



# THE MAPLE LEAF

JANUARY 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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### LEGION SUPPORTS AWARDING VICTORIA CROSS TO AFGHANISTAN VETERAN

*From the files of Dominion Command*



OTTAWA, ON, 1 December 2021 – The Royal Canadian Legion is supporting efforts to award a Canadian soldier 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.

Private Jess Larochelle served in Afghanistan and performed selfless acts to save others during an attack by enemy

forces in 2006. Media reports describe a badly wounded and bleeding soldier who returned to his post to prevent further casualties as enemy fighters gained ground. While severely injured he fired multiple M72 rockets, resulting in the enemy's retreat and saving the rest of his section. Two members had already died.

"There is no doubt that Private Larochelle went above and beyond in excruciating circumstances to save his Comrades and serve our nation," says Bruce Julian, Dominion President. "We ask that our military leaders review Private Larochelle's actions with a view to honouring him with this award."

The Legion joins a chorus of others requesting Pte. Larochelle be recognized for his extraordinary service with the Canadian Victoria Cross. He was previously awarded the Star of Military Valour, which is the second highest award for bravery.

The Victoria Cross was established in 1856 and has been awarded to over 80 Canadians. The Canadian Victoria Cross was established on 1 January 1993 and has not been awarded to any soldiers to date.



### HERE WE GO AGAIN!

*Remember this photo up here? It was front page in the April 2020 issue of the Maple Leaf. And then we had a similar one on the cover of the January 2021 issue. Well, here it is again, not that we're happy to show it. And once more, we hope it will be for the last time. As of January 4<sup>th</sup>, the branch is closed – again - until further notice. Happy New Year 2022!*

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## FROM THE BRANCH PRESIDENT



Happy New Year everyone!

I hope you all had a great Christmas, enjoyed a nice Holiday break, and are coming back refreshed and ready to face the challenges the new year will bring us. I certainly wish you the best for the New Year 2022. Having said that, welcome to the reality of 2022. We're off to a pretty shaky start with the announcement today, January 3,

that Ontario is returning to a "Modified step 2 of the Roadmap to Reopening" as of January 5<sup>th</sup>. That means no indoor dining, and a maximum of 5 people gathering indoors. So, we are closing the branch. Again. I don't know what I could possibly say that hasn't been said already about this pandemic. We made it so far, and I'm sure we can make it through this new phase.

So, rather than speculate on what may or may not happen in the next weeks or months, we might as well look back on our past achievements. Even with all the restrictions we had to face, Remembrance activities remained at the forefront throughout the past year, with wreath laying at the Cenotaph on Vimy Day, Battle of the Atlantic Day, Battle of Britain Day, and of course Remembrance Day. Support to Veterans was provided through the Poppy Funds during the period, and we continued to support the Air Cadets of 724 Midland Lions Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron.

True, there weren't many community activities at which we could have "shown the flag" in the past year: no Decoration Day Service, and no St. Patrick's Day party; no Duck Race or Santa Claus parades; and no Canada Day parade or Fall Fair. But we did manage to hold a public Remembrance Day ceremony, which was at least an improvement on the previous year's "no public attendance" event.

Even though the Coldwater community lost (once again) its local paper in 2021, we maintained our own branch monthly newsletter, distributed electronically and available on-line. And we have maintained an on-line presence on Facebook and our website.

Sadly, we had to say goodbye to too many comrades and friends, including Comrades Marcia Leblanc, Joan Frankish, Nancy Lauzon, Veteran Tom Thompson, and just recently, John Fowler, a 10-year member of the branch. They will be missed.

Throughout the past year, I think we have shown that this can be a very successful branch even through the most challenging periods. Thank you all for your support this past year. We will certainly need it again through this new year.

Yours in comradeship,  
Norm Marion, President

## FROM THE LADIES AUXILIARY PRESIDENT



HAPPY NEW YEAR! As I was typing in the year for this report, I was amazed how quickly the year has gone by. It is hard to believe that we have gone another year through COVID. Another year of restrictions: wearing masks, social distancing and a "merry-go-round" of how many people are allowed to be together. Nevertheless,

we have been fortunate to be able to socialize somewhat. Thank you to the Branch members who ran pool night and steak darts. This enabled some members to socialize and have fun with other people. Thank you to the bar stewards that volunteered their time so that the Branch could remain open to provide these events. The Branch executive has done an excellent job at maintaining operations of the Branch during these difficult times.

The Ladies' Auxiliary bank account has a working balance of \$3,757.34. Thank you to Gaëtanne Robinson for keeping our financial books in order.

The Ladies' Auxiliary was able to cater to two Celebrations of Life and Veterans Dinner for the year 2021. Again, we received a number of praises over the great food provided by the Ladies Auxiliary. Thank you to Jane Lauder for her expertise in organizing these and to all the members of the Ladies' Auxiliary that helped with these events.

We are still working on finding supplies to start making and selling meat pies.

There are still no sporting events being held for the Ladies' Auxiliary.

I know that we were talking about holding General meetings again, but due to this new strain of COVID, we will have to wait to hear what the government mandates for inside event numbers.

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year and all the best in 2022.

Yours in Comradeship,  
Anne McArthur, Ladies Auxiliary President

## 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.**

## 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).

### SICK & VISITING REPORT

*Submitted by Comrade Betty-Anne Burnie, Sick and Visiting Chair*

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).

### POPPY REPORT

*Submitted by Comrade Betty-Jean Murray, Poppy Chairman*  
HAPPY NEW YEAR, COMRADES!!!

There is nothing new or exciting to report to you this month. The Poppy Campaign is over and our fund is looking comfortable. If you become aware of any veteran or veteran's family having difficulty, please encourage them to contact us. I wish to thank some of our ladies who are busy crocheting lap rugs and toques for veterans. Thank you ladies for helping out with this project. Please take all precautions to stay healthy. Have a safe and prosperous New Year!

## Quote of the Month

*"Good resolutions are simply checks that men draw on a bank where they have no account."*

Oscar Wilde

### BAR OFFICER REPORT

*Submitted by Comrade Marg Murphy, Bar Officer*

The bar is doing well as we continue to follow all guidelines set out by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU). Patrons are complying with no issues to report.

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

*Submitted by Comrade Cheryll Barr, Membership Chair*

Happy New Year Comrades! I trust that everyone had a great start to 2022.

Our Membership stands at 251. The breakdown is as follows: Affiliate 71; Associate 138; Life 3; Ordinary 39.

I would like to welcome two new members to our Branch: Comrades Frederick Morgan, and Wendy Smith.

It's that time of the year again. Please be advised that if you have not paid your 2021 dues by January 31<sup>st</sup> 2022, your name will be removed from the membership list until you do. So PLEASE check your MEMBERSHIP CARD for the sticker on the back. You may pay your dues by coming in to the branch, or renew online and mail in a cheque to: Royal Canadian Legion Branch 270, Box. 89, 2 Michael Anne Dr. Coldwater, ON, L0K 1E0. If you're not sure about your membership renewal, please contact me at the Legion at (705) 686-3388. I will be more than happy to help you out. If you would like to become a member of the legion, you can pick up a form at the bar from the bar steward on duty. The winner of the 2021 Early Bird draw was Eleanor Schull, Congratulations Eleanor!



*Membership Chair Comrade Cheryll Barr (right) presents a cheque for \$55 (the renewal fee for 2022) to the winner of 2021 Early Bird draw, Eleanor Schull. Congratulations Eleanor!*

## JOKE OF THE MONTH

*A woman gets home, whirls her car into the driveway, runs into the house, slams the door and shouts at the top of her lungs, "Honey, pack your bags. I won the lottery!" The husband says, "Oh my God! What should I pack, beach stuff or mountain stuff?" The wife yells back, "It doesn't matter....just get the hell out!"*

Let us all get through this OMICRON safely. I think that OMICRON is an acronym for "ONE MORE INVASIVE CURSE RAVAGING OUR NERVES". I just may start drinking!!

Our Branch has a new custodian. Her name is Amber Dezen. Please make Amber feel welcome.

Phil Jones will still be around to look after our grass cutting needs. Thanks Phil.

Our Branch has a good friend in Novanni. Last month I stopped into Novanni and met Vice President and General Manager Frank Brazda. I explained that we needed a grease shield for our canteen. Frank asked Jonathan Tesar to meet me at the Branch to see what we needed. (I told Jon that together, he and I are "Jon Wayne".) It seems that I have a new audience for my humour. Jonathan listened to my idea, then started to measure. On Tuesday December 21, 2021, Jonathan brought the stainless-steel shield to us. It was just what I had imagined. I asked Jonathan for the invoice. I was told that it was free. Novanni is a proud supporter of the Legion. Thank you, Frank, and Jonathan. I then installed the shield. Daryl the new canteen operator was impressed with the shield as well. Stay safe.

## SENIORS LITERARY REPORT

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

It's hard to believe but once again we are approaching the beginning of another annual Seniors Literary competition. Beginning February 14, 2022, I will be accepting electronic entries for the 2022 BRANCH 270 COLDWATER SENIORS LITERARY COMPETITION. The deadline for entries is May 1, 2022, and, hopefully, our Awards Luncheon will be held on Sunday, May 29, 2022. The rules will be the same as prior years and entry forms will be available in early February. I look forward to reading your stories again this year and passing them along to our very qualified judges. Keep writing, friends. It is such a treat to share your thoughts.

## 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).

## BUILDING OFFICER REPORT

*Submitted by Comrade Wayne Tutt, Building Officer*  
Happy New Year comrades.

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 270



*On December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, Branch 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President Comrade Wayne Tutt (right) presented a cheque for \$500.00 to Captain Rosemarie D'Aguiar, Commanding Officer of 724 Midland Lions Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron.*



## THIS MONTH WE REMEMBER

**COLONEL JOHN MCRAE**

On January 28, 1918, Lieutenant-Colonel John McRae, author of the poem "*In Flanders Fields*", dies of pneumonia near Boulogne, France. McCrae, a doctor and teacher, served in both the South African War and the First World War. In August of 1914 he joined the first contingent of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. He was appointed a medical officer with the First Brigade of the Canadian Field Artillery with the rank of Major and second-in-command. "*In Flanders Fields*" was first published in England's *Punch* magazine in December 1915. Within months, this poem came to symbolize the sacrifices of all who were fighting in the First World War. Today, the poem continues to be a part of Remembrance Day ceremonies in Canada and other countries throughout the world.

*Source: Veterans Affairs Canada*

**TREASURER REPORT**

*Submitted by Comrade Rick Morse, Secretary-Treasurer*

As of 28 December 2021 the General Account balance is \$18,042.12.

The Grants fund balance remains at \$7,705.87.

In the General Account, we still have restricted funds of approximately \$3,900.00 for Seniors Literary and \$1,000 for the Cenotaph's Second World War Coldwater Veterans project.

The Bottle Drive deposits for the month of December to date total \$1,176.80.

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

Building Bank Account balance is \$3,003.78.

Nevada Account balance - \$237.61.

**BRANCH HISTORIAN REPORT**

*Submitted by Comrade Norm Marion, Branch Historian*

There is little to report on the Historian front. We had a very successful year with record submissions for the Military Service Recognition Book, and the Veteran banners displayed in the store front windows on main street during the Poppy Campaign and Veterans Week. Thank you to all those who contributed in any way to these initiatives. We certainly hope to improve on these activities in the new year.

**YOUTH EDUCATION REPORT**

*Submitted by Comrade Marg Murphy, Youth Education Officer*

The results of the 2021 Poster & Literary Contests for the Coldwater area are published below. Congratulations to the winners and all participants. As for the annual Legion Public Speaking Competition, that normally takes place in February, we are waiting for a decision to be announced by Ontario Command.



*Standing next to the Tree of Warmth, coordinator Comrade Marg Murphy shows some of the items that were donated. Thank you to all who dropped-off scarves, gloves and hats to be donated to local schools*

## SERVICE OFFICER REPORT

*Submitted by Comrade Randy Rice, Branch Service Officer*  
Wishing all Veterans and their families a prosperous and happy New Year.

I am scheduled to attend the Legions VETERAN Bureau Chiefs seminar 26, 27 February in Barrie. If anyone has any questions they wish me to forward on their behalf please let me know.

My contact info is as follows: Cell (705) 816-0110 or email [ricerandolph@gmail.com](mailto:ricerandolph@gmail.com)

All information is strictly confidential. Finally I would like to acknowledge all those who attended and participated in Allan 'Tom' Thompson's service. I'm sure he appreciated the effort.

## HONOURS & AWARDS REPORT

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

Branch members who are due for service pins will be contacted in January to see if they wish to be presented their Years of Service pins at a future General Meeting, or if they prefer to pick them up at the branch, or have them sent by mail.

## BURSARY REPORT

*Submitted by Comrade Rick Morse, Bursary Officer*

Good day Comrades, it is hoped that this finds the membership of Branch 270 well.

With the winter semesters having recently commenced for Post-Secondary studies in the 2021/2022 academic year, the Royal Canadian Legion Bursary applications are still available for submission.

If you are interested, and meet one of the following categories please continue to read on:

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

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

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

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

Bursary applications can be picked up at the Branch, however, with the current situation it would be safer to obtain the application directly from the Legion website at the above link. Both English and French forms are available. Should you need additional information on the program or the process, I may be contacted using:

Email: [rpmorse@rogers.com](mailto:rpmorse@rogers.com) or

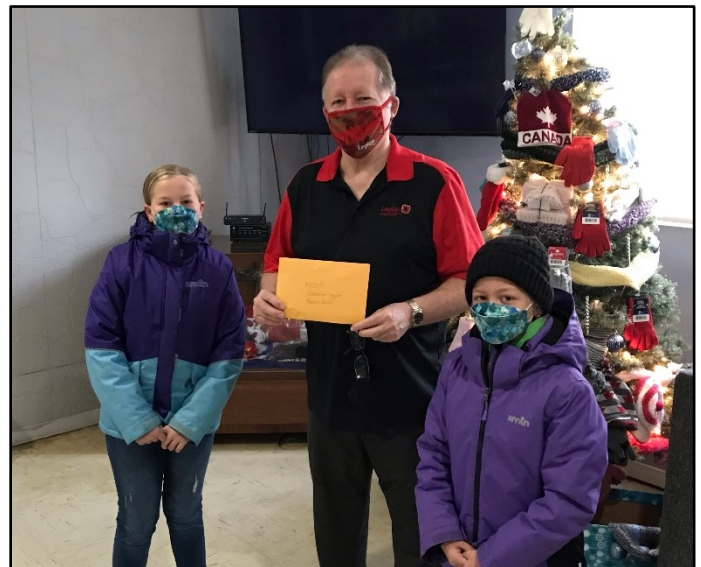
Phone 705-538-0491

GOOD LUCK AND CONTINUE TO STAY SAFE

## PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

*Submitted by Comrade Norm Marion, Public Relations Officer*

On-line media and BIDDY are updated and running. In December there was a problem with uploading photos on our Facebook page. The problem has since been fixed, but some announcements had to be posted without pictures. These things happen sometimes when Facebook does "improvements" on its software.



*Kyah (left) and Lia (right) Harjupanula present to Branch President Comrade Norm Marion a donation worth \$875.00. The two sisters raised the money by making clay poppies and selling them. Thank you so much Kyah and Lia!*





*The 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Primary category for the poster contest (colour) went to Parker Laughlin.*

## LEGION POSTER & LITERARY CONTESTS 2021

*Submitted by Comrade Marg Murphy, Youth Education Officer*

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 270 Coldwater is pleased to announce the branch level results of the Legion's annual Poster & Literary Contests for 2021. The winners were selected among entries in the Black & White and Colour Poster, and Poem and Essay Categories, submitted by students of Coldwater Public School and Coldwater-Moonstone Elementary. Congratulations to winners and to all participants!

### PRIMARY POSTERS – COLOUR

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Parker Laughlin – Grade 1
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Savanna Laughlin – SK
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Ava Stuckless – Grade 2

### JUNIOR CATEGORY POSTERS – COLOUR

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Isabelle Laquerre – Grade 5
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Payton Sargent – Grade 4
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Jaxson Fisher-Dehaan – Grade 5
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Sophie Sargent – Grade 4

### JUNIOR CATEGORY POSTERS – BLACK & WHITE

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Brody Camp – Grade 5
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Serenity Lewis – Grade 5
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Grayson Tyrell – Grade 5
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Zayd Stanley – Grade 5

### INTERMEDIATE CATEGORY POSTERS – COLOUR

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Jack Straw – Grade 8
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Kartik Chhabra – Grade 8
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Ayan Rau – Grade 7
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Darren O'Hara – Grade 8

### INTERMEDIATE CATEGORY POSTER – BLACK & WHITE

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Natalya Archer – Grade 7
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Stephanie Tinney – Grade 8
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Piper Ewing – Grade 8
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Brooklyn Cramp – Grade 7

### LITERARY

### JUNIOR CATEGORY – POEM

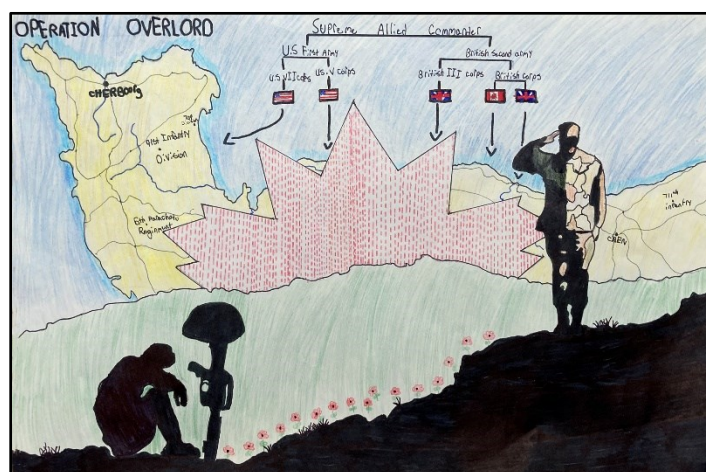
- 1<sup>st</sup>: Payton Sargent – Grade 4
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Ayla Walker – Grade 6
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Hunter Bidmead – Grade 6
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Jack Pinkney – Grade 5

### INTERMEDIATE CATEGORY – ESSAY

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Kartik Chhabra – Grade 8
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Emily Young – Grade 7

### INTERMEDIATE CATEGORY – POEM

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Kartik Chhabra – Grade 8
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Emily Young – Grade 7
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Jack Straw – Grade 8
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Isonqc Bent – Grade 8



*The 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Intermediate category for posters (colour) went to Jack Straw.*



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## STATEMENT FROM THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE, THE CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE STAFF, AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

*The Minister of National Defence, the Honourable Anita Anand, the Chief of the Defence Staff, General Wayne Eyre, and the Deputy Minister, Jody Thomas, issued the following statement:*

“There must be absolutely no place in our organization for sexual assault, sexual harassment or discrimination based on sex, gender, gender identity or sexual orientation. We know that our collective failure to build an inclusive workplace culture free from these unacceptable behaviours has hurt our people.

“As part of our efforts to restore relationships with those harmed, we will offer a public apology to all current and former members of the Defence Team who have been affected by sexual assault and sexual misconduct, including harassment, and discrimination.”

The Honourable Anita Anand, Minister of National Defence, will offer an apology on behalf of the Government of Canada. General Wayne Eyre, Chief of the Defence Staff, will offer an apology on behalf of the Canadian Armed Forces. Jody Thomas, Deputy Minister of National Defence, will offer an apology on behalf of the Department of National Defence.

The apology will take place virtually at 1 p.m. EST on December 13 and will be livestreamed on the [Canadian Armed Forces Facebook page](#). Viewers can watch the video stream without an account or signing in to Facebook. A link to the video will be posted shortly before the event on the CAF and DND Facebook and Twitter pages, and will also be available on the [DND/CAF Sexual Misconduct Apology web page](#). The event will also be recorded and available afterwards on [YouTube](#) for those who are unable to watch it live or prefer to view it at a later time.

Everyone will process the apology in their own way. The apology may evoke strong emotional responses and/or cause trauma to resurface – either in the moment or later on. Should you or someone you know require support, a list of available support services can be found [here](#).

If you, or someone you know has experienced an incident of sexual misconduct, there is help available. Here are the services available to [Defence Team members](#).

“All Defence Team members should be treated fairly in a workplace that is safe and free of any kind of harassment and discrimination. We know there is much more work to do to create lasting and positive culture change, and we will continue to listen to and learn from those affected to ensure we are taking the necessary action to make that change.”

### IN MEMORIAM

#### JOHN ROBERT FOWLER



Passed away at his home in Coldwater with his Dance Partner, Carol Worgan at his side on Monday December 27, 2021, at the age of 79. Loved father of Jennifer Duster (Robin), Joanne Chenette (Chad), and Andrew Fowler (Becki). Loving grandfather of Lucas, Jessica, David, Sarah, Vanessa, Xavier, and Adeline. John has requested to be cremated. A celebration to honour John's life will be held and announced in the summer of 2022. As an expression of sympathy donations in memory of John may be made to RVH's "Simcoe-Muskoka Regional Cancer Centre", Barrie and may be made through the funeral home.



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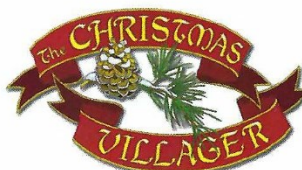
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## TUESDAY NIGHT POOL

### **Dec 14 (wins)**

Larry Hutchinson (4)  
Kari Malmstrom (2)  
Glen Archer (1)  
Dave Clarke (1)  
Louise Dearman (1)  
Tom Dearman (1)

### **Dec 21 (wins)**

Larry Hutchinson (4)  
Glen Archer (2)  
Tom Dearman (2)  
Kari Malmstrom (2)



## FRIDAY NIGHT STEAK DARTS

### **Dec 3**

1. Kari  
2. Henny  
3. Gaëtanne  
4. Henny  
5. Gaëtanne  
6. Dianne  
Sunshine: Rick

### **Dec 10**

1. Lloyd  
2. Dean  
3. Marlene  
4. Gaëtanne  
5. Hans  
6. Anne  
Sunshine: Cheryl

### **Dec 17**

1. Dave  
2. Anne  
3. Dean  
4. Dave  
5. Cheryl  
6. Cheryl

## Wednesday Night Darts

Sorry. It's not going to happen.  
Not just yet.

We were hoping to get the darts  
going in January, but COVID  
played tricks on us once again.  
Rules are rules. And we wouldn't  
want to take chances with  
people's health and safety,  
anyway.

So, we'll keep on trying. Hopefully  
it won't be long now.

Happy New Year!



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2 CLOSED	3 CLOSED	4 CLOSED	5 CLOSED	6 CLOSED	7 CLOSED	8 CLOSED	
9 CLOSED	10 CLOSED	11 CLOSED	12 CLOSED	13 CLOSED	14 CLOSED	15 CLOSED	
16 CLOSED	17 CLOSED	18 CLOSED	19 CLOSED	20 CLOSED	21 CLOSED	22 CLOSED	
23 CLOSED	24 CLOSED	25 CLOSED	26 CLOSED	27 CLOSED	28 CLOSED	29 CLOSED	
30 CLOSED	31 CLOSED						