



THE MAPLE LEAF

DECEMBER 2020 EDITION

Newsletter of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 270 Coldwater

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

COLDWATER REMEMBERS

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 270 Coldwater held its annual Remembrance Day service on Wednesday, November 11. Despite the restrictions imposed by COVID-19 measures, several people did show up to pay their respects to our Fallen. While most wreaths laid in memory of loved ones had been pre-positioned earlier in the morning by volunteers from the branch, a small number of wreaths were laid during the service by representatives of organisations. These included the federal, provincial, and municipal government, the Canadian Armed Forces, the Royal Canadian Legion, and the Ladies Auxiliary.

As Remembrance Day also signalled the end of this year's Poppy Campaign, we wish to thank the many groups, local businesses and individuals who contributed in so many ways to the Coldwater Legion's Poppy Campaign. And thank you all of you who proudly wore your Poppy during the campaign. This simple gesture of Remembrance is perhaps the best guarantee that in the future, We Will, indeed, Remember Them.

Inside *The Maple Leaf* this month

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Above: Coldwater Branch Chaplain, Reverend Ron McLean offered prayers and benediction at the Remembrance Day service in Coldwater

Below: A Coldwater Branch Colour Party marches on to signal the beginning of the Remembrance Day ceremony. Leading with the national flag is Comrade Randy Rice, followed by Comrade Rick Morse.



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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Greetings everyone. As I'm writing this report, warnings of a heavy snowfall for the area are coming out of the news. So, looks like this is it. We had a good run of mild weather in October-November, including a beautiful, sunny, albeit windy day for our Remembrance Day ceremony. It couldn't go on forever, could it?

The November 8 Veterans Appreciation Dinner, by delivery or pick-up, was a wonderful initiative and was very much appreciated. We received several comments from grateful Veterans on Facebook and by mail or email. Thank you to all involved, mostly our Poppy Chair Betty-Jean Murray and several members of the Ladies Auxiliary who actually cooked and prepared the meals under the directions of Jane Lauder. Thank you all!

Even in its stripped down version, the Remembrance Day ceremony was a success from every aspect. Thank you to all involved: Betty-Anne Burnie; Dave Robitaille; Rick Morse; Randy Rice; Carol Baird; Betty-Jean Murray; Wayne Tutt; Rev. Ron McLean; Paul Bolyea; Wanda Beaudoin; Maggie Murphy; Anne McArthur; and Jane Lauder. From my point of view, the branch looked very professional. Photos of the event are on Facebook and on our website. The "tagless" Poppy Campaign was also successful, even surpassing last year's total donations. Great job again Betty-Jean. Read the Poppy report for details.

And our annual Poster & Literary Contests was also a success, even though it almost didn't go on this year. Our branch stepped-up and took over the zone level coordination so that the contest could go on. Thank you so much to the Youth Education Chairperson Marg Murphy and (again) Betty-Jean for their hard work. Finally, we have good news from the Federal Government with a \$14 million allotted to help Royal Canadian Legion branches to make it through the pandemic. We have submitted our application for this Branch Emergency Support Funds initiative. The application is based on actual expenses that the branch incurred between March 17 and November 17. This does not cover loss of revenue. We are possibly looking at thousands, but not tens of thousands of dollars. We'll see. In closing, on behalf of the Branch Executive, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Yours in comradeship,
Norm Marion, President



Royal Canadian Legion Branch 270

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Wayne Tutt, Membership Chairperson

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY HANUKKAH Comrades.

Our membership is at 285. Life 3, Ordinary 43, Associate 152, and Affiliate 87. As of November 30, 59% of our membership took advantage of the Early Bird renewal. The winner of a cheque for \$55.00 is Ordinary member John Kyle. Congratulations John! Thank you to all who participated in the Early Bird.

Welcome to Ordinary member Alex Fabian who transferred in from Dominion. And welcome to new Associate members Robert Clemo, Loraine DeKoning, Marcia Wilson, and Danielle Falardeau who joined on line. There are 13 paid up (2020) membership cards behind the bar, waiting for their owners to claim them. Check your wallets. If you don't have your card, please pick it up at the bar.

SICK & VISITING REPORT

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

I have been keeping in touch with those I know are ill or not well. If there are any issues that require my attention please let me know. Home phone (705) 686-3270 or email bburnie6@hotmail.com.

THE MAPLE LEAF

The Maple Leaf is the award-winning newsletter of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 270 Coldwater, published each month in the first week of the month. It is primarily an internal communication tool through which the Branch Executive and Committee Chairpersons disseminate information and report to the membership on their respective activities. Opinions expressed in feature articles are those of the writers and do not imply endorsement by the Branch or the Legion.

Committee reports and pre-arranged articles must be received no later than the 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.

TREASURER REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Norm Marion, President

The General Account bank balance on November 17, 2020 stood at \$15,444.85 and after allowing for any outstanding cheques, the actual balance at November 17 would be approximately \$12,167.22, with two restricted use amounts – one for the Seniors Literary Fund of roughly \$4,000 and a grant that was obtained for electrical to the cenotaph of \$3,500 which we hope we will be able to utilize before the time period expires. This allows an operating account of about \$5,000. The Building account is at \$20,401.78, and the Nevada account is at \$237.00.

Thank you to the Jones Family for the improved finish on the upper emergency door. In memory of Michael Jones, they engaged Kassidy van Z to paint a Legion logo on the door. Thank you Kassidy, it looks great; well done!

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Norm Marion, Public Relations Officer

The branch website, Facebook page and BIDDY are kept up-to-date. The technical problem with the BIDDY seems to be fixed. Work still needs to be done on the website to try to repair the damage done by the provider's software update that has gone wrong.

Several photos of the Honours & Awards ceremony and Seniors Literary Contest were sent for publishing in the Legion Magazine. Look for some in the January issue.

Quote of the Month

"Life is a succession of lessons which must be lived to be understood."

Helen Keller

BAR OFFICER REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Maggie Murphy, Bar Officer

I've been in touch regularly with the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit. We have moved from code Yellow to Orange. All the tables in the Club Room have been arranged so that only four people are seated at a table (we were allowed six under code Yellow). We can still have up to 50 people in that room as long as we follow the mask and distancing rules.

Holidays hours of operations are posted on the door. Closed days are indicated on the Maple Leaf calendar on the back page. The Club Room will close at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday December 19 and reopen on Tuesday January 5. This will give the bar stewards a much needed break. Also, the winter hours will be "weather permitting". Please call first if you're coming from a distance.

We are having a Tree of Warmth this year in support of the children of the Coldwater Public School. We are asking for hats and mitts/gloves only. They will be donated to the school after the Holidays break.

ENTERTAINMENT/WAYS & MEANS

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

Not much to report this month. The penny drive is still on. We won't be having entertainment in the clubroom until the New Year. Also, we are back with our Bottle Drive. Once again, feel free to drop off your empties at the branch, preferably during our business hours. We accept beer bottles and cans, cooler bottles and cans, and liquor and wine bottles. Thank you for your support.



In addition to the Bottle Drive, the Branch's Penny/Coin Drive campaign is on. Time to clean-up your penny jars!

JOKE OF THE MONTH

A bear walks in a bar and says, "Give me a whiskey..... and a cola."

"Why the big pause?" asks the bartender. The bear shrugged. "I'm not sure. I was born with 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.

BRANCH HISTORIAN REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Norm Marion, Branch Historian

Thank you to our new Branch member Danielle Falardeau, who stopped by the branch in November and dropped-off a piece of trench art ashtray made from an artillery shell and a 20mm cartridge. It will go on display in our cabinet.

POPPY REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Betty-Jean Murray, Poppy Chairperson

I would like to thank our Ladies Auxiliary for having prepared this year's "pick up or delivered" 'Veterans' Dinner' on November 8, 2020. Our Ladies – led by Jane Lauder, prepared 43 roast beef dinners for our local Veterans and their spouses or care-givers. Also, thank you to the Ladies Auxiliary for providing a hot lunch to the military and those involved in the Remembrance Day Service.

This year's Poppy Campaign generated a total of \$12,532.73, which exceeded last year's campaign by roughly \$200. Thank you everyone for your generosity. This will enable us to continue to assist veterans in our area. I congratulate Marg Murphy and Ms. V. from Coldwater Public School for having continued the Students' Remembrance Poster and Literary Contests during COVID measures. The students look forward to this fall activity and really would have missed this bit of normality. Thank you Mrs. M and Ms. V.

For the Students' Remembrance Poster and Literary Contests, Marg Murphy has handled more than 250 submissions, two sets of judges, and has the Branch and Zone E4 level judging completed and the money on hand for their awards. Thank you Maggie for stepping up and capably handling such a big assignment. Congratulations for leading the way for others. For anyone who would like to view the students' posters, they are hanging in the upstairs banquet hall for viewing until Thursday, December 10.



Several significant donations made up for the lack of in-person tagging this year, including a more than \$900 donation from our Branch Sergeant-at-Arms Dave Robitaille, seen here (right) presenting the donation to Poppy Chairman Betty-Jean Murray. The funds were the proceeds from an on-line astronomy course Dave ran in November. Thank you so much Dave.





Since he could not travel to Coldwater to attend our Remembrance Day Ceremony on November 11, our good friend and long-time Branch member Comrade George Collins sent us a photo of him marking Remembrance Day in his own way. Looking good George!

SERVICE OFFICER REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Randy Rice, Branch Service Officer
Sherry Culling, the Provincial Service Officer, will next visit the branch in the spring. Her visit this November 16th to the branch was much welcomed and her assistance much appreciated.

Currently she conducts interviews at the Angus legion, the 2nd Friday of each month and the last Monday of each month. Contact info for Sherry is as follows:

Toll free: 1-888-207-2206, Tel: 705-472-8650 Email, sculling@on.legion.ca

Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) estimates there are 39,000 war service Veterans still alive from Second World War and Korea. VAC estimates it will serve 13,000 war service Veterans in 2019-20, 10,500 in 2020-21, 8,200 in 2021-22, 6,300 in 2022-23 and 4,700 in 2023-24. The average age in March 2019 was 94, the youngest Second World War Veteran would be 93 this year.

YOUTH EDUCATION OFFICER REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Maggie Murphy, Youth Education Officer

We have received and judged posters and literary submissions from six schools in the area. The program almost didn't go on this year, but our branch stepped-up and took over the Zone level coordination so that the contest could go on. The branches/schools participating were Waubaushene/Honey Harbour, Elmvale/Hillsdale &

Huron, Collingwood/Nottawa, Victoria Harbour/Tay Shores & St. Antoine Daniel, and Coldwater/Coldwater PS. We also were pleased to receive entries from 'home schooled' students. The judging is now complete at both branch and zone levels. Thank you to our volunteers Rosalie Pratt, Margo Strongitharm, and Pat Doughty. Coldwater School posters are on display in our upstairs Banquet Hall until Thursday, December 10. Feel free to go up and look at the work of our future leaders, artists, politicians and soldiers.

Thank you to Betty-Jean Murray for her continued, tireless support with the Youth Education program. And thank you to all our members for their support in these unusual and stressful times.

THIS MONTH WE REMEMBER

THE DEFENCE OF HONG KONG

In the Second World War, Canadian soldiers first engaged in battle while defending the British Crown Colony of Hong Kong against a Japanese attack in December 1941. The Canadians at Hong Kong fought against overwhelming odds and displayed the courage of seasoned veterans, though most had limited military training. They had virtually no chance of victory, but refused to surrender until they were overrun by the enemy on December 25th. The fighting in Hong Kong ended with immense Canadian casualties: 290 killed and 493 wounded. The death toll and hardship did not end with surrender. Those who survived the battle became prisoners of war and many endured torture and starvation by their Japanese captors.

Source: Veterans Affairs Canada



UPDATE FROM THE MINISTER OF SENIORS, DEB SCHULTE

The following is an update from the Minister of Seniors on a very important advocacy issue for the Legion, keeping seniors in their own homes as long as possible – safely and injury free!

Seniors across the country agree that they want to keep living in their own homes for as long as possible — safely and injury free.

The Government of Canada [recently announced](#) the new [Aging in Place Challenge Program](#) led by the National Research Council. It will partner with like-minded private, public, academic and other research organizations in Canada and abroad to develop breakthroughs to help older adults and their caregivers to live safe, healthy and socially connected lives while remaining in their homes and communities of choice.

The aim is to reduce by 20 per cent the number of older adults requiring nursing home care across Canada by 2031.

The program will support safe and healthy aging in four areas:

- Safety: Innovative living environments and injury prevention at home
- Health: Cognitive monitoring and enablement, chronic health management and daily living support
- Connection: Mobility, transportation and social engagement
- Standards: Smart home standards that support safety, and enhance technical interoperability

The program is currently seeking researchers from the academic community, the not-for-profit and private sectors, and Indigenous governments to [express their interest](#) in collaborating. A panel of experts with lived experience will also be created. Seniors, caregivers and advocates who wish to share their real-world insights and experience are invited to [submit](#) their interest.

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 270

YOU DON'T PAY ATTENTION UNTIL...

Submitted by Comrade Rosalie J. Pratt

On December 3 we celebrate *International Day of Persons with Disabilities*. We should remember that not all disabilities are visible – some, such as mental illness, chronic pain or fatigue, sight or hearing impairments, diabetes, brain injuries, etc. are not immediately noticeable.

There are more than one billion people living with disability, of which 450 million live with a mental or neurological condition. In Ontario, 15% of our population has a disability. As we age, this percentage will increase.

Our branch is housed in a dated building. Right now, we still have to focus on much needed repairs for the roof, heating and cooling system. Before we know it, we shall not have the option of choice; it shall be mandated that all persons shall have equal and full access to all our amenities.

Let us continue to be a forward-thinking branch and stand prepared for our next large expenditure. Yes, we are always in 'collection' mode, but it's all for betterment of our life.



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LADIES AUXILIARY

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



December is a month that we get together to celebrate with our families. This year will be very different as many will not be able to travel or visit due to COVID restrictions. Please remember those who will be alone, call or send a card, reminding them that we are

thinking about them.

It has been a very quiet ten months, as we have been unable to host events. However, our working balance for the Ladies Auxiliary is \$3,773.07. We may be doing meat pies in the near future, if we are able to obtain all the supplies. We hope to start our General meetings in January

if the number of COVID cases have decreased and there are no restrictions to gatherings.

Just another reminder that 2021 dues for the Ladies Auxiliary must be paid by December 31st. The fee remains the same at \$20.00.

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

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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

- Harriet Beecher Stowe

Anne McArthur
President
Ladies Auxiliary Branch 270



Ladies Auxiliary Treasurer Gaëtanne Robinson tries her luck at Friday Night Steak Darts, one of a few activities we are allowed to hold at the branch these days.

REMEMBER YOUR FOODLAND RECEIPTS!

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

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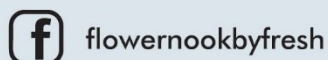
One simple way is to save your Coldwater Foodland receipts and drop them off at the branch whenever you stop by. Ladies Auxiliary member Jane Lauder will take them to Coldwater Foodland for cash.

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INTRODUCING NEW MEMBER BRUCE HANSON

Submitted by Comrade Rosalie J. Pratt

We welcome to our Branch 270 family, new member Bruce Hanson. Bruce's father served overseas in the Air Force during the Second World War. Our Comrade fondly recalls enjoyable evenings line-dancing at Canadian Legion Branch 4 in Winnipeg.

Bruce's youth was peppered with travel opportunities shared by his sister and their grandmother who was their constant travel companion. The family road trips across the USA, then by airline to Hawaii, the Caribbean, Mexico and Florida presented Bruce many unique adventures. Travel in Mexico introduced Bruce to the joy of experiencing 'peso cabs' (shared taxi-service) in Mexico City. He learned that the lack of a common language is not a barrier to playing marbles with other children. Climbing pyramids and visiting Aztec sites lured his interests and developed in him a passion for archeology.

Bruce commented that at this tender age he appreciated how privileged he was to live in Canada. Further, what he learned about people, history, and culture during his travels far outweighed what he missed in classroom time. Comrade Bruce received his Masters of Applied Science in Electrical Engineering and it was at his first job that Bruce was awarded a commemorative pin for his three month's work on the space shuttle's Canadarm. Bruce had a twenty-eight year affiliation with IBM Canada after which he spent four years as a councillor at one of our neighbouring townships.

Now retired, Bruce has opted to make 'more' an important word in his vocabulary. He looks forward to more opportunities to learn, laugh, share and carve time to pursue one of his passions, swing-dancing. When asked, "Looking back, what would you have done differently?" Bruce replied with "Too many things to list." Looking back he would make changes in his life otherwise it would be "Like saying I didn't learn anything."

Bruce is an accomplished creative writer (Page 7, Oct. 2020 issue of Maple Leaf) and is the 2020 First-Prize Winner of the Seniors Literary Competition for his short story submission, *The Collector*. Bruce has graciously accepted to lead the Coldwater Writers Group for the 2020-2021 term.



Branch member, Comrade Bruce Hanson placed 1st in the Short Story category for his submission titled "The Collector", and earned an Honourable Mention in the Poetry category for "Entwined" in this year's Seniors Literary Competition.

Most important to Bruce are his wife, their children and grandchildren and their time spent together at the lake. Bruce believes that *"Life has much to offer and that although we all face difficult times happiness is based not on what we experience, but on how we perceive those experiences, and what we do with it. As many have said, happiness comes from within."*

Bruce is aware that our Branch is supported by the commitment of our volunteers and stands ready and willing to offer his assistance. We thank our *New Member* for sharing and look forward to the opportunity of working together on one of our many one-off projects or events. Bruce offered the following coined phrase as his closing comment for this interview, *"Attitude is the filter through which we see life."*

SPORTS AT BRANCH 270



TUESDAY NIGHT POOL

Nov 3 (wins)

Larry Hutchinson (3)
Glen Archer (2)
Maggie Murphy (2)
Rick Yule (2)
Kari Malmstrom (1)

Nov 10 (wins)

Larry Hutchinson (5)
Rick Yule (2)
Teresa Beniston (1)
Kari Malmstrom (1)
Maggie Murphy (1)

Nov 24 (wins)

Larry Clarke (3)
Glen Archer (2)
Rick Yule (2)
Teresa Beniston (1)
Kari Malmstrom (1)
Maggie Murphy (1)



FRIDAY NIGHT STEAK DARTS

Nov 6

1. Gaëtanne
2. Alain
3. Alain
4. Alain
5. Sheri
6. Henny

Nov 13

1. Marcia
2. Lloyd
3. Lloyd
4. Debbie
5. Kristine
6. Gaëtanne

Nov 20

1. Teresa
2. Clifford
3. Debbie
4. Teresa
5. Sheri
6. Willy

Nov 27

1. Henny
2. Willy
3. Al
4. Sheri
5. Marie
6. Marlene

We're Back!

Friday Night Steak Darts

Tuesday Night Pool

Yes folks. We brought back our Friday Night Steak Darts and our Tuesday Night Fun Pool!

So join us for one (or both) of these activities at the Coldwater Branch for fun in great company. You don't have to be a member to play. Of course, COVID-19 restrictions apply.



The 270 Bistro

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At The Coldwater Legion

Our Clubroom is now open!

**Tuesday to Saturday: 11:30 am to 6:00 pm
(open til 8:00 pm Tuesday & Friday for pool & darts)**



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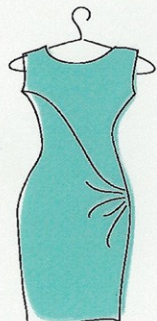
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DECEMBER 2020

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

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---------------------|---|---|--|---|--|
| <i>Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!</i> | | 1 Clubroom open 11:30am – 8:00pm Fun pool 6:30 pm | 2 Clubroom open 11:30am–6:00pm | 3 Clubroom open 11:30am – 6:00pm | 4 Clubroom open 11:30am – 8:00pm Steak Darts! Starts at 6:00pm | 5 Clubroom open 11:30am – 6:00pm |
| 6 CLOSED | 7 CLOSED | 8 Clubroom open 11:30am – 8:00pm Fun pool 6:30 pm | 9 Clubroom open 2:00pm to 6:00pm | 10 Clubroom open 11:30am – 6:00pm | 11 Clubroom open 11:30am – 8:00pm Steak Darts! Starts at 6:00pm | 12 Clubroom open 11:30am – 6:00pm |
| 13 CLOSED | 14 CLOSED | 15 Clubroom open 11:30am – 8:00pm Fun pool 6:30 pm | 16 Clubroom open 11:30am–6:00pm | 17 Clubroom open 11:30am – 6:00pm | 18 Clubroom open 11:30am – 8:00pm Steak Darts! Starts at 6:00pm | 19 Clubroom open 11:30am – 6:00pm |
| 20 CLOSED | 21 CLOSED | 22 CLOSED | 23 CLOSED | 24 CLOSED | 25 CLOSED  Merry Christmas! | 26 CLOSED |
| 27 CLOSED | 28 CLOSED | 29 CLOSED | 30 CLOSED | 31 CLOSED | January 1 CLOSED Happy New Year 2021! | January 2 CLOSED |