

Editorial



“Lest We Forget”. Us older folks understand what this phrase means and can remember but what about our youth? How can young Canadians forget what they can’t remember? How can they relate to something that did not happen to them or even their parents but to their great great grand parents?

Two teachers from Port Perry are trying to change that.

Vimy Ridge turns 90 this April. This hill in France is not just a piece of Canadian history but its Canadian soil donated to us by France. To mark the anniversary, many world leaders will be there, a \$20 million dollar restoration of the Vimy Monument will be unveiled and on April 9th thirty six hundred students from 70 Canadian high schools (including 10 from the Durham region) wearing replica WW1 shirts will assume the identity of a different fallen soldier. That’s one for every Canadian soldier left behind on Vimy Ridge that day. Each student chosen to go to the ceremony will be given the responsibility of remembering a Canadian story and a Canadian hero.

Dave Robinson and Nancy Hamer-Strahl with the backing of Veterans Affairs Canada have been traveling coast to coast to recruit high school students to remember – one soldier at a time. Each student will research their soldier and prepare a tribute in a variety of media. All of this work will be enshrined at Vimy Ridge in a “We Remember Memorial Capsule”.

Not only will the students submit their personalized tribute, but they will also visit the grave-site of their Canadian soldier. I can only imagine the emotions they will feel. What better way to keep History alive in our schools? I applaud these teachers.

Lest They Forget.

Yours in Comradeship
Doug Smith
Public Relations Officer

1st Vice President



As Chairman of both the Building and Canteen committees, I am involved with just about everything that goes on around here on a day-to-day basis, and I have to say how proud I am to work with so many dedicated volunteers and employees.

Although we did expect it, circumstances with regards to the no smoking by-law certainly made our business a little slow during the first four months of implementation. However, with some very creative decision-making by President O'Hara and many of our very experienced Executive members, we seem to have made a complete recovery.

The Clubroom and upstairs bars are functioning extremely well. This of course is due to our head bar steward Cathy Taylor and her devoted staff. I would also like to recognize Pauline Neill our office manager for her hard work and dedication, our very responsible maintenance and cleaning staff, as well as all of our Smart Serve members for assisting when required. Our retail inventory and merchandise sales have significantly improved as well, with special thanks to Emma Smith.

I feel that with the future economic decisions that we have in mind, with regards to structuring a long-term plan and a set of procedures to reduce our energy consumption as well as our utilities expenses overall, our bottom line will continue to improve. Our Building and Canteen committee members will be discussing these areas, and will implement a series of guidelines that I feel will be will be very positive for the branch for years to come.

In closing let me thank everyone involved with our infallible Ladies Auxiliary, Russell Gregg our caterer, for a excellent job well done, and the members of our always-dependable Colour Guard.

I wish everyone a very happy and prosperous New Year.

Bruce Sharpe
1st. Vice-President

Poppy Report



Comrades, let me take this opportunity to thank everyone who generously volunteered their time, and or donations, to make the 2006 Poppy Campaign a huge success.

Our 2006 Poppy Campaign has raised over \$47,000 for our Veterans. This is a wonderful achievement despite the theft of Poppy boxes this year and shows that by working as a team, we can accomplish a lot.

Thank you to everyone who dropped Poppy boxes off at the different stores and outlets in the community. Let me especially thank all of our Poppy volunteers who were out in the community accepting the generous donations from the wonderful, supportive residents of Ajax and adjoining areas. A special thanks to the Town of Ajax who made a generous donation of \$2,000 to help offset the thefts. I would also like to thank my team who helped in the office emptying, counting and depositing all the donations.

We had a magnificent turnout this year, for the Remembrance Day ceremonies on November 11th here at the Branch. The Poppy Day dance and Poppy Raffle were also great successes. Thanks again to all who helped organize and run these events.

In closing, I'd like to wish all of the members of our Branch and all of our volunteers and their families, a very happy and healthy New Year.

Lest We Forget Lest We Forget

Reg Sherren
Poppy Chairman



Membership

The 2007 Early Bird membership campaign is now over as of November 30th. Thank you to everyone who paid their membership dues early.

Renewals of 2007 memberships will now cost \$52.50. Seniors rate remains at \$30.00 and veterans, no charge. Please remember, you must be a member of the Branch 322 for at least 5 years to qualify for the Senior rate or the Veteran no charge...

Congratulations to the winners of the last two Early Bird draws of \$50.00 each for the months of October and November.

The winners of the October draw were **Ellen Foster** and **Znyool Mohammed**.

The winners of the November draw were **Judy Anderson** and **Gordon Hunter**.

Membership committee members will be available on Friday evenings, Saturday afternoons and Sunday afternoons, if there is entertainment. When there is no one from the Membership Committee is available, renewals can also be paid at the office on weekdays between the hours of 12 and 4 pm. Membership renewals can also be paid at the Bar. The Bar staff will gladly take your membership fee and your card will be processed in a day or so and be available behind the Bar. For a fee of \$1.00 extra, you can have your 2007 card mailed to you. Be sure to write your address on the payment envelope to ensure it will be mailed to the correct address.

On behalf of all our members in the Branch, I would like extend a warm welcome to our newest members who recently transferred into the Branch and to those who were initiated at the last General Meeting on December 6th.

Bruce South
Membership Chairman