



THE MAPLE LEAF

JULY 2020 EDITION

Newsletter of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 270 Coldwater

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

branch270@rogers.com • www.coldwaterlegion.com • www.facebook.com/Coldwaterlegion



HAPPY BIRTHDAY CANADA!



It was certainly a quieter celebration this year for our country's 153rd birthday, no doubt about it. And yet, a good number of people joined us at the branch on our outdoor patio to enjoy a nice meal and drinks in good company, albeit within the limits of existing social distancing rules. Yes, rules are rules! Above, our Bar Officer Maggie Murphy (right) records the names and contact information of customers as they enter the patio, in case future tracing is necessary. In this case, the customer doesn't really need an introduction. Comrade Marie Langley (left) is a long time member and past-president at the branch.

The Bottle Drive is on!

Yes, the Coldwater Legion Bottle Drive is on! We launched this fundraising initiative to raise money for our roof (and other) repairs while helping out people make space in their garages. You may drop off your empties during our patio hours. If you can't make it during these hours, please call Cheryl 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 the branch Ways & Means Chairperson, Carol Baird (seen here sorting out bottles), at (705) 888-5879 for pickup. We are accepting beer bottles & cans; cooler bottles & cans; and liquor & wine bottles. Please support your local Legion branch.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy Canada Day everyone! It was certainly a quiet celebration this year, but some of you did get to enjoy a nice meal and drink on our recently opened outdoor patio. No band, but still, progress was made since the March 16 closure. Thank you to Maggie, Rick, Carol Baird, Carol Worgan & John Fowler, Cheryll, and Betty-Jean for their work on setting-up that patio. And by the way, great job by our canteen operator, Pamela Planting, who kept *The 270 Bistro* open throughout the lockdown period and is now open 7 days a week, and doing well.



After three months without bar revenue, we are still working at trying to get financial assistance to carry on with our roof repairs and heating/cooling upgrades. A follow-up application was made for a New Horizons For Seniors grant, with the hopes that it would cover at least part of it. And we are hoping that the federal government will address requests for assistance formulated by the Legion and other not-for-profit organisations that were left out of the government's COVID-19 relief programs.

In the meantime, I want to thank **the Branch 270 Ladies Auxiliary for another donation of \$5,000** to the branch (yes, another one!), and members of **the Wednesday Night Dart League who donated \$1,000** to the branch. Thank you so much!

We have also launched a "bottle drive" to raise money while helping out people make space in their garages. You may drop off your empties during our patio hours. If you can't make it during these hours, 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.

Thank you to Betty-Jean Murray for carrying-on with the Seniors Literary Contest, which ended mid-June. There were more submissions than last year, which is quite an accomplishment given the conditions for this year. Please read Betty-Jean's report in this issue.

Early into the lockdown it was suggested by Legion leadership that, since branches could not run their elections during the pandemic, they could simply extend the terms of their Executive by a year. It is now confirmed that branches do not have the authority to do so, and therefore branch elections must take place once conditions permit. At this point one can only speculate as to when the situation will improve enough to make these elections possible, but sometime in September may be a possibility.

Finally, note that the District Fall Convention scheduled for 2-4 October is still on, as far as we know. It certainly couldn't happen under the present restrictions, but there is hope that the situation will have improved by then.

So please, stay safe, wash your hands frequently, and wear masks when going out in public places, especially indoors.

Yours in Comradeship,
Norm Marion, President

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Wayne Tutt, Membership Chairperson

As of today, we have 273 members at our branch. The breakdown is as follows: Life 3, Ordinary 41, Associate 141, and Affiliate 88. I'm sad to say that we lost one of our Associate Members, Charles Alexander, long time Legion member and former member of the Executive at this branch. We offer our condolences to his family and friends.

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.

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.

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Norm Marion, Public Relations Officer

With the partial reopening of the branch (patio only), this month we printed a small number of black & white hard copies of *The Maple Leaf* for members to pick-up during patio operating hours. For the last three months *The Maple Leaf* was published electronically only, as members would not have been able to pick them up at the branch. *The Maple Leaf* is sent out by email every month to approximately 200 members, and is available (including past issues) on our branch website.

The picture of our donation to 724 Midland Air Cadets Squadron was submitted for publication in the *Legion Magazine*.

SPORTS REPORT

We will be looking for someone to take over the duties of Sports Officer once normal activities resume. Please contact the Branch office if interested, Tel: (705) 686-3388, Email: branch270@rogers.com



Thank you so much to the members of the Wednesday Night Dart League for their generous donation of \$1,000 to the branch. Making the presentation on behalf of the league was Zone E4 Sports Chairperson Bob Gourlie (left), with Branch 270 President Norm Marion accepting the donation.

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.

SENIORS LITERARY COMPETITION

Submitted by Comrade Betty-Jean Murray, Past President

From all appearances, we did the right thing by continuing to host the Seniors Literary Competition in 2020. We have received 29 submissions from a broad spectrum of Ontario, at least from the north, west and south areas of Ontario as well as from our local community.

The submissions have been shared between two teams and I anticipate having the judges' decisions back by the end of July. Hopefully by then, we will be able to determine a date for our Branch Honours and Awards ceremony and be able to include the winners of the Literary Competition.

We have received an offer from an anonymous donor of a bottle of 65-year-old Scotch to be raffled off to generate funds for the awards for the winners of the annual Seniors Literary Competition. This opportunity to enjoy the nectar of Scottish Kings will be offered shortly. It should be pointed out to the buyers that the bottle could be an investment as its appraised/bid value in 2018 was \$750 and in 2019 a similar bottle was bid and won at 750 Euros, roughly equivalent to \$1,400 Cdn. Hopefully, everyone will help to promote the sale of the tickets.

Quote of the Month

"To me, the fundamental tales of life are: do good, do the best you can and reach for the stars sometimes."

Valerie Pringle, Canadian journalist

THIS MONTH WE REMEMBER THE ALLIED LANDING IN SICILY

The Second World War Allied invasion of Italy began with an attack on the island of Sicily. Canadian soldiers from the 1st Canadian Infantry Division and the 1st Canadian Armoured Brigade had an active and important role in this effort. The operation began on July 10, 1943, when Canadian and British troops came ashore along a 60-kilometre stretch of coastline at the southern tip of Sicily, while American troops covered another 60 kilometres of the coast. The assault was one of the largest seaborne operations in military history, involving nearly 3,000 Allied ships and landing craft. More than 2,300 Canadians became casualties, almost 600 of which were fatal. Taking Sicily helped secure the Mediterranean Sea for Allied shipping and contributed to the downfall of Italian dictator Benito Mussolini.

Source: Veterans Affairs Canada

POPPY REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Betty-Jean Murray, Poppy Chairperson

I am pleased to report the balance in the Poppy account at June 24, 2020 is \$6,806.32.

There are no large expenses to be incurred between now and September so these funds should remain adequate to carry the fund through to the end of September unless we are approached for assistance by a veteran or veteran's

family. There is some concern with respect to the 2020 Poppy Campaign and I believe info will come down from Dominion Command shortly on this.

TREASURER REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Annie McArthur, Secretary-Treasurer

As of June 30th there was \$25,121.12 in the Building Account and \$9,512.37 in the General Account. The Nevada Account is still at \$236.77.

BAR OFFICER REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Maggie Murphy, Bar Officer

A committee was put together following the June 10 Executive meeting to include Norm Marion, Betty-Jean Murray, Carol Baird, Cheryll Barr, and Maggie Murphy to discuss the feasibility of opening a patio during this COVID-19 Pandemic. We considered the Public Health guidance for opening the patio and guidelines from the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO). One of our issues was the location of a smoking area in compliance with all regulations. At this time, we set the place at the west end of our building, although this is subject to change once we speak to AGCO and Public Health. We had some other small changes to make along the way and we feel we are in compliance with all regulations. Our plan was to open on a trial basis to see if opening the patio was going to be worth our while financially, while being manageable and sustainable. We have since voted to go ahead with the patio opening on a permanent basis, as long as all health and safety measures are met. Our hours for the patio will be 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday to Saturday - weather permitting, of course.



The outdoor patio set-up in the parking lot at the branch has been a popular spot in past weeks, even with social distancing rules and other preventative measures.

DISTRICT "E" FALL CONVENTION

Submitted by Comrade Betty-Jean Murray, District "E" Fall Convention Chairperson

Currently scheduled for October 2-4, 2020 a District Council meeting will be held mid-July to determine what process will be taken with respect to the Fall Convention as it is necessary to hold the Fall convention due to the Spring convention having been cancelled. I have checked with our computer guru and he assures me the system we have in our building can easily accommodate the internet connections we would require if it became a mixture of live in-person and internet teleconference. There are many questions to be answered on this in the future.

ENTERTAINMENT/WAYS & MEANS

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

Not much to report for Entertainment as everything is at a standstill. We have a new jukebox in the Clubroom. It has a million songs on it. The cost is 4 songs for \$1.00 or 9 for \$2.00. It is a 60/40 split, so the Legion does make some money from it.

My Welcome Back Baskets are worth well over \$25 each. Two of them include a \$10 gift certificate for *The 270 Bistro* as well. Thanks to Pam!

I would like everybody to buy a ticket. Tickets are 3 for \$5. Looking forward to seeing everybody in the Clubroom again

whenever it opens. Until then, see you on the patio, if it doesn't rain.

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Randy Rice, Veterans Service Officer
If you need to reach me, my contact info is as follows: email ricerandolph@gmail.com cell (705) 816-0110.

IN MEMORIAM

CHARLES "CHUCK" ALEXANDER



Passed away peacefully at Soldiers Memorial Hospital on Sunday, June 28, 2020 at the age of 76. Beloved and cherished husband of Ann Marie (nee Goodings), celebrated 55 years together this year. Loving father of Gordon (Hazel) Alexander of Ariss, and Jennifer (Harry) Stegenga. Dear grandfather to Ian, Simon and Sophie. Predeceased by his brother Richard. Chuck will be missed by his family and many friends who appreciated his passion for singing and penchant for storytelling; his leadership and organization; his sense of humour and joy of life.

Chuck was a lifetime employee of the Toronto-Dominion Bank (now TD Canada Trust). He held a number of branch postings throughout Ontario and retired after 39 years of dedicated service. Chuck had a life-long involvement with the Barbershop Harmony Society and sang as a member of numerous choruses in the province. He was a past president of the Ontario District Barbershop Harmony Society and twice honoured with the Ontario Barbershopper of the Year award.

The family is extremely grateful to the ICU medical team at Soldiers Memorial. Cremation has taken place. Out of respect for family and friends, because of the current public health crisis, a private family service will be held while a celebration of life may be planned at a later date.

As an expression of sympathy, donations in memory of Chuck may be made to Sing Canada Harmony at singcanadaharmony.ca or through the Simcoe Funeral Home, 38 James Street E, Orillia.

JOKE OF THE MONTH

A woman was taking an afternoon nap. When she woke up, she told her husband, "I just dreamed that you gave me a pearl necklace. What do you think it means?" "You'll know tonight," he said. That evening, the man came home with a small package and gave it to his wife. Delighted, she opened it to find a book entitled "The Meaning of Dreams."



LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER JUSTIN TRUDEAU

Dear Prime Minister:

May you remain well during this difficult time.

I am reaching out again to express the critical need for federal government financial support to help Royal Canadian Legion Branches across our country due to the pandemic. We estimate that without such funding, some will face closure within several months.

Much to our surprise and alarm, the new *Emergency Community Support Fund* announced by your government cannot help our Branches with the operational costs they continue to incur; this was confirmed by direct communication with ESDC. The program's parameters need to be expanded in order to help the Legion and other not-for-profit entities. Recently, our national headquarters released funds from its own emergency reserves to help Branches stay afloat – but this help is temporary and running out. In desperation, some Branches have started *GoFundMe* requests, normally not allowed under our By-Laws, and to the tune of \$25,000. We simply cannot meet this level of need.

Businesses that cater to the public currently have access to a number of relief programs but our Branches operate primarily through volunteer work and do not qualify for the sort of help being provided to restaurants, retail outlets, and even sporting clubs.

If this nation's hundreds of Legion Branches are forgotten some of them will close permanently resulting in a huge ripple effect across the country. Branches are often the hubs of communities, and will be unable to support Veterans, Seniors and all citizens in the countless ways they do. Some of the most important work includes what they do to help *Veterans Affairs Canada* with benefit applications. This VAC service is already in turmoil due to the ongoing backlog. There are many other examples of what would be lost:

- Providing a safe place for Veterans and Seniors to gather
- Preparing and delivering meals
- Supporting youth through scholarships and community programs such as the Canadian Cadet Organization, Scouts Canada and the Girl Guides of Canada
- Organizing and conducting Remembrance activities and services
- Providing communities with affordable rental space
- Providing a place of social gathering and a community hub – often the only one in town

Our country's leaders may not realize the unique role the Legion plays in Canada, and that its structure is unlike that of any other non-profit organization. While our Branches distribute close to 20 million dollars each year to help Veterans and communities, the funds are donated by Canadians through the National Poppy Campaign and cannot be used for operational needs.

This means our 1380 Branches must regularly raise funds to keep operations going through restaurants and lounges, events, dinners, venue rentals, and more. That ability has been thwarted.

This pandemic has brought much of the country to a standstill, yet many of our Branches have found ways to support our communities through sheer goodwill and the hard work of volunteers. They have made countless meals, visited with Veterans and Seniors, made masks, and offered their venues for blood donation. They have continued to provide direct help to Veterans through the work of our Service Officers. This work cannot continue indefinitely without further support.

While I appreciate their value, I am angered to see that businesses whose sole purpose is to provide entertainment are getting relief, while our Legion Branches - which are literally helping to save lives and improve communities - are struggling with the fear of closure, with no government help in sight.

I was equally disappointed that my April 28 letter to you was met with silence from your office. Not even an acknowledgement. Why?

On behalf of The Royal Canadian Legion and its 260,000 members, it is imperative that you share swift news of relief programs that our Branches can actually access. Our Veterans and communities are counting on it.

Sincerely,
Thomas D. Irvine, CD
Dominion President

Coldwater Legion Bottle Drive

Show your support
for your local Legion



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LADIES AUXILIARY

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



Hello everyone, I hope that everyone is in good health. It was great to see people out on the patio at the Branch. Again, a great job done by Maggie and the committee that worked so hard, to get the patio up and running.

Our condolences go out to Comrade Debbie Southorn and her family, in the loss of her mom Shirley.

Thank you again ladies for all your past hard work in keeping the Ladies Auxiliary a strong part of the Branch. Hope to see you soon when the number of people in a social gathering increases.

Have a great summer and stay healthy.

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

Vivian Green

Anne McArthur
President
Ladies Auxiliary Branch 270



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THANK YOU LADIES!

On behalf of the members of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 270 Coldwater, we want to thank the members of Branch 270 Ladies Auxiliary for the generous donation of \$5,000 made recently to the Branch. Thank you so much Ladies!

The donation will greatly help us getting through the coming challenges of meeting monthly expenses and upcoming roof repairs.

Branch 270 Executive



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INTRODUCING LADIES AUXILIARY LIFE MEMBER – KATHY BARRON

Submitted by Comrade Rosalie J. Pratt

Forty-nine years ago, Comrade Kathy's grandmother introduced her to the Ladies Auxiliary organization. It was only natural – she comes from a long line of Veterans. Every man on her paternal side served in the army. A proud Charter Member of Branch 619, Warminster, for the past thirty-seven years, we have counted Comrade Kathy as a Branch 270 member.

Comrade Kathy has served as an Executive Member and has participated in the Colour Party for both groups. She has experience as First and Second Vice-President of Branch 270's Ladies Auxiliary.

In 1995, as part of the Colour Party, Comrade Kathy travelled to Holland with other Legion members to celebrate Liberation Day in the Netherlands (this is the day when the Dutch commemorate the end of the Nazi occupation in the Netherlands). She stated that the comradeship was phenomenal.

In 2017, Comrade Kathy was honoured to receive the Life Membership Award from Branch 270 Ladies Auxiliary in recognition of her twenty plus years of continuous service. She believes the top most purpose of the Ladies Auxiliary is to be of service in the community and offer assistance to the Veterans.

With almost five decades of service, she fondly recalls many activities which she would like to revisit in the future. She specifically mentioned the Summer Picnic for Veterans, friends and family. She did have a 'naughty laugh' as she recalled the 'bed-races'. Comrade Kathy would like to have more of a Ladies Auxiliary presence at the various community events such as Steampunk, St. Patrick's Day and re-introduce the Irish stew and the corned beef and cabbage. In order to make younger women in our community more aware of the Ladies Auxiliary, she would like to see the manning of an information booth at the Coldwater Fall Fair. Comrade Kathy enjoys all sports activities at Branch 270.

She is pleased that the Ladies are now able to wear slacks as this precludes the wearing of stockings during the summer, and provides warmth during the winter months. Couple this with her wish list of a summer uniform making



At the Honours and Awards & Ladies Appreciation Day ceremony on Sunday Sept 10, 2017, Ladies Auxiliary member Kathy Barron (left) was presented a Certificate of Life Membership by Shirley Duguay, L.A. Zone Commander, in recognition of her service to the organization.

the wearing of the blazer optional from May to September. She can see the advantages of having one blazer for Ladies who are members of the Auxiliary and the Branch. It's simple enough. A Velcro strip on the blazer would allow for the interchange of the Auxiliary badge to the Branch badge. No need to buy two blazers. She also commented that any member whose name appears on the Sick and Visiting Board should receive attention from both groups. Insofar as Joint Meetings are concerned, Comrade Kathy would like for each group to share their forthcoming pro-active events to avoid overlapping of dates.

Comrade Kathy was pleased with the generic nature and thoroughness of the interview and shared the following: *"Time and health permitting, I enjoy doing what I do on behalf of the Branch and the Auxiliary. I enjoy the comradeship."*

Lady Kathy, thank you for all you do.

The 270 Bistro

Open for take-out

Monday - Thursday 11:30 am - 7:00 pm

Friday - Sunday 11:30 am - 8:00 pm

(705) 955-2704

At

The Coldwater Legion

Our licenced patio is now open!
(weather permitting)

Tuesday to Saturday: 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm



Everyone welcome!

2 Michael Anne Drive, Coldwater

email: branch270@rogers.com

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The 270 Bistro Take-out Menu



Hamburger	\$6.00
Cheese Burger	\$7.50
Bacon Cheese Burger	\$9.00
Mushroom Swiss Burger	\$9.00
Sausage (Mild or Spicy)	\$5.00
Hot Dog	\$4.00
Corned Beef on Rye	\$7.00
Rueben	\$9.00
Grilled Steak Sandwich with mushrooms & onion	\$10.00
Grilled Chicken Sandwich	\$8.00
Crispy Chicken Caesar Wrap	\$8.50
Buffalo Chicken Wrap	\$8.50
Philly Steak Wrap with peppers, mushrooms, onions & cheese	\$9.50
Chicken Bites & Fries	\$8.00
Wings 1 lb: BBQ, Medium, Hot, Caesar, Spicy Caesar, Salt & Pepper	\$13.00
1 pc Haddock	\$11.00
2 pc Haddock	\$16.00
Ham or Turkey Club	\$8.00
Pasta & Garlic Bread (Marinara, Bolognese or Alfredo Sauce)	\$10.00
Add Shrimp, Chicken or Meatballs to Pasta	\$4.00
Fresh Cut Fries	\$4.50
Poutine	\$7.00
Fries & Gravy	\$5.50
Battered Mushrooms with chipotle dip	\$5.50
Deep-Fried Pickles with dill dip	\$6.00
Onion Rings with ranch dip	\$5.00
Perogies with bacon & sautéed onion	\$7.00
Salads (Caesar, Greek, Chunky Garden or Spinach & Berry)	\$5.00 - \$6.00
Add Chicken to Salad	\$4.00
Add fries to any order	\$2.50
Upgrade to Onion Rings, Poutine or Salad	\$3.00 - \$5.00
Add Gravy	\$1.00

**** Prices may be subject to change based on market pricing.**

Open

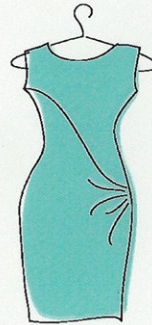
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<div>Stay Safe!</div>			Canada Day 1 Patio bar only open 2 to 7 pm 	2 Patio bar only open 2 to 7 pm (weather permitting)	3 Patio bar only open 2 to 7 pm (weather permitting)	4 Patio bar only open 2 to 7 pm (weather permitting)
			8 Patio bar only open 2 to 7 pm (weather permitting)	9 Patio bar only open 2 to 7 pm (weather permitting)	10 Patio bar only open 2 to 7 pm (weather permitting)	11 Patio bar only open 2 to 7 pm (weather permitting)
			15 Patio bar only open 2 to 7 pm (weather permitting)	16 Patio bar only open 2 to 7 pm (weather permitting)	17 Patio bar only open 2 to 7 pm (weather permitting)	18 Patio bar only open 2 to 7 pm (weather permitting)
			22 Patio bar only open 2 to 7 pm (weather permitting)	23 Patio bar only open 2 to 7 pm (weather permitting)	24 Patio bar only open 2 to 7 pm (weather permitting)	25 Patio bar only open 2 to 7 pm (weather permitting)
			29 Patio bar only open 2 to 7 pm (weather permitting)	30 Patio bar only open 2 to 7 pm (weather permitting)	31 Patio bar only open 2 to 7 pm (weather permitting)	
5 CLOSED	6 CLOSED	7 Patio bar only open 2 to 7 pm (weather permitting)				
12 CLOSED	13 CLOSED	14 Patio bar only open 2 to 7 pm (weather permitting)	15 Patio bar only open 2 to 7 pm (weather permitting)	16 Patio bar only open 2 to 7 pm (weather permitting)	17 Patio bar only open 2 to 7 pm (weather permitting)	18 Patio bar only open 2 to 7 pm (weather permitting)
19 CLOSED	20 CLOSED	21 Patio bar only open 2 to 7 pm (weather permitting)	22 Patio bar only open 2 to 7 pm (weather permitting)	23 Patio bar only open 2 to 7 pm (weather permitting)	24 Patio bar only open 2 to 7 pm (weather permitting)	25 Patio bar only open 2 to 7 pm (weather permitting)
26 CLOSED	27 CLOSED	28 Patio bar only open 2 to 7 pm (weather permitting)	29 Patio bar only open 2 to 7 pm (weather permitting)	30 Patio bar only open 2 to 7 pm (weather permitting)	31 Patio bar only open 2 to 7 pm (weather permitting)	