



# THE MAPLE LEAF

**FEBRUARY 2022 EDITION**

## **Newsletter of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 270 Coldwater**

(705) 686-3388 • 2 Michael Anne Drive, P.O. Box 89, Coldwater, ON, L0K1E0

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### **BSO LEGION OSI**

*Help Support Veterans with Mental Injuries and Illness*

The Legion Operational Stress Injury Special Section (BSO Legion OSI) is looking for Legion members to join the Section and help make a difference for Veterans affected by mental illness and operational stress injuries.

Mental illness is one of the most widespread health issues in Canada, and The Royal Canadian Legion is committed to ensuring Veterans and their families have access to the supports and services they need. BSO Legion OSI is a national, member-driven initiative working to support and strengthen the Legion's ability to respond to the needs of the Veteran community.

BSO Legion OSI is a peer support network that will provide enhanced outreach, support and referral services for Veterans and their families who are affected by operational stress injuries including anxiety, depression, addictions, PTSD or other mental health issues. In addition to helping Veterans get the support and assistance they need, BSO Legion OSI promotes mental health information, helps dispel the stigma of mental illness, and supports Legion advocacy efforts.

Membership in BSO Legion OSI is open to any Legion Member who is a Veteran, or direct family member of a Veteran. Members support the BSO Legion OSI mandate by:

- coordinating and conducting outreach activities in the community
- helping to identify and refer any Veteran or their family member who needs help with an OSI issue to a Legion Command Service Officer for support
- providing information on local programs and resources that may be of help

- promoting mental health information and helping dispel the stigma of mental illness, and
- supporting advocacy efforts and information sharing at the Branch, Provincial Command and National levels

To join BSO Legion OSI or for questions about the Section, please email [membership.bso.osi@gmail.com](mailto:membership.bso.osi@gmail.com). Members will be asked to provide a photo of their Legion membership card to confirm eligibility.

### **PROTESTORS DISRESPECT SITE OF NATIONAL WAR MEMORIAL**

OTTAWA, ON, 29 January 2022 – “The Royal Canadian Legion strongly condemns the shocking actions of protestors who encroached upon the National War Memorial in Ottawa on Saturday. They jumped on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and parked vehicles on the surrounding grounds. This sacred memorial site commemorates those who fought and fell for the very freedoms that allow people in Canada the right to protest peacefully. We are dismayed and saddened by this overt lack of respect.”

*Bruce Julian  
Dominion President  
The Royal Canadian Legion.*

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## FROM THE BRANCH PRESIDENT



Happy February everyone!

After a pretty mild January, looks like we're finally in real winter, with snow AND cold. For some of you, we probably could have done without. But for others (I'm looking at you sledders and skiers), it's about time. We're already at Groundhog Day!

We do have some good news at the branch. With the blessing of the provincial government, we're reopening the bar and indoor dining on Tuesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, albeit with some restrictions. Hours of operation will be our regular hours, Tuesday to Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. We will operate at 50% capacity, and of course the proof of vaccination requirement is still in effect. We will hold off for a few more weeks before bringing back more activities like Friday Night Steak Darts. Hopefully these are just the first steps in a gradual return to regular operations. Now, where have we heard that prediction before?

On the financial side, it looks like we may be getting some help from the provincial government. The new Ontario Business Costs Rebate Program has been introduced to support small businesses. We'll have to wait to get our January energy bills (hydro & gas) to claim the closure period in January. Hopefully we will qualify for this financial help.

Another announcement of a different kind of financial support from the provincial government is a new, free, social gaming licence that will allow legions and other local community groups to host small stakes games like bridge, euchre and bingo. Legions and charities will also benefit from new opportunities to fundraise through progressive jackpot (loonie and toonie) raffle lotteries. Our Ways & Means Chair, Carol Baird, and I attended a Zoom information session on this, set up by MPP Dunlop's office. The benefits from this initiative will only come once we can fully reopen and actually have people in the branch to take part in these small scale lotteries.

The Ontario Provincial Convention is coming up May 14-18, 2022, in North Bay. It's still too early to know if we will send someone to represent the branch.

For now, we just have to be patient. Stay safe, get your shots, and wear your masks where required. Hopefully (I use that word a little too often these days), we will be able to hold General Meetings soon, maybe even an election in May!

Yours in comradeship,  
Norm Marion, President

## FROM THE LADIES AUXILIARY PRESIDENT



February has arrived and we are still in another year of restrictions. Let's hope that familiar rodent to the west of us, AKA Wiarton Willie, doesn't see his shadow and spring will be here soon. This will mean we can socialize outdoors in not so frigid weather.

Currently the Ladies' Auxiliary account has a working balance of \$4,871.19. Thank you to Gaëtanne Robinson for continuing to do a great job as Treasurer. There are currently no sports events being held. Meat pies are still in a holding pattern.

RCL Ladies' Auxiliary Provincial Command is planning the convention for the fall of 2022. They have given each Auxiliary 10 books of tickets to sell. We had to purchase these at a cost of \$200.00. In order to get these funds back to the local Branch 270 Ladies' Auxiliary we need to sell these tickets. We ask that Ladies' Auxiliary members assist with selling these. Please let Anne McArthur (705-309-3755) know if you can help with this.

There are no catering events at this time due to COVID restrictions.

We hope that everyone continues to have good health and we look forward to seeing you soon at the Branch.

*Never give up, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn."*

Harriet Beecher Stowe

Yours in Comradeship,  
Anne McArthur, Ladies Auxiliary President

## THE MAPLE LEAF

The Maple Leaf is the award-winning newsletter of The 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 Chairmen disseminate information and report to the membership on their respective activities. Opinions expressed in articles are those of the writers and do not imply endorsement by the Branch or the Legion. Committee reports and articles must be submitted by email to: Branch PRO – Maple Leaf at [branch270@rogers.com](mailto:branch270@rogers.com).

## GENERAL MEETINGS

**Due to the COVID-19 virus pandemic emergency, Branch 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.**

## POPPY REPORT

*Submitted by Comrade Betty-Jean Murray, Poppy Chairman*  
The Poppy Account bank balance stands at \$16,601.30. Poppy will be awarding approximately \$1,100.00 to the students whose entries have qualified for awards in the **2021 Students Remembrance Poster and Literary Competition**. Thank you students for showing your appreciation of the sacrifices made by our Veterans by taking part in this event.

Also, I would like to thank Ellie Schull, winner of the raffle for the Branch 270 free membership, for donating her award to the Poppy Fund. Very thoughtful of you Ellie. We thank you.

## BAR OFFICER REPORT

*Submitted by Comrade Marg Murphy, Bar Officer*  
We are looking forward to opening the bar on Tuesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, and we'll move forward cautiously from there. The proof of vaccination requirement to enter the Legion building is still in effect. I don't anticipate opening Steak Darts for a couple of weeks, just to see how the COVID cases numbers go.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

*Submitted by Comrade Cheryl Barr, Membership Chair*  
Hello Comrades:

Our membership as of the end of January stands at 254. We have 71 Affiliates, 141 Associates, 3 Life and 39 Ordinary. As of today, we have 50 members who have not renewed their 2022 membership. Please look at your cards, and if you are one of the 50, please make an effort to renew. WE HAVE EXTENDED THE EARLY BIRD FEES OF \$55.00 for 2022 MEMBERSHIP DUES.

If you have changed your address, phone number, email address, or your name, please let me know and I will update your file. You can renew your membership online, mail in a cheque to Royal Canadian Legion Br. 270, 2 Michael Anne Dr., Box 89, Coldwater Ontario LOK 1E0. Or you can ask the Bar Steward on duty about your membership. Stay Safe.

## SPORTS REPORT

Dominion Command has confirmed that all Dominion sports competitions are cancelled for 2022. Sorry. The hosts for 2022 will be the hosts for 2023. This was voted on and passed at a special Dominion Sports meeting via Zoom on January 11, 2022.

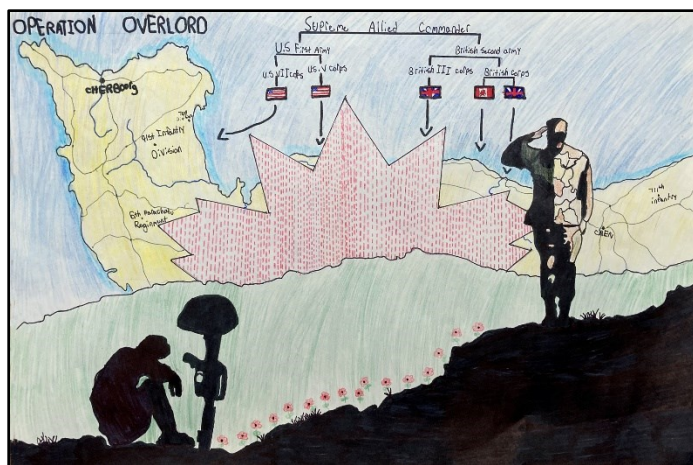
We are still looking for someone to take over the duties of Branch Sports Officer. Please contact the Branch office if interested, 686-3388, email: [branch270@rogers.com](mailto:branch270@rogers.com).

## YOUTH EDUCATION REPORT

*Submitted by Comrade Marg Murphy, Youth Education Officer*

All Poster & Literary Contests prizes are being finalized. At our next Executive meeting I will have a report with a motion to approve the funds needed to wrap up the Youth Education program for the past year. Hopefully we can get the posters and prizes back to the schools before they close again.

Please note that, due to the continuing pandemic situation, there will be no Youth Public Speaking Competition for the year 2022.



*Congratulations to Jack Straw, who took 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Intermediate category for colour posters (see above) at Zone level, and to Kartik Chhabra, who placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the Intermediate category for Poems. These two Coldwater students now progress from Zone to District level judging. Congratulations!*

## JOKE OF THE MONTH

*Three old guys are out walking. The first one says, "Windy, isn't it?"*

*The second says, "No, it's Thursday!"*

*The third one says, "So am I. Let's go get a beer."*

## TREASURER REPORT

*Submitted by Comrade Rick Morse, Secretary-Treasurer*

As of 25 January, 2022, the General Account balance is \$13,774.66.

In the General Account, we still have restricted funds of \$7,705.87 for Grants, \$3,900.00 for Seniors Literary and \$1,000.00 for the Cenotaph's Second World War Coldwater Remembers project.

With funds committed in the Grant, Seniors Literary and the Cenotaph projects equaling \$12,605.87, a total of \$1,168.79 remains for the daily operation of the branch.

The Bottle Drive deposits for the month of January to date total \$344.00.

All amounts listed above are included in the General Account provided in this report.

Building Bank Account balance is \$3,004.29.

Nevada Account balance remains \$237.61

## ENTERTAINMENT/WAYS & MEANS

*Submitted by Comrade Carol Baird, Entertainment/Ways & Means Chairman*

Hope everybody is surviving this cold weather. Not much to report at the branch. We do have a band scheduled for the last Saturday in February called the Brudders. We will have to see how the restrictions go to see if we will have them or not. I have scheduled Bruce Naismith for St. Patrick's Day. Again it is a wait and see. On an up note our Bottle Drive has brought in over \$32,000.00 so far, and it has kept us in business through this pandemic. Thanks to everybody who has donated and continues to do so.

## SERVICE OFFICER REPORT

*Submitted by Comrade Randy Rice, Branch Service Officer*

The worldwide pandemic has triggered many reactions in Veterans and their families. It has resurrected many issues that were thought to have been resolved or managed, such as anger, frustration, fear, loneliness, depression, addiction and many more. It has fractured and stressed families beyond their ability to find happiness and normalcy.

There is support available through numerous organizations and the pandemic has shown just how critical these services are to people.

As last week was Bell Let's Talk Day, I think it is appropriate to list what services provided by Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) are available to veterans and their families.

Crisis line: 1-800-268-7708

MOBILE APPS FUNDED BY VAC

PTSD COACH:

[www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/etools/ptsd-coach-canada](http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/etools/ptsd-coach-canada)

OSI Connect:

[www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/mental-health/osi-app](http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/mental-health/osi-app)

Operational Stress Injury Social Support (OSISS)

[www.osiss.ca](http://www.osiss.ca)

Member Assistance Program 1-800-883-6094

VAC Pastoral Outreach 1-800-268-7708 (leave a message to be called back within 2 business days)

I have also provided the following additional resources.

### NATIONAL

Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC):

[www.veterans.gc.ca](http://www.veterans.gc.ca) 1-866-522-2122

Mental Health Commission of Canada:

[info@mentalhealthcommission.ca](mailto:info@mentalhealthcommission.ca) [mentalhealthcommission.ca](http://mentalhealthcommission.ca)

Centre for Addiction and Mental Health [www.camh.net](http://www.camh.net)

Canadian Mental Health Association [www.cmha.ca](http://www.cmha.ca)

Canadian Coalition for Seniors Mental Health

[www.ccsmh.ca](http://www.ccsmh.ca)

### ONTARIO

Mental Health Help Line [www.mentalhealthhelpline.ca](http://www.mentalhealthhelpline.ca) 1-866-531-2600 (national access)

The first step is to reach out, these services are free and fully confidential. IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE, OR THAT OF A LOVED ONE.

## THIS MONTH WE REMEMBER

**THE BLACK BATTALION**

On July 5, 1916, the No.2 Construction Battalion was formed in Pictou, Nova Scotia—the largest Black military unit in Canadian history. Recruitment took place across the country and approximately 800 personnel would serve with the battalion at some point during the First World War. The segregated battalion was tasked with non-combat support roles. Its members were sent to eastern France later in 1917, where they served honourably with the Canadian Forestry Corps. The unit was officially disbanded in 1920. In addition to the men of the Black Battalion, more than 700 Black Canadians also managed to join other units. They would offer distinguished service that earned some of them medals for bravery at places like Ypres, Vimy Ridge, Hill 70 and Passchendaele.  
*Source: Veterans Affairs Canada*

**BUILDING OFFICER REPORT**

*Submitted by Comrade Wayne Tutt, Building Officer*

Hello comrades.

I don't have much to report. Items on my "Building To Do" list are dwindling.

This does not mean that I'm looking for more repairs to do. However, I will keep on top of things.

I will contact OFS to get more fire extinguisher inspection cards.

I'm very pleased with the job our custodian (Amber) is doing.

Hope to see you all at the Branch very soon.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT**

*Submitted by Comrade Norm Marion, Public Relations Officer*

We had two Branch photos published in the current Legion Magazine (Jan-Feb 2022). One photo shows 1<sup>st</sup> place winner (Essay category) of the Seniors Literary Competition, Lydia Ehmcke, and the other shows our laying of a wreath at the Cenotaph to commemorate the Battle of Britain in September 2021.

On-line media and BIDDY are updated and running.

**HONOURS & AWARDS REPORT**

*Submitted by Comrade Norm Marion, Honours & Awards Chairman*

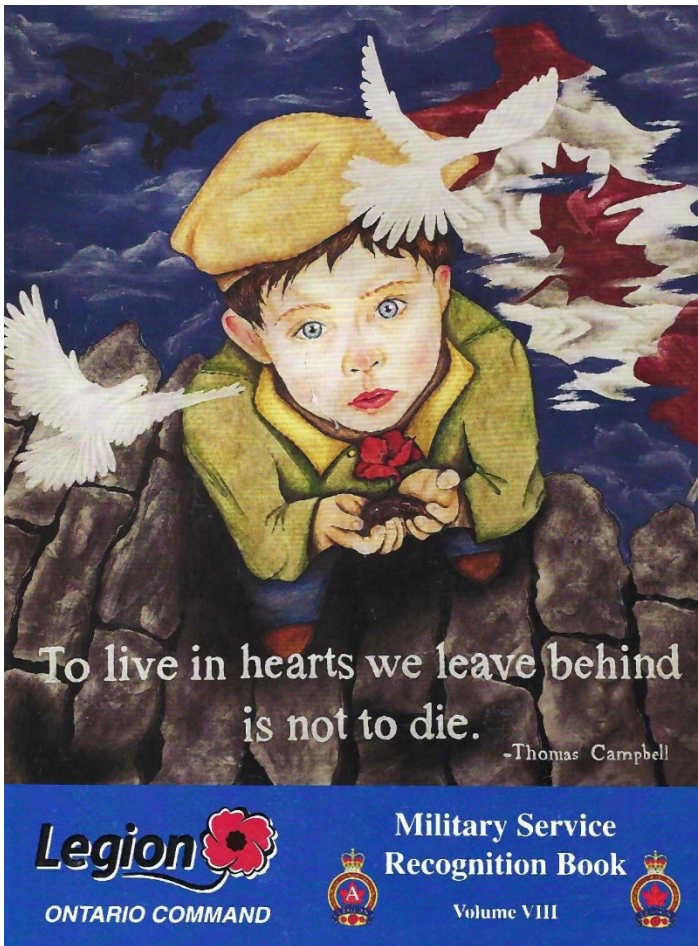
The window is open for nominations for Legionnaire of the Year 2021. It is understood that branch activities were limited during last year, but should still recognize a member who made a significant contribution to the branch during the 2021 period. You can submit names with a short substantiation to the branch email at [branch270@rogers.com](mailto:branch270@rogers.com), or directly to me at my home email: [norm.marion@amtelecom.net](mailto:norm.marion@amtelecom.net) Deadline for submission will be Tuesday February 8.

**LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR**

Yes, it is time to nominate a member for the Branch Legionnaire of the Year award. Just send us an email at [branch270@rogers.com](mailto:branch270@rogers.com) giving us your recommendation for this award, with substantiation to support your choice.

The deadline for nominations is Tuesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022.





*Copies of Military Service Recognition Book Volume VIII, and of some earlier volumes are available at the Coldwater Branch, free of charge.*

## BRANCH HISTORIAN REPORT

*Submitted by Comrade Norm Marion, Branch Historian*

**MILITARY SERVICE RECOGNITION BOOK:** Volume VIII of Ontario Command's Military Service Recognition Book was published last fall. It contained write-ups on 28 soldiers and airmen from the Coldwater area who served in the Canadian military over the years, at war or in peacetime. Copies of MSRB Volume VIII – and of some earlier volumes – are available at the Coldwater Branch, free of charge.

We are now working on Volume IX, which should be out in the fall. If you served in the military or would like to submit someone who served, we would be happy to submit your story and photo. A sample MSRB submission for First World War soldier Harold Sallows is included on this page. If you have any question concerning MSRB submissions, please contact me at:

(705) 686-3941, email [norm.marion@amtelecom.net](mailto:norm.marion@amtelecom.net)

## REMEMBERING HAROLD SALLOWS

Harold Sallows was born in Victoria Harbour, Ontario, on May 12, 1891, son of Reuben and Britannia Sallows. On February 12, 1916, he enlisted in the Army in Coldwater, with the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF). He was 24 years old and married. With his wife Jessie, they had two young boys, Reginald (2) and Manley Harold (1 month). Harold listed his trade as labourer, and had no previous military experience. Private Sallows, regimental number 644031, sailed on the S.S. *Cameronia* to arrive in England on October 28, 1916. After getting some training in England, he landed in France on November 29, 1916, assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion (Western Ontario Regiment). Private Sallows suffered a gunshot wound on May 3, 1917, while serving in the Vimy area. He was repatriated to Canada and discharged as medically unfit for service on March 20, 1918. He passed away on December 4, 1971.



*Harold Sallows was wounded in the First World War. His brothers Lorne and David also served in the Canadian Expeditionary Force.*

## SENIORS LITERARY REPORT

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

I am pleased to report that the Seniors Literary booklet has been well received and of the 100 hard copies printed 94 have been distributed. I have only six left on hand for sale. Comrades, at just \$20 a copy, this would be a nice little booklet to give someone for Valentine's Day which is coming up quickly.

The **4<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SENIORS LITERARY COMPETITION** will begin February 14, 2022 and will have a closing deadline of June 15, 2022. Once again, only electronic submissions will be accepted at:

[branch270seniorsliterary@gmail.com](mailto:branch270seniorsliterary@gmail.com)

## MY LIFE AS A SOLDIER

*As we are about to launch the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Seniors Literary Competition, we thought you might enjoy a sample of what we received last year. The following is a poem written and submitted by Ron Stewart of Komoka, Ontario as an entry into last year's Legion Seniors Literary Competition. The poem took 1<sup>st</sup> place in its category.*

### MY LIFE AS A SOLDIER (at Vimy Ridge)

*By Ron Stewart*

who can tell me what my name is  
does anybody know my name  
please tell me what my name is  
i want to go home again

i've been so long in this rat race  
fighting this dirty war  
please tell me what my name is  
where mother and father are

has anybody seen me lately  
i seem to have disappeared  
my hands and feet are dirty  
my vision grows unclear

somebody help me someone  
my heart has turned to clay  
i see the long white tunnel  
and the light draws me away

darkness overpowers me  
releases me from my skin  
I pray to you Lord Jesus  
please cleanse my mortal sin

**Royal Canadian Legion Branch 270**

i look down on my body  
emaciated, cold, and gray  
no friends can come to pay  
their respects to me today

can anyone down there hear me  
can't you hear me yell  
i'm slipping past the earth's crust  
descending into hell.

who will stop and help me  
release me from this pain  
just tell me what my name is  
so i can go home again.



*Brian Harris (right), Ontario Command Vice President and Provincial Poppy Chairman, presented a 1<sup>st</sup> place award in the Poems category to Ron Stewart for his entry My Life as a Soldier in last year's Seniors Literary Competition.*

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Competition opens - Monday, February 14, 2022

Closes - Saturday, June 18, 2022

QUESTIONS? Call Betty-Jean Murray at (705) 528-9292

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## LEGION SUPPORTS AWARDING VICTORIA CROSS TO AFGHANISTAN VETERAN – FOLLOW-UP

*In the January issue of The Maple Leaf we published an article from Dominion Command that supported the awarding of the Victoria Cross to Private Jess Larochelle for his actions on the battlefield in Afghanistan, in 2006. The following letter from Trevor Jenvenne, President of BSO Legion OSI Special Section, provides more details on Private Larochelle's actions on that day.*

The Royal Canadian Legion Operational Stress Injury Special Section supports the efforts to award Canadian soldier Jess Larochelle the Canadian Victoria Cross. It is the country's highest honour for bravery, valour, self-sacrifice and devotion to duty when in the presence of an enemy.

On October 14, 2006, Pte Larochelle after being hit by the blast of a RPG, refused to give up the fight. He faced close to what we knew a platoon size force of Taliban. Using rockets that had been compromised in the blast, he single handily used them to close with and destroy the enemy, so that they could not take the fight to his own platoon. He did it with a broken back. Not only did he show real morale courage that day, his devotion to his fellow soldiers and a mustering of superhuman strength no doubt saved countless Canadian lives.

For his actions that day he was awarded the Star of Military Valour.

Jess Larochelle's official Citation reads;

*"On October 14, 2006, Private Larochelle of the 1st Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group was manning an observation post when it was destroyed by an enemy rocket in Pashmul, Afghanistan. Although he was alone, severely injured, and under sustained enemy fire in his exposed position at the ruined observation post, he aggressively provided covering fire over the otherwise undefended flank of his company's position. While two members of the personnel were killed and three others were wounded in the initial attack, Private Larochelle's heroic actions permitted*

*the remainder of the company to defend their battle positions and to successfully fend off the sustained attack of more than 20 insurgents. His valiant conduct saved the lives of many members of his company."*

We feel that Jess Larochelle's actions that day more than qualify him for the Victoria Cross. We urge the Government of Canada and the Canadian Armed Forces to review Pte Larochelle's actions that day and award him the medal that best fits his heroic actions that day, the Victoria Cross.

Trevor L. Jenvenne  
President  
BSO Legion OSI Special Section



*The Canadian Victoria Cross. It is the country's highest honour for bravery, valour, self-sacrifice and devotion to duty when in the presence of an enemy.*

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[www.coldwatermill.com](http://www.coldwatermill.com)

## ACTIVENORTH



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Air Force enthusiast?*



#### Join the Association!

441 (Huron) Wing RCAFA - Barrie

Tel: (705) 481-1453 (messages only)  
Email: [441wing.rcafa@airforce.ca](mailto:441wing.rcafa@airforce.ca)

Mail: 401-200 Collier St, Barrie, ON, L4M 1H7

Visit our website at: [www.rcaf441wing.com](http://www.rcaf441wing.com)

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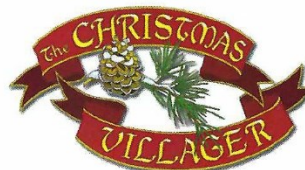
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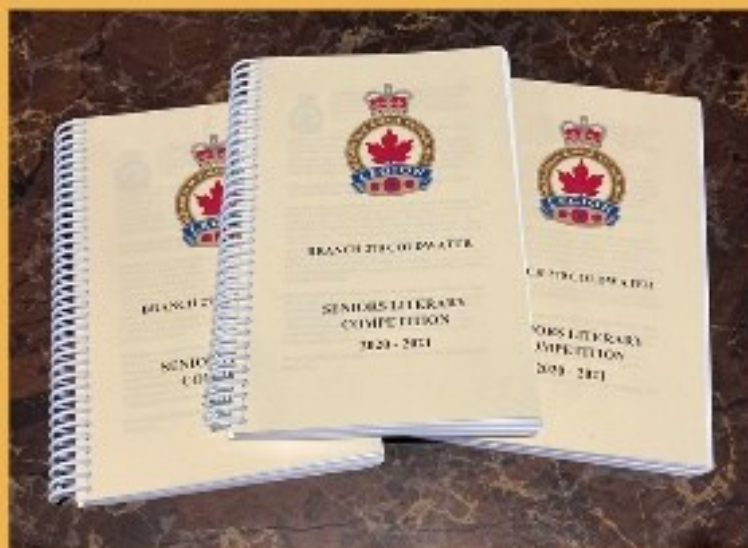
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					<b>5</b> Branch open 11:30 pm-7:00pm
<b>6</b> CLOSED	<b>7</b> CLOSED	<b>8</b> Branch open 11:30 pm-7:00pm	<b>9</b> Branch open 11:30 pm-7:00pm	<b>10</b> Branch open 11:30 pm-7:00pm	<b>11</b> Branch open 11:30 pm-7:00pm
					<b>12</b> Branch open 11:30 pm-7:00pm
<b>13</b> CLOSED	<b>14</b> <i>Valentines Day</i> CLOSED 	<b>15</b> Branch open 11:30 pm-7:00pm	<b>16</b> Branch open 11:30 pm-7:00pm	<b>17</b> Branch open 11:30 pm-7:00pm	<b>18</b> Branch open 11:30 pm-7:00pm
					<b>19</b> Branch open 11:30 pm-7:00pm
<b>20</b> CLOSED	<b>21</b> CLOSED	<b>22</b> Branch open 11:30 pm-7:00pm	<b>23</b> Branch open 11:30 pm-7:00pm	<b>24</b> Branch open 11:30 pm-7:00pm	<b>25</b> Branch open 11:30 pm-7:00pm
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