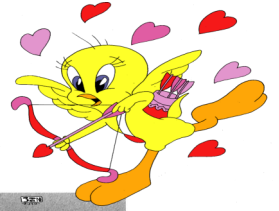


News & Views

February/March 2016



EVERYBODY'S
IRISH
ON
ST.
PATRICK'S
DAY

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President's Report



Back last year I wrote, "We are looking forward to another busy year of special functions as well as our other normal activities at the Branch. I know to some of our members it always seems we are always trying to pick your pockets, but the truth of the matter is that we are. This Branch needs all the support and hard work to keep us going, to see through the tough times when we may encounter major expenses on this aging building." Well the same applied to this year; we have been turning the corner very slowly and cautiously. We have managed to keep some money in the bank and the bills are all paid. We at Branch 11 cannot let our guard down; we must watch every dollar and make sure that it is spent wisely because you never know when we will have a major expense.

Again I would like to thank all of you, the Executive, the staff and all the volunteers, but especially all the members (which includes all of the aforementioned), their families and friends that come out and support our Branch. I can only ask you to keep coming out. If you have any suggestions please do not hesitate in sharing these with the Executive or even better, come out to the General Meetings, get involved and let us know what you would like.

The five year planning committee has been working very hard over the past year to look at every aspect possible in making this Branch viable in East Toronto, to be here for the next generation of Legionnaires, Veterans and providing support for our community. The committee members are: Jeff Paulin, James Smith, Jack Riddell, Ed Kenny and myself. We have had many meetings. The scope of what we can do just seems to keep broadening as we talk to various factions of the Legion as well as consultants and politicians from all levels of government. The hard work of this committee has been engaged in should be applauded, but you as members of this Branch will be the ultimate decision makers of which direction Branch 11 will take in the future.

Thanks again for all the hard work and support from all and let's have another productive year.

Yours in Comradeship

John Dufort
President

Question: How do you sink a navy submarine?
Answer: Knock on the door.

DECEMBER 2015-JANUARY 2016 "IN MEMORUM"

Thankfully we have not have a member pass on in this time frame. Several members are ill but are hanging in and we hope for a long time. Everyone stay healthy.

EARLY BIRD CAMPAIGN WINNERS

The four winners to have their 2017 dues paid for by the Branch are: Joe Buote, Travis Durham, Doris Goobie, J. (Bud) McColgan.

Thanks to everyone who paid their dues before November 30th so that your name was in the draw, good luck next year.

Cathy Cole

Membership Chair

Just a note of welcome from Branch 11 to the new members who have joined, were re-instated or transferred into our Branch since the last newsletter.

Len Campbell, Caron Carter, John Chafe, Angela Francis, Linda Graham, Nathaniel Erskine-Smith, Glenn Head, Majeeda Syed, Michael Turner.

WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS: we hope that you will continue to support the Branch that you chose to join.

IMPORTANT-IMPORTANT

VETERANS DINNER APRIL 2016

We have been advised by District "D" Commander, Karen Moore that the luncheon has been cancelled this year. We are not sure why but if you were planning on going and were waiting for your information about time etc. this info will not be sent/received. Sorry about being the bearer of bad news, but this I what we have been told.

Cathy Cole Home: 416-266-7359 Branch: 416-699-1353

MEMBERSHIP

IMPORTANT - IMPORTANT - IMPORTANT

Any member who has not paid their 2016 dues by January 31st, 2016, is classed as "a member not in good standing" as per the By-laws of Dominion Command. As a Branch adhering to these By-laws as well as having this requirement in our own regulations, any member "not in good standing" will not be allowed to participate in any sports activities. We would like to see all members continue to enjoy the facilities of our "Friendly Branch". ****PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO****

If you did not pay before December 31st, you need to pay \$50.00, \$45.00 for dues and a late penalty of \$5.00.

*****IMPORTANT*****

If there is a reason that you are not planning to renew your Legion membership please call me at home 416-266-7359 (I have an answering machine), phone the Branch 416-699-1353 and leave a message for me or drop a line to my attention as membership chair. We would really like to know why you no longer want to belong to our great Branch as well as the organization known as the Royal Canadian Legion. Perhaps there is something we can do/change in the Branch that will help you change your mind and stay as a member.

Cathy Cole

Membership Chair

ELECTIONS

Just a reminder that our regulations have been changed and the term of office for your Executive is now for 2 years – 2015 to 2017. There will be **NO** elections at the May 2016 General Meeting.

Cathy Cole

Secretary

HONOURS & AWARDS RECOMMENDATIONS

Honours & Awards presentations are made on the first Sunday in October. If you feel that anyone deserves recognition by the Branch for their work, volunteering, helping out or working behind the scenes, there are a number of ways we recognize special workers both members and non-members:

Certificate of Appreciation

Certificate of Merit (Branch and Provincial level)

Branch Service Medal

Legionnaire of the Year Award

Life Membership for ongoing work in the Branch

(restricted to Legion Members)

Please contact Joe Calderone, Chairman of this function either by speaking to him when he is in the Branch, leaving a note behind the bar for him, contacting him by phone at 416-423-3101 or letting someone on the Executive know and they will in turn notify Joe accordingly. As a meeting of the Honours & Awards Committee is usually held late February or early March; he needs to be advised of your recommendations before this meeting so the Committee can consider all the names he has been given. The Committee is made up of the present President, all past Presidents, a couple of the Executives and usually one member of the general membership.

“It is times like this that I wish I had listened to what my mother told me.”

“What did she say?”

“I don’t know, I wasn’t listening.”

Just a reminder that the Bursary forms are behind the bar in the clubroom. This is a great benefit to those who need help in furthering their education. We are here to help those eligible.

Our searching for room to store the articles safely for Legion Week has been found and needs finishing touches to complete. Hopefully we will be able to secure our memorabilia soon. September will move around quickly and if you are able, or know someone who does signs (at a discount for us) I would be interested in talking about it. We need lots of advertising to bring in adults during the day and evening. Our presentation of war material is astonishing and needs to be shared with more people. The school children are wonderful and fill our days thru Helen’s teachers, but we have empty spaces during the evenings and people on hand to talk to and share our displays.

Have a safe winter.

June Smith

Immediate Past President, Bursary Chair and Legion Week Chair

Poppy



As those who have attended the last couple of General Meetings are aware, the 2015 Poppy Campaign is now complete and was a success. I was expecting to hopefully break \$40,000.00 due to the short campaign. At the time of writing this we have surpassed \$45,000.00 and there is more trickling. Again my sincere thanks to all who participated.

The Poppy appreciation lunch was held on January 17th, 2016 and went well with over 40 members in attendance. Everyone there seemed to enjoy themselves including something new served for the meal. Sadly not all invited attended. However, I will make every effort to present those who couldn’t make it with their certificates as soon as possible.

There will be a Zone Poppy meeting coming up in March to discuss the long overdue realignment of the Poppy areas. Both the President and I will be in attendance and hopefully Branch 11 will receive a more equitable portion of the city for our size which could result in even a larger amount of money collected in

years to come. The Provincial Poppy and Veterans Service seminar in Aurora is scheduled for the end of February and I will be attending.

Some of you may have heard rumors circulating about some possible incorrect usage of Poppy Trust Funds elsewhere in the District. I can assure you this is not, and to my knowledge has never been the case with the Poppy Trust Fund at this Branch.

As funds are held in trust to be used as needed for veterans and/or their survivors and immediate families as needed. This is either directly to them for emergencies or indirectly through donations to Tony Stacey Centre, Finchurst, Sunnybrook Veterans Wing or similar organizations. A certain percentage may, with prior approval be used for some things such as some aspects of the Youth Education programs.

As I have said earlier any major expenditure of Branch 11 Poppy Trust Fund will be brought to the attention of the membership at a general meeting for their approval before it is issued.

Yours in Comradeship,

R. James Smith CD

Poppy Chair

Note from the TV Chairperson



There was not an election nor an appointment!! I am the self-proclaimed TV Chairperson. Why?? So I can pass on this message. Both TVs do work, though the older larger one by the pool table may not last too much longer. Both TVs get the same channels including the much desired 22 and 30. I believe the Bar Stewards are supposed to manage the remotes – turn on the TVs, change the channels and turn off the TVs. But persons other than the Bar Stewards are taking the remotes ‘attempting’ to turn on the TVs. When they cannot, they start playing with the remotes and even the TVs. I have walked into the Branch several times to be told the TV doesn’t work. I would then request the remotes from the Bar Steward, push the appropriate button on each remote and magically the TV would come on! There has been a time when the screwing with the remotes and TV had been so bad I had to reset the TV!

The Branch has upgraded the cable service and cable boxes for both TVs so some of our Regulars and others can enjoy their favourite sports on either TV with a beverage or two. So let’s not take that away from them with the unnecessary down time with the TVs.

Thank you,

Jeff Paulin

Sports



Here are the sports dates to look out for:

Mixed Darts: February 6th Branch 11

District Mixed Darts: February 28th Branch 11

Euchre: February 20th Branch 345

Unfortunately we have lost out on cribbage and regular darts due to disqualification of unforeseen circumstances.

Paul Lake and Rick Groome are building a Washer Toss Game.

We also have blind draw darts on Friday nights so come out and support your Branch and have fun with your friends old and new.

GO GUNNERS

Paul Stone

Sports Chair

Building



I/We can never thank our Branch volunteers enough for the times they continue to step up and help out when staff is away or something needs to be set up or something in the Branch needs fixing (again). A special thank you to Gary Gale, Jean Whynot and Charlie Silson for helping out when we are in need of cleaning up and set up. And again thanks Charlie (and friends) for fixing whatever gets broke. But I cannot continue to ‘hog’ the volunteers’ time nor burn them out (except Charlie).

I/We are looking to **hire a backup to the current cleaning staff**, someone who will be trained on the full range of duties of the cleaning staff and be the first person Jean Whynot or I call to come into work. Best case scenario we would never need your help, but when called in, it would be a four hour shift and most likely be called in at the last minute. If you are still interested, please leave a resume with the bar steward for me.

Jeff Paulin

Building Chair

Sick



Hello Comrades,

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year's. I saw Vera Comber at Ballycliffe Nursing Home in Ajax and she looks fantastic.

Has a great visit with Joe Lake. He is looking a little fragile these days but still has that award winning smile. I paid a visit to Frank Sweeny at Scarborough General, he was sleeping and not looking too well.

I heard that Murray House was sick. I called and spoke to his daughter (Margaret) and was informed that Murray was in palliative care at home and was diagnosed with a brain tumor. There is nothing anyone can do for him at this point.

Jean Whynot has knee surgery and will be starting therapy February 1st.

Vi Kelly had laser treatment to her right eye.

Don Manley is in Etobicoke Hospital and is not doing well.

Myer Goobie hasn't been at the Branch lately and is having a lot of pain in his knees.

Sheila Hadden is still in East General Hospital. She has a terrible cough. Her doctors are aware of it and are keeping an eye on her.

Robert Snowdon is back at Craiglee Nursing Home after being in Scarborough General. He breathing is not good.

Eddie Neal seems to be very feeble when I visited.

Rose Mooney will be having thyroid surgery on March 29th. John Mooney is in excellent physical condition.

Betty Groome is not feeling up to par and had to see a cardiologist and is going for more tests.

Donna Gumbley was in and out of hospital over the holidays and is now on the mend.

Dorothy DuPont is getting cancer treatment.

It was great to see Tom Chaisson back in the Branch.

Yours in Comradeship

Joyce Haden

Sick Chair

5 Year Planning Committee

As John mentioned in the President's message, the committee has been working very hard. I would like to thank our committee members, Ed Kenny, Jack Riddell, James Smith and John Dufort. There have been some long and late meetings. My personal commitments to the membership (and that of the committee) is to objectively determine what are the best options for Branch 11 moving forward, present these options to the Branch membership to keep them informed (transparency), then

request the Branch 11 memberships' permission to take the next step.

Remember it is your Branch.

The time to provide the next update to the membership and request permission to take that next step is now.

**Please attend the Branch 11 General Meeting
February 3, 2016 at 8:00 p.m.**

Jeff Paulin

5 Year Planning Committee Chair

Veterans Service Officer

First a belated Happy New Year to all. I hope this finds all members of the Branch well.

I am sure most are now aware that the District D Veterans Dinner for 2016 has been cancelled and it is doubtful it will be resurrected in the future. Therefore I would like to explore whether there is any interest in resurrecting the Branch 11 Veterans Dinner. I realize that we do include the Veterans at our annual Honours & Awards lunch already but this would be in addition to that.

I am looking at something very low key, lunch most likely on a Sunday in the clubroom due to accessibility issues. The Poppy Fund does allow for a meal for veterans and one guest/caregiver, so if we limit the scope, such as no gifts and few dignitaries etc. this is doable with a limited cost to the Branch operating funds. What I would like to hear from the Branch Veterans reading this, are you interested in attending should we be able to organize it? Hopefully it would take place in the late spring or early summer. Please leave me a message in the clubroom, by phone or email or in person when you see me. If there appears to be enough interest I can begin planning to see if this is possible.

In closing I again remind everyone that as the Branch Service Officer I am here to meet the needs of all Veterans, Legion members or not, and their families. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in Comradeship

R. James Smith CD

Veterans Service Officer

Phone 647-887-1721 email: rjamesmith@rogers.com

Walkathon



If you were kind enough to donate and support the 2015 'walkers' from Branch 11 I hope you have received your tax receipt. I received mine the second week in January. Please let me know if you have not received yours so I can track it down. Again thanks for your support. The 2016 walkathon will be September 17(ish). Let's start thinking now about taking the walk. Who we are going to challenge to walk? What will I wear? Who will I walk with? Who will I be hitting up for donations? I know who I will be walking with.

Jeff Paulin
Walkathon Chair

Special Functions



On December 31st Branch 11's dance floor was hopping nonstop. Fun was had by all. We came together to say good-bye to 2015 and ring in 2016. We did a great profit for our Branch. Once again thank you all who came out to support Branch 11. Happy New Year to you and your families.

Our next event is soon approaching on Friday, February 12th – Valentine Dance tickets on sale behind the bar in the clubroom. Bring your sweetheart and make it a memorable evening. Last year we had a Branch 11 couple get engaged. One never knows what may happen on this romantic evening.

It is with a sad and heavy heart I leave the position of Special Functions and sitting on the executive due to a heavy work load at my job. I thank each and every one who supported me big or small while I was at it. I enjoyed it tremendously. As an associate member I will remain at Branch 11 so please continue to support the person or persons taking over for me.

Susan Squires

NOTE FURTHER SPECIAL EVENTS UPDATE

Sunday, February 7th - clubroom from 1:00 p.m. to 11 p.m. –Super Bowl Party, \$5.00 admission fee (covers food); also Euchre (Optional) with \$10.00 registration fee and prizes!!

Friday, February 12th – main floor – 6:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Valentines Dance \$10.00 tickets, entertainment by Jeff Ewing (Dr. J), snack provided and prizes!!

Sunday, March 13th - clubroom – St. Patrick's Day Party, entertainment by Lloyd Young, further details T.B.A.

MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR – COME ON OUT – HAVE A GREAT TIME – HELP SUPPORT BRANCH 11!!!!

Clubroom Entertainment



There is dancing and live entertainment in the clubroom every Saturday night. Come out and enjoy the evening. Check the calendar on the back of the newsletter for the entertainment lineup.

Tom Bragan
Clubroom Entertainment Chair

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How long is a Chinese name.

Youth Education



Remembrance Awards – 25 students – 33 prizes – 22 Veterans to present the prizes this past Students' Awards Luncheon held January 9th. All of this just doesn't happen in the space of an afternoon. A lot of pre-preparation with the help of Volunteers takes place beforehand as well as during and after. My thanks to: a) Early a.m. Hall Set Up Crew – Joe, Sharon Calderone and Gary Gale; b) Cosmetic Crew – Vi Kenny, Elsie Higgins, Anne Davis, June Smith, Daniel Caster, Jack Riddell, Gord Pearce, and c) LA Lady Eunice Francis prepping for the luncheon and then Elsie and Anne each dashing off one to pick up the 250 veggie samosa and the other to pick up balloons etc.

Awards Day – Sgt.-at-Arms Joy White did a great job with the Cadets regarding their duties as well as overseeing their escorting each student up to receive their award from the Veterans with 2nd V-P Jeff Paulin

assisting at the front; To our Veterans: Al Armstrong, Frank Babineau, Myer Goobie, Joe Gagne, Joe White John Vassiar, Doug Smith, Bill King, Pieter Zuber, June Smith, Sheila Harris, Walter Vaughan, Jim Fowler, Darcy Hickey, John Dufort, Mike Turner, Glenn Head Jim LeRoy Ken Lloyd, Andy Barber, Mike Leatham, Ron Kirk; and to Joan Gray for taking care of the lights during the ceremony;

Dignitaries – District D Padre, Kelly Jackson for prayer – I would like to comment at very short notice I asked Padre Kelly to think of a prayer encompassing all people of all religions and he did – thank you Padre Kelly you are the best, President, John Dufort, Cadet Officer Kan speaking briefly and introducing Cadet Sgt. Humby to present the Cadet Corp and the enrichment of joining, District Commander Karen Moore, Immediate Past Jay Burford, District D Youth Ed Sheila Harris, Zone D3 Commander Walter Vaughan, Zone Youth Ed John Holoway who also presented the Zone Winners from Branch 11, LA President, Nancy McKnight, MP Nathaniel Erskine-Smith, MPP Arthur Potts and City Councillor Janet Davis; both MP Nathaniel and MPP Arthur presented scrolls to each student as well; LA Ladies Nancy McKnight, Cindy LeRoy, Karen Boudreault served the sandwiches and sweets donated by Jean Whynot and Jim LeRoy with Caroline Hanus helping with the refreshments. I would be remiss if I missed some other volunteers, two beautiful and former students, sisters Farhana and Rehana Ali and my friend Gay Fowler.

Take Down – I know there were other volunteers helping but when Jeff advised the dumb waiter was out of commission I want to thank Daniel Caster, the Cadets and Officer Kan who stayed behind to put the hall back, help me store items on the 3rd floor and to clean up the hall for the event taking place the next day – a very big thank you.

Helen Pearce
Youth Education Chair

Over 60 Club

Well!! Now that we've gotten rid of the old year let's see how we can screw up the New Year.

We had only nine members show up for the first meet on January 12th.

I'm now accepting dues for \$2016 of \$20.00.

Our next meetings are February 9th, 23rd, March 8th and 22nd.

Tom Bragan
Over 60 Club Chair

Ladies Auxiliary



2016. Well, I can't believe it is a new year already, where did 2015 go?

Our bazaar in November was a great success and all prizes have been delivered to the winners. Congratulations to all that won. I would like to thank Helen Small for looking after everything while I was away for the week and all the people that came out and helped.

We survived another New Year's dinner and it went well, there were sure a lot of people out this year and it was a fun time. Thanks to all the ladies who came out to serve and clean up. I would also like to thank George and Helen Small who came in and washed all the dishes. We have a few functions coming up and if you have time to help out please talk to Helen Small or Cindy LeRoy for schedules.

Our Next General Meeting will be Wednesday February 10th at 8:00p.m. A reminder that our General Meetings are on the second Wednesday's of the month and our Executive is on the last Wednesday of the month.

I would like to wish everyone and their families a happy Easter and I hope by the next newsletter we have warmer weather.

Nancy McKnight
L. A. President

L.A. Sports



In accordance with the Ontario Provincial Command L.A. Sports Manual as of the year 2016, it is mandatory to take part in at least five functions to be able to participate in any ladies Auxiliary sports at any level, cards, darts etc. The five functions can include some Branch and all L.A. functions: included could be attendance at L/A meetings, participation in our bazaar, our socials, work at any fundraiser donations for any functions, working with the kitchen committee, on parade etc. If you have any questions, please speak to me

at the monthly meeting or leave a message with a bar steward for me to call you for any clarification.

Dorothy Bricknell

L.A. Sports Chair

Comrades,

I would like to thank the ladies that gave up their New Year's Eve to come out and help me serve dinner. Also last minute for Ann Zabiuk for coming to help Betty in the cloak room. Also to Vi Kenny for helping me with the setting up of the tables with the dinnerware and napkins for dinner,

I hope all had a good time.

Thank you.

Helen Small

L.A. 1st. Vice President.

Thank You

Hi Ladies,

We have come to the end of another bazaar for the year. I certainly appreciate the ladies who donated jewellery boxes, watches and also the guys who donated watches.

Thanks again

Marg Smith

OH! OH!

If anyone was wondering just why this issue of the newsletter was so late it is because FRED struck again. It was all finished and ready to send to the print shop when disaster struck, everything disappeared never to be seen again. I tried everything as did a computer guru and it was gone. All had to be re-typed and with the help of Helen it is finally ready, again! I hate computers.

Gord Pearce.

News & Views editor and going mad.

A JOKE

While playing in the back yard Little Johnny kills a honeybee. His father sees him killing the honeybee and angrily says, "No honey for you for one month."

Later that afternoon Johnny's dad catches him tearing the wings off a butterfly. "That's it, no butter for you for one month!" Says his dad.

Later that evening as Johnny's mother cooks dinner, a cockroach runs across the kitchen floor. She jumps and stomps on it, and then looks up to find little Johnny and her husband watching her.

Little Johnny looks at his father and says, "Are you going to tell her dad, or do you want me to?"



A photo from a few years ago of some of our veterans and students at Legion Week

February 2016

Sun

Mon


Tue

Wed


Thu

Fri

Sat

	1 Euchre Main floor 7:15 Men's darts 8:00	2	3 General meeting 8:00	4 Mixed darts 8:00	5 Open mike jammers 9:00	6 Meat spin 3:00 Clubroom enter- tainment 8:00 Al Jordan
7 Euchre & Super bowl party Clubroom 1:00 pm to 11:00pm	8 Euchre Main floor 7:15 Men's darts 8:00	9 Over 60 Club 1:15	10 LA general meet- ing 8:00	11 Mixed darts 8:00	12 Valentine's dance Main floor Blind draw darts 7:30	13 Meat spin 3:00 Clubroom enter- tainment 8:00 Bill Dickenson
14 Valentine's Day 	15 Euchre Main floor 7:15 Men's darts 8:00	16	17 Executive meet- ing 7:30	18 Mixed darts 8:00	19 Open mike Jammers 9:00	20 Meat spin 3:00 Clubroom enter- tainment 8:00 Gary Peters
21	22 Euchre Main floor 7:15 Men's darts 8:00	23 Over 60 Club 1:15	24 LA Executive 7:30	25 Mixed darts 8:00	26 Blind draw darts 7:30	27 Meat spin 3:00 Clubroom enter- tainment 8:00 Silver Wings
28 Sunday funday 2:00 Ulster Accordion Band	29 Euchre Main floor 7:15 Men's darts 8:00					

March 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 General meeting 8:00	3 Mixed darts 8:00	4 Open mike Jammers 9:00	5 Meat spin 3:00 Clubroom enter- tainment 8:00 Mickey & Mary
6	7 Euchre Main floor 7:15 Men's darts 8:00	8 Over 60 Club 1:15	9 LA General meeting 8:00	10 Mixed darts 8:00	11 Blind draw darts 7:30	12 Meat spin 3:00 Clubroom enter- tainment 8:00 Lloyd Young
13 St. Patrick's day Clubroom open	14 Euchre Main floor 7:15 Men's darts 8:00	15	16 Executive meet- ing 7:30	17 Mixed darts 8:00 St. Paddies Day 	18 Open mike Jammers 9:00	19 Meat spin 3:00 Clubroom enter- tainment 8:00 Gary Peters
20	21 Euchre Main floor 7:15 Men's darts 8:00	22 Over 60 Club 1:15	23	24 Mixed darts 8:00	25 Blind draw darts 7:30	26 Meat spin 3:00 Clubroom enter- tainment 8:00 Bill Dunn
27 Sunday funday 2:00 Bill Dunn	28 Euchre Main floor 7:15 Men's darts 8:00	29	30 LA Executive meeting 7:30	31 Mixed darts 8:00		