



# THE MAPLE LEAF

SEPTEMBER 2021 EDITION

## Newsletter of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 270 Coldwater

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### LEGION RELEASES "IT'S OUR DUTY" POSITION PAPER

OTTAWA, ON, 30 August 2021 – The Royal Canadian Legion released its 2021 "It's Our Duty" position paper to all Canadian Members of Parliament recently. The paper outlines the organization's current advocacy agenda.

Among other priorities, the Legion wants to see:

- Immediate tackling of the backlog of disability applications;
- culture change within the CAF related to reporting and handling of sexual misconduct;
- a sharper focus on homelessness including a pan-Canadian strategy to combat Veteran homelessness;
- widespread improvements to the long-term care system.

The Legion's full [advocacy agenda](http://www.Legion.ca) can be found at [www.Legion.ca](http://www.Legion.ca).

"We will continue to closely monitor progress and share feedback. Canada now has sufficient background and evidence-based input from support organizations to improve things dramatically - right now," says Bruce Julian, Dominion President.

The Legion is asking Canada's government and all MPs to reduce the number of reports and meetings that rehash the same problems and concepts, and to take immediate action. The Legion develops and updates its advocacy positions annually, based on feedback from members, experiences working with Veterans and partners across the country, and progress on the mandates presented to Veterans Affairs Canada and the Department of National Defence.



### 3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL SENIORS LITERARY COMPETITION: RESULTS ARE IN!

*Newly elected Dominion Vice-President Comrade Sharon McKeown (above) was on hand at Branch 270 Coldwater to congratulate the winners of the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Seniors Literary Competition at a special Awards Luncheon on Sunday, August 22, 2021. Certificates and monetary awards were presented to the top three entries in each category – Poems, Essays, Memoirs and Short Stories. Thank you to all participants and congratulations to the winners in each category. See results on page 8.*

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy September everyone!

We're still not fully open, but we've made some progress. At this point, it's anyone's guess as to when we can finally resume our activities in the Club Room. We certainly miss those live music Saturdays in the branch,

and our Friday night's fish & chips dinners in a Steak Darts atmosphere. We're not there yet, but at least bookings have started coming in for our Banquet Hall upstairs.

The virtual Dominion Convention was held on the weekend of Aug 14-15. Branch Delegates – Wayne Tutt, Betty-Jean Murray and I – participated. It certainly was interesting, both from content and delivery points of view. There were a few technical problems with the voting process, as the sheer number of voters overloaded the system at some point. But overall it was well handled, and very informative.

On Sunday August 22 was the Seniors Literary Competition Award Ceremony, here at the branch. We had representation from all levels of the Legion, with Zone and District Commanders, and provincial and Dominion VPs. It was very well done, so thank you to Betty-Jean and her team who made it happen.

After many delays due to unavailability, we finally found a suitable shed to accommodate our seasonal items and the bottles & cans of our Bottle Drive. Thank you to Wayne Tutt, Rick Morse, and Wanda Beaudoin for their work (as Wayne says, "under brutal heat") putting it together.

On September 9 we will hold a joint meeting with the Ladies Auxiliary. It's been a long time since we had a joint meeting, and it's time to start planning for in-person activities.

The Zone E4 Fall Convention will take place at the Port McNichol Branch on Sunday, September 19 at 10 a.m. Unlike previous Zone conventions, it will be a single sitting, not separate council and members meetings as before. This meeting will also be accommodated via Zoom for those who are not able to travel or those who may not yet be up to in-person meetings. If interested in participating virtually or in person, please contact the branch.

And finally, the District "E" Fall Convention is set for October 1-3 at Branch 619 in Warminster. Registration form is available now. If you wish to attend, please register ASAP. I intend to attend at least the business part of the convention.

Oh yeah. And don't forget Legion Week, September 19-25! For now, please stay safe. Wear your mask when required, wash your hands frequently, AND GET YOUR SHOT!

Yours in comradeship,  
Norm Marion, President



## LADIES AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Summer has come to an end, and what a beautiful, hot summer it was. I hope that everyone has continued to be healthy.

As there has not been a lot of activity, our bank balance remains the same with a working balance of \$3,076.09.

Our condolences go out to our 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Dianne Sauve in the loss of her dear friend Gladys Dale.

We had an Executive meeting at the beginning of August and we will be having another Executive meeting on Wednesday September 1, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. at the Branch upstairs. We are still discussing when we can start catering to events, and making meat pies again.

There will be a joint Executive meeting with the Branch Executive on Thursday September 9, 2021 at 2 p.m. at the Branch.

There will be no elections held until May 2022, as per directive sent out by Provincial Command. The Executive members that are currently holding positions did agree to continue on the Ladies Auxiliary Executive. Thank you to each and every one of them.

We hope to start having General meetings soon and this will be discussed at our Executive meeting. Once a decision has been made, we will notify all our members.

Hope to see you soon, and keep safe and healthy.

*"Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass; it's about learning how to dance in the rain" - Vivian Green*

Yours in Comradeship,  
Anne McArthur, Ladies Auxiliary President

## 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 Chairmen 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 submitted by email addressed to: Branch PRO – Maple Leaf at [branch270@rogers.com](mailto: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.**

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

*Submitted by Comrade Cheryl Barr, Membership Chairman*  
Good Day Comrades.

Our membership is at 228. The breakdown is as follows: Life 3, Ordinary 39, Associate 122, and Affiliate 64

I would like to welcome to our branch the following new members, Comrades Peter Dunster; David John Clarke; Kevin Hurren; Karen Dares; and John MacDonald.

Again please be advised that there are many 2021 outstanding Membership dues not paid. Please check your cards. Memberships can be renewed at the bar, with the bar steward on duty. You can mail in your cheque to Coldwater Legion P.O. Box 89 Coldwater, ON, L0K1E0. You can also go online and do your payment that way as well. You will then receive your sticker to be placed on the back of your membership card. Our 2022 Membership Early Bird discount will be starting very soon and will run until the end of November. If you have any question about your membership you can contact me at

[legionmembershipbranch270@gmail.com](mailto:legionmembershipbranch270@gmail.com)

Hope to see you soon.

## POPPY REPORT

*Submitted by Comrade Betty-Jean Murray, Poppy Chairman*  
The Poppy account is the recent recipient of a donation of \$1,140. A lady kindly walked into the Branch and announced she had a cash donation for Poppy. A letter has been sent to her for her kind generosity. I was not aware of the possibility of this donation. It came as a complete surprise and the Poppy Fund is duly grateful.

The Poppy book balance now stands at \$7,132.35 with two outstanding cheques, the same cheques that were mentioned at our last meeting for a total of \$1,000.

No known outstanding accounts and none anticipated.

It's almost time to begin preparations for the Poppy Campaign.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

*Submitted by Comrade Norm Marion, Public Relations Officer*

On-line media and BIDDY are regularly updated and running. Coverage of the awards presentations for this year's Seniors Literary Competition on Sunday August 22 was posted on-line and is featured in this issue of The Maple Leaf.

## BUILDING OFFICER REPORT

*Submitted by Comrade Wayne Tutt, Building Officer*

Hello comrades.

The natural gas line for the HVAC installation has been completed. Weather permitting, the installation will be completed by September 3.

The new storage shed has been erected. Many thanks to Rick Morse, Norm Marion and Wanda Beaudoin for their assistance and stamina during the brutal heat wave to make certain that the shed was finished in a timely manner. Most of the online reviews about the shed indicated that 2 men could complete the project in 3 hours. Well, let me tell you in a very polite way that all involved strongly disagree with that. Now that it has been completed, it certainly does look pretty (In a masculine kind of way).

The new shelves in the chair room, and the decoration storage room have been completed.

See you all soon.



*Our 1<sup>st</sup> VP and Building Manager, Comrade Wayne Tutt, (above) puts the finishing touch on the new shed that was erected under the brutal heat wave at the end of August.*



## JOKE OF THE MONTH

*The school teacher was taking her first golfing lesson. "Is the word spelt p-u-t or p-u-t-t?" she asked the instructor.*

*"P-u-t-t is correct," he replied. "Put means to place a thing where you want it. Putt means merely a vain attempt to do the same thing."*

### 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](mailto:bburnie6@hotmail.com).

### 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](mailto:branch270@rogers.com).

### TREASURER REPORT

*Submitted by Comrade Rick Morse, Secretary-Treasurer*

As of 26 August 2021, the General Account Book balance is \$57,149.77.

The Grants funds balance is \$41,134.32.

Using the above numbers, approx. \$16,015.45 remains in the operating account.

In the General Account, we still have restricted funds of approximately \$4,500 for Seniors Literary, and \$1,000 earmarked for the Cenotaph's Second World War Coldwater Veterans project.

From the Bottle/can returns for the month of August, a total of \$1,327.30 has been deposited to date. These numbers are included in the above calculations.

Building Bank Account and Book balance - \$12,993.67.

Nevada Account balance - \$237.61.

### SERVICE OFFICER REPORT

*Submitted by Comrade Randy Rice, Branch Service Officer*  
Comrades

This month's report is providing information about Long Term Care facilities in our region. The information is taken from an Ontario ministry brochure BROCC 1702 April 2021 and may be of interest.

Home and Community Care Support Services North Simcoe Muskoka coordinates the accommodation of people in North Simcoe Muskoka's Long Term Care Homes (LTCH). These homes are located across the region and provide a diverse range of specialized and personalized services. All LTCHs are licensed and regulated by the Ministry of Health and Long -Term Care (MOHLTC). The ministry conducts inspections to ensure compliance with legislation and regulations. They also regulate the fees for Long-Term Care and the standards of service. Reports on LTCHs are available at

<http://publicreporting.ltchomes.net>. For more information on LTCHs and other health service resources in North Simcoe Muskoka, call 310-2222(no area code required) or visit [www.nsmhealthline.ca](http://www.nsmhealthline.ca)

#### Accommodation Cost

The Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (ministry) pays for the care you receive in a Long Term Care Home, but you must pay for accommodation TYPE.

For the most up to date rates visit

[www.healthcarehome.ca/nsm](http://www.healthcarehome.ca/nsm).

Long-Term Care Homes cannot refuse admission to eligible individuals based solely on their inability to pay for basic accommodation.

### SERGEANT-AT-ARMS REPORT

*Submitted by Comrade Rick Morse, Sergeant-at-Arms*

Branch 270 will be conducting a wreath laying Ceremony to commemorate the Battle of Britain, which ended on 31 October 1940.

When: 9:00 a.m. Sunday 19 September 2021

Where: Branch 270 Cenotaph

Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, the ceremony will be a small subdued event. However, Branch members and their families who wish to view the commemoration may do so keeping in mind the practice of safe distancing.

Thank you.



***The Royal Canadian Legion  
Ontario Provincial Command  
Proclamation of Legion Week***

*Ontario Provincial Command of The Royal Canadian Legion  
represents nine Districts which includes 393 Branches;  
within these Branches we have over 91,000 members .*

*We are a non-profit organization assuming the responsibility of maintaining the  
tradition of Remembrance of those who paid the supreme sacrifice  
by defending our great nation in past and present conflicts,  
so that we as Canadians can live in the freedom that we enjoy today!*

*We continue to support and represent our Veterans of past and present with many  
benefits as a result of the determination of our thousands of  
dedicated members at all levels of the organization.*

*Legion Branches across the province work together with their affiliated organization,  
the Ladies' Auxiliary, to raise funds in support of the many programs within  
Ontario Command of the Royal Canadian Legion.*

*With millions of dollars being raised from Branch and Ladies' Auxiliary projects,  
the Legion supports numerous programs benefiting our  
Veterans, seniors and youth within our communities.*

*Therefore, let it be known throughout the Province of Ontario  
that September 19-25, 2021 be proclaimed Legion Week  
within Ontario Command of The Royal Canadian Legion.*



## Quote of the Month

*"Advertising may be described as the science of arresting the human intelligence long enough to get money from it."*

*– Stephen Leacock, author & humorist.*

## ENTERTAINMENT/WAYS & MEANS

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

Musician Tyler French will be playing on the patio from 4 to 6 p.m. on Saturday September 11<sup>th</sup>. Please come and support our first entertainment in a long time. Let's hope for good weather.

Thanks again to those who helped with the Bottle Drive. The past month brought in a total of \$1,327.30. Since the beginning of our campaign last year, we have collected, cleaned and sorted 184, 232 bottles and cans. Keep them coming!

## BAR OFFICER REPORT

*Submitted by Comrade Marg Murphy, Bar Officer*

**VOLUNTEER BAR STEWARDS NEEDED!!** If you would like to help the branch by volunteering a few hours a week as a bar steward, please talk to one of our bar stewards, or contact us: (705) 686-3388 email [branch270@rogers.com](mailto:branch270@rogers.com). Due to a shortage of volunteer bar stewards, we have to reduce our opening hours. Beginning September 1<sup>st</sup>, the new hours of operation for the bar/Club Room will be from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday to Saturday.

## HONOURS & AWARDS

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

The Honours & Awards (H&A) Committee held a meeting last week to plan its activities. A database of H&A recipients has been created and a list of members who are due this year for H&A will be produced from that database. A decision should be made by the next Executive meeting on whether we want to hold a ceremony this fall.

## BRANCH HISTORIAN REPORT

*Submitted by Comrade Norm Marion, Branch Historian*

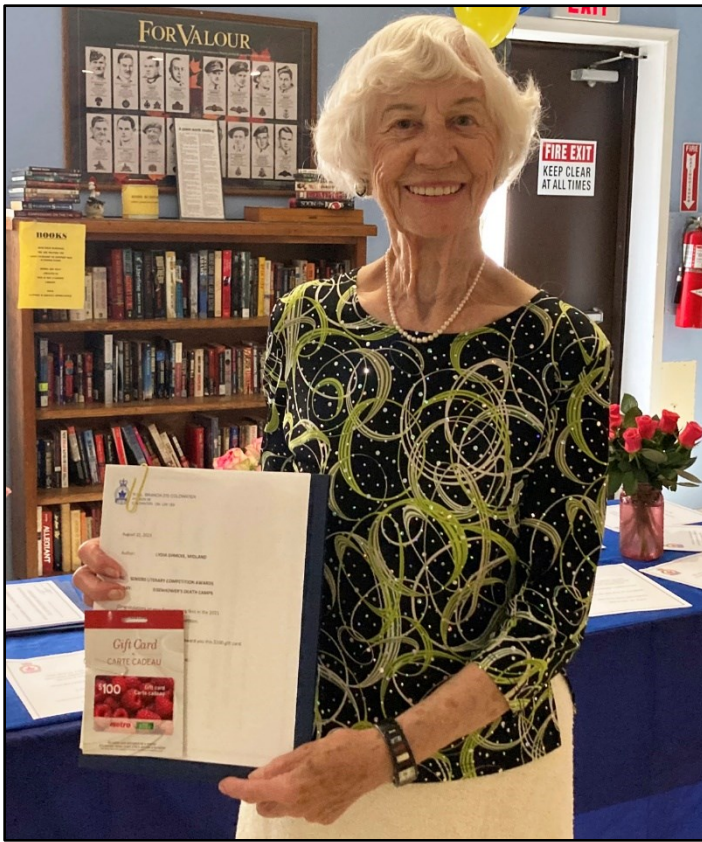
I've been approached by branch member Judith Cox about producing banners for hanging in shop windows on and around Main Street in Oct-Nov. I accepted to work on this with Comrade Wanda Beaudoin. There should be little or no cost to the branch, unless the branch chooses to sponsor one or more banners. Most banners would be sponsored by individuals. More details to come. Although the deadline for inclusion in this fall's issue of Ontario Command's Military Service Recognition Book (MSRB), submissions can be made year round and will be published in the next available issue. You can read one below about Private William Edgar Dunn of Coldwater.

*During the Second World War Private William Edgar Dunn of Coldwater joined the Algonquin Regiment, Royal Canadian Infantry Corps. He died in February 1945 while serving in The Netherlands.*



## REMEMBERING WILLIAM EDGAR DUNN

William Edgar Dunn was born in Coldwater, Ontario, on July 12, 1925, son of Norman Edgar and Isabella Dunn. After grade school he worked with various employers as a labourer, including a few years with the Canadian Pacific Railway. As he turned 18 during the Second World War, he enlisted in the Army in Toronto on February 2, 1944. Trooper Dunn trained at the Canadian Armoured Corps Training Regiment at Camp Borden, Ont., and later at Camp Aldershot, N.S., before being transferred overseas in October 1944. He was then posted to the Algonquin Regiment, Royal Canadian Infantry Corps. By 1945, Private Dunn was assigned to patrolling along the Maas River, near Heusden, in The Netherlands. On February 11, 1945, Private Dunn and another soldier were found lifeless in a canal. As they drowned and there were no other signs of physical injury, the circumstances of their death remain unknown. Private Dunn is buried at the Bergen op Zoom Canadian War Cemetery, in The Netherlands. He earned the 1939-1945 Star, the France and Germany Star, the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal, and the 1939-1945 British War Medal.



The 1<sup>st</sup> Place for Essays went to returning participant Lydia Ehmcke for *Eisenhower's Death Camps*.

## SENIORS LITERARY COMPETITION

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

A very successful luncheon and awards ceremony was hosted by Branch 270 on Sunday, August 20, 2021.

In attendance we had about 18 authors, a few spouses, a publisher, a self-publisher and five levels of officers from the Royal Canadian Legion – DC VP Sharon McKeown, OC VP Pam Davidson, OC DC Crystal Cook, ZCE4 Shawn McKinlay, Br. 270 President Norm Marion

Norm welcomed the guests to the branch – SEOs and authors; I thanked the guests and authors for being there, recruited Sharon McKeown to explain the origins of the Seniors Literary program, and we proceeded to enlist the services of Pam Davidson and Crystal Cook to hand out the awards packages. The RCL ladies each received flowers in exchange for their duties, and Shawn McKinlay received a copy of the Srs Lit booklet.

When discussing the cost of the booklet and the inability to provide one to each author, the District ladies suggested they approach District E to absorb the cost.

Not to be forgotten were the smiling faces of Cathy Larkin, Irene Brasil, Karen Dravis and their smiling leader Jane Lauder who prepared and packaged beautifully sandwich

and dessert plates for 34 people. Included on the dessert plate were Jane's delightful homemade butter tarts. They are the very best butter tarts in town and beyond. Our most sincere thanks goes out to these ladies who sweated through hours of prep time in the LA kitchen.

All said, it was a resounding success once again. (See the top three awards in each category below.)

## RESULTS OF THE 2021 SENIORS LITERARY COMPETITION

### ESSAYS

1<sup>st</sup> Place: *Eisenhower's Death Camps* by Lydia Ehmcke

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: *Grandma's Kitchen* by Diane Skinner

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: *A Love for Life* by Patricia Stott-Prince

Honourable Mentions:

*These Days* by Linda Sutman

*The Raging River In My Mind* by Christine Lyons

*Life Goes On* by Hans Dekker (deceased)

### MEMOIRS

1<sup>st</sup> Place: *It Matters to This One* by Stephanie Cox

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: *Show Me The Way to Go Home* by Susan Kelly

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: *My Mother's Story* by Shirleyan English

Honourable mentions:

*The Italian Neighbours* by Raymond Holmes

*I Remember* by Hans Dekker (deceased)

*Breathe and Surrender: An International Adoption Story* by Christine Spear

### POEMS

1<sup>st</sup> Place: *My Life As A Soldier(at Vimy Ridge)* by Ron Stewart

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: *Granite Traveller* by Cynthia Hoy

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: *Why I Hate Brown Leaves* by Kerry G. Kreitzer

Honourable mentions:

*The Eight-End Game* by Jane Downs

*Scattered Thoughts* by Rosemarie Elsdon

*Memories Throughout a Lifetime* by Christine Lyons

### SHORT STORIES

1<sup>st</sup> Place: *We Didn't Know* by Carol Austin

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: *Sometimes Even to Live is an Act of Courage* by Gordon Webb

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: *The Champ* by Michael Dobson

Honourable mentions:

*Parade* by Jim Griffin

*The One Hundred Dollar Bid* by Caroline Sealey

*The Most Beautiful Woman in the World*

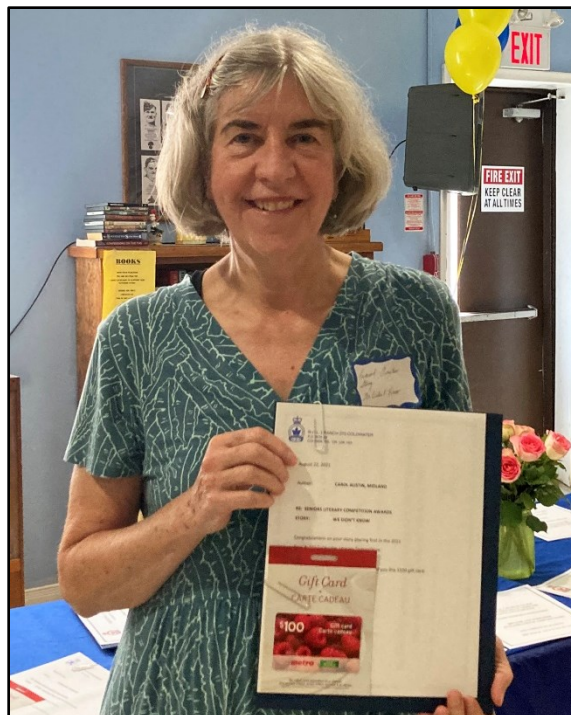
by Raymond Holmes



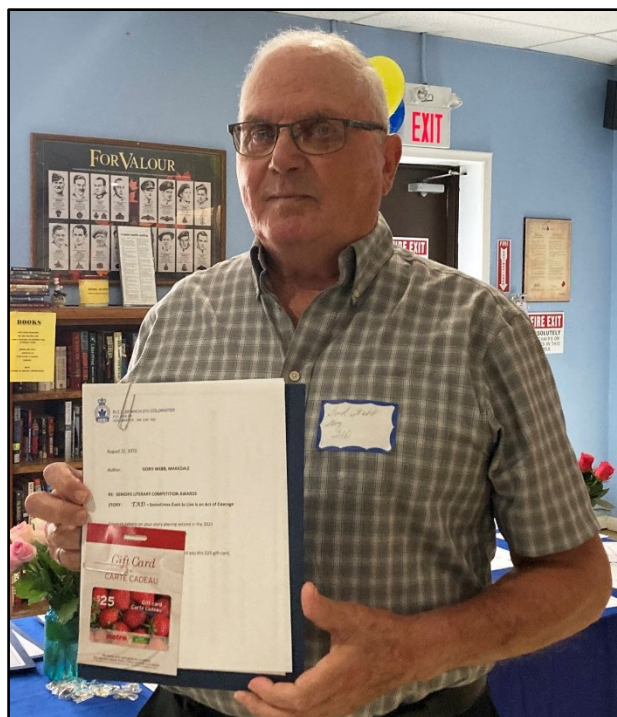
## 2021 SENIORS LITERARY COMPETITION



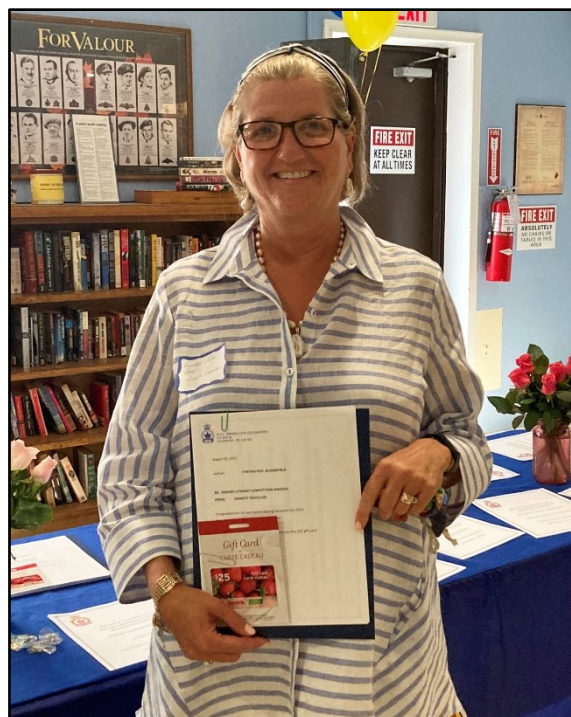
The 1<sup>st</sup> place for Memoirs went to Stephanie Cox for *It Matters to This One*.



The 1<sup>st</sup> place for Short Stories was awarded to Carol Austin (above) for *We Didn't Know*.



The 2<sup>nd</sup> place for Short Stories was awarded to Gordon Webb (above) for *Sometimes Even to Live is an Act of Courage*.



The 2<sup>nd</sup> place for Poems was awarded to Cynthia Hoy (above) for *Granite Traveller*.

## PROVINCIAL SERVICE OFFICER COMING TO COLDWATER

### ATTENTION ALL VETERANS

For anyone who has served in the Canadian military (including Second World War, Korea, Special Duty Area, Militia/Reserve Force, RCMP, Canadian Armed Forces and dependents).

The Royal Canadian Legion Service Bureau Chief, Sherry Culling, will be visiting Branch 270 Coldwater during the week of September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Her contact info is as follows:

Canada Place, Suite 202, 107 Shirreff Ave. North Bay, ON P1B 7K8

1-888-207-2206

Tel: 705-472-8650 email: [sculling@on.legion.ca](mailto:sculling@on.legion.ca)

Fax: 705-472-1969 website: [www.on.legion.ca](http://www.on.legion.ca)

Anyone wishing information, advice or assistance regarding Veterans Affairs Canada disability pension/ awards, treatment for entitled Veterans, application for Poppy/Benevolent Funds, appeals against unfavourable VAC decisions, and widows, may contact the Branch Veterans Service Officer Randolph Rice at: 705-816-0110 or e-mail [ricerandolph@gmail.com](mailto:ricerandolph@gmail.com) to book an appointment.

This is a free service offered by the Legion. COVID 19 protocols, social distancing and masks in place.

All information is strictly confidential!!

THIS MONTH WE REMEMBER

## THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN

Fought between July and October 1940, the Battle of Britain is widely recognized as the greatest air battle of all times and the turning point of the Second World War. It was during that battle that a few hundred aircrew from Commonwealth and Allied countries turned the tide on Hitler's plans for the invasion of Great Britain. The battle is especially significant for our Royal Canadian Air Force heritage since it was during that battle that the RCAF received its baptism by fire. Throughout that period, more than one hundred Canadian fighter pilots served with various units of the Royal Air Force, and with one Canadian unit, No 1 Fighter Squadron (RCAF)

On Sunday September 19, the Coldwater Branch will mark Battle of Britain Sunday by laying a wreath at the Cenotaph.

*Source: Royal Canadian Air Force*



*"A Summer of Heroes" painting by Nicolas Trudgian (left) depicts a scene of aerial activity over southern England during the period of the Battle of Britain, July-October 1940.*

*(Source: Royal Canadian Air Force)*



**It's ~~Still~~ ~~Back~~ On!**  
**By popular demand**

# Coldwater Legion Bottle Drive

Show your support  
for your local Legion



You may drop off your empties during our working hours. If you can't, please call Cheryll Barr at (705) 330-2809 to arrange for drop off after hours.

If you can't drop them off, we would be happy to pick them up. Please call Carol Baird at (705) 888-5879 for pickup.

We are accepting beer bottles & cans; cooler bottles & cans; and liquor & wine bottles.



Royal Canadian Legion  
Branch 270 Coldwater  
2 Michael Anne Drive, Coldwater  
(705) 686-3388 [branch270@rogers.com](mailto:branch270@rogers.com)



## FROM THE MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

*The following is a letter from the Minister of Veterans Affairs, Lawrence MacAuley concerning the impact of the current situation in Afghanistan on our Veteran community. It is reproduced and circulated here at the request of Ontario Command.*

These past few weeks have been incredibly difficult for our Veteran community. With the Taliban's rapid advance across Afghanistan, it appears that the entire country could soon be under their control.

Given all it represents to so many of our Afghan Veterans, the fall of Kandahar will surely be particularly challenging. Having never worn the uniform, I know I will never be able to understand what so many of those who served there are grappling with.

As Minister, though, I want to provide some resources that I hope might be of use for those of you – and to those you serve – who might understandably be struggling with the situation in Afghanistan.

- At Veterans Affairs, please know that the [VAC Assistance Service](#) is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Veterans, former RCMP members, families, and caregivers can call to speak with a mental health professional, free of charge, at 1-800-268-7708 (TDD/TTY: 1-800-567-5803.)
- For those still serving in the Canadian Armed Forces, support is available to members and their families at each [Canadian Forces Health Services](#) Centre across the country.
- The [Member Assistance Program](#) also offers 24/7 confidential short-term counselling to members and their families, and can be reached at 1-800-268-7708 (TDD 1-800-567-5803.)
- Some additional information on mental health resources can also be found through the [Canadian Armed Forces](#) and [Veterans Affairs Canada](#).

Because of what Canadians achieved in Afghanistan, lives have been changed, unquestionably, for the better. There are children who received medicine that allowed them to reach their teens when they otherwise wouldn't have. There are now young women studying law, physics, and

journalism at some of the world's finest universities who would never have gotten that opportunity.

Time will tell us what those stories mean, but I choose to believe that the world will be better for them.

However this chapter in Afghanistan's history ends, Canada will not forget the actions of the more than 40,000 of our remarkable men and women who served there – the stories of their sacrifice will outlast them.

Our kids and grandkids are going to learn about the Canadians who fought and gave their lives in the streets and poppy fields of Kandahar, just like they will about the ones who fought and gave their lives at Vimy Ridge and Juno Beach.

Their wars might be different, but their stories are fundamentally the same. They went off to serve their country, and they did all that was asked of them and more.

How our Afghanistan Veterans and their families will come to understand their sacrifices is surely not for me to say, but I can promise that Canada will remain forever grateful for their service.

Please take care, and thank you for the work you all continue to do in support of our Veterans and their families.

Respectfully,

Lawrence MacAuley  
Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence

**Commemorative Poppy**

Inspired by John McCrae's "In Flanders Fields", Madame Anna Guérin, later christened "The Poppy Lady from France", campaigned tirelessly in the early 1920s for her Inter-Allied Poppy Day idea: to adopt the distribution of the Poppy on Armistice Day as a way to raise money for Veterans' needs and to remember those who had given their lives during the First World War.

After meeting with her, in July 1921 the Great War Veterans Association (which in 1925 would unify with other Veteran groups to form the Canadian Legion) adopted the Poppy as the flower of Remembrance.

To celebrate this 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, The Royal Canadian Legion has produced this commemorative Poppy, a pin reminiscent of the first Poppies distributed in Canada after the First World War.

Legion members are authorized to wear this pin on Legion dress for the entire year, from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021. In keeping with the tradition of wearing the Poppy on the left side near one's heart, it will be worn below the Legion lapel pin and CAF service pin.

Assembled in Canada. Stem approximately 2.25" long.



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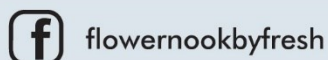
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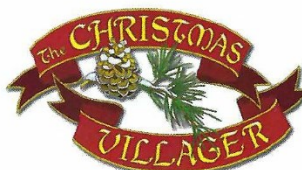
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<b>12</b> CLOSED <i>Bistro open for take-out</i>	<b>13</b> CLOSED <i>Bistro open for take-out</i>	<b>14</b> Patio/Bar & Bistro open 3:00 pm - 7:00pm	<b>15</b> Patio/Bar & Bistro open 3:00 pm - 7:00pm	<b>16</b> Patio/Bar & Bistro open 3:00 pm - 7:00pm	<b>17</b> Patio/Bar & Bistro open 3:00 pm - 7:00pm	<b>18</b> Patio/Bar & Bistro open 3:00 pm - 7:00pm
<b>19</b> <i>Battle of Britain</i> CLOSED  <i>Bistro open for take-out</i> <i>Zone Convention</i>	<b>20</b> <i>Legion Week</i> CLOSED <i>Bistro open for take-out</i>	<b>21</b> <i>Legion Week</i> Patio/Bar & Bistro open 3:00 pm - 7:00pm	<b>22</b> <i>Legion Week</i> Patio/Bar & Bistro open 3:00 pm - 7:00pm	<b>23</b> <i>Legion Week</i> Patio/Bar & Bistro open 3:00 pm - 7:00pm	<b>24</b> <i>Legion Week</i> Patio/Bar & Bistro open 3:00 pm - 7:00pm	<b>25</b> <i>Legion Week</i> Patio/Bar & Bistro open 3:00 pm - 7:00pm
<b>26</b> CLOSED <i>Bistro open for take-out</i>	<b>27</b> CLOSED <i>Bistro open for take-out</i>	<b>28</b> Patio/Bar & Bistro open 3:00 pm - 7:00pm	<b>29</b> Patio/Bar & Bistro open 3:00 pm - 7:00pm	<b>30</b> Patio/Bar & Bistro open 3:00 pm - 7:00pm	<b>Stay Safe</b>	