

# News & Views

## April/May 2015



HAPPY  
Easter



Branch 11 of the Royal Canadian Legion  
9 Dawes Road Toronto, ON M4C 5A8  
Tel: 416-699-1353, Fax: 416-699-1831, e-mail: [branch11rcl@rogers.com](mailto:branch11rcl@rogers.com) Web site: [rcl11.com](http://rcl11.com)

### President's Message



Spring has sprung and once again it's election time. It's very important to make sure you come out to nominate the people that you want to represent this Branch on April 1<sup>st</sup>. It is important to nominate those that you believe will carry the Branch forward and to keep the Branch running. More importantly, May 6<sup>th</sup> is the ELECTION MEETING, please come out and exercise your right as a member and vote for those that you believe are up for the challenge for the next two years. Talk to those that will be running to represent your interests in the Branch, tell them what you believe will make the difference in getting the Branch moving forward in a positive way.

You may have noticed that the Branch has been holding more Special Functions in the past year; this is needed to raise much needed revenue to keep the Branch afloat. If you have been participating thank you. We need the members and their guests to come out and support the Branch. If you have come out and not been satisfied let us know what was wrong, or if you have not come out tell us what you would enjoy having at the Branch that would be enjoyable for your guests and yourself.

The Branch has been through a bit of a rough patch lately and many have volunteered your time and stepped up to help the Branch out while Rick Anderson was off, a big THANK YOU to Kenny Erwin, Rick Groome, Charlie Silson, Joe Calderone and don't forget Rocco, he was back by popular demand. A big thanks to Jeff Paulin our Building Chairman, he seemed to be always filling in the gaps and making sure the Branch was ready for our patrons, renters and guests. The volunteers that give what they can are the very backbone of this Branch and they deserve our thanks for what they contribute to this Branch. Joyce and Bernie for keeping the Branch decorated for the different events and holidays. Eunice Francis, Linda Green, Bill Topham, Helen Pearce, Cathy Cole and the many others that help out at the Meat Spin. Saturday night entertainment, thanks to Tom Bragan and his gang of helpers and again Bill and Wayne Topham and the Sunday funday volunteers.

Please **EVERYONE** come out for the nominations and the elections, it is important that you make the choice and elect the representatives of this Branch for the next two years. It is equally important for you and your guests to come out and support your Branch. If you can find time, we can always use volunteers and fresh ideas.

*John Dufort*

### *President*

FEBRUARY 2015-MARCH 2015

"IN MEMORIUM"

#### ORDINARY MEMBER

DAVIDSON: Alastair, R.C.E.M.E. Service # B1048  
Joined Branch 11, 2010

POOLE: Doug, Merchant Marine Service # 5363  
Joined Branch 11, 1968

"At the going down of the sun and in the morning we  
will remember them"

Both of these members were taken care of during their last years by Sunnybrook Veteran's staff and had excellent care there.

Doug was a long-time member of our Branch but hasn't been well for several years so many people didn't know him. When he was active here he was a pool/snooker player who could and did beat most people he played with. He came in many days to play his favorite game. Pool players have been missing him as he was always someone to beat and if you won, you had bragging rights that day but usually not for long.

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A note of welcome from Branch 11 to the new members who recently joined or transferred to our Branch.

Nicole Boudreault, Joe Caster, V. (Joe) Fournier, Kim Smith.

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

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#### 2015 ELECTIONS

Please make sure you mark your calendar with the dates for nominations and election meetings.

Nominations: Wednesday April 1<sup>st</sup> 8:00 pm

Elections: Wednesday May 6<sup>th</sup> **7:30 PM. NOTE**

#### **EARLIER TIME.**

**NOMINATIONS:** Nominations can be made for the position of President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Six executive committee members and the Sgt-at-Arms. If you want to be on next years' executive, you must be at the nomination meeting to accept your nomination or give a letter to the president or Secretary stating your intentions.

All Life, Ordinary, Associate and Affiliate Voting members in good standing shall be eligible to be elected to any office providing they have the following requirements: 1) to be eligible for election as President, 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, you must have completed one full term on the Executive Committee or served on a

council at a higher level of the Legion within the last three (3) years; and 2) to be eligible for election to the Branch Executive or as Sergeant-at-Arms you shall have been a member of the Branch for at least one (1) year immediately prior to the election and have attended at least five (5) General Meetings in the preceding term, from June to April.

Due to the Branch Regulations now in effect, after the elections and before the May Executive Meeting all Chairmen will be appointed by the President **but** all appointments need to be approved by the Executive Committee members and then by the General Body at the June General Meeting before the appointments are official.

**ELECTIONS: Wednesday May 6<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm**

To be eligible to vote you will be required to show your 2015 membership card to the Sgt-at-Arms at the door.

**Please make sure you bring your 2015 card with you.**

We would like to see a number of the new members to our Branch come out and exercise their right to participate in the election process. All members are urged to attend this important meeting to elect your Executive for the next term **which is now for two (2) years**; you are the people that elect/create the Executive. Many members of the Branch have a lot to say in the clubroom about the abilities of the Executives that get elected but if you don't exercise your right to vote for your executive it isn't fair to them to keep getting criticized. Please come out and vote.

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**ST. JOHN'S NORWAY PARADE**

The parade is Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Form up is at 1:00 pm at Norway Public School on Kingston Rd east of Woodbine Ave. March off is 1:30 to the service that takes place at the cemetery at 2:00 pm. Final details will be posted in the Branch at a later date.

We would like to see as many marchers and spectators as possible out to support this important Remembrance parade and service. Branch 11, our own friendly Branch will be open after the parade for food and refreshments. Come out and enjoy.

**Sports**



Branch 11 played in the euchre tournament at Branch 266 and although they played well they did not get to move further.

Our team of mixed darts and one double team moved on to Provincial. It will be held at Branch 240 in Almonte on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Paul Stone**

**Sports Chairman**

**Over 60 Club**



The Over 60 Club had a bus trip to Fallsview Casino on March 19<sup>th</sup> and everyone had a good time. \it's great to get away even if it's only for one day.

Our meeting dates are every second Tuesday and we are looking for new members that can attend these meetings. Our meeting dates for April and May are on the back pages of this newsletter.

Our May luncheon will be either May 12<sup>th</sup> or the 25<sup>th</sup>. Make sure you attend our meetings to say which date you want.

**Tom Bragan**

**Over 60 Club Chair**

**Clubroom Entertainment**



Our Saturday entertainment is going good, not great but good.

With the warmer weather around the corner maybe our attendance will improve. Check the calendar for the entertainers.

**Tom Bragan**

**Clubroom entertainment Chairman**

**Sick**



Hello Comrades,

Edie Neal is still at Leisure World on Midland and Kingston Rd. She is looking well and is always on the lookout for Chad, he visits her every day.

Sheila Hadden is in East General Hospital, room H526, she is looking well and would love to have a few visitors.

I have no word on Robert Snowdon as he is no longer at East General Hospital. I'll try and get in touch with his family,

Ellen Zinn will be going into hospital for more surgery.

Ellen tells me she is so grateful for all her friends' continuous support, especially Fraser.



We were all surprised and delighted to see Sandra Durham back at the Branch so soon after surgery. She is a very determined lady. Take care Sandra.

Don Manley will be going in for eye surgery March 27<sup>th</sup>. Jean Eadie passed away on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Jean was doing very well but took a turn for the worse. A celebration of her life will be held on Good Friday. (Jean's request) Everyone is welcome.

There is not much change in John Mooney, he is doing as well as expected.

Joe (crusher) Lake took a fall and broke his hip while at Sunnybrook and is now back in his room in the secure unit. When I visited him on Monday he looked very frail. Gwen Lake has had a couple of falls but she contributes that to old age. Gwen will never get old, her family is keeping an eye on her.

Gord Pearce took a fall at home and broke two ribs, he is persevering and has not missed being at the Branch, his dart team misses him though.

Charles Dobson is in a secure unit at Sunnybrook and when I visited him he seemed very melancholy.

Barbara Olindo was at our St. Patrick's Day celebration and looked great. She is still getting speech therapy and improving a little bit each day.

June M. Smith is back at the Branch after having knee surgery, welcome back.

Unfortunately we lost three veterans who were at Sunnybrook. John L. Smith, Douglas Poole and Alistaire Davidson. They will be missed. We wish to convey our sincere condolences to Ferg and Sheila O'Connell on the loss of their son Richard.

Yours in Comradeship

**Joyce Haden**  
**Sick Chair**

#### Ways & Means



Hello folks

Soon we will be able to start up the barbeque outside and grill hotdogs and burgers on Sunday fundays if the weather ever heats up.

On Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup> we will have Martin Kelly entertaining and on Sunday May 31 the Ulster Accordion Band will be back so come on out and have a party with your friends and guests.

**Bill Topham**  
**Ways & Means Chair**

Kudos to the L.A. for their support working with the Branch. Their fund raising contributions are greatly needed and much appreciated. Hats off to you all. I found this memo and thought it was a good idea to pass it on....

#### **DO YOU JUST BELONG?**

Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed?

Or are you just content that your name is on the list?

Do you attend meetings and mingle with the flock?

Or do you stay at home and criticize and "knock"?

Do you take an active part to help the work along?

Or are you satisfied to only just belong?

Do you volunteer to help and spare time with the sick?

Or leave the work to just a few and talk about the clique?

Think this over Comrade, you know right from wrong.

Are you an active member or do you just belong?

Spring has been a long time coming but a little bird told me its right around the corner. Happy nice weather, we sure can use the sunshine.

Hope to see you all at the Nomination Meeting and the Election Meeting. This is your Branch so please support it.

Yours in comradeship

**June M. Smith**

**Immediate Past President**

#### Building



Who would have thought being the building manager for Branch 11 would have been so involved and educational. Since assuming the position I have learned to use a mop, a vacuum, set up various rooms, meat spins etc. I may have gotten over my fear of ladders changing light bulbs. I no longer eat popcorn at the Branch as I appreciate the mess it can make lol. I have also learned and been reminded of the true meaning and value of volunteers. This is not just for the many of you who have stepped up and helped out while Rick has been off (get well soon, please!!) But also those who I have seen daily while in the Branch just doing their thing, helping out. For all of you, my heartfelt thanks from me as a comrade at the Branch and as a representative of the executive.

Again, anything you feel needs done at the Branch either to be fixed or improvements to enhance the quality of your visit to the Branch, please let me know.

**Jeff Paulin**

**Building Chairman**

#### Youth Education



Public Speaking Contest is a 3 day effort – set up – contest – clean up. This year it was Feb. 21, 22 & 23. I am very grateful to all who helped over the 3 day period: set up: Joe Calerone, Gary Gale, Jeff Paulin as well the final touches came from Elsie Higgins, Anne Davis, Gord Pearce; contest day: Gord Pearce, Acting President, Gay & Jim Fowler (Br. 322), Registrars, Jeff Paulin & Daniel Caster, Sergeant-At-Arms, Joe & Sharon Calderone, Time Keepers, Jill Grief, Robert Maygar, Farhana Ali & Simon Reis, Judges; Bob Murphy, Liz Luciani (Br. 22), & Rehana Ali, Scrutineers; Joan Gray, Lights & Door Duty; Elsie Higgins & Anne Davis, Multi Duty Officers; Michele Weiman, Calligrapher, Viji & Cinthiya, Runners; behind the scene: Cindy LeRoy, L.A., Nancy McKnight, L.A., Jim LeRoy, L.A. cleanup; re-set and clean up hall: Rocco & Ken Erwin. We had a record breaking 43 students register, making for an extremely long and exhausting day. Thankfully the LA had prepared sandwiches along with sweets donated by Jean Whynot & Cindy LeRoy. Jeff & Daniel were very impressive as Sergeant-At-Arms. A lot of work is involved in coordinating such a contest. Thank you Joe for a detailed sketch of the hall set up for future use.

The 4 first place winners competed at Zone March 1<sup>st</sup> with primary placing 3<sup>rd</sup>, intermediate 2<sup>nd</sup> and senior 1<sup>st</sup>. Gord, Bob Murphy and I escorted Zara Ahmad to the District contest on March 29<sup>th</sup>. Bob was a Scrutineer, Gord & I Time Keepers. As well District YE Sheila Harris asked me to assist as her Co-chair. I am pleased to report that Zara placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and also received her District Remembrance awards for her essay and poem. Zara is already planning for the Remembrance & Public Speaking starting up this Fall.

District D is the host district for the Area Level which takes place at Br. 614 on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to Branch 11 for providing items to go into the 12 students' goody bags which I delivered to Sheila Harris at the District contest.

**Helen D. Pearce,**

**Youth Education Chair**

### **Special Functions**



On February 15<sup>th</sup> we held our Valentine dance. It was a frigid day but for those who came out sporting their red outfits filled the dance floor and we had a wonderful time. We even had a Legion couple get engaged. Congratulations to Jim and Lynn, all the best for the future.

On March 15 a sea of green in the clubroom. Special thanks to the Irish dancers for their appearance, as always they did a lovely job. Thanks to all who donated stews, chili, buns, butter and desserts as volunteers can never be thanked enough. Lenny won the prize for the best St. Patrick's Day "Hat Contest".

Mark April 12<sup>th</sup> on your calendar as the Up Town Swing Band will be here. We will be open from 12:00-6:00 pm and the entertainment starts at 2:00. Cost is \$10.00 per person which includes table snacks. Grab your partner and swing into Spring.

We work hard booking entertainers and setting up for the events for your enjoyment. Come out and support Branch 11.

Happy Mother's Day to all the Moms on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Susan Squires**

**Special Functions Chair**

**Veterans Service Officer**

I attended the Provincial Service Officers course in Aurora and found it an excellent learning experience, both in the material covered and in the opportunity to meet and share experiences with other Service Officers in District D and E. Again if you feel there is any matter you wish to discuss about benefits, or anything else please do not hesitate to talk to me.

The District D Annual Veteran's Dinner is scheduled for April 12<sup>th</sup>. If you did not receive an invitation and wish to attend please advise either I or the membership chair Cathy Cole and we will pass your name on. Seating is limited and it is first come first served across the District.

There is a call out for Veterans of the Liberation of the Netherlands to join the Anniversary delegation May 3-9, 2015. There is some financial assistance up to \$2,000.00 to cover travel costs available from Veterans Affairs Canada to those who qualify. If anyone is interested please contact VAC directly by phoning toll free at 1-866-522-2122 or e-mail at [netherlandspaysbas@vac.gc.ca](mailto:netherlandspaysbas@vac.gc.ca) or visit the web site at [veterans.gc.ca](http://veterans.gc.ca).

Alternatively contact me directly and I'll assist in any way I can. VAC has requested that all Veterans that plan to attend identify themselves to VAC to ensure they are invited to all official events.

Finally, as I noted in the past, the Military Recognition Book from Provincial Command will be printing it's second volume later this year and as soon as I receive a copy it will be placed in the clubroom beside volume one for all to see. Submissions for future volumes are still needed, so if you have not filled one out for yourself or a relative who served please do so and I'll pass them along to Aurora. These are our stories, our history and heritage and it needs to be preserved for future generations.

Yours in comradeship

**R. James Smith CD**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President & Service Officer**

### **5 year Planning Committee**

The 5 year planning committee was established to look at the future of the branch both physically and financially. The committee consists of Ed Kenny, Jack Riddell and myself. Branch 11 in its 'glory days' had in excess of 1,000 members, today we have approximately 440 members, unfortunately the cost of running the Branch has not declined as our membership did. Based on that, the obvious solutions would be to increase membership and reduce operating costs. We are all working on both. The volunteer base at this Branch has helped reduce some of the potential expenditures.

There is a 'Preliminary Report' written and available at the Branch for you to review, the committee's work/findings are open and transparent to all members, we want you to know what we are thinking and more important we are looking for your input and ideas. Please rest assured that the committee needs approval from first the Executive and then the General membership before it can act.

On the positive side: when Jean (along with the L.A.) can organize a day trip to Fallsview and on return have \$500.00 to donate to the Branch, and our great L.A. team with all their hard work and wonderful food, recently presented the Branch with a cheque for \$1,000.00, (I cannot praise this wonderful group of women enough!!). Of course the dart leagues and sport teams bring in their regulars and support us well and proudly represent us and along with the success of some of our Branch events. Lets hope that if we continue on this improved path and if we increase our membership it will all help.

**Jeff Paulin**

**5 Year Planning Committee**

### **Poppy Report**



On February 20<sup>th</sup> I attended the Poppy seminar in Aurora and the meeting was very informative.

Keep a watch on future Legion magazines for a picture of our Poppy fund donation to the Tony Stacy Centre for Veterans Care of \$10,000.00 to help with the costs of a new roof.

**Bill Topham**

**Poppy Chairman**

### **Ladies Auxiliary**



Well ladies, I think spring maybe just around the corner and the weather will start warming up.

We are having are elections at our meeting on April 8<sup>th</sup> and it will start at 7:30 pm.

There are a few things coming up, April 17<sup>th</sup> we are having our Friday night entertainment (Dawes Downs) which is carried over from March 20<sup>th</sup>. There will be a fund raiser euchre on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Our Zone convention meeting is on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at Branch 258. Registration starts at 12:00 and this is election year for your Zone Officers. I know that June seems so far away but it's only a couple of months. June 7<sup>th</sup> is our St. John's Norway parade from the school on Kingston Rd. (just east of Woodbine) to the cemetery. All ladies are welcome to come and participate, and I realize that more of our ladies are unable to march but you can still attend the service. Details will be available closer to the date. Our Birthday luncheon is scheduled for June 14<sup>th</sup> and details are to follow. If you would like to recommend anyone for an award the sheets are available from Anne Bragan, Shirley Caster or myself. We normally give the Branch a donation at our Birthday luncheon but they had asked if we could give it at this time as it was greatly needed. I presented a cheque for \$1,000.00 to John Dufort at the St. Patrick's function and he was very grateful.

It is with sadness that I must inform you that since our last newsletter we have lost Donna Barnwell in January and Jean Eadie in March. Our deepest sympathies go out to their families.

I would like to wish everyone a Happy Easter and hope to see you at our next general meeting on April 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30.

Yours in comradeship

**Nancy McKnight**  
**L.A. President**

With special thanks and appreciation for donating jewelry and boxes for our Christmas bazaar. Thanks again.

**Marg Smith**

### Can Crushers



Thanks to Gary Gale for doing most of the can crushing and Joe Calderone for the use of his truck for transportation. All the best to Joe Lake (the original can crusher) who broke his hip recently.

The money that we got from the cans has been used to buy tables for the main floor, one went missing. We bought eight six foot tables and one four foot table to replace the one that was missing. We had a special donation of \$150.00 plus a Canadian Tire credit card.

Again thanks to Gary and his van to pick up the tables.

Please vote Wednesday May 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30.

**Charlie Silson**

# April 2015

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1 General meeting 8:00 nominations	2 Mixed darts 8:00	3 Open mike jam- mers Clubroom 9:00	Clubroom enter- tainment 8:00 Gary Peters
5	6 Men's darts 8:00	7	8 LA general meet- ing & elections 7:30	9 Mixed darts Playoffs 7:30	10 Blind draw darts 7:30	11 Clubroom enter- tainment 8:00 Al Jordan
12 Veteran's lunch- eon Branch 258	13	14 Over 60 Club 1:15	15 Executive meet- ing 7:30	16	17 Dawes Downs Clubroom 6:00 Dinner & Enter- tainment. \$10.00	18 Mixed Darts ban- quet main floor 6:30 Clubroom enter- tainment 8:00 Lindsay Thomas Morgan
19	20	21	22	23	24 Blind draw darts 7:30	25 Clubroom enter- tainment 8:00 Martin Kelly
26 Sunday funday 2:00	27	28 Over 60 Club 1:15	29	30		



# May 2015

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1 Open mike jam- mers Clubroom 9:00	2 Clubroom enter- tainment 8:00 Lloyd Young
3	4	5	6 General meeting Elections 7:30	7	8 Blind draw darts 7:30	9 Clubroom enter- tainment 8:00 Bill Dickenson
10	11	12 Over 60 Club 1:15	13 LA General meeting 8:00	14	15 Open mike jam- mers Clubroom 9:00	16 Clubroom enter- tainment 8:00 Sea Breeze
17	18	19	20 Executive meet- ing 7:30	21	22 Blind draw darts 7:30	23 Clubroom enter- tainment 8:00 Bill Dunn
24	25	26 Over 60 Club 1:15	27	28	29 Open mike jam- mers Clubroom 9:00	30 Clubroom enter- tainment 8:00 Mickey & Mary
31 Sunday funday 2:00 Ulster Accordion Band						