

# Ajax - BR. 322

Mike O'Hara

Since my last report we've gone through another general election. A number of previous executive have returned and a number of new executive have been elected. Everything appears to have fallen into place and everyone is hard at work in their own endeavours keeping the Branch running and even trying some new things.

On July 1st we held our Canada Day celebrations with a barbeque; the food for the barbeque was donated by our Ladies Auxiliary, thank you ladies. We had entertainment all day and throughout the evening. Thanks to our friends from Molson's, Labatts and Diageo for their sponsorship for the day.

Throughout the summer we had an extremely difficult time in our effort to keep our head above water and I am pleased to say we finished the month of August on just about a break even point. Things have started to pick up again in September and we had an extremely successful Legion Week. Thanks to our Special Events committee chaired by Bruce Sharpe. We brought in a number of new bands and provided different type of entertainment which we arranged at no cost to the Branch, thanks to the generous support of Molson's, Labatts, Diageo, Collio Wines and Corby's.

Over the past 6 months or so we have been successful in bringing in approximately 90 new, reinstated and transfer-in members. This in itself is quite impressive but throughout this same period and especially through out Legion Week we did not see too many of these people or even our regular members in the Branch. This is a major problem and it really shows why we and a lot of Branches are having a hard time to survive. I don't know what the answer is but we have decided to try and put in a patio to see if it will help get us through these really slow months. We have started the process and have received a grant of \$6,100.00 from the Town of Ajax which should help overcome some of the costs associated with this long drawn out process. We hope to have the project completed and a new patio in place by next spring.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the Executive members, the Ladies Auxiliary, all the volunteers and a special thank you to our new Color Party recently formed under the direction of our Sgt. at Arms Dave Langille for their hard work and time expended for the Branch. Thank you to all involved.

# Port Perry - BR. 419

Lucy Wilson

Here we are again trying to explain to other branches what is happening in our own club and begin the fall activities which sees the resumption of enterprises which come with this time of year. It was along wet slow summer.

Our hall rentals have been quite busy and we were thankful for this although we took a couple of weeks off to have the floor in the upstairs hall completely stripped and refinished. Our bookings for the fall and winter season are already almost all filled.

Since we met last Spring Comrade Doupe & myself have been through a District Convention in Trenton and a Dominion Convention in Ottawa. Having attended both Zone and District in the past it was quite something to attend the Dominion. Some things were what I expected and some just plain unexpected. I know now that the other provinces are not always too keen with our Ontario Command even to going as far to ganging up on us, if that is the right word. Let me say it was an experience I would not have missed and I did learn more about the workings of the Legion at the Dominion Command level. The Hospitality of the various Legions in the area was second to none. Also we got to meet the godson of the Legion Prince Floris and his wife Princess Amie. The Chairman was something else and I know don't feel so bad if our meetings sometimes are not as easy going as we would like. Just go to Convention and have 1500 comrades with all differing ideas.

Membership as always is on our minds with Early Bird campaign under way. We still initiate new members and hopefully they will show up at our meetings and in our clubroom.

Youth Ed chair Barb Doupe has already delivered her material for the Remembrance Essays and Poems contest to all the schools in our area.

The Provincial Service Officer has been to the Branch twice this year and is expected again on October the 10th Our Service Officer Jim Smitherman is learning his way through all aspects of his job. He has attended the Service Officer Convention in Lindsay and was most impressed of the proceedings and said he learned quite a lot. He also attended the Poppy Seminar in Fenelon Falls with myself and

Comrade Doupe. The Colour party have attended the Battle of Britain parades in Oshawa and also took part in the opening of the Reflection Park in Port Perry yesterday. This Park was the project of Marg Snyder McGrath a teacher at Price Albert School and 9 other schools in Scugog, who have turned a former bowling green in downtown Port Perry into quite a wonderful space with mosaics made by students. What began as a small enterprise as a peace park has grown into what it is today. Come and see it for yourself. The Legion was only one of the contributors to this project and a number of our vets accompanied each of the 9 representatives of each school.

Seniors Day has been well attended and is on the second Tuesday of the month. Now here's a question. Some Legions say they pay for this out of Poppy and I'm tired of hearing it so tell me, " true or false."

In house sports are underway in the Branch. One of our Members attended Provincial horseshoes and two of our golfers attended Provincial golf. None came in first but gave a great showing, and said they were all glad to have attended at this level of competition.

We are at present gearing up for the Poppy Campaign which seems to come sooner every year. The work that this entails requires everyone on our Executive to actively participate, and for all members to step forward in this important endeavour.

A new club room furnace has been installed and would you believe it within a week had ceased working along with the fairly new upstairs furnace and AC installed in the last year or two. We are contemplating just paving a strip next to the clubhouse not the entire parking lot.

Our Ladies Auxiliary is still in place albeit in a reduced capacity. They have a new President as well as a new Liaison Officer from the Branch, Rose McGuire and hopefully they will find their way in the future. In some cases it is realizing that they had not been following the rules of procedure of the Legion in the past and reviewing the L.A. Bylaws.

Even with the slow summer we are meeting all obligations to the Branch, our veterans and paying the never ending accounts.

A busier fall and winter would I'm sure be a real treat for our treasurer and yours truly.

# Bay Ridges - BR. 606

Myrna Picotte

Since taking over as President I have been very busy learning what this position is all about.

June, July and August are slow business months for most branches as most of our members, leave town for the summer. This gives us time to do some house cleaning that gets put off over the busy months. Our branch had some additional electrical work that needed to be done, along with some wall repairs, this been completed we can now move on to some of our future plans for our branch.

The Ladies Auxiliary president has approached me about re-designing our Veterans Lounge, so we are now at the drawing board stage of this project.

I would be remiss if I did not mention our garden which we have been working on over the past two years to improve. This project has become the pride of our branch, the garden was planted in memory of our fallen comrades, we call it our Veterans memorial garden, any member can plant a flower or shrub in memory of a lost military loved one. All the love and hard work on this garden has been thanks to one of our members Debbie Watson.

We just finished a very successful Legion Week, Thanks to our Chairperson Donna Connelly and her team of tireless workers.

Our banquet room has been busy over these past months, with weddings, stags, showers and fundraisers. We have summer and winter Dart League that brings customers to the bar. Our Pool Room facility was quiet over the summer months, but we see quite

*The Coalition*