a set-piece battle. By the time the Battle of Neuve-Chapelle was over, the British had sustained 12,892 losses, of which 100 were Canadian.

Source: Veterans Affairs Canada



ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH 270 COLDWATER

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COMPETITION DEADLINE - SATURDAY, MAY 1, 2021

- Open to all seniors aged 55+
- 2. Must complete and attach official registration form
- 3. Must be original, written by the contestant and be unpublished
- 4. Must be submitted in English or French
- 5. Must not exceed the line or word limits specified
- Must be ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION with normal spacing
- 7. Contestants may submit only one entry in any / each category
- 8. <u>Each submission</u> must include a cover page stating the title, author's name and entry word count
- 9. Biographies that are submitted must include written consent of the subject, if living.

Entry forms are available upon request at

 seniorsliterary@gmail.com

Submissions must be received by **Saturday, May 1, 2021 at**

<branch270seniorsliterary@gmail.com>

And clearly marked 'Branch 270 Literary Contest for Seniors'.

PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED TO winners in each category at a date yet to be determined

POETRY — maximum 32 lines SHORT STORY - word count maximum 4,000 ESSAY — word count maximum 1,000

MEMOIR — includes biographies, autobiographies, and travel writing — word count max. 5000

DECISIONS BY THE JUDGES WILL BE FINAL - NO EXCEPTIONS



SENIORS' LITERARY COMPETITION ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS ONLY

CONTEST RULES AND INFORMATION

- 1. This contest is open to all seniors under the jurisdiction of Ontario Command who are aged 55 and over.
- 2. Contestants must complete an official Registration Form and attach it to each of their contest entries.
- 3. Entries must be original, written by the contestant, and be unpublished.
- 4. Entries must be submitted in either English or French.
- 5. Entries must not exceed the line or word limits specified and must be stated on the cover page.
- Entries must be typed and double spaced, using one side of each page.
- 7. Contestants may enter work in more than one category but may only submit one entry in each category.
- 8. Entries must include a cover page which includes the title, the author's name, and the entry word count.
- 9. Biographies that are submitted must include written consent of the subject, if living.

Note: By submitting your entry, you are agreeing to all contest rules.

TIMELINES:

February 15, 2021 Entry Forms for the Seniors Literary Contest will be available at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 270

Coldwater.

May 01, 2021 All electronic entries must be received by email by Saturday, May 1, 2021 at

branch270seniorsliterary@gmail.com No exceptions.

- All entries will be judged on the basis of originality of thought, expression, presentation, grammar and spelling.
- Judging will be done by volunteers and take place at the community level.
- The decision made by the judges will be final.

PRIZES:

At the discretion of the judges, prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in each category. We expect prizes to be awarded at a special ceremony sometime during June, which is Seniors Month, if Provincial health restrictions allow.

Questions - Please contact: RCL Branch 270 Coldwater

Seniors Literary Chairman - Betty-Jean Murray

Telephone - Branch - 705-686-3388; Cell - Betty-Jean - 705-528-9292

Email address - <branch270seniorsliterary@gmail.com>





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LADIES AUXILIARY

Submitted by Comrade Anne McArthur, President of the Ladies Auxiliary Branch 270



March has finally arrived. It is great to see the sun out later in the day and the early morning sun. Here's hoping that you can get out and enjoy the weather when it cooperates.

It's hard to believe that it has been a year since COVID 19 shut down the world and our little village. We

miss visiting with our friends and relatives. Hopefully the vaccinations will roll out early and everyone will be vaccinated by summer.

As COVID continues to keep us locked down, we aren't able to do much within the Branch. Our bank account still has a working balance of \$3,583.12. We will be donating to the Charitable Foundation, Bursary, and Veteran's wish list, as we do every year. We are not able to make meat pies at this time, but will update as things change.

Wishing each and every one a safe and healthy spring. Stay safe: Maintain social distancing, wear a mask, wash your hands, and stay at home as much as possible.

"Never give up, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn." - Harriet Beecher Stowe

Anne McArthur President Ladies Auxiliary Branch 270

REMEMBER YOUR FOODLAND RECEIPTS!

Getting frustrated that branch activities are on hold, and you can't help the branch?

Looking for ways to contribute?

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INTRODUCING MEMBER JANE LAUDER

By Comrade Rosalie J. Pratt [From a 2020 interview]

Albeit not a veteran, our Comrade Jane Lauder counts almost one dozen family members with affiliation to the Great War, the Second World War to January 2021 when her grand-nephew, a sergeant and military technician will pursue a teaching assignment in Lebanon.

In 1962, Comrade Jane married Jack. She fondly recalls the day they sealed the purchase of their first house followed by the birth of their beautiful daughter.

Comrade Jane worked as a bookkeeper for a large national organization. She was mentored by a more senior person who imparted a work ethic to which Comrade Jane has adhered to her working life – 'work now, do the job right the first time around and then play.'

Comrade Jane proudly reflects that helping people in need has always been at her forefront. She had few wants in life but recounts that of utmost importance to her have been to be a supportive spouse and mother and taking the feelings of others into consideration. Aside from these goals, given a second chance and opportunity, she would pursue her other passion...that of offering her interest in and teaching physical education.

Jane believes good health is a gift and as such this is on her 'Important List'. Good health ensures that you can enjoy to its full potential whatever life presents to you. She may, from time to time, dream about winning the 'big one' but shared that even a substantial lottery win would have diminished value if she did not have good health to enjoy what additional gifts the prize could provide.

Jane and Jack have a fine collection of travel memories offered by visits to many different parts of our world taking the opportunity to savour many cultures. With the current state of affairs, Comrade Jane satisfies her yen for travel by hosting opportunities for her friends and family to participate as guests at her home and vice-versa.

Living in the Branch 270 catchment area it was a natural move to join in 2012. She is a dual member, Branch and L.A. (Ladies Auxiliary). Quite some time ago, an existing L.A. member asked Comrade Jane to assist with catering services. This was the start of a now long-standing relationship. Jane is now the 'go to' person for most Branch 270 catering functions. In addition to her hectic



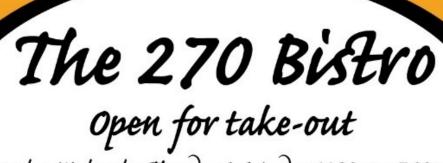
A dual member of both Branch 270 and the Ladies Auxiliary, Comrade Jane Lauder was honoured with a Certificate of Merit and a Branch Service Medal at an Honours & Awards ceremony in June 2019. Ladies Auxiliary President Annie McArthur (left) made the presentations.

Branch 270 volunteer schedule (hovering around fifty days and involving close to one thousand five hundred hours), Jane also entertains other volunteer activities at neighbouring communities.

Jane is proud and happy with her commitment to the various tasks at our Branch. She recognizes that she and others have their idiosyncrasies but quickly remarked that "I couldn't do this if I didn't have great people to help me."

In closing, Jane shared, "Anything worth doing is worth doing right because your name is on it."

Comrade Jane, we thank you for your Volunteer Service.



Tuesday ,Wednesday,Thursday & Saturday 11:30 am -7:00 pm Friday 11:30 am -8:00 pm Closed Sunday-Monday : (705) 955-2704

The Coldwar ONLY TAKE-OUT ONLY TAKE-OUT ONLY The Club Room is Closed The Club Room is to 6:00 pm The Club Room for pool & darts)



Everyone welcome!

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
		270 Bistro open for take-out	270 Bistro open	270 Bistro open	270 Bistro open	270 Bistro open
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