



THE MAPLE LEAF

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

(705) 686-3388 • 2 Michael Anne Drive, P.O. Box 89, Coldwater, ON, L0K1E0
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PUBLIC SPEAKING IN COLDWATER

On February 25, 2018, the annual Royal Canadian Legion/Ontario Command Public Speaking Contest was held at Branch 270 Coldwater. Young contestants took turns at delivering their own original speech in front of judges and an audience of family and friends. Congratulations to Quinn Bremner, who won the Grades 1 – 3 category, and Aubrey McNutt, who took first prize in the Grades 4 – 6 category. Both may now progress to the Zone level competition to be held Sunday March 4 at the Angus Legion. The Public Speaking Contest, part of the Legion's Youth and Education program, is meant to give young people an opportunity to speak in public. Participants get to choose their own subject matter for the address. The contest takes place annually at each Legion branch, and winners progress through zone, district and area levels, concluding at the Provincial level in May of each year. The contestants are divided into four classes: Grades 1 – 3; Grades 4 – 6; Grades 7 – 9; and Grades 10 – 12.



Our three volunteer judges for Royal Canadian Legion/Ontario Command Public Speaking Contest, left to right: Brenda Yule; Michael Snively; and Aubrey Hawton.



Branch 270 Youth Education Chair Annie McArthur (left) presents a certificate of achievement to Quinn Bremner. Quinn talked on the topic of "If I were a cat" as she competed in the Grades 1-3 category.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Comrades

The Winter Olympics are over and by now you will know the Blue Jays are back in training camp. This means Spring is on its way. Hooray!! Life is moving along smoothly at your branch. The new doors are on order and should be installed by early May. The parking lot camera has been installed, and we have enjoyed the sound of a couple of new bands recently. Your new executive has been ratified and they all are hard at work for the benefit of the branch and membership. With Debbie's resignation, Annie McArthur jumped in and chaired the students' Public Speaking Competition and did a great job. Thank you to all those who assisted Anne including Ms. Viherjoki, the gifted Coldwater Public School teacher who so kindly promotes our Students' Competitions. It was from speaking at last year's Competition that we became aware of young Hudson, our drummer for the Remembrance Day Parade. He was terrific and did a great job that day keeping the beat. Perhaps there will be more wonderful discoveries from this year's group of speakers.



Hopefully you have noticed the new mailbox between the elevator and the office door. This is for any information you would like to leave for the office instead of pinning it to the cork board by the bar when the office is unoccupied. Thank you John Moreau for such a lovely improvement to that corner. We truly appreciate your talents.

Remember we are hosting an Elvis Night at the Legion in May and need everyone to get behind the ticket sales for the event. Please support this fund raiser for the branch. On the 17th of March, of course, we have our St. Patty's Day event so dust off your Leprechaun Hat and shoes and come out to try to find your pot of gold. See you there and thank you for all your support.

A Forum to Discuss the Re-Alignment of District E was held on February 10, 2018. Currently there is a great imbalance between the four Zones of the District and the plan is to try to restructure the number of branches in each zone to balance the membership count, voting strength and per capita. This would have no actual impact on our Branch. However, the suggested plan was presented at the February Branch General Meeting to get membership feedback on this issue, so we know how to vote on the matter at the District E 2018 Spring Convention in April. Norm will be our Branch representative at this meeting and he needs to know your feelings about this Re-

Alignment. The information is put out there for you to discuss and will be brought to a vote at the next General Meeting in March.

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.

WAYS & MEANS / ENTERTAINMENT REPORT

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

The Valentines basket was very successful. It brought in \$233.00 and was won by Jane Lauder. The cost of the basket was \$25.00, so as a fund raiser it was successful.

The Elvis tickets are starting to sell. In March the branch is really busy. We have something on the go almost every weekend. There's the Meat Draw on the 10th; St. Patrick's Day on the 17th with live entertainment featuring Irish entertainer Bruce Naismith. George Sinclair has agreed to move his jam to the 24th due to St. Pat's Day, and Bill Dickinson is doing the end of the month on the 31st. We will be having Wayne Buttery as a great feature in our Clubroom on August 25. Wayne used to play with Wilson Pickett and is in charge of the Wasaga Beach Blues Festival. We don't normally have entertainment in the summer but Wayne has his own following and it is something different for our members.

GENERAL MEETING

The next General Meeting will be held on Wednesday March 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.

TREASURER REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Annie McArthur, Treasurer

Hi everyone: This is my first report as Treasurer so please bear with the "newbie". We are doing well in keeping our accounts growing. The Poppy Fund account is at \$8,560.88, the Nevada at \$440.11, the Building Fund \$6,997.37, and the General account at \$24,384.74. Thank you to everyone who comes out and supports all our events that generate income for the Branch. Please if you have any questions or concerns ask me or tell me.

SICK & VISITING

Submitted by Comrade Betty-Anne Burnie, Sick and Visiting

I have accepted the position of Sick and Visiting chair. If there are any issues that require my attention please let me know. Home phone (705) 686-3270 or email bburnie6@hotmail.com. I feel strongly that confidentiality is important, so please ask permission from the individual before contacting me. Thanks to Ellie for her help and I am following up with cards and phone calls.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Wayne Tutt, Membership Chairperson

It was with great pleasure that we presented Comrade Raymond Bergie with his 50 year service medal at the February 28 General Meeting. Raymond is an Ordinary member who served with the Royal Canadian Navy. Congratulations Ray!!!! At that meeting we have welcomed the following, as members into our branch: Vanessa Moss, Kevin Moss, Brett Lawson, and Charles Smith are now Associate members. Ralph Fricker is now an Ordinary member. Comrade Paul Pittman has transferred to Kingston, Ontario. As of today, we have 281 members. Carol Chapman is transferring to our branch from Newmarket. Welcome Carol!! Wayne McCorkell has submitted an application to be an Affiliate member.

We have been considering making changes to the way we display the names of members, past and present, on the wall in the Club Room. The board makes it very cumbersome and time consuming to change the names. It is time for a change. We have been looking into a different way to display the names. I like the idea of getting a T.V, and have the names displayed on the screen. Something to think about.

SPORTS

Submitted by Comrade Bob Gourlie, Sports Chairperson

Comrades, we are still looking for ideas for our Shuffleboard table. New boards are being investigated as well as refurbishing the current one. In Zone sports, Coldwater has two teams participation in the Zone Mixed Darts Tournament on March 3. The next tournament will be the Golf in June. Watch for the postings.



BAR MANAGER

Submitted by Comrade Maggie

Murphy, Bar Manager

We have requested a maximum expenditure limit for a new microwave oven to use only when our canteen is closed. We are open for suggestions from members. The afternoon bar steward will now have a designated parking spot to the right of the front door by the parking lot. It's a safe spot for them late at night and they can review the area on the camera before they leave the building. We will designate another spot for handicap parking. 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.

SERVICE OFFICER

Submitted by Comrade Randy Rice, Service Officer

Veterans Affairs Canada has implemented a new programme effective April 1, 2018, called "The Education and Training Benefit". Veterans with six years of service will be eligible for up to \$40,000, and veterans with at least 12 years' service will be eligible for up to \$80,000. This money is intended to cover such costs as tuition, course materials, living expenses etc. Details are available at www.veterans.gc.ca

YOUTH EDUCATION (outgoing)

Submitted by Comrade Debbie Robitaille, outgoing Youth Education Chairperson

It has become time to make a very difficult decision that I resign from all functions within Branch 270. This went into effect February 12, 2018. I have truly enjoyed being part of the team/legion family. The laughter, the tears, the challenges, the downfalls and the getting back up on our feet again moments. These have been amazing experiences, teaching moments and some life changing skills. I would like to take this time to thank Mrs. V. From our Coldwater Public School for all the help towards our Remembrance Day Poems, Poster & Literary Competition and the Public Speaking event. To whomever has the honor of becoming our next Youth Education Chairperson, this is your partner in crime. I will continue my support for the Royal Canadian Legion organization and the Ladies' Auxiliary, as I truly believe in what they stand for. Staying true to who I am, faults and all, I will miss ALL of you. Sincerely and from the heart. Debbie.

YOUTH EDUCATION (incoming)

Submitted by Comrade Annie McArthur, Interim Youth Education Chairperson

The Legion's Public Speaking competition was held on Sunday February 25, 2018. There were two participants. In the Grade 1 to 3 division, Quinn Bremner spoke on "If I could be a Cat", and in Grade 4-6 division, Aubrey McNutt spoke on "What should we explore first, the ocean or space". Congratulations to them both and they will move on to Zone competition. Thank you to our judges, Michael Snively, Aubrey Hawton, and Brenda Yule, our time keepers, Rosalie Pratt and Dean McArthur, and the scrutineer, Norm Marion.

POPPY

Submitted by Comrade Betty-Jean Murray, Poppy Chairperson

I am pleased to report that John Moreau has brought in 30 wooden crosses that he volunteered to construct for us in preparation for Decoration Day in June. The "painting party" for the crosses is on hold for the time being. Watch for a sign-up sheet and you will need to bring your coveralls with you that day. Should be fun.



Comrade Annie McArthur (left) presents a certificate of achievement to Aubrey McNutt. Competing in the Grades 4-6 category, Aubrey chose to talk on the topic of which uncharted area should be explored first: outer space, or the bottom of the oceans.

COLLECTION MANAGER

Submitted by Comrade Norm Marion, Collection Manager

The new LED lights are in place in the collection display cabinets, and painting is done, thanks to Gill Baird who volunteered for the paint job. It will take several days, maybe weeks before we can put the artefacts back in the cabinets. In the meantime, all items are safely stored away in containers. The updated display will include most of the items that were in there before, but some items that cannot be identified or linked to the military or to the local area may not be going back on display. This will open up a bit of space for new items representing the latest generations of Canadian Veterans.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Submitted by Comrade Norm Marion, Public Relations Officer

I want to thank our new Ways & Means chair, Carol, for her initiatives at advertising our events in areas that we didn't use before. She contacted many people in the media, including radio stations, and had our events publicised on the air and on their community bulletins. She has also arranged for TV coverage and interviews in the near future. Wayne Tutt and I will be interviewed on March 22 for a Rogers programme, and we're hoping to get TV coverage around the time of Decoration Day in June. Thanks Carol for your efforts. Locally, we are advertising our activities every month in the Maple Leaf and the Talk Of The Town paper, as well as our website and Facebook page.



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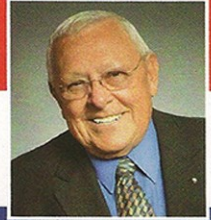
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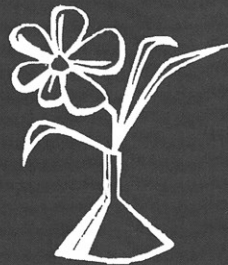
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COLDWATER LEGION SUPPORTS LOCAL KIDS

On February 14, 2018, President of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 270 Coldwater, Comrade Betty-Jean Murray (right), presented a cheque for \$200 to Reverend Bright Yun of the Coldwater United Church. The donation was made in support of the Breakfast Program at the Coldwater Public School. Funded entirely through support from the community, the program provides a healthy breakfast on school days for approximately 80 kids. While the Legion's primary aims remain supporting Veterans and promoting Remembrance, support to the community, particularly to youth programs, is also a priority.

BRANCH 270 IS HERE FOR YOU!

We have lovely facilities maintained by our Volunteers. We aim to please and provide the best possible service. We have a Club Room, Sports Room and a beautiful and newly renovated Banquet Room which is available to everyone at more than competitive rates, based on specific requirements.

Our Branch has accessible restrooms, an elevator, several handicapped parking spots and a kitchen offering full amenities plus the catering services of our Ladies Auxiliary. Good wholesome food at reasonable cost. Our *Legion Canteen* is operated by one of our members and offers daily specials – why cook at home every day?

Make the time to view our Trophy Case (back of the Club Room), and please, give more than a cursory glance at our many awards displayed throughout the Branch. Our prize possession, our Military Display Case houses memorabilia from our forefathers, and our cases have just been upgraded to better 21st century lighting!

Our Sales Display Case (immediately on your right when you come in) is open to the public and offers choice

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."

Quoted from Mahatma Gandhi, submitted by Comrade Ted Baker.

personal or gift items – your next shopping spree should include the **270 Boutique!** We offer a catalogue for your further purchase choices.

Yes Comrades whether you join us seldom or often it is important that you make and take the time to **see** what we have to offer at Branch 270.

Join us for **WEEKLY ACTIVITIES** at the **COLDWATER LEGION!**

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 VETERAN: EDWARD 'TED' BAKER

Submitted by Comrade Rosalie J. Pratt

In 1991, a neighbour asked Comrade Ted if he would like to participate in a Coldwater Legion Parade and he said, "Yes, but I have no uniform." The problem was quickly solved and soon thereafter, Ted joined as a Branch 270 Ordinary Member. In the ensuing years, Comrade Ted served and fulfilled the duties of many positions: 1st and 2nd Vice-President; Sick and Visiting Officer, Seniors Officer, Sergeant-at-Arms, plus he assisted with the care of the display case, the Membership board and several Poppy campaigns. **In November 2016, Comrade Ted was recognized as a Life Member.**

Comrade Ted recalls watching a military parade in the mid 1950's and "I got hooked". Along with a group of four-five friends he enlisted in the Army. Comrade Ted shared that he had no idea what to expect at the time of his enlistment but he was excited to start a new adventure. Comrade Ted shared that he was in awe and "Amazed by the spectre of it all. I liked the way it was run; we were trained as a unit to work together as one."

Looking back, Comrade Ted recalls with pride his Army days. As a member of the Queen's Own Rifles, Comrade Ted was posted to Base Borden, the Toronto Armouries, Petawawa and Niagara-on-the-Lake. It is here he was trained on the Bren gun. He proudly recalls he was #2 in his division on the rifle range and with the .303 Henry Rifle. While in service Comrade Ted sustained an injury which precluded his continued training as a sniper. With sadness, Comrade Ted retired from the military in 1956, and thereafter, married and pursued civilian life.

Comrade Ted recalls many pleasant moments while in service albeit not enamoured with battlefield training. He recalls his Sergeant Major making them aware that on the battlefield you have nothing which made the drinking of the offered warm milk more palatable. To this day, warm milk is not his favourite refreshment. Although trained as a Bren gunner, Comrade Ted was not witness to conflict or combat.



Comrade Ted Baker was recognized as a Life Member of the Legion.

Comrade (Private) Ted was asked if his military experiences have influenced his thinking about peace or the military in general. Comrade Ted replied, "I believe in democracy."

Bringing this interview home to Branch 270, Comrade Ted shared that many hands make for less work for the Executive and that the one remarkable attribute of our Branch is our friendliness.

We thank you for your service.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF THE MEAT DRAW ON FEBRUARY 10

1. Judith Pacey
2. Tess Appleton
3. Rheese Henwood
4. Donna Packer
5. Jane Lauder
6. Marcia Leblanc
7. Eddie Bourque
8. Maggie Murphy
9. Gaëtanne Robinson
10. Jack Lauder
11. Annie McArthur

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LADIES AUXILIARY

Submitted by Comrade Donna Packer, President of the Ladies Auxiliary

Greetings Comrades:

February is over and let's hope that March brings us warmer weather and the promise of Spring! The snow is melting and hopefully we will not get too much more of it.



Our Pancake & Sausage Supper was a huge success! My thanks to the following members who worked hard to make this happen: Jane, Bernice, Cathy, Tess, and Dianne. Great job Ladies!!! Also thank you to the Branch members and community for coming out and supporting us.

Upcoming Catering

Wednesday March 14th – Lions Club Dinner for about 80
Thursday March 15th – Open House (sandwiches) for Bruce Stanton

Help will be needed for both these functions. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the L/A bulletin board. Please sign up!

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Due to a scheduling conflict, our March 15th meeting will be **re-scheduled to Thursday March 22**. Your phone committee will be in touch to remind all members.

Attendance at our February meeting was very low. I urge all members to try to attend meetings so that we have a quorum to conduct business and get motions passed. Criteria for joining the Ladies Auxiliary includes attending meetings and participating in events.

Our thoughts and prayers are always with those who are ill or have loved ones who are not well.

Yours in comradeship,
Donna Packer, President

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Flipping pancakes for a good cause, left to right: Jane Lauder, Jill Dunlop, and Donna Packer (Photo courtesy of Jill Dunlop)



Bruce Naismith



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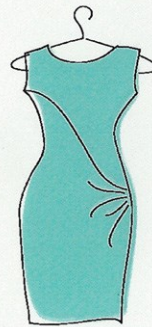
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SPORTS AT BRANCH 270

TUESDAY AFTERNOON EUCHRE

February 6

Ladies' High Hand – Ann Stock
 Ladies' Lone Hands – Jean Carson
 Ladies' Low Hand – Nancy Barron
 Men's High Hand – Marley Marchant
 Men's Lone Hands – Bill Stock
 Men's Low Hand – Lloyd Sibley
 Prize – Denise Williams

February 13

High Hand – Pat King
 Lone Hands – Lloyd Sibley
 Low Hand – Nancy Barron
 Prize – Ted Baker

February 20

High Hand – Nancy Barron
 Lone Hands – Angela Stewart
 Low Hand – Ted Baker
 Prize – Marley Marchant

February 27

High Hand – Ann Stock
 Lone Hands – Joe Barron
 Low Hand – Marg Marchant
 Prize – Ann Stock

TUESDAY NIGHT CRIBBAGE

February 6

1st High – Ross Pipher
 2nd High – Frank Peck
 3rd High – Marcia Leblanc
 Low – Gary Hamilton
 Sunshine – Louise Dearman

February 13

1st High – Bill Kinnear (Perfect game)
 2nd High – Marie Kinnear
 3rd High – Doug Bennett
 Low – Gary Hamilton
 Sunshine – Kari Malmstrom

February 20

1st High – Gary Hamilton
 2nd High – Ross Pipher
 3rd High – Marie Kinnear
 Low – Franck Peck
 Sunshine – Tom Dearman

February 27

1st High – Janet Hamilton
 2nd High – Carl Swanson
 3rd High – Robert Hogeant
 Low – Gary Hamilton
 Sunshine – Carl Swanson

TUESDAY NIGHT POOL

February 6 (wins)

Dorothy Gerrard (4)
 Kari Malmstrom (3)
 Louise Dearman (2)
 Maggie Murphy (1)

February 13 (wins)

Tom Dearman (3)
 Dorothy Gerrard (3)
 Louise Dearman (2)
 Kari Malmstrom (2)

February 20 (wins)

Kari Malmstrom (4)
 Louise Dearman (2)
 Maggie Murphy (2)
 Tom Dearman (1)
 Dorothy Gerrard (1)

February 27 (wins)

Louise Dearman (5)
 Kari Malmstrom (3)
 Tom Dearman (2)

THURSDAY SHUFFLEBOARD

February 1

First – Lloyd
 Second – Brian
 Third – Maggie
 Sunshine – Lloyd

February 8

First – Rose & Lloyd
 Sunshine – Brian

February 15

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



FRIDAY NIGHT STEAK DARTS

February 2

1. Gene
 2. Lee
 3. Lee
 4. Colin
 5. Rheese
 6. Lee
 Sunshine – Angie

February 9

1. Kim
 2. Lorne
 3. Gill
 4. Rheese
 5. Lorne
 6. Mary
 Sunshine – Dean

February 16

1. Dorothy
 2. Debbie S.
 3. Dianne
 4. Dianne
 5. Anne
 6. Lee
 Sunshine – Lorne

February 23

1. Patricia
 2. Lee
 3. Cathy
 4. Kathy
 5. Lynn
 6. Debbie
 Sunshine – Lee

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MARCH 2018Royal Canadian Legion Branch 270 Coldwater • www.coldwaterlegion.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Shuffleboard 1 pm Darts 7:30 pm	2 Steak Darts 6 pm	3
4 CLOSED	5 CLOSED	6 Euchre 1:30 pm TOPS 6 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 Branch Executive Meeting 6:30 pm	13 Euchre 1:30 pm TOPS 6 pm Cribbage 7 pm Fun Pool 7 pm	14 Darts 7:30 pm	15 Shuffleboard 1 pm Darts 7:30 pm	16 Steak Darts 6 pm	17 <i>St. Patrick's</i> Parade 1 pm Live music with <i>Bruce Naismith</i> 2 pm – 6 pm
18 CLOSED	19 CLOSED	20 Euchre 1:30 pm TOPS 6 pm Cribbage 7 pm Fun Pool 7 pm	21 Darts 7:30 pm	22 Shuffleboard 1 pm L.A. General Meeting 6:30 pm Darts 7:30 pm	23 Steak Darts 6 pm	24 Jammin' at Legion 2 pm – 5 pm
25 CLOSED	26 CLOSED	27 Euchre 1:30 pm TOPS 6 pm Cribbage 7 pm Fun Pool 7 pm	28 Branch General Meeting 6:30 pm Darts 7:30 pm	29	30 CLOSED (Good Friday)	31 Live music with <i>Bill Dickinson</i> 2 pm – 6 pm