



Canada

The



Hunter News

December 2010

www.rclajax.com



We Will Remember

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 322
111 Hunt Street
Ajax, Ontario L1S 1P3

Last Post



*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"*

Lest We Forget Lest We Forget

Condolence

To the families of Branch 322 Members

Frank Mullins

George Chaput

Agnes Morris

Wally Young

Robert Laidlaw

F. Wilkinson

Robert Kitchener

Frank West

Rauni Naujok

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Cover: Remembrance Day 2010 at the Cairn

President's Report



First of all let me thank all of our members for your support this term. It continues to be a distinct honour to serve this Branch, and to represent it at Zone and District Council meetings and conventions, as well as various community functions. I have also enjoyed the many opportunities to demonstrate to our visitors the hospitality which has become our trademark.

Our Branch has had several significant events since my last report:

Our Halloween Bash on October 29th and Poppy Dance on November 6th were both very successful. We also had a very successful Poppy campaign once again, thanks to the leadership of our Poppy Chairman and 3rd Vice President, Dave Wylie.

Our Remembrance Church Service and parade on November 7th at St. Paul's United Church was once again well attended. We have established a tradition of inviting the Veterans to be on the reviewing stand before returning by bus to the Branch, and they seem to enjoy this opportunity very much.

Our Remembrance Day Service on November 11th at the Cairn in front of the Branch was probably the largest turnout in many years. Special thank you once again to Reverend Batstone and Dave Vose, our Master of Ceremonies, for their outstanding contribution to the event. As well, I'd like to thank everyone involved for being in attendance to make it such a great success. Reverend Batstone will be retiring at the end of this term. He certainly has been a stalwart of this branch and of the community. I thank him once again for all of his years of dedicated service.

Our Veterans Dinner was on November 14th. What a special night that is when we are given the opportunity to thank all of our Veterans for the bravery and valour demonstrated in their service to our great country. Thank you to 1st Vice President Emma Smith for coordinating the event.

On Grey Cup Sunday we scheduled entertainment, a Shuffleboard tournament and of course the game itself. Special thanks to Dave Wylie, Mike Fitzpatrick and Chester McConnell for all of their hard work and dedication behind the scenes.

Our New Year's Eve Dance and Dinner tickets are on sale and I'm sure once again this occasion will be sold out. Get your tickets early so you are not left out in the cold. The President's New Year's Day Levee is organized and ready to go. This is for paid up members only starting at 10am to 12pm. I hope to see you there so I can wish you a Happy New Year early.

Our Legion Idol competition has been a huge success and the competitors have

been amazing. Congratulations to Dale Gray, the overall winner and to Gary Chitiz and Pam Miller, Best Male and Female singers. Special thanks to Rob MacArthur for hosting the event as well as donating his time and equipment and to all of the judges for donating their time as well.

We really do have some wonderful volunteers who help out on a continual basis. Sgt-at-Arms Dave Langille and all of the members of the Colour Party, Ladies Auxiliary President Clare Wylie and all of the members of our Ladies Auxiliary deserve a lot of credit. These two groups are always there when called upon.

Thank you to Sally Leebody, our Office administrator, and Cathy Taylor and her staff as well as all of our custodians for another great year.

Last but not least, thank you to all of our Branch Officers and Executive members who should be recognized for their hard work and dedication throughout the year.

Legion branches are closing their doors every day right across Canada. The main reasons being, a lack of volunteers, or a membership that is unsupportive.

With other branches it's the same old story, an old guard that seems to think they own the place. They continually resist minor changes even if it is in the best interest of their respective branches and they continually put up roadblocks to give new people the opportunity to showcase their skills and leadership abilities. These few members seem to have all the answers and they live on their laurels of the past. That's a shame because without a doubt if this is allowed to continue, the doors will eventually close, and inevitably another charter gone. Times are changing, laws are changing, and we damn well better change with them. New blood, new ideas, dedicated volunteers and positive changes are always needed to keep the Branch moving forward. Let's keep it going.

I'm reaching out to all of our members to please support our Saturday afternoon meat-draws, raffles, dances, entertainment, numerous sporting events, competitions and fundraisers so we can stay strong and healthy. We owe that much to all of our brave Veterans who built this great organization many years ago for us to enjoy today.

In closing, Branch 322 welcomes all Legion members from other Branches as well as guests to drop in and visit us anytime. We are financially sound; our membership is growing, and once again thanks to all our members who continue to support the Branch on a regular basis. Our Veterans, our seniors, our charities and the needy are the beneficiaries.

To all of our Veterans, God bless you and thank you so much for the freedom and prosperity we enjoy today.

Merry Christmas and a Happy 2011 Everyone!

Yours in Comradeship
Bruce Sharpe