



# MARCH 2017 BRANCH LINE



Royal Canadian Legion Branch 340  
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Inside this issue you will find.... what is happening this month... Committee Reports.... general information and a wee bit of humor too. We welcome your articles and will be more than glad to insert them in future issues. Thanks to those who have submitted in the past. Anyone wishing to contribute to the Branch Line, please submit your articles to [Branch340newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:Branch340newsletter@gmail.com)

The Annual Elections will be held at the April General Meeting on April 4, 2017 at 7:30 pm. It is imperative that you as members consider holding a position on the Executive Committee. We need you to continue the good work that our Branch has been fortunate to accomplish.

Friday March 17<sup>th</sup> is St. Patrick's Day. An Irish blessing for you.



All the events happening at the Branch are open to the public so please bring your friends and join in the camaraderie.

If you no longer wish to receive the Branch Line newsletter, please leave a message at [Branch340newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:Branch340newsletter@gmail.com)



The Editor





## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Hello Comrades,

Well, our February is proving to be similar to January. None of us have seen a winter like this around here. There were many record warm days in February. Only 2 years ago our average February temperature was -15 degrees Celsius. This year we have only had one day that got that cold and it didn't stay there for long. Enjoy it while it lasts. We are heading into our slow time as many people are enjoying a well-deserved trip to the south and others are quietly sitting at home waiting for the winter to be over.

Our February events;

1. Our meat draws are back in full swing with people coming out to try their luck. I heard there was quite a bit of meat going over to the Shular's in Southampton. Come on out and see if you can beat Rose's 10 win afternoon.
2. The bingos are still going well with crowds staying in the 50 to 60 range. The bingo crowd sure does miss Eric though. He is still in the hospital recovering and may not be back for a while. The bingo players keep asking about him. We hope he returns to us soon. Good Luck Eric.
3. District Cribbage was held in Kincardine with Port Elgin sending 2 teams. Although they played their best, the competition was fierce and they failed to move on to the Provincial Competition. Nice try gang.

Coming up in March is our Zone C-4 Spring conference in Southampton. Port Elgin is well represented with 4 of our Branch members on Zone council. This year is an election year so we will see who wants to step forward and help support our Zone C-4 programs. Let's wish them good luck with the Conference.

Speaking of elections, Branch 340 elections are coming up soon and will be held at our April General Meeting on April 4th.

Up for consideration are the positions of:

- President
- 1st Vice President
- 2nd Vice President
- 6 Executive Member at large

These people will lead our Branch through the next year. Please consider coming out and supporting our Branch by voting in the election. The election board will be up at the Branch the first week in March so those who are interested in running for any of those positions can make their intentions known. We are always looking for new people to step up and help out.

Wishing you health and happiness.

We will remember them.

Yours in Comradeship,

President Dan Kelly  
[Dankelly@bmts.com](mailto:Dankelly@bmts.com)



**BURSARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**



The Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Command  
Charitable Foundation  
&  
Royal Canadian Legion  
Ladies' Auxiliary Ontario Command



**OPEN TO STUDENTS OF:**

- \*Ex-Service personnel or currently serving members of The Canadian Forces (Regular, Reserve & Merchant Navy) & their children & grandchildren;  
Commonwealth war veterans & their children & grandchildren
- \*Ordinary & Life Members of The Royal Canadian Legion - children & grandchildren
  - \* Associate members of The Royal Canadian Legion & their children only
  - \* LA members & their children & grandchildren

**Apply early to avoid being disappointed!**

**Required Documentation**

- \*OSAP Documentation\* \*School Endorsement\*
- \*Bursary Assistance Application\*
- \*Membership verification from the Branch\*
- \*Proof of Service - discharge certificate/record of service\*  
(proof of relationship required)

Download the application from [on.legion.ca](http://on.legion.ca)



Contact your local Royal Canadian Legion Branch,  
Ladies' Auxiliary, Financial Aid Office,  
Ontario Command or Service Bureau Office for  
an application



Applications **must** be sent to Ontario Command

Program **opens September** and closes the last Friday of March each year.

The Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Command  
89 Industrial Parkway North, Aurora Ont. L4G 4C4  
1-888-207-0939 [info@on.legion.ca](mailto:info@on.legion.ca)

This is a \$500.00 per year program. For more information please refer to the poster included in the newsletter or contact the undersigned at any time. If you need any help with the paperwork please feel free to contact me.

Robert Harrison  
Bursary Chairman  
[bnrshow@eastlink.ca](mailto:bnrshow@eastlink.ca)

Three Irishmen, Paddy, Sean and Seamus, were stumbling home from the pub late one night and found themselves on the road which led past the old graveyard.

'Come have a look over here,' says Paddy, 'It's Michael O'Grady's grave, God bless his soul. He lived to the ripe old age of 87.'

'That's nothing,' says Sean, 'here's one named Patrick O'Toole, it says here that he was 95 when he died.'

Just then, Seamus yells out, 'Good God, here's a fella that got to be 145!' 'What was his name?' asks Paddy. Seamus stumbles around a bit, awkwardly lights a match to see what else is written on the stone marker and exclaims: 'Miles, from Dublin.'

Members are reminded to ensure their current information is up to date such as addresses and phone numbers. If you have recently had a change of address or other changes please leave the particulars with the Bar Steward and the Membership Register can be updated; or contact the undersigned.

It is no longer necessary to have any type of military background to become a member of the Royal Canadian Legion. We are always looking for new members and would like to see more people join our Branch. Please see the Bar Steward for applications.

As members please attend the General Meetings which are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. (July and August are exempt). This is your Branch and the meetings are for your benefit so you will know what is happening in your Branch.

Sharen Maas  
Membership Chairman  
[jmaas@brucetelecom.com](mailto:jmaas@brucetelecom.com)



## Last Post



**Ron Harron**

**THEY SHALL GROW NOT OLD AS WE THAT ARE LEFT GROW OLD,  
AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM NOR THE YEARS CONDEMN,  
AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE MORNING,  
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM,  
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.**



The Port Elgin Legion Branch is donating \$1,000 to the Ontario Student Nutrition Program Grey Bruce which feeds over 12,000 students per school day. The donation will be split equally between the 4 Port Elgin Schools: Northport Elementary, St. Joseph's, Port Elgin Saugeen Central and Saugeen District Secondary School.

L-R Pictured at the presentation are President Dan Kelly, Rhonda Hewlette, PESCS, Kim Capstick, St. Joseph's Catholic School and Cde Terry Mills, Charity Chairman.

An Irish priest is driving down to New York and gets stopped for speeding in Connecticut. The state trooper smells alcohol on the priest's breath and then sees an empty wine bottle on the floor of the car. He says, "Sir, have you been drinking?"

"Just water," says the priest. The trooper says, "Then why do I smell wine?"  
The priest looks at the bottle and says, "Good Lord! He's done it again!"

The Ladies Auxiliary to Branch 340 Port Elgin Legion has been donating to the Breakfast Club of each of the 4 schools in Port Elgin since March 2012 for a total of \$1500 to date.

The Ladies Auxiliary commends the parents and volunteers who prepare and serve the Breakfast Club every day and our donation of \$30.00 per month will assist with the purchase of nutritious food. Some of our members also volunteer their time and help at the schools. A cheque was presented to Rhonda Hewlette of Ecole Port Elgin Saugeen Central School while Kim Capstick of St Joseph's Catholic School accepted the Ladies Auxiliary congratulations on fulfilling the needs of children as they start their day with a healthy breakfast.

L-R Pictured at the presentation are LA President Brenda Collins, Rhonda Hewlette, PESCS, Kim Capstick, St. Joseph's Catholic School and Cde Diane Mills, LA Treasurer



A Canadian walks into a pub in Galway, Ireland and raises his voice to the crowd of drinkers. He shouts, 'I hear you Irish are a bunch of drinkin' fools. I'll give \$500 Canadian dollars to anybody in here who can drink 10 pints of Guinness back to back.'

The room is quiet and no one takes of the Canadian's offer.

Paddy Murphy gets up and leaves the bar. Thirty minutes later, he shows back up and taps the Canadian on the shoulder. 'Is your bet still good?' asks Paddy.

The Canadian answers, 'Yes', and he orders the barman to line up 10 pints of Guinness. Immediately, Paddy downs all 10 pints of beer, drinking them all back to back. The other pub patrons cheer and the Canadian sits down in amazement. The Canadian gives the Irishman the \$500 and asks, 'If ya don't mind me askin', where did you go for that 30 minutes you were gone?'

Paddy Murphy replies, 'Oh..... I had to go to the pub down the street to see if I could do it first.'

If anyone knows of someone who is sick and is in the hospital, please notify our Hospital Visitation person – Terry Mills. Terry will make proper arrangement for the person for a visit and/or card.

Terry Mills  
[millsterry47@gmail.com](mailto:millsterry47@gmail.com)



The Branch #340 Honours & Awards Chairman is pleased to present Branch Service Medals to Comrade's Rhonda and Robert Harrison for their long term and exemplary service to this branch.

Congratulations Rhonda and Bob.

Thanks very much to Cde Eastwood and Cde Chapman for assisting with the awards.

L-R Cde Elizabeth Eby, H & A Chairman, Cde Kathryn Eastwood, Cde Robert Harrison, Cde Rhonda Harrison and Cde Jack Chapman.

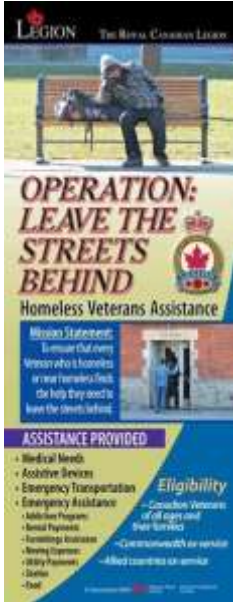


### Funny Examples of Murphy's Law

- Law of Mechanical Repair - After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch and you'll have to go to the rest room.
- Law of Gravity - Any tool, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible corner.
- Law of Probability - The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.
- Law of Random Numbers - If you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal and someone always answers.
- Law of the Alibi - If you tell the boss you were late for work because you had a flat tire, the very next morning you will have a flat tire.
- Guy's Variation Rider - If you change queues or traffic lanes, the one you were in will always move faster than the one you are in now. This also works in supermarkets and shops.
- Law of the Bath - When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone rings.
- Decree of Close Encounters - The probability of meeting someone you know increases dramatically when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with. This is also the case if you are female and you have gone out with no makeup and wearing your worst clothes and with greasy hair.
- Law of Biomechanics - The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach.
- Murphy's Law of Lockers - If there are only two people in a locker room, they will have adjacent lockers.
- Brown's Law of Physical Appearance - If the shoe fits, it's ugly.
- Wilson's Law of Commercial Marketing Strategy - As soon as you find a product that you really like, they will stop making it.
- Doctors' Law - If you don't feel well, make an appointment to go to the doctor, by the time you get there you'll feel better. Don't make an appointment and you'll stay sick.

**HOMELESS VETERAN'S PROGRAM  
"Operation: Leave the Streets Behind"**

MISSION STATEMENT: *To ensure that every Veteran who is homeless or near homeless finds the help they need to leave the streets behind.*



In November 2009 Mr. Joe Sweeney, a Korean War Veteran who has dedicated much of his time to assisting homeless persons in the City of Toronto, wanted to organize a Remembrance Day Ceremony to honour the homeless Veterans. With assistance from The Royal Canadian Legion, Ontario Command it was held at the Scott Mission in Toronto. At the conclusion of the ceremony it quickly became evident that there were a number of homeless Veterans within the city and a team made up of personnel from Veterans Affairs Canada and The Royal Canadian Legion, Ontario Command were determined to see what could be done to assist them. This team travelled to Buffalo, New York in January 2010 to review the United States model to end homelessness in Veterans. From this a plan to launch a pilot project in Toronto was formulated.

On September 24th, 2010 a partnership between The Royal Canadian Legion, Ontario Command and Veterans Affairs Canada was announced at the Good Shepherd Ministry in Toronto. In an agreement with the Good Shepherd Ministry and Veterans Affairs, an Outreach Worker has been embedded at the Shelter. This enables the Outreach Worker to gain the trust of the Veteran and to coordinate the type of assistance required with the available resources. With the assistance of Mr. Joe Sweeney, our Homeless Veterans Committee Project Advisor, they have approached other shelters in the downtown core. When news of the program reached the Ontario Command Legion Branches, they were very eager to assist. A **Homeless Veterans Assistance Fund** was started at the

Provincial Headquarters and the Branches responded with generous donations. With funds raised from the Ladies Auxiliary, "comfort bags" were assembled with personal items such as shampoo, shaving cream, shavers, hats, mitts and socks and distributed to Veterans through the Outreach Worker. With assistance from the Homeless Veterans Assistance Fund, we have been able to permanently house Veterans with assistance for their first / last month's rent, furniture and food vouchers. Rental assistance has also been provided to those facing eviction. Medical assistance has been given to other Veterans such as dental treatments, transportation to stress therapy clinics, eyeglasses and much more.

**The Joe Sweeney Fund** was created to ensure that these Veterans have suitable housing and/or the support services they require to remain permanently housed and with a stable future. Tax receipts can be issued for this fund.

In early 2012 we partnered with Mainstay Housing to provide ten (10) residential units in a house on Parliament Street and it is now full. The tenants are enjoying a "safe" environment along with the camaraderie that comes with community style living. Now that they have stable housing the focus is on their well-being and life skills. We are currently working with two municipalities outside of the GTA regarding other possible housing projects.

Our program template has been implemented across the country by other Legion Commands and also Veterans Affairs Canada. With their assistance the program will soon be known to all communities and their local resources such as the "Out of the Cold" program, Food Banks, Churches, Municipal and Provincial Government Offices, local emergency personnel (Police, Fire, and Ambulance) all asking the same question: "*Have you had military service?*". The result of their efforts is already tangible as we are fielding many calls to our office regarding the program.

This program is an important step forward for our many veterans who have been forgotten for many years. The Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Command had a huge influence on making this happen.

President Dan Kelly  
TOD Chairman  
[Dankelly@bmts.com](mailto:Dankelly@bmts.com)

**The 100th Anniversary of the Victory at Vimy Ridge  
WWI - April 9 - 12, 1914**

**Part I : The Battle**

by Rev. Chuck Beaton: Chaplain

One of the outstanding successes of the First World War was the taking of Vimy Ridge by the Canadian Corps. The British and the French each had tried and failed, losing 100,000 men in the process.

At the beginning of the war 1914/15 the Canadian Expeditionary Force was raised quickly by mobilizing the existing reserve units and by extensive recruiting, asking young men to volunteer to protect the mother country. Britain saw these troops from the colonies as replacements for their existing regiments. However, Sam Hughes, our crusty Minister of Militia, was having none of it. He demanded that the Canadians fight in their own regiments and under Canadian officers. That was a serious bone of contention with the high command, only overcome when Lt. General Julian Byng (later Canada's Governor General) was appointed overall commander. He was a British officer who liked the Canadians and eventually, the troops were known as "Byng's Boys".

Sometime during the closing months of 1916 the Canadians were given a tough assignment - take Vimy Ridge, an 8 mile section in the line not far from Arras, France. By then Arthur Currie, a militia officer from Vancouver, had been promoted Major General and was in charge of assembling the Canadian troops from wherever they were fighting. All Canadians were summoned to prepare for the assault on Vimy. Currie had been at Beaumont-Hamel the year before and witnessed the slaughter of the Newfoundland Regiment when they were sent into battle without thought, care, planning or support. He vowed that he would never commit Canadian troops to such carnage.

The Canadian troops were meticulously prepared. A practice battle field was marked out with all of the obstacles noted. The troops learned to advance under a creeping barrage of artillery fire timed to the second. Every man was told the company's objective and issued with a map of the area. Should officers and NCOs fall, the privates in each platoon were prepared to carry on.

Vimy was the war of the tunnels. At least a dozen subways were dug into the chalk about 20' deep to enable the movement of the men and materials to the front. Many had tram railroads, accommodation for headquarters personnel and medical outposts. Most of the subways had tunnels known as 'saps', which ranged out under 'no man's land', packed with explosives to be detonated on the morning of the attack.

One week before Easter, 1000 guns of the Royal Canadian Artillery began to fire at intervals all day and night to soften up the area and destroy known enemy gun positions. Then on Easter Monday, April 9, the troops went over the top - 30 000 men, moving in the darkness under the creeping barrages. By 6:30 am the first objective, the Black line, had been taken; by 9:00 am the Red line had been overrun and by early afternoon troops were on the Ridge itself, looking over the Douai Plain watching the fleeing enemy. It would take another two days to occupy the two strongholds on Hill 145 and the high ground of the Pimple.

On April 12 the word went out that Vimy Ridge had been taken by the Canadians. Many believed that it could not be done. It was accomplished at a cost of 4000 killed in this mud and blood epic.

Vimy became a turning point in Canada's relations with the rest of the world. In that victory we emerged from the Colonial shadows to become an independent nation. We paid an awful price.

Lest We Forget!

Sources: Vimy - by Pierre Berton (1986)  
Vimy - by Ted Barris (2007)

Lest we Forget

Chaplain Chuck Beaton



Port Elgin Legion Branch 340  
630 Green Street

# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and ELECTIONS**

**Tuesday, April 4, 2017  
at 7:30 pm**

**Mark your calendar and plan to attend to vote for  
your incoming Executive.**

**The Nomination Board will be located in the  
Canteen; please consider becoming a member of  
the Executive.**

**Please be prepared to show your 2017  
Membership Card at the door, or receipt of paid  
membership.**

**All members are encouraged to attend.**

























**Thanking you for your consideration.**

***Mike Atkinson  
Elections Chairman***

The responsibility of the welfare of the Branch rests mostly in the hands of the Senior Officers; the President, the Past President and the 1st & 2nd Vice Presidents. Their job is to make sure that all aspects of the Branch run smoothly, that all Rules and Regulations are adhered to and the Branch remains viable. By showing leadership they guide the Branch through the daily ups and downs and set an example for the other Executive Officers to follow. Their positions are held by members who already have some Executive experience.

Other Executives, however, do not necessarily have to have experience; this can be gained through training and guidance and knowledge of manuals, etc.

An excellent source of information is the Ontario Command Branch Officers Series of leaflets for all the positions and the Mentor Program. Look for them on the Bulletin Boards as we prepare for the upcoming Election. Do you have what it takes?

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			<b>1</b> <b>BINGO</b> 7:30 PM 	<b>2</b> <b>EUCHRE</b> 7:30 PM 	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>EUCHRE</b> 1:30 PM  <hr/> <b>MEAT DRAWS</b> 4:00 PM 
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>DART LEAGUE</b> 8:00 PM 	<b>7</b> <b>LADIES CARD GROUP</b> 1:30 PM <hr/> <b>GENERAL MEETING</b> 7:30 PM	<b>8</b> <b>BINGO</b> 7:30 PM 	<b>9</b> <b>EUCHRE</b> 7:30 PM 	<b>10</b> <b>DANCE CLUB</b> 8:00 PM 	<b>11</b> <b>EUCHRE</b> 1:30 PM 
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <b>DART LEAGUE</b> 8:00 PM 	<b>14</b> <b>LADIES CARD GROUP</b> 1:30 PM <hr/> <b>LA GENERAL MEETING</b> 7:30 PM	<b>15</b> <b>BINGO</b> 7:30 PM 	<b>16</b> <b>EUCHRE</b> 7:30 PM 	<b>17</b> <b>HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY</b> 	<b>18</b> <b>EUCHRE</b> 1:30 PM  <hr/> <b>MEAT DRAWS</b> 4:00 PM 
<b>19</b> <b>ZONE C4 SPRING CONVENTION</b>	<b>20</b> <b>DART LEAGUE</b> 8:00 PM 	<b>21</b> <b>LADIES CARD GROUP</b> 1:30 PM 	<b>22</b> <b>BINGO</b> 7:30 PM 	<b>23</b> <b>EUCHRE</b> 7:30 PM 	<b>24</b> <b>DANCE CLUB</b> 8:00 PM 	<b>25</b> <b>EUCHRE</b> 1:30 PM 
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>DART LEAGUE</b> 8:00 PM 	<b>28</b> <b>LADIES CARD GROUP</b> 1:30 PM <hr/> <b>EXEC. MTG</b> 7:30 PM	<b>29</b> <b>BINGO</b> 7:30 PM 	<b>30</b> <b>EUCHRE</b> 7:30 PM 	<b>31</b>	

🌸 Please join us for our various events 🌸

🌸 Event Times and Dates Subject to Change 🌸