



**APRIL 2021 EDITION** 

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

(705) 686-3388 • 2 Michael Anne Drive, P.O. Box 89, Coldwater, ON, L0K1E0 <u>branch270@rogers.com</u> • <u>www.coldwaterlegion.com</u> • <u>www.facebook.com/Coldwaterlegion</u>

#### **LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR**

Just because the branch was either closed or operating under less than ideal conditions for the past year, doesn't mean that our people shouldn't be recognized for their dedication and hard work.

Every year the membership is asked to nominate one of our members for the award of Branch Legionnaire of the Year. And this year the award goes to... (insert drum roll)... Comrade Carol Baird! Congratulations Carol!

During the past year Comrade Carol Baird has held the positions of Ways & Means, and Entertainment Chairs, as well as Branch 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President.

Prior to the March 17, 2020, branch closure caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Carol fulfilled her Entertainment Chairperson duties by maintaining a close relationship with local musicians, making sure that our patrons were well entertained with quality acts.

As Ways & Means Chairperson, she consistently throughout the year came-up with innovative ideas to raise funds for the branch, whether through raffles, grant applications, and especially through a highly successful bottle drive initiative.

Under her direction, in the first three months of the campaign, volunteers from the Coldwater Legion collected, sorted, and delivered 895 empty cooler bottles; 2,416 liquor bottles; 3,738 wine bottles; 11,549 beer bottles; and 32,112 beer cans! Along with individual donations, all these empty bottles and cans brought in a total of \$11,650, funds that were badly needed at a time when little or no revenues were coming from bar and other traditional sources.

On top of her office duties, Carol also found time to help with many branch functions and activities, including cleaning and cooking when needed.

Comrade Carol has shown great initiative and outstanding dedication in performing her duties above and beyond a level to be expected, and is truly deserving of the Legionnaire of the Year Award.



Congratulations to Comrade Carol Baird who was selected as Branch 270 Legionnaire of the Year.

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# FOODLAND

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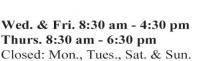


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#### FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy Easter everyone!

By the time you read this you may be in the middle of, or be done with whatever Easter celebration you may have been able to have this year, most likely virtual. This issue of *The Maple Leaf* was ready to go on March 31, filled with announcements of re-opening the



branch and patio, and all kinds of positive vibes and hopes of seeing you back at our tables. As our region moved to a modified RED-CONTROL level earlier in March, we had decided to move ahead with plans for reopening. And then came "The Announcement" on April 1, and it was no April fool's joke. As of Saturday April 3, we are going back to a month-long "emergency shutdown." Oh well. We tried. I do want to thank our Bar Officer Marg Murphy for planning the new patio, and Gill Baird and Glen Archer for setting it up. Sorry folks. We had to give it a try. So, to those of you who were hoping to come and enjoy a meal or just a beverage at the branch, you'll have to wait just a bit longer. On the financial side, we are still working on various grant applications to cover the costs of our repair projects. We had already been approved for a \$3,500 grant from Veterans Affairs Canada for adding lighting to our Cenotaph. That project was completed late last month. The \$34,500 grant from Ontario Trillium Foundation for the replacement of our air conditioning units on the roof was announced earlier. Work on that project will begin any day now. And we've also been approved for a \$25,000 grant from the New Horizons for Seniors program to cover additional work related to, but not included in the air conditioning system contract. Now, this sounds like a lot of money - and it is!, but it's all for specific projects and it doesn't help us with our loss of revenue over the past year. For that purpose, we are also expecting some funding from the Ontario Small Business Support Grant, amount to be determined. And of course, our successful Bottle Drive initiative, along with several significant donations from the community have kept us in business and covered some roof repairs. Thank you all for your support.

At the Zone level we had a few announcements. Our new Zone Commander, Comrade Shawn Mckinlay has been appointed at the last Zone E4 meeting, replacing Paul Howe who is moving down east. And it was announced that there won't be any Zone or District level elections until March 2022. Branch elections are still up in the air.

I can't close without a mention of the passing of Comrade Joan Frankish on March 5. She was a long-time Legion member, a Life Member in both the Branch and the Ladies Auxiliary. Please take time to read a moving tribute to Joan in this issue (page 11), written by Ladies Auxiliary Membership Chairperson, Brenda Yule.

Finally, please stay safe. Continue to wear a mask, wash your hands frequently with soap, and practise social distancing whenever possible. And get your vaccine(s), whenever your turn comes.

Yours in comradeship, Norm Marion, President

#### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Wayne Tutt, Membership Chairman Good day Comrades. I'm sad to report that Life Member Joan Frankish passed away on March 5, 2021. Joan was a Legion member for 46 years. Our thoughts are with Anne, Michele, Grace, Jerry and family. Our membership is at 202: Life 2, Ordinary 36, Associate 109, and Affiliate 55. Thank you all for your membership. Hope to see you soon.

#### **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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 <a href="mailto:branch270@rogers.com">branch270@rogers.com</a>.

#### 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.

#### **POPPY REPORT**

Submitted by Comrade Betty-Jean Murray, Poppy Chairperson & Immediate Past President

The Poppy bank and book balance at March 24, 2021, is \$10,249.49.

At the March 25 Executive Meeting motions were passed to issue a donation of:

\$1,000.00 to District 'E' Hospital Trust;

\$500.00 to Ontario Command - Homeless Veterans-Leave the Streets Behind;

\$500 to Ontario Command – Operation Service Dogs; and \$500 to District 'E' Vet Build.

#### SERVICE OFFICER REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Randy Rice, Branch Service Officer Comrades

As Vimy Ridge Day, 9 April 1917 approaches and we remember the sacrifice of men and women of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, many of you probably have family who served with the Canadian Corps and its many battles of the Great War.

Library Archives Canada has digitized all Canadian military service records of Canadian personnel who served with the Canadian Armed Forces during the 1914- 1918 conflict.

These records are on line and easy to access.

The following steps will get you to the service record you are looking for. Keep in mind the records can be quite lengthy ranging anywhere from 50 to 100 pages and many are blank. Key pages are Attestation (enlistment) and medical. A phrase such as "in the field" indicates service in a theatre of war i.e.; France, Belgium etc.

- Google Canadian soldiers of the Great War
- Up will pop Personnel Records of the First World War, Library and Archives Canada
- Click on Search Data Base

- Enter surname, given names, regimental number ( if unknown, not necessary)
- Scroll down and click on Search
- Up will pop names on left column, scroll down to find name and click
- Up will pop Attestation paper(enlistment)
- Above that you will see Digitized service file-PDF format B0010-S001
- Click on highlighted number and the service file will appear. Have fun!

#### **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: <a href="mailto:branch270@rogers.com">branch270@rogers.com</a>.

#### TREASURER REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Norm Marion, President

As at March 23, 2021 the General Account bank balance was \$52,306.68. Allowing for the usual restricted assets and outstanding cheques, our Operating Account balance is approximately \$6,000. The Building Account balance at March 23, 2021 is \$17,938.35. The Nevada account balance at March 23, 2021 remains at \$237.61



Work has been progressing on the lighting project at the Cenotaph. On March 25, a trench was dug along the parking lot to lay wiring for light fixtures. This Cenotaph enhancement is funded at 50% by Veterans Affairs Canada.

### **Quote of the Month**

"A cloudy day is no match for a sunny disposition."

- William Arthur Ward

#### **PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT**

Submitted by Comrade Norm Marion, Public Relations Officer

ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER: Once again I am looking for someone to take over the duties of keeping track of advertisement in the Maple Leaf, collecting payments as they become due, and recruiting new advertisers as required. This was handled by our good friend Rosalie Pratt until she passed away in December. Please see me if you're interested or know someone who might be.

LOCAL MEDIA - During the branch closure we continued to update the branch website and Facebook page, and to publish our monthly newsletter *The Maple Leaf*. And with the reopening of the branch (soon, we hope), the BIDDY (Branch Information Digital Display for YOU!) will be back on, offering information to visiting customers.

#### **ENTERTAINMENT/WAYS & MEANS**

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

It would have been great to see the Legion open again, but it's not going to happen yet. Still, the new patio looks great and I want to thank my husband Gill and Glen Archer for putting it together. Maggie has been working really hard with Cheryll to get the branch ready to re-open, which will be soon, we hope. Many thanks for that. The bottle drive is at \$5,800. Thanks to Cheryll Barr for all her hard work. Let's have a great summer.

# JOKE OF THE MONTH

"I was wondering why the ball kept getting bigger and bigger. And then it hit me."

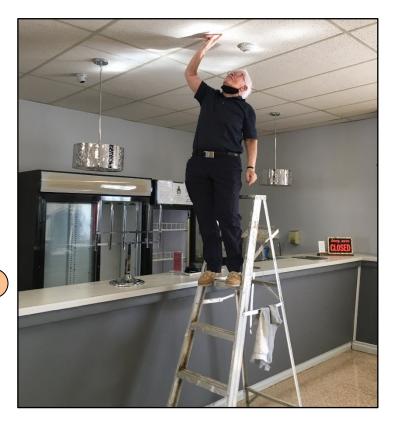
#### SERGEANT-AT-ARMS REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Randy Rice, Sergeant-at-Arms DID YOU KNOW!

The red sash worn by Sergeant-at-Arms in the Royal Canadian Legion was originally worn by an infantry soldier in battle who was in charge of holding the Regimental Colours together with a junior officer, which then acted as a rallying point in the confusion of battle.

#### BAR OFFICER REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Marg Murphy, Bar Officer
With the loosening of the Provincial governments' RED
Zone restrictions a few weeks ago, we had decided to reopen the Branch as of Tuesday March 30, with some limitations, ensuring Provincial and Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's Covid-19 protocols were followed.
Unfortunately, as this issue of *The Maple Leaf* was going to print, an announcement from the provincial government put an end to this plan. As of Saturday April 3, we are entering a 28 day, provincial-wide, shutdown, which means no patio, and no indoor dining. So, sorry folks. We'll try again in a month, or whenever we're allowed.



Thank you to a small group of volunteers who took to cleaning and preparing the place for future reopening. Seen here is Comrade Marg Murphy fixing some of the ceiling tiles in the Banquet Hall. Good job Maggie!



Private Robinson was initially assigned to Eaton's Machine Gun Battery before he was commissioned into the Imperial Army.

# FOR MILITARY SERVICE RECOGNITION BOOK: MEET WILLIAM CECIL ELWOOD ROBINSON

William Cecil Elwood Robinson was born in Coldwater, Ontario, on November 13, 1891, the son of Alexander Robinson and Rebecca Smith. On February 1, 1915, he enlisted in the Army with the Canadian Expeditionary Force in Toronto. He was 24 years old and single. He listed his trade as engineer, and had no previous military experience. Private Robinson, regimental number 842, sailed on the *H.M.S. Metagama* to arrive in England on June 14, 1915, where he was assigned to Eaton's Machine Gun Battery. He was discharged from the Canadian Expeditionary Force on December 20, 1915, in order to be commissioned into the Imperial Army. He passed away on October 13, 1960.

#### **BRANCH HISTORIAN REPORT**

Submitted by Comrade Norm Marion, Branch Historian MILITARY SERVICE RECOGNITION BOOK: The deadline to make it into Volume VIII of Ontario Command's Military

Service Recognition Book (MSRB) is fast approaching. So far I've submitted names of current Veterans members of the branch, and First and Second World War soldiers from the area. If you served in the military or would like to submit someone who served, please get in touch with me. <a href="mailto:norm.marion@amtelecom.net">norm.marion@amtelecom.net</a> or (705) 686-3941. I would be happy to help you submit your story and photo, if available.

#### THIS MONTH WE REMEMBER THE

#### BATTLE OF VIMY RIDGE

Vimy Ridge was a battle in which, for the first time, four Canadian army divisions (more than 100,000 men) fought side by side as a Canadian Corps, and came out victorious. The battle began on Easter Monday, April 9, 1917. After months of intelligence gathering, planning, and rehearsing, a first wave of more than 15,000 Canadian soldiers attacked German defenses, forcing their way through mud, defensive obstacles and deadly machine gun fire. The extensive preparation and innovative tactics soon gave the Canadians the advantage. Making use of a "creeping" artillery barrage, Canadian soldiers were able to capture German positions at the critical moment before the enemy could emerge from their bunkers to counter-attack. But there was a cost to the battlefield victory. By the end of the battle, Canadians had suffered 10,600 casualties, 3,600 of them killed.

Source: Veterans Affairs Canada



# VETERANS AND SERVICE DOGS: LEGION COMMITS SIGNIFICANT FUNDS

March 22, 2021

The Legion's Ontario Command, its Branches, and Ladies' Auxiliaries have made a crucial donation to Wounded Warriors Canada (WWC) to help continue its work to pair more Veterans with life-changing service dogs. These exceptional dogs are trained to help reduce Veteran anxiety in public settings, redirect attention to more positive activities, help with nightmare interruption and in stabilizing sleep patterns.

"Through our Operation Service Dog program, we have contributed close to a million dollars in Poppy Funds to help ensure Ontario Veterans who need this sort of specialized care and companionship, receive it," says Garry Pond, Ontario Command President.

Pond recently presented a \$350,000 donation to Phil Ralph, the Director of Health Services at WWC. The funding supports the WWC PTSD Service Dog program which includes everything from training to placement. Since the initial donation by Ontario Command, WWC has facilitated the placement of 11 PTSD Service Dogs to Ontario Veterans, with approximately 30 others currently in training.

"We are beginning to see desired results," says Ralph. "Operation Service Dog and the incredible partnership with WWC is profoundly impacting not only the lives of Veterans but also the lives of their families. "While the WWC Service Dog program has had to work through additional challenges due to the pandemic over the past year, Ralph notes they have made good progress. "We were able to add another Service Dog provider in Ontario and have been able to maintain financial support to our providers so they can emerge from this period in good shape."

Ontario Command and Wounded Warriors Canada began their partnership in 2018 with a view to pairing as many injured Veterans with trained dogs as feasible. Other Legion Provincial Commands such as Nova Scotia/Nunavut and British Columbia/Yukon are also partnering with various organizations to provide Service Dogs to Veterans in their communities.

Nationally, The Royal Canadian Legion has been pushing the federal government for National Standards for Service Dogs for years. While a commitment to create such standards has been made, nothing has been released to date. In the interim, Wounded Warriors Canada has established a set of standards required of all Service Dog providers it works with.

To learn more about the WWC program please visit: <a href="https://woundedwarriors.ca/our-programs/ptsd-service-dogs/">https://woundedwarriors.ca/our-programs/ptsd-service-dogs/</a>









Indigenous Veterans Initiative The Last Post Fund will provide Veterans lying in an unmarked grave with a tombstone and a traditional name inscription.

Contact: Maria Trujillo, Indigenous Program Coordinator 1-800-465-7113 ext 222 | info@lastpost.ca like to contribute to the community research effort, please contact Maria Trujillo, Indigenous Program Coordinator at 1-800-465-7113 extension 222,

email: mtrujillo@lastpost.ca.

#### SENIORS LITERARY COMPETITION

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

Seniors Lit is moving along smoothly. At the moment we have **received 20 submissions**. We do not know when the Awards Ceremony will be held but we will make it known as soon as possible.

So far I have heard from some of our local writers but received only three submissions from them. I had a radio interview with a station in Kincardine; had a lengthy telephone interview with the monthly newsletter editor from Lions Head Branch. We are getting good coverage from the London and Bracebridge area. Thank you to other Districts that are promoting it for us. I have received a submission from a writer in the Minden area but had to pass it on to the branch near them that is hosting their own competition.

#### INDIGENOUS VETERANS INITIATIVE

At the start of 2019, the Last Post Fund introduced the Indigenous Veterans Initiative. An initiative of the Last Post Fund National Office, it is consistent with the Canadian government's efforts towards advancing reconciliation and renewing the relationship with Indigenous peoples based on the recognition of rights, respect, cooperation and partnership. This initiative has two components:

- Indigenous Unmarked Graves To provide grave markers to Indigenous Veterans deceased for over 5 years and lying in unmarked graves.
- Indigenous Traditional Name Marking To add traditional names of Indigenous Veterans to existing military grave markers.

Both of these initiatives require research and community support from members of Indigenous communities throughout Canada.

Please note that a culturally relevant symbol is available upon request.

If you think that a family member or a member of your community may qualify for this program, or if you would





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- Open to all seniors aged 55+
- 2. Must complete and attach official registration form
- 3. Must be original, written by the contestant and be unpublished
- 4. Must be submitted in English or French
- 5. Must not exceed the line or word limits specified
- Must be ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION with normal spacing
- 7. Contestants may submit only one entry in any / each category
- 8. <u>Each submission</u> must include a cover page stating the title, author's name and entry word count
- 9. Biographies that are submitted must include written consent of the subject, if living.

#### Entry forms are available upon request at <br/> <br/> seniorsliterary@gmail.com

Submissions must be received by **Saturday, May 1, 2021 at** 

<branch270seniorsliterary@gmail.com>

#### And clearly marked 'Branch 270 Literary Contest for Seniors'.

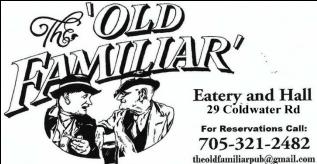
PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED TO winners in each category at a date yet to be determined

POETRY — maximum 32 lines SHORT STORY - word count maximum 4,000 ESSAY — word count maximum 1,000

MEMOIR — includes biographies, autobiographies, and travel writing — word count max. 5000

#### DECISIONS BY THE JUDGES WILL BE FINAL - NO EXCEPTIONS





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#### **LADIES AUXILIARY**

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



April is finally here and it is wonderful to see the robins back. A sure sign that spring has arrived.

Thank you to Branch 270 Ladies Auxiliary for the beautiful floral arrangement, on the passing of my mom Joan Frankish. She was an amazing lady and is missed greatly. Brenda Yule our membership chair,

has done a great write up about her, and I thank her for doing this.

The working balance of our bank account is \$ 3,588.07. Hope to see everyone soon now the nice weather has arrived. Stay safe: Maintain social distancing, wear a mask, wash hands, and stay at home as much as possible.

"Never give up, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn." - Harriet Beecher Stowe

Anne McArthur LA President Branch 270 Coldwater

#### REMEMBERING JOAN FRANKISH

Submitted by Comrade Brenda Yule Ladies Auxiliary Membership Chairperson

Dear Members of Branch 270 and Ladies Auxiliary:

With deep sadness we lost an Integral and Life Member to our Ladies Auxiliary of Coldwater Branch 270, Joan Frankish.

On February 5 of 1979 Joan took the oath to join our very busy Auxiliary, and according to older records she took the plunge to become an Executive Member.

On June 1, 1989, Joan was reinstated to the Ladies Auxiliary, as I'm sure her hiatus was to continue to raise her children.

Now, I started by saying an Integral member and indeed she was!

She started her reign being elected to Vice President in 1991 and 1992.

In 1994 Joan became President and held her reign until 1997. This part is extremely special to me. I was Secretary to President Joan for two terms, and at a young age, she mentored me with patience and passion, and a lot of good times. I will always be extremely indebted to her. In 1998,

Joan took a well-deserved break from her reign and became our Past President. Joan was not done serving our Branch. In 2000-2003 she served as our Sports and Membership Officer.

On December 17, 2015, our dear Joanie moved to Hillcrest Village in Midland, and remained our Past President until 2016. I consider



myself lucky, that while visiting my Mom in the same Residence, I was always happy to visit Joanie too.

Over the years, Joan was tremendously involved in any activities and functions that the Branch and Auxiliary hosted. She always exemplified great kindredship and comradery, and her duties and responsibilities were paramount to what defined her, A Great Leader!

This reign brought to Joan many acknowledgements for her accomplishments to the Auxiliary. She received a Certificate of Merit in 1993, which indicates to your General Membership that you have gone above and beyond your duties.

In 1996 Joan received the Trillium Pin Award from Ontario Command. I remember this well as she had such a radiant glow to her face when she stood in front of her peers to be presented her pin.

She proudly accepted all her Service pins starting from 5 Year to 25 Year.

In 2004, it all became clear to the Auxiliary that Joan was deserving to become a Life Member. This to me, and even now to this day that I hold the title of Membership Chairperson, that becoming a Life Member is a true Honor. To me it means that you withheld the oath to which you swore allegiance, you supported our Veterans, you were involved and supported our Community, but most of all you served your time to each and every member of our Branch 270 Coldwater.

Joan was a great and fundamental example to her children of how to show support for a cause. We are still blessed to have her two daughters, Anne McArthur, Ladies Auxiliary President (current) and Michele Russell, Sports Officer (current) dedicating many years of their lives in Joan's legacy.

On March 5, 2021, our Branch and Auxiliary lost Joan Frankish. May you rest in peace my dear Friend and Mentor, knowing you served your community with high regard, and your legacy lives on.



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#### INTRODUCING VETERAN ALEX FABIAN

By Comrade Rosalie J. Pratt [From a 2020 interview]

Well before 1987, Comrade Alex was familiar with military life. Comrade Alex shares that few may remember that the Canadian military extended a hiring freeze from1990 to 2000. In 1987 he immigrated to Canada and fifteen years later, after receiving his Canadian Citizenship Certificate he enlisted in the Canadian military.

Basic Training was in St. Jean, Quebec, with the field portion in Farnham, Quebec, from January to March, 2003.

Comrade Alex was a 'mature' recruit, and therefore, familiar with rules, timing and study requirements. He enjoyed his time in basic training as many of the younger recruits looked to him for advice and guidance. In return, Comrade Alex, who is tri-lingual, relied on the English speaking recruits to familiarize him with English colloquial expressions. Learning to be more conversant in English was made easier with the realization that there were many French-speaking recruits who also did not claim English as their mother tongue.

If the equipment moved, chances are that the job at hand was handled by a MSE OP (Mobile Support Equipment Operator). This training allowed Comrade Alex to pursue his job working with all manner of heavy equipment, including but not restricted to work with a grader, loader, backhoe, etc. Further, as an MSE OP qualified to drive bus and five-ton trucks, tractor trailers, ambulances and transport troops, this classification further required the building and maintaining of roads in training areas or areas in operations.

Comrade Alex shared that his postings were mostly in Ontario; specifically at Canadian Forces Base Borden, Petawawa, and Ottawa.

Due to his expertise as a Mobile Support Equipment Operator, Corporal Alex was soon promoted to Master Corporal (MCpl) a position which was more administrative than 'in the field'. Comrade Alex much preferred to drive and work alongside the troops and made the decision to forego the promotion and pursue his heart's desire and continue work in the field.

Comrade Alex is honoured to have received: the CD (Canadian Forces Decoration) awarded to officers and Non-Commissioned Members of the Canadian Forces who have completed twelve years of service; the Canadian



Now a member of Branch 270 Coldwater, Corporal Alex Fabian served in the Canadian Armed Forces with the Canadian Special Operations Regiment.

Afghanistan Medal awarded to soldiers who served in Afghanistan for their part in combating terrorism; Operation Reassurance Medal awarded to Canadian Armed Forces Members serving on Operation Reassurance in Central and Eastern Europe.

In 2006, the Canadian Special Operations Regiment was founded. In 2007, Comrade Alex was selected to be a member of CSOR and reports that the next four and one-half years were the best part of his military career. At this time, he participated in numerous deployments and exercises. At this writing, Comrade Alex is an active and proud member of the CSOR Association and FSSF Association (First Special Service Force), a unique and highly trained group of individuals in amphibious, mountain and airborne warfare.

Comrade Alex's quotable shared quote: "AUDEAMUS" – "LET US DARE".

Comrade Alex, we thank you for your service.



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