



THE MAPLE LEAF

DECEMBER 2021 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



Escorted by Chief Warrant Officer Luc Lamontagne (left), Lieutenant-Colonel Steven Brown laid a wreath on behalf of the Canadian Armed Forces. Wreaths were also laid on behalf of the Government of Canada by Bruce Stanton, on behalf of the Government of Ontario by Jane Dunlop, on behalf of the Township of Severn by Mayor Mike Burkett, and by Branch President Norm Marion and Ladies Auxiliary President Anne McArthur, respectively for the Royal Canadian Legion and the Ladies Auxiliary.

COLDWATER REMEMBERED

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 270 Coldwater held its annual Remembrance Day service on Thursday, November 11. Despite less than ideal weather conditions, an unexpectedly large crowd did show up to pay respects to our Fallen. With most wreaths in memory of loved ones pre-positioned earlier in the morning by volunteers from the branch, only a small number of wreaths were laid during the service by representatives of organisations. These included the federal, provincial, and municipal government, the Canadian Armed Forces, the Royal Canadian Legion, and the Ladies Auxiliary.

As Remembrance Day also signalled the end of this year's active Poppy Campaign, we wish to thank the many groups, local businesses and individuals who contributed in so many ways to the Coldwater Legion's Poppy Campaign. Thank you to those who took part in our first Veterans Banner project in Coldwater, with banners featuring deceased Veterans put on display in store front windows around the village main street. We hope shoppers and passersby appreciated this new initiative. And thank you, all of you, who proudly wore your Poppy during the past two weeks. This simple gesture of Remembrance is perhaps the best guarantee that in the future, We Will, indeed, Remember Them.

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FROM THE BRANCH PRESIDENT



Welcome to December, folks. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and best wishes for the coming new year.

At the time of this writing, the news of a new COVID variant is once again dampening our efforts for a return to a somewhat 'normal' life, including regular branch activities. We are hoping to hold a Presidents' Levee on

New Year's Day, restart the Wednesday Night Darts league by January 12, and hold our first post-pandemic General Meeting on January 26. We're even planning for a chili cook-off combined with a dart tournament on February 13. All we can do is plan for these activities, and hope the pandemic situation will continue to improve. If you want to help, GET YOUR SHOTS! It's the most important tool we have to fight this pandemic.

I want to thank you all for your work over the Poppy Campaign, Veterans Appreciation Dinner, and Remembrance Day period in October and November. For a second year in a row, there was a lot of uncertainty as we tried to prepare for these important events. They represent the main reasons for the Legion to exist. We pulled through this Remembrance period with flying colours, thanks to you, members of this branch team. I received many positive comments about the work of our branch within this community. You can be proud of your achievements.

By now you are probably aware of the closure of *The 270 Bistro* early in November. Thank you Pamela Planting for almost two years of providing wonderful meals to the Coldwater community, particularly during the lockdown periods. For sure, we will miss you and your cooking. We are currently in the process of selecting a new operator for the Legion canteen. A Call for Proposals has been posted on-line, and we have already received several expressions of interest. Deadline for submission of proposals is December 4th. Food service should be available in early January.

In closing, I remind you that the Legion Service for Tom Thompson will take place in the upstairs hall on Saturday Dec 11 at 1:30 p.m. Doors open at 1 p.m. We hope to see many members of the branch in uniform to pay a last tribute to Tom.

See you at the Presidents' Levee on January 1st.

Yours in comradeship,
Norm Marion, President



FROM THE LADIES AUXILIARY PRESIDENT



December has finally arrived and hopefully this year we will be able to spend time with others. Please remember that there are many people who will be alone at this time of the year. If you are able to, send a card, make a phone call and if you are really fortunate, we can visit each other.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to host many events again this year.

We were able to cook a delicious roast beef dinner for Veterans of the Branch in November. Thank you to Jane Lauder in organizing this event and for the ladies who helped with preparation, cooking and packaging the meals. There were many compliments on how delicious the food was.

Our working balance for the Ladies Auxiliary is \$3,757.34. We will be having an executive meeting on Tuesday December 7 at 6:30 p.m. at the Branch. It will be decided at this meeting if we will start holding our regular General meetings in January.

Meat pies are on hold as some supplies are not available at this time. Again, we hope to start making them in January. Just another reminder that 2022 dues for the Ladies Auxiliary must be paid by December 31st. The fee remains the same at \$20.00.

Stay safe, maintain social distancing, wear a mask and wash your hands.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours in Comradeship,
Anne McArthur, Ladies Auxiliary President



Member of Branch 270 Ladies' Auxiliary Jane Lauder was in charge of operations in the kitchen as the Ladies prepared the Veterans Appreciation Dinner.

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 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.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Cheryl Barr, Membership Chair

MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY HANUKKAH; and ALL THE BEST FOR 2022!

The Celebration of Life and Legion Service for Comrade Tom Thompson, who passed away on November 1st, will be held at the Legion on December 11th, 2021, starting at 1 p.m.

Our Branch membership is at 247: Affiliates 70; Associates 135; Life 3; and Ordinary 39.

Please be aware that the 2022 Early Bird Membership drive is completed. As of November 30th, we managed to get 70% of our membership renewed. The winner of the Early Bird Draw and a cheque for \$55.00 will be drawn this week. MERRY CHRISTMAS to all!

BUILDING OFFICER REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Wayne Tutt, Building Officer

Hello comrades.

We have signed a contract with Dawal Construction for snow removal from November 15, 2021, to April 15, 2022. Thank you to Phil Jones for dismantling the patio. Phil has offered to store everything at his home.

Phil Jones has resigned as custodian as of December 31, 2021. I want to thank Phil for all his dedication to the Branch. Phil took great pride in keeping our Branch neat and clean.

We are very busy refreshing the Canteen before the next occupant is selected.

MERRY CHRISTMAS, JOYEUX NOEL, and HAPPY HANUKKAH!

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.

YOUTH EDUCATION REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Marg Murphy, Youth Education Officer

I am still waiting for posters to be forwarded to me from two branches. Certificates and awards will be finished for Coldwater School and returned to them before Christmas.

I'm sure the students can't wait to give their poster to their grandparents for Christmas. This is one of the many joys of being a grandparent.

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. We will be putting up the Tree of Warmth this week. People have been asking for it. We still have the scarves and hats from last year and will share our gifts with Warminster School this year.

Not much success with bar stewards recruiting. We did have someone in to train but can only step in for relief. We can always use relief people, especially on busy days and can always use them for a second bar upstairs. We will continue to recruit.

GENERAL MEETING

The next General Meeting will be on **Wednesday January 26**, beginning at **6:30 p.m.** 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.

Quote of the Month

"You have to ask yourself, am I building a birdhouse or a deck? Measure twice, cut once." - Alistair MacLeod, novelist

POPPY REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Betty-Jean Murray, Poppy Chairman

Thank you to everyone from the Coldwater-Warminster-Craighurst triangle who supported our 2021 Branch 270 Poppy Campaign.

Thank you to Coldwater's Eric and Sveta Landry and their family who, on Sunday, November 7, were generous enough to cover the cost of a roast beef dinner for our local veterans and their care-givers in appreciation of the services rendered by veterans - past, present and future. Eric even delivered a few of the take-out dinners, prepared by the branch Ladies Auxiliary, to those unable to come to the branch to collect them. Thank you to the ladies of the LA for donating their time to prepare this delicious meal. I am pleased to be able to share with you our gratitude for Eric's and Sveta's thoughtfulness, their appreciation of Canadian veterans at this time of Remembrance and to everyone who took part in this successful event.

Thank you to branch members Judith Cox and Wanda Beaudoin for initiating the very successful Veterans' Banner Project and for the substantial donation they made to our Poppy Campaign. Thanks also to Branch 270 President and PRO Norm Marion for his part in transferring the old photos to the new banners. Nicely done! Thank you to our townsfolk who provided such positive feedback on the banners and to the Coldwater P.S. teachers who took time to view the banners with their students to remind them of the cost of war.

This year we had the advantage of having an extended campaign area due to the closure of Branch 619 Warminster. While we are not happy to see Br. 619 surrender its charter, we are pleased that their community continued to support the Poppy Campaign with donations and counter top boxes. Our thanks to all those businesses that worked with us to achieve a successful campaign and, hopefully next year, we will be able to commence 'tagging' in the area.

As you will have heard before, Poppy Campaign funds are Trust Funds generated from the community to support military veterans and/or their families when unanticipated needs arise. Over the past year, throughout Ontario, the RCL has assisted over 900 clients in 182 towns similar to ours for a total of \$1,452,498. Without your help, we

couldn't do this. For assistance, veterans do not need to be members of the Legion.

Should you become aware of a veteran or veteran's family in need, please reach out to us at the Legion or have that person contact us. We would be happy to meet with them to try to assist them in whatever area their need lies. To reach us you are welcome to call our Branch at 705-686-3388 and speak to the Poppy Chairman or Branch Service Officer, and if we aren't available please feel free to leave a message for a call back.

We thank you for helping us this year and hope you will be able to take part again next year in our annual Poppy Campaign.

Thank you to Wanda Beaudoin for helping to count and roll thousands of coins.

Prior to the Remembrance Day Service, the executive placed about 40 wreaths around our cenotaph, again donated by our community with thanks.

ENTERTAINMENT/WAYS & MEANS

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

In December we have no entertainment as we will not be open for New Year's Eve. We still have Fun Pool on Tuesday evenings and Steak Darts on Friday nights. We will be doing the President's Levee on January 1st, with entertainment by Tyler French from 2 to 6 p.m. On Sunday February 13, we would like to have a chili cook-off combined with a dart tournament, providing the COVID situation does not lock us down again. If you would like to enter your chili please contact Maggie or Cheryl at the bar. Entry fee is \$5.00. All entries must be registered by February 1st. By the time you read this I will be down in sunny Florida, returning January 7. I would like to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.



The band Stir It Up gave a great performance in the Club Room on Saturday November 27. Great music and fun.

JOKE OF THE MONTH

I was walking down the beach when I heard a swimmer yelling for help, while a shark was circling him. I just laughed. I'm not stupid. I knew that shark wasn't going to help him.

SENIORS LITERARY REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Betty-Jean Murray, Seniors Literary Chairman

I am delighted to let you know the Seniors Literary Booklet for 2020-2021 will be available at the Branch shortly. This would be a unique Christmas gift for anyone wanting to spend \$20 for something original – a real bargain – and we have a few of our own members published in the booklet. Thank you all and I hope you have a safe, healthy and very merry Christmas.

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.

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Norm Marion, Public Relations Officer

On-line media and BIDDY are updated and running. Photos and write-ups for Veterans Dinner and Remembrance Day ceremony have been posted on Facebook. Remembrance Day coverage generated more than 4,400 views.

TREASURER REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Rick Morse, Secretary-Treasurer

As of 23 November 2021, the General Account balance is \$19,886.46.

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 to date for the month of November totals \$1,130.60.

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

The Building Bank Account balance is \$3002.56.

The Nevada Account balance is \$237.61

COLDWATER VETERANS APPRECIATION DINNER 2021

Submitted by Comrade Norm Marion, Branch President

On behalf of all Veterans of Branch 270 Coldwater, I want to thank Branch 270 Ladies' Auxiliary for the wonderful feast they put together on the occasion of the local Veterans Appreciation Dinner on Sunday, November 7. This year's pick-up/delivery service option made it possible for Veterans to enjoy this great meal, even under the restrictions we still have to deal with. And of course, thank you to Eric Landry of Coldwater, who covered the cost of the food and took part in the delivery of some of the meals. Thank you so much!



Members of Branch 270 Ladies' Auxiliary take a short break to pose for a group shot as they take part in the preparation of the Veterans Appreciation Dinner in Coldwater. Oh yeah, and there's Jack Lauder on the left, also helping out. Thank you so much for the great meal. Left to right: Jack Lauder; Jane Lauder; Janice Cronin; Karen Dravis; Gaëtanne Robinson; Cathy Larkins; Irene Brasil; Anne McArthur; and Betty-Anne Burnie.

THIS MONTH WE REMEMBER

THE ITALIAN CAMPAIGN

The Italian Campaign

More than 93,000 Canadians served in Italy during the Second World War. At the campaign's peak, nearly 76,000 Canadians were in theatre. About 20,000 Canadians were wounded, missing, or taken prisoner. More than 5,900 Canadians made the ultimate sacrifice. Canadians fought for more than 1 ½ years across Sicily and up the Italian mainland.

During the battle of Ortona, December 20-28, 1943, the rubble-filled streets of Ortona saw fierce hand-to-hand-fighting. Thanks to Canadian soldiers, Ortona was liberated from some of the German army's best combat troops. The fighting in Italy in December 1943 saw more than 2,600 Canadian casualties, including more than 500 Canadians killed.

Source: Veterans Affairs Canada

BRANCH HISTORIAN REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Norm Marion, Branch Historian

Interest in our Veterans Banner program continues, with several inquiries into next year's program. It also brought in more photos of local Veterans and more candidates for Military Service Recognition Book submissions. During Veterans Week, it was nice to see classes of little ones moving around the sidewalks in Coldwater, stopping at each banner to listen to comments from a teacher - an unexpected spin-off from the banner project. Also, thanks to those additional photos that came out as a result of the banner program, our PowerPoint presentation with photos of local deceased Veterans now includes 78 individual tributes. It was shown in the Club Room through the day on Remembrance Day.

SERVICE OFFICER REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Randy Rice, Branch Service Officer
UPDATE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS CANADA PROGRESS ON CLAIM APPLICATIONS BY VETERANS.

On August 4, 2021, Veterans Affairs Minister Lawrence Macaulay said real progress is being made on the backlog of claims for disability benefits from injured former soldiers, thanks to the efforts of hundreds of additional departmental staff. New figures from VAC showed there were approximately 43,000 outstanding claims at the end of March, 2021; about 6,000 fewer than the previous year. A Canadian Press (CP) article published the day Macaulay held his virtual news conference noted that the minister acknowledged the sheer presence of the backlog, leaving many Veterans waiting up to several years to find out whether they qualify for financial or medical assistance, is unacceptable.

The CP article said that the 43,000 outstanding claims included 15,000 that had been sitting in the queue for longer than four months, which is the timeline that is supposed to respond to process applications for benefits. Over 10,000 applications were not yet in process as they were waiting for a staff member to be assigned to them and nearly 14,000 applications were listed as incomplete. Keep in mind, additional staff means additional training! For more detailed information The disability Benefit Processing -Summary Report can be found here or at <http://www.Veterans.gc.ca/eng/about-vac/news-media/media-kits/dis-ben-process-summary-report>.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Rick Morse, Sergeant-at-Arms

Our Remembrance Day Colour Party task went well despite the wind and the havoc it played with our pre-positioned flags. Thanks to Comrades Randy Rice and Wayne Tutt for their Colour Party efforts. The Branch and I appreciate it.

LOOKING FOR BUILDING CUSTODIAN

Branch 270 Coldwater is looking to hire a building custodian beginning in January. Primary tasks include cleaning floors, setting-up tables and chairs for functions, and keeping entrances clear of snow in winter. Applications may be dropped off at the branch, or submitted by email at branch270@rogers.com

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2021



Left: A Coldwater Branch Colour Party prepares to march on at the Remembrance Day ceremony. Left to right: Comrades Rick Morse, Randy Rice, and Wayne Tutt, with bugler Paul Bolyea at the back.

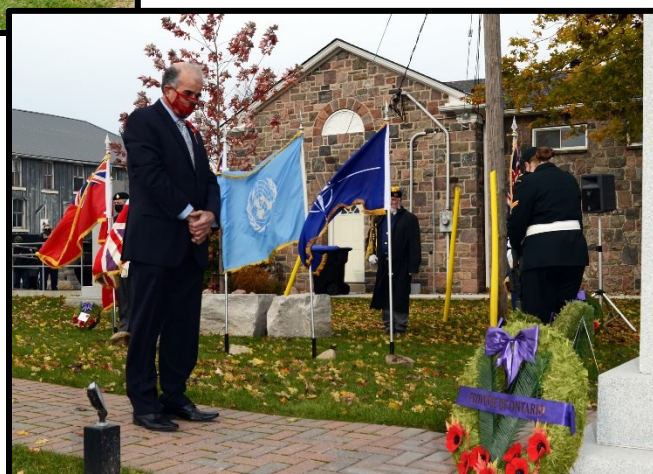


Right: Coldwater Branch Immediate Past President, Comrade Betty-Jean Murray, addresses the participants assembled on the street across from the Coldwater Cenotaph. Branch President Comrade Norm Marion stands by the podium.



Left: Vigils from the Canadian Armed Forces stood at the four corners of the Cenotaph during the Remembrance Day ceremony in Coldwater.

Right: Mayor Mike Burkett lays a wreath on behalf of the Township of Severn.



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VETERANS WHO ENDURED SEXUAL MISCONDUCT NEED A GOVERNMENT APOLOGY

Legion calls for compassion, consequences and concrete action

OTTAWA, ON, 17 NOVEMBER 2021 – The Royal Canadian Legion asks the federal government to formally apologize to Veterans who were subjected to sexual misconduct while serving in the Canadian Armed Forces. Those who served their country and experienced sexual misconduct and harmful behaviour report a range of consequences such as loss of career aspiration, life-long physical and mental health injuries, a lack of trust in the institution and/or they continue to suffer in silence.

As the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) – Department of National Defence Sexual Misconduct Class Action Lawsuit nears its closing (November 24), the Legion believes we need to recognize this situation as an institutional crisis and leadership failure over a period of four decades. A failure that degraded trust in the institution, morale and operational effectiveness.

We believe issues related to leadership, culture, support for victims, accountability and transparency remain. We need to see:

- Independent investigations;
- a safe, secure and supportive reporting environment for survivors;
- resources and support for all survivors of sexual assault including CAF members and Veterans;
- accountability from those who are found to have committed the misconduct;
- an independent external oversight body to ensure that initiatives to change the culture and eliminate sexual misconduct are implemented by the CAF.

The plan to transfer the investigation and prosecution of sexual misconduct cases to the civilian just system is a positive step. However, the implementation needs to be transparent, fair, compassionate and considerate of survivors.

As stated in previous communications, The Royal Canadian Legion recommends the establishment of a fully independent Office of the Inspector General of the CAF and the Department of National Defence reporting to Parliament. This will help ensure independence, accountability, oversight, and transparency, and begin to restore trust in the institution.

The Legion is optimistic that positive change will happen, and it needs to start with an apology from the Government.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS:

BRANCH CANTEEN OPERATOR

Branch 270 Coldwater is accepting proposals for the opportunity to rent and operate the Branch Clubroom Canteen.

Applicants should be prepared to operate the Canteen to accommodate the Clubroom hours and to provide a menu suitable for workers and families. The successful operator will be required to provide proof of the appropriate insurance, as well as proof of COVID-19 full vaccination.

Written proposals may be delivered by Canada Post to RCL Branch 270, 2 Michael Anne Drive, PO Box 89, Coldwater, Ontario, L0K 1E0 or emailed to branch270@rogers.com

The deadline for submission is
December 4, 2021

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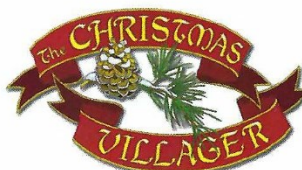
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SPORTS AT BRANCH 270

TUESDAY NIGHT POOL

Nov 2 (wins)

Glen Archer (3)
Tom Dearman (2)
Larry Hutchinson (2)
Teresa Beniston (1)
Louise Dearman (1)
Rick Yule (½)

Nov 9 (wins)

Kari Malmstrom (4)
Glen Archer (3)
Rick Yule (2)
Tom Dearman (1)

Nov 16 (wins)

Glen Archer (3)
Louise Dearman (2½)
Tom Dearman (2)
Larry Hutchinson (1)
Kari Malmstrom (1)
Larry Clarke (½)

Nov 23 (wins)

Glen Archer (2½)
Tom Dearman (2)
Teresa Beniston (1½)
Larry Clarke (1½)
Maggie Murphy (1)
Sherri Newman (1)
Louise Dearman (½)

Nov 30 (wins)

Glen Archer (3)
Larry Clarke (2)
Sheri Newman (2)
Teresa Beniston (1)
Larry Hutchinson (1)
Rick Yule (1)

FRIDAY NIGHT STEAK DARTS

Nov 5

1. Kari
2. Anne
3. Teresa
4. Kari
5. Chris
6. Dave C.
Sunshine: Gaëtanne

Nov 12

1. Kari
2. Chris
3. Dave C.
4. Larry
5. Lloyd
6. Meagan
Sunshine: Frank

Nov 19

1. Gaëtanne
2. Bev
3. Sheri
4. Larry
5. Hans
6. Lloyd
Sunshine: Gaëtanne

Nov 26

1. Cheryl
2. Willy
3. Bev
4. Lloyd
5. Sheri
6. Lloyd
Sunshine: Bev



Wednesday Night Darts

We are looking to start our Wednesday Night Dart League again. Registration will be January 5 and our first league night will be January 12. Teams will be blind draw as usual. We can accommodate 10 teams of 4, with 2 men and 2 women on each team! This year we will be asking for \$3.00 per player per week. Please sign up on the form in the Sports Room so we have an idea as to how many players to expect for this season. Remember that proof of full COVID vaccination is required to enter the Legion. We look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

Join us at the Coldwater Legion for our annual

New Year's Levee

Featuring Tyler French
January 1st from 1 to 6 p.m.
in the Club Room



Royal Canadian Legion Branch 270 Coldwater



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