



THE MAPLE LEAF

JULY 2021 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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HAPPY CANADA DAY!

Yes, Happy Canada Day everyone! Although this year's Canada Day was far from the big celebrations we have been used to in past "pre-pandemic" years, many of us have taken the time to put our day-to-day activities on pause and acknowledge the relative comfort, rights and freedoms we can enjoy under our flag. This year, many communities have either canceled or at least scaled down their traditional Canada Day activities, some because of pandemic restrictions, others as a mark of respect towards First Nations people who are facing particularly troubling times these days. Although a majority of Canadians do not support canceling Canada Day celebrations, many, including political and First Nations leaders, suggest that the day should be a time for reflection on what the country is, its values, and how it deals with its own indigenous people. Canada Day, a time for reflection? You decide.



The national flag was flying full-mast at the Coldwater Legion on Canada Day, after being at half-mast for several weeks in honour of the aboriginal children whose unmarked graves were discovered in recent weeks. The flags were initially lowered at branches across Canada on June 2, following the discovery of 215 unmarked graves at the site of a former residential school near Kamloops, B.C. Flags remained at half-mast for 215 hours (9 days), as directed by Dominion Command. They went back to half-mast later in June following the second discovery of unmarked graves in Saskatchewan. On June 30th, Dominion President, Tom D. Irvine, directed that "*the Legion's half-mast period will end, and flags may be hoisted to full staff once again. While our official period of mourning is coming to a close, our collective thoughts and prayers for our First Nations comrades will continue always. The memories of those lost will never be forgotten.*"



Branch members Jed (left) and Brenda Bartlett enjoy a break on the Coldwater Legion patio on a beautiful "Canada Day" sunny afternoon.

Inside *The Maple Leaf* this month

Happy Canada Day!.....	1
From the President.....	3
Branch activity reports.....	3-7
From Dominion Command.....	8
Ladies Auxiliary Report.....	10
Remembering Harry Leatherdale.....	13
July Calendar.....	16

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy Canada Day everyone!

Another month has gone by with its string of not-so-good news, including continuing COVID-19 restrictions, disturbing findings around former residential schools, caterpillar infestations, and yes, the Leafs heading to the golf course - wherever they're open. Since most of these issues are more or less out of our control, we have to soldier on and do the best we can with what we have, within the boundaries of what we're allowed to do.



Now, having made it that far through my fairly long introduction, you've probably figured out by now that I don't have a whole lot to say this month. And you'd probably be right.

From an Executive point of view, everything is going well at the branch. We still meet regularly for Executive meetings, and as you can see from the committees' monthly reports, those activities that we are permitted to undertake are in good hands. Our Bottle Drive is still going strong, and will hopefully continue until we're back in "normal" business. Our building manager is juggling many upgrade projects, and our bar officer and her crew is keeping on top of changes with the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit. We will be ready to reopen the Club Room whenever we're allowed to. But for now, it's patio only, sorry.

Once again, I hope we can see each other in person soon, on our patio, or inside the club room. For now, please stay safe, wear your mask, wash your hands, AND GET YOUR SHOT!

Oh yeah, I almost forgot. **GO HABS!!**



Yours in comradeship,
Norm Marion, President

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Cheryll Barr, Membership Chairman
Good day Comrades.

Our membership is at 215: Life 3, Ordinary 38, Associate 116, and Affiliate 58.

Please be advised that there are many 2021 outstanding membership dues not paid. Please check your cards. Membership can be renewed at the bar. Please ask the Bar Steward working. Also if you had dropped off your card, before the COVID closure, please check with the Bar Steward. We may have it here. For those of you who would like to renew your 2021 membership, you may send a cheque for \$60.00 to Coldwater Legion, P.O. Box 89, Coldwater, ON, L0K 1E0. You will then receive your sticker to be placed on the back of your membership card.

Thank you all for your membership. Hope to see you soon.

SICK & VISITING REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Betty-Anne Burnie, Sick and Visiting Chairman

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 Chairmen disseminate information and report to the membership on their respective activities. Opinions expressed in feature articles are those of the writers and do not imply endorsement by the Branch or the Legion.

Committee reports and pre-arranged articles must be 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.

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 Chairman
The current balance in the Poppy Trust Fund is \$7,606.17. With one donation of \$500 passed earlier in the year to Camp Maple Leaf, a not-for-profit sleepover camp for children of Canadian Military Families, the balance will be \$7,106.17. This donation is awaiting approval from Ontario Command.

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.

TREASURER REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Rick Morse, Secretary-Treasurer
As of 24 June 2021, the General Account Book balance is \$60,561.64. The Grants funds balance is \$41,134.32. Of the General Account balance, we still have restricted funds of approximately \$4,500 for Seniors Literary, and \$1,000 earmarked for the Cenotaph's Second World War Coldwater Veterans plaque project.
One large purchase waiting to have invoice approved and a cheque issued is the new fridge in the upstairs kitchen: amount \$4,471.77.
Using the above numbers, approx. \$9,455.55 remains in the operating account. The Bottle/can returns for the month of June total deposited is \$1,656, which is included in the above calculations.
The Building Account and Book balance - \$12,993.67 after the transfer of \$2,476.68 to the General Account to support the final two payments to B.A. Roofing.
The Nevada Account balance is at \$237.61

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Norm Marion, Public Relations Officer

LEGION MAGAZINE: The July/August issue of the Legion Magazine is out. A photo of our Branch Legionnaire of the Year Carol Baird is included in the SNAPSHOTS section, and Comrade Betty-Jean Murray is mentioned as a new Life Membership recipient.

ENTERTAINMENT/WAYS & MEANS

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

Hope everyone is doing well as we start to come out of the pandemic and get back to normal. I am hoping to have live entertainment starting in September if all goes well. The Bottle Drive has brought in almost \$2,000.00 for the month of June. I can't thank everybody enough for all the support. I look forward to seeing everybody soon.



Bar Officer Comrade Marg Murphy (left) and Membership Chairman Comrade Cheryl Barr handle a recent drop of cans in support of our Bottle Drive. Thank you so much ladies!

SENIORS LITERARY COMPETITION

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

Everything is in order for the competition except being able to determine the date for our Awards Ceremony. This will be decided as soon as the COVID restrictions have been relaxed sufficiently to accommodate the number of people who would like to attend the ceremony. I will keep you posted.

I would like to thank all of the entrants who provided submissions to the competition and to those who willingly took part in judging the 88 submissions we received. This was an incredible response and I am truly grateful to the 12 judges involved in scoring these entries. It was a lot to ask of you. Thank you all so very much!

BAR OFFICER REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Marg Murphy, Bar Officer

We are regularly monitoring changes in directives from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit regarding reopening of bars and restaurants. Our patio is open, and we are ready to open the Club Room whenever we get the green light from SMDHU.



Bar Officer Comrade Marg Murphy (left) and Membership Chairman Comrade Cheryl Barr were two of the volunteers who painted the patio tables in preparation for the patio opening.

Quote of the Month

*"Don't compare yourself with other people;
compare yourself with who you were
yesterday."*

Jordan Peterson, author

SERVICE OFFICER REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Randy Rice, Branch Service Officer
Did you know?

Estimated War Service Veteran population as of March 2020:

Second World War Veterans, average age 95, 26,300

Korean War Veterans, average age 88, 5,900

Total estimated War Service Veterans, average age 94, 32,100

Canadian Armed Forces Regular Force, average age 61, 317,600

Canadian Armed Forces Primary Reserve, average age 56, 279,600

Total estimated Canadian Armed Forces Veterans, average age 59, 597,200

Total estimated Canadian Veteran population 629,300

Comrades you might have noticed, in this year's census, a question asking if you were a Veteran. This question is very important. It will better assist the government and Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) to allocate funding in support of programs and services to Veterans, where needed, and give a much needed accuracy when it comes to the number of Veterans living inside and outside of Canada.

Here are some Budget 2021 highlights in support to Veterans:

- *\$45 million over two years aimed at reducing VETERAN homelessness in such areas as rent supplements, counselling, addiction treatment, and job search assistance.

- * Funds are targeted to address sexual misconduct and gender-based violence in the military, including \$74 million over five years to enhance support for victims, including legal advice, peer support, enhanced research and training.

- * \$140 million over five years to VAC for mental health costs such as PTSD, depression or anxiety disorders while their disability application is being processed. An additional \$15 million to the Veteran and family well-being fund.

- *\$29 million to enhance service capacity at VAC, to help streamline the application backlog.

This indeed is a much needed financial boost to veterans, although there is still much to do.

JOKE OF THE MONTH

At the doctor's office, Tom was getting a checkup. "I have good news and bad news," says the doctor. "The good news is you have 24 hours left to live." Tom replies, "That's the good news?!" Then the doctor says, "The bad news is I should have told you that yesterday."

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Randy Rice, Branch Sergeant-at-Arms

Did you know the House of Commons Sergeant-at-Arms in 2014, Kevin M. Vickers, assisted RCMP officers in engaging a gunman who had stormed into the Centre Block? In the ensuing gun battle the gunman was killed. Kevin Vickers had fulfilled his role as the senior official responsible for building services and security of the House of Commons.

HONOURS & AWARDS

Submitted by Comrade Randy Rice, Honours & Awards Chairman

I would like to say, I welcome the challenge of this chair and applaud my predecessor Comrade Wayne Tutt for his outstanding service to this chair. The 2021 Honours and Awards committee will consist of the following members:

Comrade Randy Rice, Committee Chairman

Comrade Marg Murphy, member

Comrade Cheryll Bar, member

Comrade Norm Marion, Ex Officio member

There is a number of significant legion awards available to our branch members. It is important to the success of our branch that credit is given where warranted. I want to ensure no one falls through the cracks and members are recognized for their contributions in a timely and honourable manner.

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 270

BUILDING OFFICER REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Wayne Tutt, Building Officer

The safety railing on the roof around the new ladder has been built and placed. I constructed it and I asked B.A. Roofing to get it on the roof for me. (Thank you, Martin, and his team) They did this at no charge. The material cost was \$276.00.

I have contacted Shakell Heating and Cooling to inform them that all safety concerns have been addressed. They are just waiting on one part before they can install the new HVAC.

I have given the go ahead to Orillia Floor Fashion Centre for the removal of the old carpet, and installation of the new carpet going up to the banquet room. This will be done after the HVAC installation. I am forecasting towards the end of July.

We had a fire safety inspection. The Inspector was incredibly pleased with the record keeping. There are a few minor items that need to be taken care of. He has given us one year to complete them. I would like to put a work detail together later this summer to tackle them. We also need a shelf built in the chair room for Poppy, and a shelf built in the storage area near the upper fire escape. One day should do it. If you would like to assist, please contact me.

The exterior automatic door located next to the canteen widow is sticking. I looked at it and realized that there are a couple of screws missing. I will re drill, plug, and secure the plate with new screws. See you at the branch.



At the time of going to press, Comrade Carol Baird and her husband Gil are visiting out in B.C., enjoying temperatures of 45° C. Enjoy the drive back guys.

It's Back On!
By popular demand

Coldwater Legion Bottle Drive

Show your support
for your local Legion



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

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

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



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THIS MONTH WE REMEMBER

KOREA

July 27 will mark the 68th anniversary of the Korean War armistice between North and South Korea. Canadian Forces were involved in the 1950–1953 Korean War and its aftermath, as 26,000 Canadians participated on the side of the United Nations. Canada sent eight destroyers while Canadian aircraft provided transport, supply and logistics. 516 Canadians died, 312 of which were from combat. After the war, Canadian troops remained for three years as military observers. Technically, the two sides are still at war, although recent events suggest a possible peace agreement in the near future.

Source: Veterans Affairs Canada

BRANCH HISTORIAN REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Norm Marion, Branch Historian

Many thanks to Coldwater resident Mr. Bruce Missen for his recent contribution to our branch historical records. Bruce uncovered – and shared with us – information on a Coldwater-born Second World War volunteer who was killed in action while serving as a flight engineer with the Royal Canadian Air Force. A summary of Warrant Officer 2nd Class Harry Clifford Leatherdale is provided in this issue. How his name has been kept out of the branch records for all these years is a mystery. His name and mini biography have been added to our Honour Roll, which is available on the Branch website at www.coldwaterlegion.com. We always welcome any assistance from members of the community who may have information on Coldwater's military history. I can be reached at:

norm.marion@amtelecom.net or (705) 686-3941.

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HISTORY OF THE POPPY

From the files of Dominion Command

On July 6 we will be honouring 100 years of the Remembrance Poppy in Canada. The following is a summary of the events that lead to its popularity as a symbol of Remembrance in Canada.

Each November, Poppies bloom on the lapels and collars of millions of Canadians. The significance of the Poppy can be traced back to the Napoleonic Wars in the 19th century, over 110 years before being adopted in Canada. Records from that time indicate how thick Poppies grew over the graves of soldiers in the area of Flanders, France. Fields that had been barren before battle exploded with the blood-red flowers after the fighting ended. During the tremendous bombardments of the war, the chalk soils became rich in lime from rubble, allowing the "*popaver rhoeas*" to thrive. When the war ended, the lime was quickly absorbed and the Poppy began to disappear again.

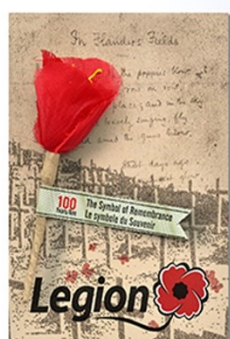

The person who first introduced the Poppy to Canada and the Commonwealth was Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae of Guelph, Ontario, a Canadian Medical Officer during the First World War. John McCrae penned the Poem "In Flanders Fields" on a scrap of paper in May, 1915 on the day following the death of a fellow soldier. Little did he know then that those 13 lines would become enshrined in the hearts and minds of all who would wear them. McCrae's poem was published in *Punch Magazine* in December of that same year.

The idea for the Remembrance Poppy was conceived by Madame Anna Guérin of France. She was inspired by John McCrae's poem "In Flanders Fields." Anna had originally founded a charity to help rebuild regions of France torn apart by the First World War, and created poppies made of fabric to raise funds.

Later, Anna presented her concept to France's allies, including the precursor to The Royal Canadian Legion, The Great War Veterans Association. The idea was considered at a meeting in Port Arthur, Ontario (now Thunder Bay) and was adopted on July 6, 1921.

Today, the Poppy is worn each year during the Remembrance period to honour Canada's Fallen. The Legion also encourages the wearing of a Poppy for the funeral of a Veteran and for any commemorative event honouring Fallen Veterans. It is not inappropriate to wear a Poppy during other times to commemorate Fallen Veterans and it is an individual choice to do so, as long as it's worn appropriately.

Thanks to the millions of Canadians who wear the Legion's lapel Poppy each November, the little red flower has never died, and the memories of those who fell in battle remain strong.

In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies grow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; the larks, still brave,
Scarce heard amid their songs above.
We are the Dead, short days and long,
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Commemorative Poppy

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

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

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

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

Assembled in Canada. Stem approximately 2.25" long.

*To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Poppy symbol for Remembrance, we have a small supply of the official silk **Commemorative Poppy** available at the Branch. Wear it with pride!*

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LADIES AUXILIARY

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



HAPPY CANADA DAY COMRADES!

I hope that everyone is in good health. I noticed a lot of activity outside the Branch last month. Another great job done by Maggie and her committee in getting the patio ready again for when the Branch reopens. The painted tables look great. It is

also great to see the tables full in the lovely weather we've been having.

Our Ladies Auxiliary bank account working balance sits at \$3,087.04. Again, thank you to our amazing members of the Ladies Auxiliary that work so hard to keep funds coming in. We will need to have a meeting soon to discuss future endeavours, once COVID restrictions are more relaxed.

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

"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



REMEMBER YOUR FOODLAND RECEIPTS!

Getting frustrated that branch activities are on hold, and you can't help the branch?

Looking for ways to contribute?

One simple way is to save your Coldwater Foodland receipts and drop them off at the branch whenever you stop by. Ladies Auxiliary member Jane Lauder will take them to Coldwater Foodland for cash.

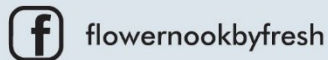
**Help Jane help the branch.
Bring in your receipts!**





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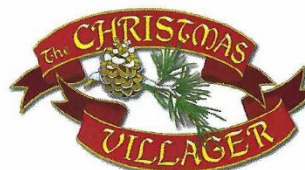
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REMEMBERING HARRY C. LEATHERDALE

Submitted by Comrade Norm Marion, Branch Historian

Harry Clifford Leatherdale was born on November 8, 1917, son of Henry Chester and Edna Leatherdale of Coldwater, Ontario. Harry was the grandson of William John Leatherdale, who, with his brother Luke Leatherdale Jr., ran the blacksmith and carriage shop in Coldwater. On February 12, 1940, Harry enlisted in Hamilton with the Royal Canadian Air Force Special Reserve. He was 22 years old and married to Eleanor Louise (Osbourne). They had a daughter, Sandra Joan. By the time of his enlisting, Harry and his family had been living in Jarvis, Ontario, for 17 years.

On his Attestation Form, Harry is described as 5 feet 8½ inches tall, with blue eyes and brown hair. He identified his religious denomination as Presbyterian, and his previous employment as service station attendant. He had no previous military experience.

During the next two years, Leading Aircraftman Leatherdale, service number R.52458, completed basic, aircrew and trade training including air gunnery at No.9 Bombing & Gunnery School in Mont-Joli, Quebec, and aero-engine mechanic and flight engineer training in Montreal and at No.3 Operational Training Unit in Patricia Bay, B.C. In May 1943, he was taken on strength by No.162 Squadron at RCAF Station Yarmouth, Nova-Scotia. Equipped with Consolidated Canso amphibious aircraft, the unit initially operated along Canada's east coast on anti-submarine patrol duties. In preparation for D-Day, the Allies' landing in Normandy, Harry's unit moved to RAF Station Wick, Scotland.

On June 13, 1944, while on an anti-submarine patrol off the coast of Ireland, Canso aircraft #9816 attacked and sank an enemy submarine. The Canso had been shot up by the crew of the submarine and was forced to land in the sea.



The PBY Canso, on which WO2 Leatherdale flew as a flight engineer, was an amphibious version of the PBY Catalina. The retractable wheels can be seen on the side of the fuselage.



RCAF Warrant Officer 2nd Class Harry Clifford Leatherdale of Coldwater was killed in action during the Second World War while working as a flight engineer on a Canso amphibious aircraft.

Six of the eight members of the crew spent eight hours in a dinghy before they were rescued. Two others died in the operation, including Warrant Officer 2nd Class (WO2) Harry Leatherdale, who had been promoted to that rank less than two weeks earlier. Harry was reported lost at sea and presumed dead. He was survived by his mother, his wife and his daughter, as well as a brother and three sisters.

For his service to his country, Warrant Officer 2nd Class Leatherdale was entitled to the 1939-1945 Star, the Aircrew Europe Star, the Defence Medal, the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal, and the 1939-1945 British War Medal.

Warrant Officer 2nd Class Harry Leatherdale has no known grave. He is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial (panel 254), Surrey, United Kingdom. In Canada he is commemorated on page 362 of the *Second World War Book of Remembrance*, located inside the Memorial Chamber in the Peace Tower in Ottawa.

We will remember him.



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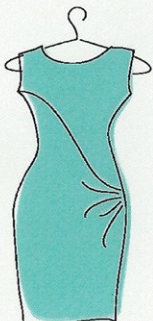


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					3 Patio/Bar & Bistro open 11:30am – 7:00pm	10 Patio/Bar & Bistro open 11:30am – 7:00pm
					17 Patio/Bar & Bistro open 11:30am – 7:00pm	24 Patio/Bar & Bistro open 11:30am – 7:00pm
					31 Patio/Bar & Bistro open 11:30am – 7:00pm	30 Patio/Bar & Bistro open 11:30am – 7:00pm
					29 Patio/Bar & Bistro open 11:30am – 7:00pm	28 Patio/Bar & Bistro open 11:30am – 7:00pm
4 CLOSED <i>Bistro open for take-out</i>	5 CLOSED <i>Bistro open for take-out</i>	6 Patio/Bar & Bistro open 11:30am – 7:00pm	7 Patio/Bar & Bistro open 11:30am – 7:00pm	8 Patio/Bar & Bistro open 11:30am – 7:00pm	9 Patio/Bar & Bistro open 11:30am – 7:00pm	16 Patio/Bar & Bistro open 11:30am – 7:00pm
11 CLOSED <i>Bistro open for take-out</i>	12 CLOSED <i>Bistro open for take-out</i>	13 Patio/Bar & Bistro open 11:30am – 7:00pm	14 Patio/Bar & Bistro open 11:30am – 7:00pm	15 Patio/Bar & Bistro open 11:30am – 7:00pm	22 Patio/Bar & Bistro open 11:30am – 7:00pm	23 Patio/Bar & Bistro open 11:30am – 7:00pm
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25 CLOSED <i>Bistro open for take-out</i>	26 CLOSED <i>Bistro open for take-out</i>	27 Patio/Bar & Bistro open 11:30am – 7:00pm	28 Patio/Bar & Bistro open 11:30am – 7:00pm	29 Patio/Bar & Bistro open 11:30am – 7:00pm	30 Patio/Bar & Bistro open 11:30am – 7:00pm	31 Patio/Bar & Bistro open 11:30am – 7:00pm