



THE MAPLE LEAF

AUGUST 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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Branch 1st Vice-President and Building Officer Comrade Wayne Tutt was seen recently up on a ladder, installing our new Navy, Army and Air Force flags (yes, in that order of seniority!) over the door to the Club Room. The previous flags had seen a few good seasons, but were damaged during a wind storm earlier this summer and had to be replaced.

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CANADA WELCOMES NEW GOVERNOR GENERAL

The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, announced that on his recommendation, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has approved the appointment of Mary Simon as the next Governor General of Canada. As Governor General, Ms. Simon will be the representative of Her Majesty The Queen in Canada. She will be Canada's 30th Governor General since Confederation, and the 13th Governor General appointed by Her Majesty during her 69 years on the throne.

Throughout her distinguished career, Ms. Simon has been a tireless advocate for Inuit rights and culture, and the rights of all Indigenous peoples. Over four decades, she has held various senior leadership positions, including President of Makivik Corporation, where she helped to protect and promote Inuit rights through the implementation of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. She also served two terms as President of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, now known as the Inuit Circumpolar Council, and as President of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami.

As the first Canadian Ambassador for Circumpolar Affairs, Ms. Simon played a leading role in strengthening the ties between the people of the Arctic regions nationally and internationally, including through the creation of the Arctic Council. She is also the founder of the Arctic Children and Youth Foundation, and has served as the Ambassador of Canada to Denmark.

The selection was informed through the advice of the Advisory Group on the Selection of the Next Governor General. The group was mandated to deliberate and submit a shortlist of outstanding Canadians for the Prime Minister's consideration to fill the office.



Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy month of August everyone!

This month we do have some reasons to be happy, or at least hopeful, anyway. The province has started to reopen, and so have we at the branch. It's still not back to business as usual, but we can now have a limited

number of patrons inside the Club Room, and we are taking reservations for the Banquet Hall upstairs. It's a start. We just have to keep our fingers crossed that we don't experience a wild fourth wave that would set us back again. Actually, getting your shots and wearing a mask would be more effective than crossing your fingers. Let's work on this.

As you may know by now, the Branch 270 Executive held a vote recently about whether the branch should be hosting the District E Fall Convention in October, as was agreed before the pandemic struck. The vote ended with a clear "NO" majority, so we will not host the District Convention, at least not this year. I'm sorry it had to come to this, as many of us were initially looking forward to another successful event at the branch. Unfortunately, the situation has changed along the way, and I think the right decision was made. I appreciate that Betty-Jean and other members had put a lot of time and efforts in preparation for this event, and I thank you for that.

I also have to announce that Comrade Randy Rice has resigned from his positions as Sergeant-at-Arms and Chair of the Honours & Awards Committee. Randy made his decision last week, but I waited several days to announce it to give him a chance to reconsider. He confirmed, and I respect his choice. I want to thank Randy for his work in these two positions, especially for volunteering to take on these extra responsibilities at a time when he already had a full plate with his post as Veterans Service Officer. Randy will continue on with the Executive as VSO.

I want to thank Rick Morse who, effective immediately, has accepted to take over the Sergeant-at-Arms post, on top of his Secretary-Treasurer and Bursary Officer's duties. Rick is a former drill instructor with Canadian Forces recruits, so he is well fit for this job. Thank you Rick.

And as of today, I take over the rest of Randy's term as Chair of the Honours & Awards committee, at least until the next election, which could be in two months or in 10 months. Who knows? 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 when/where required, wash your hands, AND GET YOUR SHOT!

Yours in comradeship,
Norm Marion, President

LADIES AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

The summer is speeding by and we are in the month of August already. It is difficult to write a report, as we have been in isolation for so long and we haven't been able to do anything.

However, the Branch has now opened, so that a limited number of people can sit and enjoy company inside, again.

It was great to go last week to the Branch and meet old comrades and some new ones as well. Again, a great job done by the Branch Executive in continuing to run things efficiently through the Pandemic.

The yearly audit was done by Jan Murdoch and the Ladies Auxiliary thanks her for her expertise in this. Our total bank balance for the year ending May 2021 is \$4,015.91. Our income from June 2020-May 2021 was \$1,274.45 and our expenditures were \$2,379.32. Also thank you to Gaëtanne Robinson, the Ladies Auxiliary Treasurer for keeping our bank account in order.

The Ladies Auxiliary Executive will be meeting in the near future, and hopefully if the COVID numbers continue to decrease we can have general meetings soon. We will let you know if and when this will happen.

We will no longer be collecting Foodland tapes as Foodland has changed the program. Thank you to Jane Lauder for collecting and tallying the tapes over the past years. We also would like to thank everyone who saved and donated their Foodland tapes to the Ladies Auxiliary.

Hope to see everyone soon. Stay healthy.

Yours in Comradeship,
Anne McArthur, Ladies Auxiliary President



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 submitted 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.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

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

Our membership is at 226. Life 3, Ordinary 39, Associate 120, and Affiliate 64.

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 19 pandemic, please check with the Bar Steward. We could 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, Ont., 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.

POPPY REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Betty-Jean Murray, Poppy Chairman
As reported at our branch executive meeting on July 22, 2021, the Poppy Fund book balance stands at \$6,075.32. At that meeting, a motion was carried to make a \$500 Poppy Fund donation to the Midland 724 Air Cadets to assist them.

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 22 July 2021, the General Account Book balance is \$60,809.49, of which \$41,134.32 is grants money reserved for our HVAC replacement.

Of the General Account balance, we still have restricted funds of approximately \$4,500 for Seniors Literary, and \$1,000 ear marked for the Cenotaph's Second World War Coldwater Veterans project.

Using the above numbers, approx. \$14,175.17 remains in the operating account.

The Bottle/can returns for the month of July total deposited is \$856.80 which is included in the above calculations.

Building Bank Account and Book balance - \$12,993.67.

Nevada Account balance - \$237.61

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Norm Marion, Public Relations Officer

LEGION MAGAZINE: Photo of Comrade Randy Rice laying a wreath for Battle of the Atlantic Sunday, and a presentation of a Friendship Award to Larry and Melanie Sauvé should be in the next issue of the Legion Magazine.

SCRAPBOOK: The 2020-2021 Branch 270 Scrapbook has been printed and is available for viewing in the Club Room. Annual Scrapbooks have been produced each year for the past five years, and are available for viewing in the Club Room. A second copy is kept in the branch archives.

Scrapbook 2020-2021

A Year in the life of
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 270 Coldwater
"Year of the Mask"



JOKE OF THE MONTH

Never criticize someone before you walk a mile in their shoes.

That way, when you do criticize them, you'll be a mile away... and you'll have their shoes

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Rick Morse, Sergeant-at-Arms

I want to thank my predecessor, Comrade Randy Rice for his work as Sergeant-at-Arms, on and off over the past years. Thank you Randy. As of today I am taking over the duties of Branch Sergeant-at-Arms and Colour Sergeant. If you have any question related to these duties or if you wish to volunteer to take part in parades and ceremonies, please let me know.

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 and Club Room are now open Tuesday to Saturday, although with restrictions on the number of patrons indoors.

SENIORS LITERARY COMPETITION

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

After waiting patiently for the day to arrive, there will be excitement at Branch 270 on Sunday, August 22 for the Seniors Literary Group. All participating authors have been invited to attend the 'by invitation only' luncheon and awards ceremony and to meet the winners of the 2021 competition. Once again, so many interesting stories; so much imagination; so delightful to read. Thank you authors for putting a sunny side on the face of COVID! With the participation of seniors (members and non-members) from so many Legion Districts it is apparent this program is welcomed.

SERVICE OFFICER REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Randy Rice, Branch Service Officer

Are you a Veteran? Do you suffer from a condition you believe is caused by or aggravated by military service? Or are you having challenges meeting the high cost of living, dealing with expensive medical bills etc. Then it's time for you to seek assistance from someone who knows the workings of Veterans Affairs Canada and how the Legion can help you. To make an appointment please contact the Branch Service Officer, Randy Rice, at (705) 816-0110 or email at ricerandolph@gmail.com, or contact the branch office at (705) 686-3388, email branch270@rogers.com. All correspondence is strictly confidential.

HONOURS & AWARDS

Submitted by Comrade Norm Marion, Honours & Awards Chairman

I would like to thank Comrade Randy Rice for his service with the Honours & Awards Committee, both as a member and as a Chairman of the committee. Thank you Randy. With the uncertainty of when we will be able to hold an election, I will take on the duties of Chairman of the H&A Committee, at least until the end of this term, whenever that is. The 2021 Honours and Awards committee will consist of the following members:

Comrade Norm Marion, Committee Chairman

Comrade Marg Murphy, member

Comrade Cheryl Bar, member.

I'm looking forward to working with Cheryl and Maggie on the branch H&A activities.

Quote of the Month

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."

Winston Churchill

BUILDING OFFICER REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Wayne Tutt, Building Officer

The HVAC installation has started. When that has been completed, we are slated to have the new carpet installed in the stairways and upstairs landing.

There are a few large cracks in the mortar joints on the exterior wall, south of the canteen window. The cracks are not structurally damaging. I will get some chalking and fill the cracks.

Norm and I have completed the update of the branch Fire Safety Plan documents and drawings. I will submit this to the Severn Fire Chief.

Thank you to Phil Jones for leveling the park bench at the end of the Cenotaph area.

As we all know, the water in Coldwater is not the most plumbing friendly. I have been cleaning the floats in all toilets. They seem to be flushing well now.

The Township has given us the setback requirements for us to have a shed. We will order one very soon.

The secondary grill in the Ladies Auxiliary kitchen is now working.

Thank you to Glen Archer, Phil Jones, and Norm Marion for helping me get the new refrigerator up into the Ladies Auxiliary kitchen. These new fridges are either getting heavier, or I'm getting older.

BRANCH HISTORIAN REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Norm Marion, Branch Historian

Some military items (medals, photo, etc.) apparently belonging to a local deceased veteran and Legion member, Edwin John Showers, were found in a house that was recently purchased in the Coldwater area. The new owner has offered to donate the items to the branch.

More submissions were sent for inclusion in the next available Ontario Command Military Service Recognition Book (MSRB). You can read one about Private Nelson "Nick" Taylor on this page. Nick was a long time member of Branch 270 Coldwater. His daughter, Elsie, served as President of the Ladies Auxiliary in 1977.

REMEMBERING NELSON "NICK" TAYLOR

James Edmund Nelson "Nick" Taylor was born in Fesserton near Coldwater, Ontario, on November 27, 1917, the son of Edmund and Susan (James) Taylor. He had four sisters. During the Second World War, Nick enrolled with the Canadian Army on August 31, 1940, (service number D71920) initially joining the Victoria Rifles of Canada, and later transferring to the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps. He served in Canada, England, France and Holland. He was single when he went overseas, but met and married

his wife in England and brought home a newborn son. Back in Canada he was discharged on September 24, 1945. After his return to civilian life he worked for a long time at the Coldwater Lumber yard and raised his family in the Coldwater area. He was a member of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 270 Coldwater for many years. Nick passed away on December 26, 1962.



During the Second World War Nick Taylor served with the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps in England, France and Holland.



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DONATIONS TO THE POPPY FUND HELP SUPPORT VETERANS AND REMEMBRANCE

From the files of Dominion Command

Supporting military families, rehabilitation, trauma education and promoting Remembrance... these are some of the many ways your donations through the Legion's Poppy Campaign are supporting Veterans and their families and honouring those who served.

This past April, The Royal Canadian Legion Dominion Executive Council approved over \$645,000 in Poppy Funds through the Legion's Veteran Support Partnership Program to help four organizations improve the lives of Veterans and their families or promote Remembrance. "Through generous donations to the Poppy Trust Fund, the Legion is able to provide funding to organizations that provide crucial supports and services to Veterans and their families, and educate Canadians on the importance of Remembrance," says Dominion President Thomas D. Irvine. "We are proud to support these incredible initiatives."

Supporting resilience in military families

Military families may experience stressful events including frequent separation and re-engagement with a parent/partner who was exposed to high risk, hostile environments. [Heroes in Mind Advocacy and Research Consortium](#) (HiMARC), through the University of Alberta, Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, is developing early intervention resilience training programs to support and strengthen resilience within military families and within the supporting community. Delivered through Canadian Military Family Resource Centres (MFRC), HiMARC's programs will focus on training the MFRC service providers supporting the families, as well as providing parents with skills to be more resilient and to model resilience to their children.

The Legion is committed to supporting the families of those who serve. A donation of \$599,700 to HiMARC, divided over a three-year period, will support the development and evaluation of this important initiative.

Therapeutic rehabilitation

Recreation and leisure activities can be an important component of physical and mental healing and

wellbeing. [Heroes Mending on the Fly Canada](#) is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of ill and injured Veterans and active military service personnel through fly-fishing. The organization provides training and educational activities to help ignite and rekindle participants' appreciation for the outdoors, and provides a safe space to connect with other Veterans.

The Legion presented a donation of \$25,000 to support this rehabilitation program. Donations such as this means there is no cost to Veterans who attend the program for the first time.

Sharing the journey through trauma

Psychotherapist and trauma specialist Angela Vandommele from [Ways to Wellbeing](#) is filming the *Healing Trauma Documentary* aimed at defeating the stigma around mental injuries and illness and helping people gain a better understanding of what trauma is, the barriers people face when trying to get help and what healing truly looks like. With a focus on uniformed professionals, this project will be filming conversations with Veterans like Mike D. Mike was involved in several helicopter crashes which contributed to his PTSD. He shares his journey and his new focus on supporting other Veterans who have been injured in their services.

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-Allied 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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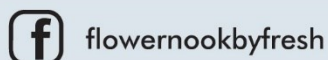
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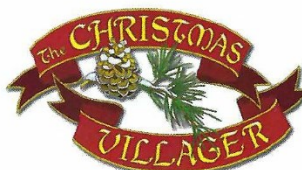
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THIS MONTH WE REMEMBER: EMANCIPATION DAY IN CANADA

On March 24, 2021, the House of Commons voted unanimously to officially designate August 1 Emancipation Day. It marks the actual day in 1834 that the *Slavery Abolition Act* of 1833 came into effect across the British Empire.

Slavery in Canada

The transatlantic slave trade caused the deaths of millions of African people and their descendants. Many lost their lives as resistance fighters, during long treks to slave ships, or from mistreatment and malnourishment during the journey across the Atlantic. It is estimated that over 2 million African people died during that journey. In the end, most of the 12.5 million African captives were transported to Latin America and the Caribbean, while 6% were brought to North America.

Once landed in North America, enslaved Africans and their descendants were forced to work in fields, do manual labour and do domestic work in homes. They were forced to change their names, abandon their faiths, reject their cultures, and stop speaking their native tongues. The enslaved Africans were exposed to the most brutal forms of torture and abuse, all enforced by law.

In his book *Canada's Forgotten Slaves: Two Hundred Years of Bondage*, the Quebec historian Marcel Trudel estimated that there were approximately 4,200 enslaved people in the area of Canada known as Nouvelle France, and later in Upper and Lower Canada, between 1671 and 1831. Initially, approximately two-thirds of these enslaved people were Indigenous and one-third were of African descent.

After British colonial settlers established Upper Canada, the number of enslaved Africans and their descendants increased significantly. It is estimated that 3,000 enslaved men, women and children of African descent were brought into British North America and eventually outnumbered enslaved Indigenous Peoples. Many enslaved Black people resisted slavery by fleeing Upper Canada to a territory known as the Northwest Territory, which included Michigan and Ohio, as well as to Vermont and New York, which had banned slavery in the late 18th century.

The Black Loyalists and the Maroons

Over 3,000 Black people arrived in Nova Scotia between 1783 and 1785, as a result of the American Revolution and Loyalists migration. They had pledged allegiance to the British Crown and decided to flee revolutionary America. They were the largest group of people of African birth and descent to come to Nova Scotia at any one time. Despite the promises of prosperity, many were denied access to land they could cultivate. They also faced racism, shortages of food and clothing, and other harsh conditions like starvation and exploitation. Several hundred free and enslaved Black loyalists also settled in Upper Canada and

enslaved people of African descent were also brought to Lower Canada.

In 1796, nearly 600 people, known as the Maroons, were deported from Jamaica to Nova Scotia, following their rebellion against the colonial government. Many worked on the third fortification at the Citadel in Halifax and on Government House. Others were formed into a local militia company to help protect Nova Scotia from a feared French invasion. After petitioning the colonial authorities to leave the territory, 551 Maroons sailed from Halifax to Freetown, Sierra Leone, in Western Africa, where they remained.

The Underground Railroad

In 1793, the Upper Canada legislature passed an act that granted the gradual abolition of slavery and any enslaved person arriving in the province was automatically declared free. As a result, over 30,000 enslaved African Americans came to Canada via the Underground Railroad until the end of the American Civil War in 1865. They settled mostly in southern Ontario, but some also settled in Quebec and Nova Scotia. Other migrations of Black people from the United States occurred during the War of 1812, when over 2,000 African American refugees came to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Indigenous Peoples Slavery

The enslavement of Indigenous Peoples is a dark chapter in Canada's history. European explorers in the 1400s and 1500s were notorious for kidnapping Indigenous Peoples and taking them back to Europe to be enslaved or exhibited. Between the mid-17th century and 1834, it was recorded that there were 4,185 enslaved people. Of that number, 2,683 were enslaved Indigenous Peoples. It was not until after 1750 that the number of Indigenous Peoples transported into French Canada started to decline.

Indigenous Peoples were not granted basic human rights, and were treated as property, as they were continuously bought and sold for the primary purpose of manual and domestic labor. The majority of those enslaved were young women, with the average age being as young as 14 years old. It is reported that 57% of enslaved Indigenous peoples were girls or young women.

Emancipation in Canada

The *Slavery Abolition Act* of 1833 ended slavery in the British Empire on 1 August, 1834, which laid a pathway to freeing over 800,000 enslaved Africans and their descendants in parts of the Caribbean, Africa, South America as well as Canada.

For most enslaved people in British North America, the Act resulted only in partial liberation. It only freed children under the age of six. Others were to continue serving their former owners for four to six years as apprentices. The Act did however confirm Canada as a free territory for enslaved African Americans. Thousands of African Americans subsequently arrived on Canadian soil between 1834 and the early 1860s.



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>Emancipation Day</i> CLOSED Bistro open for take-out	2 <i>Stat Holiday</i> CLOSED Bistro open for take-out	3 Patio/Bar & Bistro open 11:30am– 7:00pm	4 Patio/Bar & Bistro open 11:30am– 7:00pm	5 Patio/Bar & Bistro open 11:30am– 7:00pm	6 Patio/Bar & Bistro open 11:30am– 7:00pm	7 Patio/Bar & Bistro open 11:30am– 7:00pm
8 CLOSED Bistro open for take-out	9 CLOSED Bistro open for take-out	10 Patio/Bar & Bistro open 11:30am– 7:00pm	11 Patio/Bar & Bistro open 11:30am– 7:00pm	12 Patio/Bar & Bistro open 11:30am– 7:00pm	13 Patio/Bar & Bistro open 11:30am– 7:00pm	14 Patio/Bar & Bistro open 11:30am– 7:00pm
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22 CLOSED Bistro open for take-out	23 CLOSED Bistro open for take-out	24 Patio/Bar & Bistro open 11:30am– 7:00pm	25 Patio/Bar & Bistro open 11:30am– 7:00pm	26 Patio/Bar & Bistro open 11:30am– 7:00pm	27 Patio/Bar & Bistro open 11:30am– 7:00pm	28 Patio/Bar & Bistro open 11:30am– 7:00pm
29 CLOSED Bistro open for take-out	30 CLOSED Bistro open for take-out	31 Patio/Bar & Bistro open 11:30am– 7:00pm	Stay Safe & Get Your Shot!			