

# Editorial



Legions, like any volunteer organizations, are rarely successful without focused team efforts and activities. There is simply too much opportunity for problems. For example, different personalities, instead of complementing and balancing each other, disagree causing animosities, and conflicts can arise.

Or even worse, some people with similar personalities may start fighting for authority and dominance with no regard for the organization itself.

I see this happening in many branches including our own. There may be a lack of trust and openness that blocks the critical communication and leads to loss of coordination in the individual efforts, and on and on.

On many occasions in the past, members have brought minor issues to our General meetings for discussion. They usually are personal concerns that could easily have been addressed and rectified in a civil manner by either a planned group discussion or at an Executive meeting.

What they are really doing is discouraging many of our members from attending General meetings due to this immature and totally disrespectful behaviour. Our members should be encouraged to attend our general meetings to see cohesive team work amongst the Executive members, not a split in divisions.

It's essential to understand others around us and recognize the strengths and qualities of our fellow peers. Take for example, a group of people who all have very strong personalities and want to lead the team. If no one plays a supporting role, the bulk of the time will be spent in a power struggle. Alternatively, if there is a group in which no one wants to grab the reins and lead the team, the group is also headed toward failure.

Our veterans gave us this Club to enjoy comradeship and have fun. Let's forget all this damn pettiness and start using our abilities to read others, and understand that each situation is unique. We have to keep our objective of respecting each other in sight, and find the right push and pull needed to move toward, making this place a successful Legion with a happy environment.

All of the members on the Executive committee have to start showcasing their leadership abilities. They need to show respect for each other, a willingness to take responsibility for their actions and decisions, and also have the flexibility to accept change.

We are all going to be around the Clubroom for many years to come in one capacity or another. It would certainly be a wonderful atmosphere if we all strive to get along. All for one, and one for all. The stronger the team-the greater the results, it's just that simple.

Bruce Sharpe  
Public Relations Officer

# Zone Commander



Comrades, after a slow start to my term I was beginning to think that this position was a lot easier than I had thought. Well I can tell you now that isn't the case. As we solve old problems new ones arise to replace them.

In my last report I expressed concerns over the situation at the Oshawa 43 branch. I am pleased to tell you that after reviewing their books with the District Treasurer it appears to be more of a case of bad decisions than anything else and with a little advice and altering how they prepare the financial reports for the membership things seem to be improving as the year progresses.

At the time of writing, the ten branches that comprise F1 all seem to be surviving financially with some doing better than others. One of the keys to remaining healthy is to be able to have the bar proceeds high enough to carry the branch. Not an easy task but one that we must strive to attain.

One of the things that I took from the recent Provincial Executive Council is that if we can't achieve a 100% mark up on our resale products, then many of our branches will be struggling. The mindset of a lot of Legion members is that membership entitles you to really cheap drinks. We may be able to offer cheaper drinks than a lot of bars but we certainly cannot continue to have our branches relying heavily on fundraising to keep the doors open. Higher profits will play a part also, when we go non- smoking later this year.

We currently have a Branch President that has been removed from office by Command pending a decision of a hearing that took place on Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>. I am unable to comment on that situation, other than that Zone F1 is just the same as our comrades throughout District F. Many of the complaints are the usual clash of personalities, and are usually settled in house. One thorn in the side is the new "9 Ball" tournament. Why the Legion in its wisdom would get involved in a sport that many of our branches cannot host is beyond me?

We are in a position now, that branches are playing the game in a local bar. Should we not be encouraging sports that are played in-house and giving us the chance to profit from it? This is a similar problem to Legion Curling, where the players are outside the branch and yet when teams advance to a higher level, it costs the branch a small fortune to pay for all the expense incurred. I would be interested to hear the feelings of my fellow Commanders regarding the new pool tournament.

Cyril Best  
Zone F1 Commander

# Ladies Auxiliary



January and February were exciting month's for the Ladies Auxiliary.

In January one of our Cribbage teams brought home the Zone 1<sup>st</sup> place trophy from Bowmanville. They will go on to the District level playing in Bobcaygeon on March 11<sup>th</sup>. The team consists of Carol Collins, Susan Deschenes, Leila Wilson and myself.

On February 11<sup>th</sup>, 3 teams represented Ajax in Uxbridge for Zone Darts. The Ladies brought home the 1<sup>st</sup> place trophy from Uxbridge. The 1<sup>st</sup> place team of 4 were: Dorothy Buchanan, Carol Collins, Janet Kaminsky and Betty West. Another team consisting of Connie Leonard, Anne White, Claire Wylie and Kate Zarins came in 6<sup>th</sup> place. Both teams will move on to District Darts to be held in Minden on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Congratulations ladies and good luck in Bobcaygeon and Minden.

We have been busy, catering events and the Valentines Day Seniors luncheon, thank you to everyone that helped. A special thank you to Sheila Boyer for handing out red carnations to all the ladies that attended the Seniors luncheon, everyone was very pleased.

In February we celebrated our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, a small reception was held were a good time was had by all.

Donations were made in February to the Durham Region Literacy Council and the Easter Seals Telethon.

Look for our Easter basket coming in March, buy your tickets in support of the Ladies Auxiliary.

Yours in Comradeship  
Wendy Clark  
President Ladies Auxiliary





*Ed Fraser*

Branch 322 Veteran

June 25, 1918 – February 17, 2006



*Tribute To Our Veteran*

Try to imagine being twenty-one years of age in the British Army fighting in North Africa, in a horrific world war, far away from your home and family. Try to comprehend being captured by German paratroopers. You are thrown into a ditch with many of your comrades and the Germans soldiers are pointing their machine guns at you.

Once again, try to grasp or imagine what it must have been like to think that you are about to be executed.... Well, we had a great veteran in our branch that went through those excruciating times, and had those dreadful thoughts and feelings.

Fortunately, as sayings go, it wasn't his time, or his card wasn't dealt, or lady luck was with him. Maybe, we should just believe his guardian angel was protecting him that day. It is absolutely ludicrous and mind-boggling to try and comprehend what our brave veterans went through years ago. That was sixty-six ago.

Ed was given a reprieve. He was herded onto a German ship and sent on his way to Italy to be placed in a prisoner of war camp. Ironically, as luck would have it, his own comrades from the Royal Air Force sighted the ship about a mile from shore and sank it. What is remarkable is the fact the ship only sank forty feet and landed on a sand bank. The Germans soldiers on board evacuated, leaving the prisoners behind to be bombed by their own comrades for the following four days, killing many on board. Eventually two strong swimmers swam to shore to alert the Brits.