

Bingo Report



I've heard it said "How time flies when you're having fun." Wow!! How true that is. A whole year has gone by and I can definitely say it was a fun year chairing the Saturday night Bingo event.

We made the move from Bingo Country in Ajax to Delta Bingo in Pickering on April 1, 2006 and we took over the 10:15 pm Saturday Latenight session. This I must say was a great financial decision. This move was a team effort made possible by Comrades Anna McInnes, Bruce South and myself.

Not unlike the Branch, we saw the effects of non-smoking and the lower attendance due to the summer months but we were optimistic that we would bounce back. In September 2006, sure enough our attendance started to increase. The increase in attendance also had a lot to do with Delta management and their new program "Delta Rocks" which they implemented for our session. They now give away concert tickets at our session and this time slot has become very popular. The success of any session is also dependant on how the prize board is structured and how much money is available to be won for each of the jackpot games. I am pleased to report that we have deposited thus far \$37,322.37 into the Bingo account.

Once again, we are faced with another challenge. On May 1, 2007 the Alcohol & Gaming Commission of Ontario introduced the new Bingo Revenue Model across the province. The first couple of weeks have been challenging with the program changes and warmer weather but we are confident that this too will improve once everyone becomes more familiar with the new games and the prize structure.

I would like to thank my team of volunteers (who have now become Legion members) and my co chair Doug Smith for their help and support over the past year and I look forward to working with them again in the upcoming year. There's always room for more volunteers so if you are interested in helping out, please let me know.

Yours in Comradeship
Emma Smith
Bingo Chairman



Dominion President Makes Presentation

The Royal Canadian Legion's Troop Morale Fund dedicated to ensuring our troops get a coffee and a doughnut is working for the troops in Afghanistan. More than \$20,000 has been donated to the fund in the first month of its operation – almost enough to buy the troops a coffee and a doughnut on a weekly basis.

“Things tend to start a little slowly,” says Dominion President John Frost, “because we are such a large organization.” The Legion has almost 400,000 members in approximately 1,550 branches across Canada. “But they are starting to pick up now and we are seeing the funds arrive for the purchase of Tim Hortons gift certificates that can be used by the troops in Afghanistan.”

To mark the campaign's success Mr. Frost made a presentation of \$6,000 US worth of Tim Hortons Gift Certificates to Lt.-Gen. Michel Gauthier, Commander, Canadian Expeditionary Force Command (CEFCOM). The 3,000 certificates are to be sent to the troops serving in Afghanistan for use at the Tim Hortons outlet there.

“We want to send this amount of certificates on a weekly basis,” says Mr. Frost, “and our branches are going to make that possible. Many of them have come up with ideas on how to raise the funds and are putting them in place. Our troops deserve this type of support and they will get it from the members of The Royal Canadian Legion.”

“On behalf of our men and women serving their country in Afghanistan, I want to thank The Royal Canadian Legion for their outstanding show of support,” says Lieutenant-General Gauthier. “These gift certificates will go a long way in giving our soldiers in harm's way and so far away from Canada a true taste of home,” he adds.

The Legion sponsors Canadian Forces programs through the Canadian Forces Personnel Support Agency (CFPSA) with the donation of money or resources to the tune of \$90,000 per year at the national level. This does not include the funds raised for the current RCL Troop Morale Fund campaign or local efforts made by branches to support the deployed members of the military. The Tim Hortons office in Oakville, Ontario, is also a major player in this campaign.


“They help us make it all happen,” says Mr. Frost. “This program gives the member of the Legion, or even the general public donator, a chance to do something concrete for our troops,” he concludes.

The presentation marks the second purchase of gift certificates. A third will be made within a week. The fund operates on the principle that when sufficient monies are collected, the certificates are ordered, stamped by the Legion's Dominion Command, so that the troops are made aware of who is responsible for the donation, and then sent to the serving troops in Kandahar by the CFPSA.


Courtesy of the Dominion Command Web Site



Dominion President John Frost and Lt-Gen. Michel Gunthier





DONATIONS



RCL Troop Morale Fund

Buy the troops a coffee and a doughnut.





www.legion.ca

Donations made to The Royal Canadian Legion's Troop Morale Fund are not tax deductible.

National Silver Cross Mother for 2007



Mrs. Wilhelmina Beerenfenger-Koehler of Embrun, Ontario, has been selected by The Royal Canadian Legion as the 2007 Memorial (Silver) Cross Mother. She is the mother of the late army Corporal Robbie Christopher Beerenfenger.

Corporal Beerenfenger was killed near Kabul Afghanistan at approximately 1:25 p.m. Afghanistan time on 2 October, 2003.

An explosion, believed to have been tripped by the Ittis vehicle in which he was on patrol, also killed Sergeant Robert Short. Both were serving with the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group as part of Operation ATHENA, Canada's military commitment to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)-led mission in Kabul.

Mrs. Beerenfenger-Koehler will lay a wreath at the National War Memorial during the annual 11 November National Remembrance Day Ceremony on behalf of all Canadian mothers who have lost sons or daughters in the military or Merchant Navy services of the nation. The ceremony is organized and conducted by the Legion on behalf of the Government of Canada and in memory of all Canadians who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of freedom and peace.

