

Branch Line

PO Box 359, 630 Green Street, Port Elgin, ON N0H 2C0 519-389-9917
Branch340@eastlink.ca www.Branch340.ca



Inside this issue you will find what is happening this month with Committee Reports, general information and a wee bit of humour 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.

There is no General Meeting for August however; the Executive will continue to take care of any financials and maintenance issues as may be required. We hope to see you at our next General Meeting on Tuesday, September 3rd and the meeting starts at 7:30 pm in the main hall.

Our BBQ events have started and we have enjoyed continued support and we thank you. If you would like to volunteer for this fun event the monthly schedule is included in this bulletin. Please contact Bob or Rhonda Harrison if you can help on any of the dates listed. Any food donations will be most appreciated. Volunteers play a vital role so please support the events.

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

If you no longer wish to receive the Branch Line newsletter, please leave a message at
Branch340newsletter@gmail.com
Accessible formats are available upon request





Port Elgin Royal Canadian Legion Branch 340
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 Phone: 519-389-9917 Fax: 226-453-3005
 Branch340@eastlink.ca www.Branch340.ca

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH 340 EXECUTIVE 2024-2025

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2nd Vice President	Bernice Ribey	1bernie@bmts.com	519-832-8783
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	Gord Kelly	gordonakelly1973@gmail.com	519-389-6057
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Bursary	Robert Harrison	bnrshow@eastlink.ca	519-389-4806
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Membership	Craig Bell	bellcr@bmts.com	519-386-7771
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Sergeant-at-Arms	Mike Hobson	hobson@eastlink.ca	519-386-6078
Service Officer/Veterans Services	Janice Pepe	branch340@eastlink.ca	519-832-2903
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Track & Field	Bernice Ribey	1bernie@bmts.com	519-832-8783
Ways & Means	Tom Jacques	thjacques@bmts.com	519-832-6837
Youth Education	Rhonda Harrison	bnrshow@eastlink.ca	519-389-4806
Air Cadets Liaison	Alex Taylor	alex.taylor@bmts.com	519-389-2616
Nevada	Andrew Reinhart	andyreinhart@hotmail.com	519-708-0553



Notice to Branch Membership

There is no General Meeting for August. The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 3rd. We look forward to seeing you and thank you for supporting your Branch.

Reminder, that without a quorum at the General Meetings the Executive is unable to ratify any of the Motions that need approval.

Your Executive will continue to meet during August.

Executive Committee



President's Report



Summer is a slow time at the Branch. Most weekdays there is very low number of patrons and we are barely breaking even with bar sales and expenses. If all of our members would drop in just once a month it would make a huge difference and allow us to stay open and profitable.

We welcome Cde Don Lindhorst to our Executive team. Don has been an active member of the Branch supporting the Bingo program, BBQ events and other small maintenance projects.

We are sad to say good-bye to Brian Henderson as he is moving away from our community. Brian was a Past Executive member, Seniors Chair and helped with the BBQ program.

We are proceeding with our main sewer replacement in July. We will be doing some of the work ourselves in order to lower the cost of this very expensive project. To find out more how you can help with this project please contact me or leave your name and number with the Bar Steward.

Volunteers are also needed for the monthly events so again please leave your name and contact info at the Bar.

Have a great summer and please drop in for a visit.

President Robert Harrison
519-389-4806
bnrshow@eastlink.ca





Bursary



Bursary season starts on September 1st and a \$1,250 award will be given to all qualified students. Please see the on-line application to see if you qualify.

For more information go to www.on.Legion.ca/remembrance/youth-programs for the current Bursary form.

If you have any questions or need assistance please call me at 519-389-4806.

Cde Robert Harrison
Bursary Chair
bnrshow@eastlink.ca



Hall Rental



We look forward to you booking our facility for your future social events. Special consideration is given to the fee schedule when renting to non-profit organizations.

Don't be disappointed and book your date for your Christmas party.

Family and group events/meetings welcome.

Please contact me for more information when considering a venue for your event.

Cde Bernice Ribey, Hall Rental Chair
1bernie@bmts.com or call the Branch at 519-389-9917 to leave a message





Honours and Awards



Recognizing valued members for their contributions at our Legion is an important part of the Honours and Awards Chair.

When you nominate volunteer members, based on their efforts of ensuring our Branch functions continue, we build strong and continuous relationships, and we build a stronger Branch.

If you know anyone whom you feel should be shown appreciation, please contact me with this members particulars and the Honours and Awards Committee will evaluate the

nomination.

Cde Tom Jacques
Honours and Awards Chair
thjacques@bmts.com



Membership Report



Please use one of the options below and get your 2024 membership dues taken care of:

1. On-line by going to **Legion.ca** on the computer
2. Come into the Branch when we are open (3 – 8 pm Monday to Saturday)
3. Contact me at bellcr@bmts.com to make other arrangements.

Cde Craig Bell
Membership Chair
bellcr@bmts.com



Last Post



Glen Davies Associate Member

***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.***





Sergeant-at-Arms



Our Branch Colour Party on parade is one of the most visible things that we do. We could use a few new flag bearers. It is not difficult to learn and I would be more than glad to train new volunteers.

You would be needed for Remembrance Day, the Santa Claus parade and General Meetings if possible. We support other Branches for special events when requested. We have even been invited to the Saugeen Shores Winterhawks game for the dropping of the puck on the Friday closest to November 11th.

Please consider joining our Flag Family Team. You can meet some new friends and have some fun doing it. If you are interested please contact me.

Cde Mike Hobson
Sergeant-at-Arms
hobson@bmts.com



<p>SO I WAS AT THE BAR LAST NIGHT AND THE WAITRESS SCREAMED... "ANYONE KNOW CPR?" I SAID "HELL, I KNOW THE ENTIRE ALPHABET." EVERYONE LAUGHED... WELL EVERYONE EXCEPT THIS ONE GUY.</p>	 <p>To be honest, I'm surprised they can drive at all.</p>	<p>Me: Please bring me a screwdriver. Wife: Flat head, Phillips, or Vodka?</p> <p>And that was when I knew she was the one.</p>
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Veterans Services



As always, if any member is aware of any veteran, whether a Legion member or not, who may need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me and I can contact the veteran directly to assess any support that may be required. I can be contacted via the Branch at 519-832-2903.

Cde Janice Pepe
Veterans Services Officer
Branch340@eastlink.ca





Ways and Means



Mark your calendars for the Meat Draw held on August 17th. We have a variety of meat and cheese prizes for you to win. The event starts at 4:00 in the Branch Club Room. We welcome everyone to this event and good luck to all.

Cde Tom Jacques
Ways and Means Chair
thjacques@bmts.com



Join Us For Our Weekly Bingo

Legion Bingo every Wednesday. Doors open at 6:00 pm and games start at 7:00 pm in the upstairs hall. Jackpot prize of \$700.00 on 53 numbers or a Consolation prize of \$200.00 if not won on 53 numbers.

Volunteers are still needed to cover shifts selling the bingo booklets, selling Bonanza tickets or covering the floor shift. Please let Rhonda know if you can help and email at bnrshow@eastlink.ca or call and leave your name and number at 519-389-4806 and we will find a spot for you. This is a major fundraising event for the Branch and we can certainly use your help.



Join Us For Our Branch Barbecues

The dates are as follows: August 9 and 23 and September 13 and 27.

As in the past, salad and dessert donations are most welcome. You can drop off your food item on the day of the event in the upstairs kitchen.

Tickets are sold on the day of the event. Adults are \$15.00 and children 12 and under are \$10.00.

We really need your support to help make these events work.

For more information please contact:

Bob and Rhonda
519-389-4806
bnrshow@eastlink.ca



Notable Dates for August 2024

The following are national commemorative and notable days of relevance to The Royal Canadian Legion that raise awareness of an issue, commemorate a group or event, or celebrate something.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 1 NORAD formed (1957) • August 7-13 Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships • August 9 Canadian Peacekeepers Day • August 12 International Youth Day • August 15 Victory over Japan (1945) • August 19 Dieppe Raid (1942) • August 24-28 The 49th Dominion Convention
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Upcoming Legion Events



BINGO
Come Play With Us!

Port Elgin Legion Br. 340
Wednesdays

Doors open at 6:00 pm
Bingo starts at 7:00 pm
Must be over 18 years of age to play

\$700.00 Jackpot to be Won



Branch 840

Friday BBQ
August 9 & 23
at 6:00 pm

Sausage or Burger, Fries
Salad & Dessert

Adult \$15.00 / Child 12 & Under - \$10.00

Everyone Welcome



Meat Draw
Sat., August 17
4:00 pm

Please join us

Everyone is Welcome



As you get older three things happen. The first is your memory goes, and I can't remember the other two.

Norman Wisdom





Port Elgin Air Cadets – Griffin Squadron Annual Review June 2 2024 Article courtesy of Captain Bruce Schoettler



Honoured Guests / 340 Air Cadet Squadron & Parents

It gives me great pleasure and it is an honour to present the Cadet Medal of Excellence. This award recognizes endeavours in citizenship which meets or enhances the aims & objectives of the Cadet movement. This program is sponsored by The Royal Canadian Legion but the squadron Commanding Officer is the approving authority for the awarding of the medal.

We have with us, a cadet who has met all the requirements of the selection criteria — Cadet Warrant Officer Second Class Maddy Kerr.

Not all cadets or Squadron Warrant Officers will receive activities, involvement in the community, school achievements and other clubs or sports

acknowledgements.

I will now read Warrant Officer 2nd Class, Maddy Kerr's citation:

I would like to recommend Cadet Warrant Officer 2nd Class Maddy Kerr for the Royal Canadian Legion Cadet Medal of Excellence. W02 Kerr has an outstanding record of citizenship at the Squadron and in the local community. She has fulfilled all requirements of the unit local HQ annual and mandatory training Level 5 and has been active in the Squadron's community service activities during her cadet career.

W02 Kerr Joined the Air Cadet program in December 2018. Her accomplishments include Cost Athletic Female in 2022 and Best Senior Cadet in that same year. In 2022, she was awarded a Survival Instructor Qualification, was selected as a Staff Cadet in Blackdown (Borden) and will once again attend Blackdown as a Staff Cadet this coming summer.

Her dress and deportment are excellent and she consistently maintains a positive outlook. She works cooperatively with her peers and superiors, promotes goodwill and morale within the squadron and excels in training, leading and motivating its members.

W02 Kerr has consistently demonstrated the attributes of a model cadet both the local level and at her cadet summer training opportunities.

W02 Kerr has demonstrated a high degree of participation and leadership in the area of citizenship and meeting and enhancing the aims and objectives of the Canadian Air Cadet Organization. I'm pleased to recommend W02 Maddy Kerr for the Royal Canadian Legion Cadet Medal of Excellence.

Captain Bruce Schoettler / Commanding Officer
340 Royal Canadian Air Command Squadron





We Will Remember Them

Ralph George Black



The White School, that still stands next to the main entrance to the Saugeen Golf Club Bruce County Rd. #3, today is a private residence, but for more than 100 years it was the local school for children in the rural area between Southampton and Port Elgin. During the 1920's the students included my mother and her 5 Hill family siblings, as well as Ralph George Black, his 2 sisters Jean and Rae and his older brother Keith. My mother's family lived on the Doll Sideroad and the Black family farmed on Peel Street at Carlisle on the outskirts of Southampton. I suspect that the Black children would have had a

short cut across what today is two golf courses to get to their school.



Ralph was born in 1920 to Melvin and Ellen Black. After completing school, Ralph and his brother Keith stayed at home working with their dad on their 100-acre mixed farm. With war raging in Europe, Ralph made the decision on August 6, 1940, to travel to London and enlist in the Canadian Army. Soon after, he found himself in Petawawa, training as a Sapper with the Royal Canadian Engineers. Although he remained there for more than 3 years, he found time to return home and marry his sweetheart, Juanita Grace Crone from Southampton. While in Petawawa, he also had the opportunity to continue his musical hobby, playing the French Horn as a bandsman in the R. C. E. Regimental band and being a camp trumpeter.

In the spring of 1941 Ralph's father Melvin had a crisis in that he could not manage the farm after the older brother, Keith, had enlisted in the R. C. A. F. Melvin wrote to the Minister of National Defense requesting that Ralph be allowed to come home to help on the farm in the coming summer as there was no help available in the area. The family doctor, Dr. Fraser, also provided an accompanying letter indicating that Melvin had heart related health issues and could not manage the farm without help. Although politely answered, the request went to no avail.

Ralph shipped out for England on December 2nd, 1943 leaving behind his wife Grace and daughter Beverley. A few months later, on February 6th another daughter, Cheryl Wendy Lee, was born. Upon arrival in England Ralph's training continued while waiting for the call for the invasion of Europe.

It was on April 12, 1944 that Ralph received the saddest of news possible. His youngest daughter, Cheryl Wendy Lee, had died in the Owen Sound Hospital. She was two months and six days old. Death was due to Spina Bifida.

The Canadian Army invaded France on June 6, 1944, landing at Juno Beach in Normandy. Ralph and his Royal Canadian Engineers group remained in England awaiting the call for their services at the front. The Normandy battle went on for many weeks after the invasion before they cleared the Germans from the area around the city of Caen. Ralph and his comrades, in the 10th Field Park Company of the R. C. E., joined the fight in France on July 16th. The city of Caen was liberated on July 24th, but the battle continued as the Germans offered fierce resistance.

The quote below is from the book **BREAKOUT FROM JUNO** by Mark Zuelke.

"The Germans mounted a strong counterattack on August 6 and 7 which the Canadians answered and kept the pressure on. The allies were attempting to surround the retreating Germans and stop their escape through the only route to the east out of Normandy. It was known as the Falaise Gap. On August 8, the Senior Canadian Officer, Lieutenant General Harry Crerar was given this order; "Whatever you do in this attack, don't let the enemy get away, keep pushing, push, keep the mobility. Don't stop."



August 8th was one of the worst days that the Canadian Army endured in WWII. The following is from the Canadian Veterans Affairs Normandy 1944 information file:

“the prolonged confusion on the congested and murky battlefield, combined with obstinate enemy resistance, soon robbed it (the operation) of momentum. In his plan, Simonds expected air support would break the logjam. Unfortunately, American Flying Fortresses dropped some of their bombs on Canadian and Polish troops, killing or wounding 300 of them.”

Ralph George Black was killed that day, August 8, 1944 at 13:45, a victim of friendly fire.

By August 21, the Germans had been removed from Normandy and the Canadian Army had been a major contributor to that success but at an enormous cost. Ralph George Black was buried in the Bretteville-sur-Laize Canadian War Cemetery along with 2,791 other Canadians. There are also two other local boys buried there, Laird Beresford and Angus McLeod. In total more than 5,000 Canadians soldiers died in the Battle of Normandy between June 6 and August 21 in 1944.

There are several relatives of Ralph, Laird and Angus still living in our community and throughout Ontario.

May They Rest in Peace

*Researched and Written by: G. William Streeter
With help and support of the Black family descendants.*



Ralph - Writing



Ralph's Band

PORT ELGIN LEGION – BRANCH 340
2024 - MONTHLY EVENTS
(Event Dates subject to change)

Statutory Holidays Meat Draws BBQ/Dinners Bingo

JULY 2024							AUGUST 2024							SEPTEMBER 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					
OCTOBER 2024							NOVEMBER 2024							DECEMBER 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31	1			





Port Elgin Dance Club News August & September 2024

Events are held in the main hall of the Port Elgin Legion.

August 2 & August 9: Regular Dance Programs from 7:30 - 9:30 for \$5 per couple

AUGUST 11 Lighthouse Swing Band at the Kincardine Legion, 219 Lambton St, Kincardine from 2-5 at \$10 per person

August 16 and 23 Carmen will offer Hustle lessons for \$5 per couple from 7-7:30

If there are other dances you would like to see in our Lesson line up for the fall, please contact Carmen to let her know carmen.coburn@icloud.com

Lesson Reminders:

Please arrive before 7 to be signed in and ready to start at 7 SHARP

Any dance taught will be included a couple of times in that evening's dance program.

Please do not wear outside shoes/boots on the dance floor, gravel in runners can scratch the floor.

You may bring beverages and snacks purchased from the Legion Bar (Downstairs) up to the Hall.

DO NOT CARRY Beverages on the dance floor.

Please refrain from standing talking in groups on the dance floor, as you would be restricting the line of dance.

Our regular dance program for \$5 per couple will follow from 7:30-9:30 on both August 16 & 23

NOTE: August 30 there is no dancing as the Legion Hall is rented

WE ARE AWAITING CONFIRMATION OF SEPTEMBER DANCE LESSON DATES

September 6 regular dance program for \$5 per couple from 7:30-9:30

September 13 regular dance program for \$5 per couple from 7:30-9:30

September 20 There will be no dancing as the Legion Hall is rented.

September 27 regular dance program for \$5 per couple from 7:30-9:30

Jackie & Don Rosart

519-368-7377

"The Best Things Happen While You're Dancing"

Link below to the **Big Band Weekend in Port Elgin September 13-15**

We are no longer sponsors since they moved from the Legion to smaller venues, so we will have the choice of dancing on Friday, September 13.

<https://www.canadianbigband.com/events/>

