



Canada

The



Hunter News

September 2009

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HMS AJAX

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

**Doug Haigh
Bill Walker**

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Editor Doug Smith (smith.doug@sympatico.ca)
Assistant Editor Emma Smith (emmasmith@sympatico.ca)

Cover: HMS Ajax a leander-class frigate of the Royal Navy which visited the Town of Ajax in 1976.

Editor's Notes



I'm afraid to report that this will be the last version of the Hunter News in this printed format. It has just become too expensive to publish and the money should be going toward more worthwhile endeavours.

At one stage, the advertising paid for the majority of the expense but our members have not been supporting these businesses and in hard financial times, they can't afford to spend when there is no return on their investment.

We are looking at other alternatives including both print version and web versions but have not made any decisions yet. As always I am open to suggestions. Send me an email at smith.doug@sympatico.ca.

We have a lot of items covered in this issue which is a little larger than usual. Of course, I hope you all like the behind the scenes coverage of the office renovations and patio construction. Thank you to my assistant editor Emma for getting out of the house so early to capture the great pictures while I went to work.

Please accept my apologies if your picture from Canada Day didn't make the cut. Only so much room.

The Colour Party has been pretty active over the last few months representing the Branch as you can see.

I will have something published after our Remembrance Day events so stay tuned.

Yours in Comradeship
Doug Smith
Public Relations Officer

President's Report



I believe it was twelve years ago, if my memory serves me correctly, the first time I visited the Clubroom in the Ajax Legion. The first thing that caught my eye was the pictures of all of the Past Presidents mounted on the west wall. I looked at every picture from John Mills to Jim Kelly. My first thoughts of these members were “how did they become president?” and “why did they want to hold that position in the first place?”

“How did they all become president?” They all had leadership qualities that the membership identified with, I assume. It is probably safe to say that they were Legionnaires with a vision, with ideas, and with the energy to devote to the betterment of the Branch. “Why did they want to become president?” It was the desire to preserve the traditions and goals of the Royal Canadian Legion that made them seek the presidency. They all believed they could give their time and wanted this Branch to continue to be strong and viable; wanted it to continue to serve our veterans and charities, and be a strong force in the community.

It was my pleasure to get to know many of them over the years, the likes of Doug Ferguson, John Sullivan, Doug Haigh, Chick Presley, Jim Kelly; all wonderful gentlemen and each with very different personalities. Agnes Heasley was the president at the time. I had the pleasure of working beside her on various committees as well as with Cyril Best and Mike O’Hara.

On a personal note, I come from a family which has been burdened with considerable grief during times of war. That is why I have the greatest respect for our veterans and what this great organization stands for. It is an honour for me to be given the opportunity to carry on the tradition, and accept the responsibility as President of this Branch.

Our Branch has continued to be healthy over the years. One of the major reasons is that outgoing presidents take an oath to pass on all of their knowledge and support to their successors. That is what leaders do, and that is what keeps the organization strong.

We have had a few significant events since I officially took over as President. First of all we finally opened our long awaited patio on June 3rd. We had a great day, starting with a Levy at noon until 2pm for our members only. The first member to have a drink on the patio was Cde. Bernie Cluett. The rest of the day was an “Open House” and everyone

had a terrific time.

Our MPP Joe Dickson was on hand as well as Mayor Steve Parrish and all of our Council members. I would like to thank all of them for their support in helping us overcome the many hurdles and obstacles we encountered in obtaining the necessary licensing and permits. So now during the summer months on Sunday afternoons, weather permitting, our entertainment will be held on the patio from 3pm to 7pm.

Canada Day was an overwhelming success again this year. Special thanks go out to all of the musicians from the Roots and Rhythm Band and Joe Harvey and the Cruisers Band for making themselves affordable for us to have them here.

We really did have some wonderful volunteers who helped put the whole thing together and I thank them very much. Sgt-at-Arms Dave Langille and all of the members of the Colour Party did a terrific job with the Canadian flag changing ceremony. All of the members of our Ladies Auxiliary also deserve big thanks for all of their hard work and dedication. These two groups are always there when called upon.

It was a nice surprise to have in attendance Pte. Trevor Livingstone and Pte. Mathew Pagliaro, two of our young soldiers representing our Canadian Forces.

Special thanks to our MP Mark Holland, and once again our MPP Joe Dickson, Ajax Mayor Steve Parrish, Councilors Pat Brown, Joanne Dyes, and Colleen Jordan for being in attendance. A great day was had by all.

Our Colour Party also participated in the Ajax Home Week Parade last month and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Home Week Committee for inviting us to be a part of it again this year. The parade was a huge success and our Branch was very proud to play a part in it.

I welcome all of the new members on our Executive Committee. I believe they will contribute significantly. New blood, new ideas, dedicated volunteers and positive changes are always needed to keep the Branch moving forward.

In closing, Branch 322 welcomes all Legion members from other Branches as well as guests. We are financially sound and our membership is growing. Thank you to all our members who continue to support the Branch. Our veterans, our seniors, our charities and the needy are the beneficiaries.

Yours in Comradeship
Bruce Sharpe