

THE MAPLE LEAF

Newsletter of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 270

2 Michael Anne Drive, P.O. Box 89, Coldwater, ON L0K 1E0 • Email: branch270@rogers.com • www.coldwaterlegion.com



March 2017

Table of Contents:

Branch Activity Reports	3, 5, 7	Sports at Branch 270	13
Ladies Auxiliary	9	March Entertainment	14
Photos from Save-a-Life CPR Day	11	March Calendar	16
Leave the Streets Behind	12		

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FROM THE BOARD

The Board of Management

Spring is coming! Spring is coming! At least, that's what our calendars are telling us. People are starting to come back from their southern quarters, and that's another good sign too. Meanwhile, here at the branch, our team continues its work on projects and initiatives aimed at improving both our services and infrastructure.

We have a Training and Organizational Development (TOD) Seminar that will be held in the upstairs hall on Saturday, March 4. We encourage anyone interested in helping on a committee or the executive to attend this session. These seminars are important, very informative and will outline the roles of the various committees operating within our branch. Registration is at 8:30 a.m. and the seminar will run until approximately 2 p.m. Coffee and a light lunch is included.

In conjunction with the well-attended SAVE-A-LIFE CPR DAY training session that was held at the branch on February 11 (see photos on page 11), the branch has entered a partnership with County of Simcoe Paramedic Services for the maintenance and upgrade of our Public Access Defibrillator (PAD) Although our existing device - located just outside the club room, at the bottom of the stairwell - is considered "serviceable", it was agreed that it should be upgraded to a more user-friendly version. This should happen in the next few weeks.

Another improvement will be the installation of an automatic door opener (push button) that will make our building fully wheelchair accessible from the parking lot entrance. This is an expensive project that will be made more affordable thanks to a generous donation from our Ladies Auxiliary. The cheque for \$2,000 was presented to the branch at our monthly Board meeting on February 22. So if you were wondering where the money from all those LA fundraising initiatives went, now you know. Thank you (again) to the members of the Ladies Auxiliary.

Finally, we remind you that we are still looking for volunteers for executive positions at the branch, mainly those of president and vice-president. Please contact a member of the Board if interested.

YOUTH EDUCATION

Submitted by Comrade Betty-Jean Murray, Youth Education Chairperson

The students Public Speaking Competition will take place on Sunday, March 5, 2017 at 1 p.m., in the upstairs hall at the Branch This will be an opportunity for you to watch and listen to some earnest students at their best The topics are their selection, something in which they



Comrade Donna Packer (right), President of the Ladies Auxiliary, makes the generous donation of \$2,000 on behalf of the Ladies Auxiliary. The presentation was made to Board Chair, Comrade Pam Davidson, during the February monthly meeting.

have a substantial interest Please join us on that date to encourage these young people in their efforts to proceed on to the next level of competition If you would like to volunteer to help on this day, please let me know I promise you an enjoyable afternoon.

ENTERTAINMENT

Submitted by Comrade Debbie Robitaille, Entertainment Chairperson

Our main event in March will be the annual St-Patrick's Day parade and party on March 17. The parade will form-up in the Branch parking lot ready to leave the Legion at 1 p.m. Participants will march west toward Coldwater Road, turn north on Coldwater Road, march to Gray St/Sturgeon Bay Rd, turn around, and return to the Legion through the same path. There will be live entertainment in the Club Room after the parade with the band P.T. and The Cruisers until 6 p.m. Also coming up soon we have Jim McCarthy's Guitar-y-oki on March 25th, and the Wendy Whelan Band on April 29th.

Note that I will not be available until the end of March, so all questions concerning entertainment can be addressed to Comrades Pam, Norm or Betty-Jean during that period.

CANTEEN

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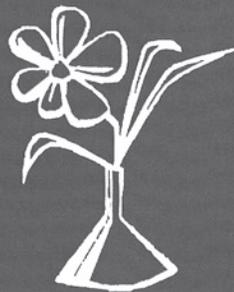
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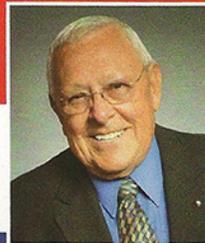
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SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Submitted by Comrades Dave & Debbie Robitaille, Branch & L.A. Sergeant-at-Arms

As mentioned before, we are always willing to help you practice drills, marching etc. Please let us know if you would like to review. We have booklets available with basic drill information for you to take home.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Submitted by Comrade Norm Marion, Public Relations Officer

The planning for the celebration of Canada's 150th anniversary (yes, it's called a sesquicentennial!) in Coldwater has begun with a preliminary meeting organized by the Coldwater BIA.

The meeting was more or less a brainstorming session with many suggestions being put on the table. A majority of people agreed that the celebrations should be spread over the Canada Day weekend, beginning on the Saturday (July 1) morning and ending Sunday evening after dinner. Some of the events proposed include a brief ceremony of flag raising around 10 a.m. on Sat; a parade around either 1 p.m. or 4 p.m.; a dance in the evening (either street dance or at Legion); a church service on Sunday morning; various street games and activities in the afternoon; possible planting of symbolic maple tree at Village Green. The idea of Sunday night fireworks was very popular, but safety and liability issues will be a concern. Comrade Debbie Robitaille's suggestion was to have school kids researching the 15 decades of Canadian history and presenting the results of their research at the Legion - or somewhere else. The idea was well received and suggestions were made that maybe the 15 decades approach could be applied to 15 thematic floats in the parade. You will certainly hear more about this activity in the next months.



A NOTE OF THANK YOU

Submitted by Comrade Dean McArthur

I would like to thank Emmett Gavin and Scotty Galbraith for their help with the mounting of the TV in the Club Room. Thank you both for your assistance.

COLLECTION MANAGER

Submitted by Comrade Norm Marion, Collection Manager

I often get questions about items in our collection, their significance or origin. Unfortunately I don't always have the answers. But whenever I do have (or find) answers, I'm more than happy to share them with you. For example, one recent discussion involved the different styles of crown that appear on buttons, badges and other insignias on military uniforms. Generally speaking, collectors refer to the two main styles of crown used within the British Empire and Commonwealth heraldry since the First World War as the King's Crown (KC) and Queen's Crown (QC). The terms King's and Queen's Crown come from the fact that the former style was used by the four kings who ruled from 1901 to 1952, while the other style has been in use since Queen Elizabeth II's accession in 1952. The distinction is somewhat helpful for collectors to date certain insignias and articles of military clothing. But in reality, is there a crown for kings and one for queens? And if that's the case, will the design of all the buttons, badges and insignias need to be changed when Charles (or William?) is crowned? Stay tuned. These questions will be answered in a feature article in the next issue of the Maple Leaf.

OPEN LETTER

Submitted by Comrade Rosalie J. Pratt

You would surmise that we would remember the set Wednesday dates for our Branch General Meetings. Non-attendance at a meeting is not doomsday. You can still be 'in the know'. Take and make the opportunity to read a copy of the minutes and review any financial data disseminated at the meeting. You should view this as a member obligation; for sure, it's your right; you just need to ask.

Having 'missed a meeting' does not absolve you of your responsibilities (yes, members at large have responsibilities) to be supportive of the work done by various members. Support can be shown by volunteering (there are a multitude of opportunities) and by attending meetings, and/or seminars offering you a platform to voice your concerns and share new ideas.

Regardless of personalities and strongly held views, it is paramount that when good work is done it should be recognized; no, let's re-phrase this, it must be recognized. This Open Letter is to recognize whomever produced the well-executed December 2016 and June to December 2016 Profit and Loss Statements. Do these documents raise some questions? Yes. And so they should because in the final analysis, they are a reflection of what all members have done, are doing and hopefully will do to support our Branch.

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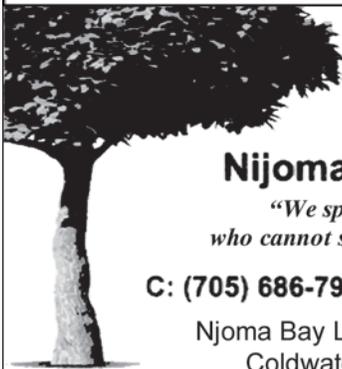
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SPORTS

Submitted by Comrade Bob Gourlie, Sports Chairperson

Comrades, spring is in the air!! It is time for our Men's vs Ladies Dart Tournament. April 22 is the date for this year. Watch for the Sign up information. There is also going to be a Zone Horseshoe Tournament this year. It will be held in Port McNicoll on May 13. We are also looking to have a Zone Golf Tournament. It will be held some time in June at Bonaire Golf and Country Club. Watch the Sports Board for sign up information for both of these events. If you have any questions, please call email or call me.

Bob Gourlie

705-715-2368 • robertgourlie@gmail.com

**RCL Branch 270
Coldwater**

**LADIES VS MEN
OPEN DART CHALLENGE**

(BLIND DRAW)

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St. Patrick's Day March 17, 2017



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Quote of the Month

"The men who fought at Vimy and Falaise, who helped to keep the Atlantic sea lanes open, who flew the Sopwiths of one war and the Lancasters of another, deserve to be counted among the founding fathers of modern Canada."

**- From Charles P. Stacey,
Canadian Army Chief Historian 1945-1959,
in *The Armed Forces of Canada 1867-1967.***

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LADIES AUXILIARY REPORT



Greetings Comrades:

Here's hoping that spring is soon on its way!! At least we enjoyed a few days of warmth and sunshine in February.

My thanks to those who helped out at the Celebrations of Life we catered to this past month. Your support and hard work are truly appreciated.

At our February general meeting we discussed doing a few fundraising events. On Tuesday, February 28th we had a Pancake and Sausage dinner, and on Tuesday March 21st we will be doing a Shepherd's Pie/Coleslaw dinner from 4:30 to 7:30 pm. - both served in the Legion club room. Help will be needed for the March 21st event, so please volunteer!!!

ARE YOU ACTIVE

*Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed
 Or are you just content that your name is on the List?
 Do you attend the meetings and mingle with the flock
 Or do you stay at home and criticize and knock?
 Do you ever go and visit a member who is sick
 Or leave the work to just a few and talk about the "Clique"?
 Come to the meetings often and help with hand and heart
 Don't just be a member, but take an active part
 Think this over MEMBER, you know the right from wrong
 Are you an active worker or do you just belong.....*

Again, I stress the importance of attending meetings and being an active part of our amazing Ladies Auxiliary. We seem to be dependent on the same few volunteers time and time again. If you can help out at our catering events, please let us know so we can include you on our list of volunteers.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to members who are ill. We think of you often and hope better days are ahead.

Our next meeting is on Thursday March 16 at 6:30 pm. If you would like to attend and need a ride, please do not hesitate to call and a ride will be arranged.

Yours in comradeship,

Donna Packer, President, 705-835-6902

LADIES AUXILIARY

SHEPHERD'S PIE & COLESLAW DINNER

Tuesday, March 21, 2017
4:30 PM – 7:30 PM
 Served in the Legion clubroom

\$8.00 per person • Tea/Coffee included

Everyone Welcome!!!!

**Please come out and support the
Coldwater Ladies Auxiliary**

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Ladies Auxiliary**

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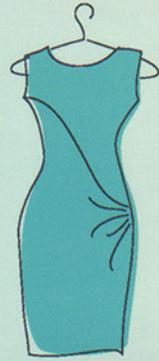


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SAVE-A-LIFE CPR DAY

*Submitted by Comrade Norm Marion,
Public Relations Officer*

On February 11, 2017, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 270 Coldwater had the pleasure of hosting a SAVE-A-LIFE CPR DAY offered through a partnership of County of Simcoe Paramedic Services and the Heart and Stroke Foundation. The course, which covered adult and child CPR, choking, and how to use a Public Access Defibrillator (PAD), was a tremendous success with almost a hundred people in attendance.



Event coordinator Kim Oxley of the County of Simcoe Paramedic Services welcomes participants to the SAVE-A-LIFE CPR DAY held at RCL Branch 270 Coldwater. Close to a hundred people from the area attended the half-day Public Access Defibrillator (PAD) and CPR course.



Comrade Maggie Murphy, a member of Branch 270 Coldwater, receives instructions on the operation of a Public Access Defibrillator (PAD) from a member of the County of Simcoe Paramedic Services.



Under the supervision of a member of the County of Simcoe Paramedic Services, Comrade Cathy Larkins, a member of Branch 270 Coldwater, practices delivering CPR with the assistance of a Public Access Defibrillator (PAD).

Leave the Streets Behind

From the files of Dominion Command

The Legion helps Veterans and their family members leave the streets behind and turn their lives around through national and provincial programs offering financial assistance and supports for homeless Veterans and those at-risk.

In 2012, the Legion established a national homeless Veterans program, "Leave the Streets Behind", based on the ground breaking work of Ontario Command. The program's mission is to reach out to homeless Veterans, or near homeless Veterans, by providing immediate financial assistance and support when and where needed. It also connects them with the appropriate social and community services to establish a long term solution to meet their needs.

To date, the Leave the Streets Behind program is operated in Ontario, British Columbia/Yukon, Alberta/North West Territories, Nova Scotia/Nunavut Commands, and was just launched in New Brunswick Command this past March. The Legion is working to make the program available through all Provincial Commands.

Help is Available

If you, or a Veteran or family member you know is homeless or near homeless please contact the Legion at: **Tel: 613-591-3335 or Toll-free: 1-877-534-4666**
Email us at servicebureau@legion.ca or contact a Command Service Officer in your area

How We Can Help

Trained Legion Service Officers can assist with the following:

- **Finding suitable accommodation:** Legion Provincial Commands work closely with Veterans Affairs, shelters and community organizations to get Veterans off the street and into temporary and/or long term accommodations
- **Financial assistance:** Through the Poppy Fund, financial assistance can be provided for items such as first and last month's rent, rental arrears, furnishings, food and clothing, bus tickets, and medical needs such as dental, eyeglass, transportation to medical appointments.
- **Other supports:** Legion Provincial Commands can help Veterans access additional community, mental health and training programs to support their transition.

Eligibility

- Canadian ex-service personnel and their dependants (spouse/children).
- Commonwealth ex- service personnel who are residents in Canada and their dependants.
- Allied countries ex-service personnel who are residents of Canada and their dependants.

Program Funding

This program is funded by Legion Branches within the province through their Poppy Funds. As well, Legion Provincial Commands receive an initial grant from Dominion Command to help with the start-up costs of the program.

How the Legion is helping across Canada

Recognizing the need for a coordinated, national strategy to address the issues facing homeless Veterans, the Legion coordinated and hosted a Homeless Veterans Forum in April 2014. This meeting brought together national organizations working with homeless individuals, but with a key focus on addressing Veterans.

The Legion has been assisting homeless Veterans across Canada for many years. In addition to helping homeless Veterans find and access emergency supports, Provincial Commands have taken the initiative to develop and fund homeless programs and supports in their communities.

Dominion Command is working towards the goal of ensuring that every Provincial Command in Canada establishes a homeless Veterans program tailored to meet their unique community needs.

Legion 

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Leave the Streets Behind

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SPORTS AT BRANCH 270**TUESDAY AFTERNOON EUCHRE****January 31**

High Hand – Norma Carriere
 Lone Hands – Jean Carson
 Low Hand – Marg Marchant
 Sunshine – Marg Marchant

February 14

High Hand – Nancy Barron
 Lone Hands – Jean Carson
 Low Hand – Bev Richards
 Sunshine – Georgie Waterson

February 21

High Hand – Brian Strong
 Lone Hands – Jean Carson
 Low Hand – Georgie Waterson
 Sunshine – Angela Stewart

THURSDAY SHUFFLEBOARD**January 26**

First – Betty-Ann & Maggie
 Second – Rose & Brian
 Third – Joanne & Lloyd
 Sunshine – Ellen

February 2

First – Betty-Ann & Brian
 Second – Maggie & Bob
 Third – Rose & Dean
 Sunshine – Lloyd

February 9

First – Lloyd & Bob
 Second – Ellen & Brian
 Third – Betty-Ann & Magda
 Sunshine – Lloyd

February 16

First – Lloyd & Heather
 Second – Bob & Magda
 Third – Dean & Lloyd
 Sunshine – Lloyd

February 23

First – Magda & Brian
 Second – Heather & Lloyd
 Third – Betty-Ann & Ellen
 Sunshine – Joanne

TUESDAY NIGHT CRIBBAGE**January 24**

1. Marie Kinnear
 2. Janet Hamilton
 3. Carl Swanson
 4. Robert Hogeon
 Sunshine – Jackie Lennox

January 31

1. Larry Hutchison
 2. Janet Hamilton
 3. Bill Kinnear
 4. Carl Swanson
 Sunshine – Maggie Maynard

February 14

1. Ross Pipher
 2. Maggie Maynard
 3. Doug Bennett
 4. Marcia Leblanc
 Sunshine – Robert Hogeon

February 21

1. Frank Peck
 2. Marie Kinnear
 3. Jackie Lennox
 4. Bill Kinnear

FRIDAY NIGHT STEAK DARTS**January 27**

1. Mary
 2. Dean
 3. Jeremy
 4. Kari
 5. Debbie R.
 6. Gaetanne
 Sunshine – Anne

February 17

1. Kari
 2. Michele
 3. Kari
 4. Larry
 5. Lorne
 6. Heather
 Sunshine – Gaetanne

**FEBRUARY 11th
MEAT DRAW WINNERS**

1. Marcia Leblanc
2. Marie Woodman
3. Brian Bourque
4. Colin Hurst
5. Jane Lauder
6. Henry Batelle
7. Marie Woodman
8. Paul McTaggart
9. Nola Logan-Nelsen
10. Larry Hutchison
11. Brian Picket

MAPLE LEAF SUBMISSIONS

For the April 2017 Maple Leaf, please send your reports and submissions no later than
Tuesday, March 21.

Kindly submit by email to
branch270@rogers.com
 with "MAPLE LEAF" in the subject
 line, addressed in the body to
 Branch PRO Norm Marion.

While we strongly encourage submissions from the membership, some items may not be published due to various reasons including lack of space, poor quality of original document, infringement of copyright laws, or other reasons as determined by the editorial board. Note that the Suggestion Box will be cleared every month on the submission due date.

JAMMING SESSION

We thank all those who participated in our Jammin' at the Legion session on February 18. We had the chance of listening to George Sinclair on keyboard and guitar; Ivar Johnson, David Correy, and Barbara Curran, all on guitar and vocals; and David Huntley on vocals. Thank you all for joining us.

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

COLDWATER BRANCH 270

SATURDAY, 25 MARCH 1:00-5:00 PM

SPRING DANCE

~ F E A T U R I N G ~



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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
			Darts 7:30	Shuffleboard 1:00 Darts 7:00	Steak Darts 6:00	TOD Seminar 8:30 - 2:00
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
CLOSED Public Speaking Competition Upstairs Hall 1:00 - 4:00	CLOSED	Euchre 1:30 T.O.P.S. 6:00 Cribbage 7:00	Darts 7:30	Shuffleboard 1:00 Darts 7:00	Steak Darts 6:00	Meat Draw 3:00
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
CLOSED	CLOSED	Euchre 1:30 T.O.P.S. 6:00 Cribbage 7:00	Darts 7:30	Shuffleboard 1:00 LA Meeting 6:30 Darts 7:00	St. Patrick's Day Parade 1:00 Entertainment by P.T. and the Cruisers 1:00-6:00 Steak Darts 6:00	Jammin' 2:00 - ?
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
CLOSED	CLOSED	Euchre 1:30 T.O.P.S. 6:00 Cribbage 7:00	Branch General Meeting 6:30 Darts 7:30	Shuffleboard 1:00 Darts 7:00	Steak Darts 6:00	Entertainment by Guitar-y-oki 1:00 - 5:00
26	27	28	29	30	31	
CLOSED	CLOSED	Euchre 1:30 T.O.P.S. 6:00 Cribbage 7:00	Darts 7:30	Shuffleboard 1:00 Darts 7:00	Steak Darts 6:00	