

News & Views

October/November 2016



Frank Babineau, riding in style, Warriors Day.
Caroline Hamas photo.



Branch 11, the Royal Canadian Legion
9 Dawes Road, Toronto, ON M4C 4A8
Tel: 416-699-1353. Fax: 416-699-1831.
E-mail: branch11rcl@rogers.com
Web site: rcl11@rogers.com



President's Message



THE BRANCH NEEDS IT'S MEMBERS AND IT'S FAMILY AS WELL AS THEIR NEIGHBOURS AND FRIENDS TO COME OUT AND PARTICIPATE IN THE ACTIVITIES THAT WE HAVE TO OFFER.

Well summer is over and I hope that everyone had a great time and all is well. Fall is now upon us and we will keep up with a busy schedule of fundraising and I am sure Karen Boudreault and the Special Functions committee as well as the Ladies Auxiliary are working exceptionally hard at planning special functions for the upcoming season. I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped out this past summer, this is what makes the place work.

“VOLUNTEERS” as well as the members, families and friends that come out to support the Branch and help us make these functions successful. This is what keeps the Branch open for business.

Once again I'm asking you, the members of the Branch to give me ideas of what you think are needed to keep the Branch active in the clubroom. We are the Executives that manage the Branch on your behalf, as members we need you to tell us what you would like to see in the way of functions and also what changes as a whole you believe that we need to make at the Branch so you and your guests can have an enjoyable experience at your Branch.

Legion Week was as usual amazing; hats off to June Smith and all the volunteers on June's committee that rallied around her as well as Helen Pearce to make this Legion Week display the envy of all the other Branches. I would also like to thank the cadets who came out to help with the setup of Legion Week and also for providing the Colour Party on September 18th for the opening of Legion Week. This year we are pleased that the teachers returned with their students to wander through and interact with the display and have a chance to speak to a veteran or the Signal Corps from Hamilton.

The most important thing that takes place yearly is the Poppy Campaign. This is a very important time of the year for us. This year we have almost doubled the size of our Poppy area and this translates into needing more VOLUNTEERS. Please come out and help even if it's only a couple of hours.

Once again, we need you the members to come out and support your Branch. You are the one that can make the difference.

John Dufort
President

AUGUST- SEPTEMBER 2016
“IN MEMORIUM”
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

BABINEAU. Lillian. Joined Branch 11, 2009

Our deepest sympathy to the members of her family.

Lillian came into the Branch on many occasions with a number of her family for our meat spins and other special functions. When we had our Thursday night draws she regularly attended with her children, their spouses and their children (her granddaughter) several of them belong to our Branch. Our thoughts are with Frank as he misses his “better half”. Our sympathies go out to her large family, her many neighbours and friends from East York. She will be greatly missed by many.

Just a note of welcome from Branch 11 to the newest member who transferred in to our Branch since the last newsletter: Eva Cole.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER; we hope that you will continue to support the Branch that you chose to join.

Many thanks to the people who have donated stamps for use at the Branch over the last year. I have received strips of 10, sometimes several at a time. I even received a roll of 100 stamps from someone who doesn't want to be named. Each stamp costs 85 cents plus HST cost of 96 cents, this is a wonderful savings for the Branch as we do mail a lot of items out, letters, newsletters, cards, invitations etc. too many things to list. All I can say is THANK YOU, THANK YOU to the people who have donated, you know who you are and I know this your way of helping us out by contributing anonymously.

Cathy Cole

Secretary/Membership

HONOURS & AWARDS DAY



On Sunday October 2nd from 11:30 am 'til 3.30 pm we are having our annual Honours & Awards Day. Hopefully this date has already been marked on your calendar. This special day is an afternoon function with a luncheon for the members and other people receiving awards as well as anybody who wanted to purchase a ticket to participate in the luncheon. After the luncheon and presentations are finished the clubroom will be open to go to if you want to stay and enjoy entertainment downstairs.

Letters to the members receiving recognition for their length of service or for their help in the Branch or community were sent and there were tickets available (for a nominal fee) for members and their guests who wanted to attend this great day. **Don't forget, this a fun day for everyone;** the clubroom is open from 12:00 pm-6:00 pm for everyone with entertainment; our luncheon and presentations are on the main floor and then we can

go to the clubroom to finish our day. You will definitely enjoy yourself if you decide to come.

Joe Calderone

Honours & Awards Chair

REMEMBRANCE PARADE & SERVICE



Our parade & service is on Sunday November 6th. Form up at Shoppers World at 1:00 pm with March off at 1:30 with a service at the Branch at 2:00 pm. We go to the clubroom after the service for our Ladies Auxiliary special roast beef on a bun and of course entertainment and refreshments. Some time ago we changed the location for the social activities after the service to the clubroom, changed the time to earlier for serving the food and it appears as if more people are able to stay around as we don't have to climb the stairs to the top floor or leave in the dark.

Please come out to the parade/service either as a marcher or spectator. With the earlier serving of the food we are able to accommodate the members who like to go home early. Come out and enjoy our service with the usual SURPRISE by the Ulster Accordion Band, sometimes we laugh, sometimes we cry, but we always enjoy whatever they present us with and of course the food by our Ladies Auxiliary. It's a great day for everyone.

Bob Murphy

Remembrance Service Chair

REMEMBRANCE DAY. Friday NOVEMBER 11TH

After the Remembrance Day parade and service at East York we will be providing food for everyone at our own Branch. For several years this has proved to be successful and we are going to do the same again this year; we are going to have food after the parade, stew and chili with crusty bread, (hopefully it won't be too cold and we won't need thawing out) but as weather for November 11th parade is never guaranteed to be warm, we can only wish that it will be. Come back to the Branch after the parade and service, enjoy our food and comradeship of our fellow Legionaries and many friends and celebrate our freedom due to the sacrifice of so many. This is a regular working day so the Branch will be open regular hours but we want everyone to share their day of Remembrance here at Branch 11.

Poppy



Summer is ending and the leaves are turning and that means another Poppy season is fast approaching. As most of you should be aware due to boundary changes last spring our Branch's poppy area has doubled in size, extending all the way south to the lake front. I've spent most of the summer exploring this area and introducing myself to the local business.

We will be adding five new tagging locations to our present nine. In addition the number of schools has more than doubled to twenty and we have also doubled the number of places who want a counter box to over 280. In addition Branch 22 has again asked if we can help out with some of their locations possibly including the Eaton Center and the Air Canada Center.

All the needed supplies for this new and larger area, poppies, boxes and other items have been ordered and most delivered to the Branch. The insurance and other permission paper work for our taggers is almost complete. We will be ready for the official start on October 28th providing one essential item is there, you the members.

This new area is huge and we will need even more volunteers, taggers, drivers and those who can "adopt" some counter boxes, drop them off, check on them and pick them up after November 11th. For those who, for whatever reason, have never volunteered before, now is your chance. For those who have I know you'll be back again.

With this new area comes the opportunity for a much more successful campaign than in years past. The more money collected the more we will be able to distribute, to our cadets, our youth and remembrance programs and most importantly our Veterans and their families.

Donations directly to those Veterans who may need it for whatever emergency. Also to the various programs that assist them including Sunnybrook Veterans Hospital, Finchurst Homes, the Bill Tanner fund and the Leave the Streets Behind Program. In addition this year we also sent money to needy Veterans in the Caribbean through the RCEL and to Fort McMurray to help those including Veterans affected by the devastating fire.

We collect poppy funds for two weeks a year, but we seem to need it for one thing or another for 52 weeks. The more we have the more we can do. As I've said we will be busy this Poppy campaign, but I know we are up for it.

R. James Smith CD

Poppy Chair

Women shoplift more often than men; the statistics are four to one.

Building



We are working on the floor plans of the "New Branch 11" and we hope to have something to show next week. We have asked you for your suggestions and with those we are moving forward. James LeRoy has donated a suggestion box. It sits in the clubroom near the bulletin board at the end of the pool tables. If you have a suggestion for the new building your input would be greatly appreciated. If your suggestion is for another chair person or executive I will pass it on.

Jeff Paulin

Building Chair

The first VCR was made in 1956, was the size of a piano.

The cigarette lighter was invented before the match.

To clean tarnished copper bottoms of pots & pans, spread a little ketchup onto the bottom. Let it sit for about one minute. Wipe it clean and then rinse.

Special Functions



The steak dinner was a success! Thanks to all who attended. I would also give a big THANK YOU to my volunteers for doing such a FANTASTIC JOB! The corn roast, Sunday funday September 25th, live entertainment by the Ulster Accordion Band will be completed before this newsletter is posted. I will follow up in the next issue. Oktoberfest will be held Sunday October 16th in the clubroom from 12:00 noon 'til 7:00 pm. The menu is Sausage, sauerkraut, potato salad, coleslaw, bun and dessert. Entertainment by Lloyd Young. Tickets are \$12.00 available at the bar. Please come out and join us for a fun filled day!!

We have Karaoke every second Friday here at the Branch, dates for the upcoming Fridays are October 7th & 21st, November 4th & 18th. Come out and entertain us with YOUR SONGS! We would love to hear your voices. On karaoke night Friday October 7th we will be selling chicken wings and fries. Details will be posted, could be a regular menu.

Looking forward seeing everyone at the upcoming events.

Karen Boudreault

Special Functions Chair.

In her entire lifetime, Spain's Queen Isabella (1451-1504) bathed twice.

Walkathon



Thank you for your support in Branch 11's 2016 Zone D3 walkathon. Branch 11 walked for the Joe Sweeny Fund to assist Homeless Veterans in the community. **Your donations raised just over \$2750.00 in support of Operation Leave the Streets Behind.**

A special thanks to our walkers in order starting with the highest donations raised, **Sandra Durham, Rick Groome, James Smith and myself.** Thanks to Joyce Haden as our Branch hostess.

If you requested a receipt for a donation of \$10.00 or over. I hope you provided your complete name and address.

Again thank you! Every donation makes a difference.

Jeff Paulin

Walkathon Chair

Crossing one's fingers is a way of secretly making the sign of the Cross. It was started by early Christians to ask for divine assistance without attracting the attention of pagans.

Youth Education



In spite of the fact that only two schools responded to my invitation to visit during Legion Week, we had 220 students attend spread throughout the week. It certainly kept all the dedicated volunteers jumping! The teachers were all excited to be able to bring their students as they were all very frustrated and disappointed when they couldn't do so last year due to work to rule restrictions enforced. The Goodie bags were a huge success to both the students and the teachers. Because of space restrictions I am unable to recognize your names here and there are quite a few! But please know from the bottom of my heart how grateful I am for all your very generous donations both for the items and the monetary as well. I hope to reach out to you all personally as well. Thank you,

Helen D. Pearce

Youth Education Chair

Legion Week



Legion Week this year has been again a fantastic learning experience with so many students attending daily. Two classes each day with the exception of one day, has kept us all hopping. We also had many individuals visit our displays. The Hamilton Signal Corps again added so much to the learning of our heritage. Our "OPENING CEREMONY" was disappointing with five dignitaries not showing but kudos to our President John Dufort, our Ladies Auxiliary Gail Burrows Author Potts MPP and Jay Buford Immediate Past District Commander, who addressed our audience.

To the many volunteers who made this week possible, I will be posting a board in the clubroom with your names so I will not add them here saving space. We did what we wanted to do and that was to pay homage to our Veterans (our past) and teach the children (our future) about our wonderful Country Canada and why we are so lucky to live here.

Hats off to all the volunteers for all their assistance, you made it great.

June Smith
Legion Week Chair

Helen Pearce
Youth Education Chair

Sick



Sam Kidd is in Bridgepoint. When I saw him he was in a wheelchair facing the window, he had a stroke so it's hard to understand him when he speaks, but I did understand when he said, "Say hello to the guys at the Legion." Sam is a fighter so will keep you informed.

Edie Neil passed away in early September. I will miss her as I enjoyed our visits.

Joe Lake took another fall at Sunnybrook, luckily nothing is broken.

Myer Goobie looked really great when I saw him at Sunnybrook. He's in K wing and would love to get a visit from some of our members.

Bill and Mary King do not come to the Branch as often as they used to due to health matters. Please members give them a call to say hello. They are a fantastic couple and deserve to be recognised.

Betty Groome has to have eye surgery in October.

Molly Backalar passed away in September and a viewing was held for her last week with quite a crowd.

Bill Topham has not been his usual self lately as he is suffering from phlebitis which is very painful.

John Chafe is having a lot of pain from sciatica and is now using a walker.

Sheila O'Connell is doing ok taking one day at a time. Her back has healed and is trying to manage the pain.

Fergie O'Connell will be going into hospital for a total knee replacement in October.

Our President, John Dufort has had a rough summer as there has been one thing after another. Now on September 27th he will be having total knee replacement to replace the last knee replacement that was done 12 years ago.

Good luck John.

The ghosts and goblins will be coming out soon so happy Halloween and don't forget our Remembrance Day.

Yours in comradeship.

Joyce Haden
Sick Chair

Clubroom Entertainment



The date for Saturday night entertainment can be found in the calendar at the back of this newsletter, There is music and dancing every Saturday night so come out and enjoy yourself.

Tom Bragan
Clubroom Entertainment Chair.

In 1984, a Canadian farmer began renting advertising space on his cows.

Veterans Service Officer

I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer. A lot has happened on the Veterans Service Officer front that I need to update you all on. At the Dominion Convention two important resolutions passed. First the letter writing campaign we started here in District D to keep Sunnybrook open for all Veterans will now go national. Hopefully this will change the present plans to close the Veterans Wing after the last Second World War and/or Korean Veteran passes.

We have heard from our local MP Nathan Erskine Smith on this with a letter assuring us that there is no intention in closing these beds. However it is not closing we are concerned about, but their transfer to Provincial Health Care control and not remaining for all Veterans present and future. We need to keep this campaign

going, so if you have not already written your MP please consider doing so.

Secondly the new Operation Stress Injury (OSI) Special Section was approved on the floor by the membership and is now up and running. They are still working on how they will best assist veterans and their families who suffer from OSI in concert with already established organizations such as Veterans Affairs, OSISS and the RCL Service Officer network. As part of this they are consulting with numerous people across the country. More to follow on this.

One of the things they are looking at is setting up patrols to find and assist homeless veterans this coming winter. I've been asked by their First Vice President to consult on this and possible train the patrols in the Toronto area. I know at least three other veterans from this Branch have stood up and volunteered to be part of this.

We've become the go to Branch for helping homeless veterans in East Toronto as far as Provincial Command is concerned with them calling and asking for help several times in the past few months. We have assisted all Veterans who have asked for our help, either financial or otherwise. One of the Veterans was placed in one of the new apartments in the Pan Am site although sadly he passed away shortly after.

As always I'm available to anyone who wants assistance, advice, referrals or just information.

R. James Smith CD
Veterans Service Officer

=====

A 'Jiffy' is an actual unit of time for 1/100 of a second.

=====

Ladies Auxiliary

Hello Ladies.

It is membership time again, the cards are ready for the 2017 year. Dues are \$15.00 under the age of 70 and \$10.00 if you are over 70. You can leave your money behind the bar and I will send you your card. If you pay your dues before December 31st you are an Early Bird. You need to pay before December 31st in order to participate in sports.

Gail Burrow
L.A. Secretary



Joanne & Vi filling the Goodie bags



Top picture of student trying on Mike's gear; next students having fun trying on uniforms

October 2016

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1 Clubroom entertainment 8:00 Silver Wings
2 Honours & Awards. 11:30	3 Euchre Main floor 7:30	4 Over 60 Club 1:15	5 General Meeting 8:00	6 Mixed darts 8:00	7 Blind draw darts 7:30 Karaoke 8:00	8 Clubroom entertainment 8:00 Gary Peters
9	10 Euchre Main floor 7:30	11	12	13 Mixed darts 8:00	14 Blind draw darts 7:30 Open mike jammers 9:00	15 Clubroom entertainment 8:00 Lloyd Young
16 Octoberfest	17 Euchre Main floor 7:30	18 Over 60 Club 1:15	19 Executive meeting 7:30	20 Mixed darts 8:00	21 Blind draw darts 7:30 Karaoke 8:00	22 Clubroom entertainment 8:00 Bill Dickenson
23	24 Euchre Main floor 7:30	25	26	27 Mixed darts 8:00	28 Start of Poppy campaign Blind draw darts 7:30 Open mike jammers 9:00	29 Clubroom entertainment 8:00 Seabreeze
30 Sunday funday 2:00	31 Euchre Main floor 7:30					

November 2016

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1 Over 60 Club 1:15	2 General Meeting 8:00	3 Mixed darts 8:00	4 Blind draw darts 7:30 Karaoke 8:00	5 Cadet tagging Clubroom enter- tainment 8:00 Bill Dunn
6 Danforth parade 1:00 form up Branch service 2:00	7 Euchre Main floor 7:30	8	9	10 Mixed darts 8:00	11 Remembrance Day & Parade East York 10:30	12 Clubroom enter- tainment 8:00 Lindsay Thomas Morgan
13	14 Euchre Main floor 7:30	15 Over 60 Club 1:15	16 Executive meet- ing 7:30	17 Mixed darts 8:00	18 Blind draw darts 7:30 Karaoke 8:00	19 Clubroom enter- tainment 8:00 Mickey & Mary
20	21 Euchre Main floor 7:30	22	23	24 Mixed darts 8:00	25 Blind draw darts 7:30 Open mike jammers 9:00	26 Clubroom enter- tainment 8:00 Al Jordan
27 Sunday funday 2:00	28 Euchre Main floor 7:30	29 Over 60 Club 1:15	30			



MEMBERSHIP DUES INCREASED FOR 2017 TO \$50.00 ALSO INFO ON EARLY BIRD DRAW

For many years, we have had a draw for those who pay their membership dues before November 30th of the current year. The draw is held at the December General Meeting and we draw four (4) names and these winners have their dues for the next calendar year paid for them by the Branch.

We attempt each year to get a renewal percentage of better than 70% and were very successful the last few years as many of you sent your dues in early, were part of the "Early Bird" campaign and our Branch received an acknowledgement that we attained a 75% renewal.

In order for us to attain this level again this year, we need **YOUR** help. We need you to pay your dues before November 30th so that we can send your card to Ottawa to be recognized as an Early Bird. Please send or bring your dues of \$50.00 to the Branch: if mailing, your cheque must be received before November 30th; do not mail on the 30th and expect an Early Bird sticker or to be included in the draw.

As the cards are already in the Branch, if you pay your dues to a steward, your card will be behind the bar for pick up within the week. If mailing your cheque, you should receive your card within two (2) weeks. If possible when you mail your cheque, in order to save the Branch a few costs, please send a pre-addressed/ postage paid envelope for the return of your card. We would appreciate this small saving as each one helps our bottom line/general funds.

Cathy Cole
Membership Chair



MEMBERSHIP
RENEW TODAY!

Membership 2016-01A71