



THE MAPLE LEAF

Newsletter of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 270 • **FEBRUARY 2018**

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We Have a President!

Yes, after more than a year of operating under a Board of Management, the Coldwater Branch held an interim election on January 24, during which three Executive Members, two Vice-Presidents, and a President were elected by the membership. Congratulations to Comrades Annie McArthur, Wayne Tutt, and Maggie Murphy, who were elected as members of the Executive; to Comrades Norm Marion and Garry Lovelace, 1st and 2nd Vice-Presidents; and to Comrade Betty-Jean Murray, our new President. The team will form the core of the new Executive and, with the help of several other appointees as chairpersons of committees, will run the business and activities of the branch for the next four months. Another election will be held in May so that we can return to a regular June-to-May annual cycle of elections. Again, congratulations to the newly elected, and thank you to all

who took part in the election including the Election Chairman, Comrade Frank Beasley (Commander Zone E4), our independent scrutineers, Comrades Paul Howe (Deputy Commander Zone E4) and Dave Sampson (President Penetanguishene Branch), and Comrade Sharon McKeown, Ontario Command President, who had the pleasure of installing her sister Betty-Jean Murray as our new interim President. Thank you all.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Comrades

First, thank you to the Board of Management members, Pam Davidson, Bob Ladouceur and Jim Pearson, and our own Norm Marion. This past 14 months have been an incredible learning experience for me. I have learned a lot and realize I also have a lot to learn. I am grateful to everyone who has had some input into allowing me to become Interim President of Branch 270 Coldwater for the next four months. I will do my best to work at keeping the branch 'flying high'. As noted at our General Meeting there are plans for more improvements at the branch and the new executive will work at getting this completed in the best possible manner and time. One priority will be our search for a new/new to us Shuffleboard table and, of course, high on the priority list are the new outside double doors so no one can walk in and steal that same new/new to us Shuffleboard table. The new outdoors camera should be installed in the next two weeks and this will add to the safety of our night shift bar stewards. All said, we are in a very positive period for our branch and it is largely thanks to our great members.



With respect to members of our executive, they all are faces you will already be familiar with. We have Wayne Tutt at Membership and Bursary, Debbie Robitaille at Youth Education, Randy Rice as Veterans Service Officer and Seniors, Marg Murphy as Bar Manager, Betty Anne Burnie at Sick and Visiting, Dave Robitaille as Sergeant-at-Arms, Bob Gourlie as Sports, and new transferee Carol Baird, who you can't help but know with a couple of successful attempts at fund raising already under her belt, at Ways and Means. I will continue at Poppy with the support of Pat and George Sinclair and, not to be overlooked or forgotten, we have our very special PRO, Maple Leaf editor and Collections Manager Norm Marion. Everyone is prepared to give their best to help make this interim period successful.

We soon will have a mailbox at the office door for you to place your positive suggestions of improvement around the branch. We have a volunteer working on that at the moment. Apart from a new Shuffleboard table, tell us what improvements you would like to see in your Sports Room - realistic improvements - our next target. Feel free to leave us a note with your suggestions or step up and tell us. We have a lot to achieve over the next four months and any assistance you offer will help get it done.

We are all looking forward to working with you over the next four months. Thanks everyone for your support.

Yours in Comradeship,
Betty-Jean Murray, President

THE MAPLE LEAF

The Maple Leaf is the 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 article submissions 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.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Wayne Tutt, Membership Chairperson

We received six new applications for membership. The names were submitted to the membership for consideration at the last General Meeting in January. There was no objection, so approval was granted to initiate the following people (if available) at the next General Meeting on February 28, 2018:

Frederick Morse - Ordinary membership
Ralph Fricker - Ordinary membership
Vanessa Moss - Associate membership
Kevin Moss - Associate membership
Brett Lawson - Associate membership
Paul Flatley - Associate membership

TREASURER REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Betty-Jean Murray, Treasurer

Having been elected your interim president for the period to May 31, 2018, I pass the reins of Treasurer on to Anne McArthur. Anne is anxious to get started, so you should be seeing her shortly running the office, getting it in ship-shape order.

As one of my last duties as Treasurer, I am pleased to report that the comparison Profit and Loss for the period June 1 to December 31, 2017, over the same period in 2016 shows an improvement of roughly \$23,000. This boils down in part to controls put in place by the Board of Management and to the participation of the general membership. As you have heard several times lately, 'all the money coming in is going to the bank' and the safeguards implemented by the Board of Management will be continued.

Thank you to Annie for taking on the role of Secretary-Treasurer. It is a big job for a little girl with a big heart and boundless determination.

SPORTS REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Bob Gourlie, Sports Chairperson



Comrades,

We are currently looking at replacing our Shuffleboard table. It has been around for a number of years and seems to be "leaning" towards retirement. We will keep you posted on this progress.

In Zone sports, we had the Dart Tournament in Victoria Harbour on January 6. Coldwater has a doubles team that is moving on to the District Tournament. Congratulations to Greg Stout and Billy Russell Sr. There is a Seniors Dart Tournament scheduled for February 24. If you are 55 or over as of January 1, 2018, you can qualify!! See the Sports board for details. Also the Zone Mixed Darts Tournament is coming up on March 3. Again, see the board for details and get your team registered.

YOUTH EDUCATION REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Debbie Robitaille, Youth Education Chairperson

The Legion's Public Speaking contest for the youth is confirmed for Sunday February 25. Registration starts at 12:45 p.m. and the first speech starts at 1:15 p.m. I will be looking for a few volunteers to be time keepers, helpers and possibly judges. If you are interested in helping please email me at debdaivor@hotmail.com

GENERAL MEETING

The next General Meeting will be held on Wednesday February 28, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Branch General Meetings take place on the fourth Wednesday of each month, from September to June, in the upstairs hall, starting at 6:30 p.m.

SERVICE OFFICER REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Randy Rice, Service Officer

I will be attending the Veterans Service Officer's Seminar in Aurora on 23 - 25 February. In anticipation of this event, I would appreciate any questions or concerns of a general nature with regard to veterans' affairs issues, etc. I will present them at the seminar and do my best to get them answered. I will present the answers at the Branch General Meeting on February 28. All you have to do is forward those questions via e-mail at ricerandolph@gmail.com or drop them off at the Branch office. Please address to Randy Rice, Branch Service Officer.

BAR MANAGER REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Maggie Murphy, Bar Manager

Last month's report addressed the old draft taps. These have now been removed and the necessary wall repairs have been completed. Monday, 15 January, was designated as our *Health and Hygiene Maintenance Day*. Our team removed everything from the beer cooler, including the skids. The beer cooler floor was cleaned and the cooler was sprayed top to bottom with mould cleaner. Any inspection at any time (unannounced) should result in a Pass as a result of these initiatives.

The ice machine has been de-scaled but is not functioning at optimum level. OFT has been approached for a motor replacement part. We are awaiting a cost quote for this part. Whether a part can be found and the motor repaired does not negate the fact that our existing ice machine is proving to be too limited in size for our downstairs bar requirements.

We continue with our recruitment efforts for additional bar stewards and are willing to train persons with their Smart Serve or work with and train persons working on their Smart Serve. Thank you all for your continued support.



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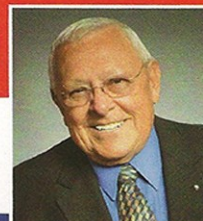
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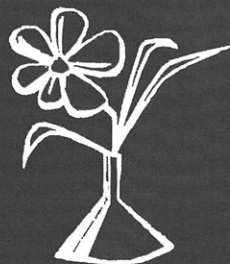
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WAYS & MEANS/ENTERTAINMENT REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Carol Baird, Ways & Means Chairperson

I am excited to be a part of the branch and able to help out. We have a lot of new and exciting things planned for the future. This month on the 24th we have a band called Been There Done That at the branch. I am a part of this band and we are playing 2 to 6 p.m. in the club room. It would be nice if everyone came out and said hello. We do a mix of music and like to have fun. Coming on May 26, Elvis will be in the building. Terry Chisholm is a two-time Canadian Elvis Champion. I have seen him in concert as well as at a dinner dance. He is excellent. He will be doing one set of Elvis in full costume, then he also does Roy Orbison, Vince Gill, Jay and the Americans and many more. The tickets are \$10 and they include a "hound dog" and chips and a chance to win tickets to an event at the Elvis Festival in Collingwood in July. I hope everyone will come out and support the branch. Please don't forget about our Valentine's basket on the bar. The tickets are only \$1.00 each. It has a lot of nice items in it. The draw is February 10. Also, I will be running the monthly Jammin' at the Legion on February 17 as George and Pat Sinclair are away. On the jam besides the regulars, there will be an almost all female band called "Team Pink". It is a band I have been asked to put together for a mother's day venue in Scugog. Five girls and one poor guy. I am sure you will enjoy it. It's going to be a lot of fun and I hope you can all make it out.



Elvis (Terry Chisholm) will be in the building on May 26. Tickets are on sale at the bar.

POPPY REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Betty-Jean Murray, Poppy Chairperson

I am pleased to report that John Moreau has volunteered to construct some new crosses for us in preparation for Decoration Day in June, and I'm really happy to advise that John will be bringing them into the Branch to allow other volunteers the fun of painting them. This means we will be having a 'painting party' with coffee and muffins one

morning in February. Watch for a sign-up sheet and you will need to bring your coveralls and paint brush with you that day. Should be fun.

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Norm Marion, Public Relations Officer

The January issue of The Maple Leaf, produced entirely in-house, went out without any major glitch. I haven't received any negative comment, and it looks like nobody noticed any change in the format. That's what we were aiming for. Again, please help me by submitting your committee reports or articles by the 21st of each month, even if you know that there might be minor adjustment(s) to be done before going to print.



In addition to posting articles and photos on our own Facebook page, I started "sharing" some of them, mostly the community related ones, on the Coldwater Facebook page. The latest one about the Poster & Literary Contest attracted quite a bit of interest from the Coldwater community.

Finally, thank you to Comrade Rosalie Pratt who has been contributing interesting articles covering the careers of some of our members, particularly our Veterans. You can read one of her articles again this month, this one on Comrade Carl Swanson's time with the OPP. Thank you Rosalie.

COLLECTION MANAGER REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Norm Marion, Collection Manager

We finally received a second quote for upgrading the lighting fixtures in the Collection cabinets. The lowest bid was at \$1,200.00 plus HST. At the last Executive Meeting I put forward a motion that we go ahead with the proposed upgrade and replace the 10 fluorescent tube lighting fixtures in the Collection cabinets to LED strip lighting. Motion was passed. We are looking into possible rebate from a provincial energy saving program that may bring the cost down further.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"As the nights get colder, the hugs get warmer."
Quoted from Anthony T. Hincks,



IN MEMORIAM
COMRADE DON STANLEY

Comrade Donald Frederick Stanley, born July 16, 1932, passed away on Monday, January 8, 2018. Lovingly missed by his life partner Muriel and step daughter Lenore and her husband John. Born in Toronto, Don traveled throughout Canada with the military and finally settled in the Georgian Bay area of Ontario. Don will be remembered by many Legion members in the area having served 52 years with the Royal Canadian Legion, including having held the office of President with the Waubauskene Branch some years ago.

THE LEGION'S DEFINITION OF A VETERAN

"A Veteran is any person who is serving or who has honorably served in the Canadian Armed Forces, the Commonwealth or its wartime allies, or as a Regular Member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, or as a Peace Officer in a Special Duty Area or on a Special Duty Operation, or who has served in the Merchant Navy or Ferry Command during wartime."

SICK & VISITING REPORT

Submitted on behalf of Comrade Betty Anne Burnie, Sick and Visiting Chairperson

We welcome Betty Anne Burnie as the new Sick and Visiting chairperson, replacing Ellie Schull who has been doing the job for the past several years. Thank you very much for your efforts Ellie! We also wish you and Pat Fitzpatrick a speedy recovery from your current health problems.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Dave Robitaille, Sergeant-at-Arms
I have nothing special to report this month other than a big thank-you for my helpers for the elections. If you have any question about parades, drill or ceremonial, you can contact me through the branch office or at my email daverobitaille@rogers.com



Comrade Dave Robitaille (center) was installed as Sergeant-at-Arms at the January General Meeting.

Join us for
WEEKLY ACTIVITIES
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Tuesday

1:30 to 4 p.m. Euchre league
6 to 7 p.m. T.O.P.S. (upstairs)
7 to 9 p.m. Cribbage league
7 to 9 p.m. Fun pool

Wednesday

7:30 to 10 p.m. Darts league

Thursday

1 to 2 p.m. Shuffleboard
7:30 to 10 p.m. Darts league

Friday

6 to 9 p.m. Steak Darts

INTRODUCING OUR COMRADE CARL SWANSON

Submitted by Comrade Rosalie J. Pratt

At the age of fifteen Comrade Carl knew he wanted to serve our country but a health issue prevented any military engagement. He pursued a career as a Certified Auto Mechanic with a passion for hot rods and drag racing. He was at the right place, at the right time when an investigating Ontario Provincial Police officer came into the Garage looking for 'help with a case' and suggested Carl's knowledge of car mechanics would be an asset in his pursuit to be of service to his country.

Fast forward past auto salvage jobs, garage ownership and offering his expertise in auto parts identification cases, Comrade Carl realized that his dream of serving his country was an application away. He proudly remembers his acceptance to serve with the Ontario Provincial Police.

After completing mandatory training which included report writing, health, firearms, law enforcement, the study of the Criminal Code plus other specialized training, Comrade Carl was posted to Oakville and then to Burlington and Waterdown followed by two years with highway patrol duties. His background as a licensed auto mechanic led to his appointment with Headquarters in the Special Investigative Branch, Auto Theft.

In twenty-eight years (15 years in auto theft), Detective Constable Carl served at the General Headquarters in Toronto. Shortly after transferring to the new Orillia General Headquarters, Comrade Carl and his wife chose to take advantage of the '80 points' early retirement package. Recipient of the Good Conduct Medal, he continued to provide his auto mechanic services to the Toronto Auto



A younger Constable Carl Swanson in his OPP days.

Auction plus his security expertise in the delivery of Bank Bags.

One of his most memorable experiences was his security detail assignment during the Pope's visit to Midland; everything was calm and controlled. In the course of his career, Comrade Carl witnessed seven fatalities and investigated one fatal case.

At breakfast time, every Thursday morning Comrade Carl shares his time and thoughts with past colleagues who reminisce that *"Times are changing, and we're changing with them."* He shared *"to attract the younger person, our organization needs to change; perhaps reduce the number of Branches in an area. The Veterans' Dinner and the Poppy Drive is what the Legion is all about. Our involvement with the schools is secondary."* Comrade Carl closed the interview with his statement, *"I am surprised at the depth of the interview - it is more than what was expected"*.

We thank you for your service.

JAMMIN' AT THE LEGION

We thank all those who participated in our *Jammin' at the Legion* session on Saturday January 20. We had the chance of listening to George Sinclair on keyboards, guitar and vocals; Carol Baird, lead guitar and vocals; Barbara Curran, guitar, mandolin and vocals; Brian Robitaille, accordion and vocals; and Pauline Robitaille, vocals. Thank you all for joining us. Our *Jammin' at the Legion* sessions normally run every third Saturday of the month, from 2 to 4 p. m.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF THE MEAT DRAW ON JANUARY 13

1. Kelly Cardie
2. Bud Giffin
3. Betty Stoneman
4. Ted Baker
5. Tammie Holbrook
6. Nadine Kingsborough
7. Louise Dearman
8. Kari Malmstrom
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LADIES AUXILIARY

Submitted by Comrade Donna Packer, President of the Ladies Auxiliary

Greetings Comrades:

We made it through January with its bitter cold and snow so let's hope that February will be somewhat better!

We have received many thank you cards from our Veterans for the Christmas gifts of red scarves and pins. They were so appreciated and it is wonderful to hear from them. The Patrick Brown Levee on January 21st went very well and was well attended. Thank you to those who helped out.



Upcoming Catering

Saturday February 3 – We are hosting Ladies Zone Team Darts.

Tuesday February 13 – Pancake & Sausage Dinner. Served by the Ladies Auxiliary in the Legion clubroom from 4:30 – 7:30.

Saturday February 17 – Simcoe Firefighter Retirement Dinner

Wednesday March 14 – Lions Club Dinner

Help will be needed for all of these events. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the L/A bulletin board. Please sign up if you are available!

Important Notice

In order to pass a motion at our meetings, we require a quorum. This means we must have in attendance a majority of our Executives, i.e. eight must be in attendance as well as 5% of our remaining members. Therefore, it is important that we have a quorum so that we can make and pass motions. As an Executive member, please try to attend our meetings so that we can conduct business.

Our thoughts go out to those members who are not well. We think of you often and hope that better days are ahead. Our next meeting is on Thursday February 15 at 6:30 pm. Hope to see many members attend. Remember, this is your Auxiliary and your suggestions, comments and votes are important.

Yours in comradeship,
Donna Packer, President

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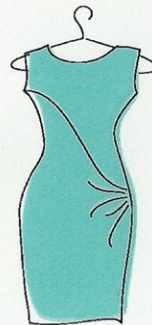
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SPORTS AT BRANCH 270

TUESDAY AFTERNOON EUCHRE

January 9

Ladies' High Hand – Jean Carson
 Ladies' Lone Hands – Pat King
 Ladies' Low Hand – Vicki Watson
 Men's High Hand – Bill Stock
 Men's Lone Hands – Lloyd Sibley
 Men's Low Hand – Brian Strong
 Sunshine – Georgie Waterson

January 16

Ladies' High Hand – Pat King
 Ladies' Lone Hands – Bev Richards
 Ladies' Low Hand – Betty Anne Burnie
 Men's High Hand – Ted Baker
 Men's Lone Hands – Lloyd Sibley
 Men's Low Hand – Angela Stewart
 Sunshine – Bill Stock

January 23

Ladies' High Hand – Jean Carson
 Ladies' Lone Hands – Pat King
 Ladies' Low Hand – Georgie Waterson
 Men's High Hand – Doug Sim
 Men's Lone Hands – Brian Strong
 Men's Low Hand – Marley Marchant
 Sunshine – Georgie Waterson

January 30

Ladies' High Hand – Elva Laughlin
 Ladies' Lone Hands – Jean Carson
 Ladies' Low Hand – Nancy Barron
 Men's High Hand – Bill Stock
 Men's Lone Hands – Ted Baker
 Men's Low Hand – Doug Bennett
 Sunshine – Ann Stock

TUESDAY NIGHT CRIBBAGE

January 2

1st High - Gary Hamilton
 2nd High - Robert Hogeant
 3rd High - Marcia Leblanc
 Low - Doug Bennett

January 9

1st High – Carl Swanson
 2nd High - Janet Hamilton
 3rd High - Jackie Lennox
 Low – Betty Anne Burnie
 Sunshine – Frank Peck

January 16

1st High – Marcia Leblanc
 2nd High – Bill Kinnear
 3rd High - Janet Hamilton
 Low – Robert Hogeant
 Sunshine – Robert Hogeant

January 23

1st High – Bill Kinnear
 2nd High – Joan McDonald
 3rd High - Marcia Leblanc
 Low – Betty Anne Burnie
 Sunshine – Doug Bennett

January 30

1st High – Joan McDonald
 2nd High – Marie Kinnear
 3rd High – Janet Hamilton
 Low – Carl Swanson
 Sunshine – Carl Swanson

TUESDAY NIGHT POOL

January 9 (wins)

Tom Dearman (3)
 Dorothy Gerrard (3)
 Kari Malmstrom (3)
 Louise Dearman (1)

January 16 (wins)

Louise Dearman (4)
 Dorothy Gerrard (2)
 Kari Malmstrom (2)
 Maggie Murphy (2)

January 23 (wins)

Tom Dearman (5)
 Dorothy Gerrard (2)
 Kari Malmstrom (2)
 Louise Dearman (1)

THURSDAY SHUFFLEBOARD

January 4

First – Maggie & Brian
 Second – Heather & Dean
 Third – Betty Anne & Lloyd
 Sunshine – Brian

January 11

First – Brian
 Second – Betty Anne
 Third – Vicki
 Sunshine – Betty Anne



January 25

First – Maggie & Ellen
 Second – Heather & Lloyd
 Third – Betty Anne & Doug
 Sunshine – Brian

FRIDAY NIGHT STEAK DARTS

January 5

1. Chris
 2. Debbie S.
 3. Adam
 4. Kari
 5. Kari
 6. Rheese
 Sunshine – Dorothy

January 12

1. Lee
 2. Grant
 3. Grant
 4. Angie
 5. Debbie S.
 6. Grant
 Sunshine – Chris

January 19

1. Gaëtanne
 2. Grace
 3. Lee
 4. Robin
 5. Kathy B.
 6. Tom
 Sunshine – Grace

January 26

1. Dean
 2. Lorne
 3. Angie
 4. Lorne
 5. Anne
 6. Frank
 Sunshine – Dianne

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FEBRUARY 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Shuffleboard 1 pm Darts 7:30 pm	2 Steak Darts 6 pm	3 Ladies Auxiliary Zone Team Darts
4 CLOSED	5 CLOSED	6 Euchre 1:30 pm Cribbage 7 pm Fun Pool 7 pm	7 Darts 7:30 pm	8 Shuffleboard 1 pm Darts 7:30 pm	9 Steak Darts 6 pm	10 Meat Draw 3 pm
11 CLOSED	12 CLOSED	13 Euchre 1:30 pm LA Pancake dinner 4:30– 7:30 pm Cribb. & pool 7pm	14 Branch Executive Meeting 7 pm Darts 7:30 pm	15 Shuffleboard 1 pm L.A. General Meeting 6:30 pm Darts 7:30 pm	16 Steak Darts 6 pm	17 Jammin' at Legion 2 pm – 5 pm
18 CLOSED	19 CLOSED	20 Euchre 1:30 pm Cribbage 7 pm Fun Pool 7 pm	21 Darts 7:30 pm	22 Shuffleboard 1 pm Darts 7:30 pm	23 Steak Darts 6 pm	24 Live music with <i>Been There Done That</i> 1 pm – 6 pm
25 CLOSED	26 CLOSED	27 Euchre 1:30 pm Cribbage 7 pm Fun Pool 7 pm	28 Branch General Meeting 6:30 pm Darts 7:30 pm			