

Ways & Means

Comrades, as all of you are well aware, we have events going on in the branch continuously. We try to make as many of you aware of these happenings as possible through the Hunter News, posters and letters pinned in the Clubroom and in the cabinets in the front entrance. But obviously if you were not here for sometime or maybe didn't check the boards you would have missed them.

We can solve that problem for many of you. We are now in the 21st century. Dominion Command wants to communicate with all of the branches across Canada better, and Provincial Command urges the branches to communicate with all of their members quicker and more proficient if possible. This can be done of course through electronic mail.

Many of you have given your email address to the Legion when you first joined or renewed your membership. For those members who have not and want to be kept up to date on what is happening or being planned around here I urge you to do so. You will be notified of dates and times of general meetings, nominations and election dates, next dance, or raffle, or Children's Christmas party, or sporting events and competitions, and many more numerous events that will take place at our branch on a continual basis.

If you have not given this information to the branch already and you want us to communicate with you on an ongoing dialogue, pass your email information on to myself, the membership committee or the office. The neat thing about this is that the friends that you have in the branch that do not have access to the internet or do not own a computer, you will be able to pass this valuable information on to them the next time you speak.

Just a reminder to check out our Website @ www.rclajax.com Read the Hunter News Editions, view all of the pictures from the Poppy Campaign and the Children's Christmas party or check out the other Legion related sites.

I would like to thank Bruce South, for all of his time, effort, and expertise into downloading all of these very interesting entries and items onto our website for your viewing. He does a tremendous job and it is certainly well appreciated.

Extra!! Extra!! By the way you heard this exclusively from me. If you do not have email, the next President's Levee is January 1st 2006 at 10 am.

Thank you Comrades
Bruce Sharpe
Ways & Means Chairman



What's On The Agenda

<i>Colour Guard "TV/DVD Raffle"</i>	<i>Tickets available in Clubroom</i>
<i>Valentine's Dance</i>	<i>Saturday February 12</i>
<i>Colour Guard "Rock a Bowl"</i>	<i>Saturday February 26</i>
<i>Zone F1 "Karaoke Challenge"</i>	<i>Sunday February 27</i>
<i>St. Patrick's Dance</i>	<i>Saturday March 12</i>

Ladies Auxiliary



Comrades, 2004 passed away and took with it one of our long standing members of the Ladies Auxiliary, Comrade Jeanne Davey. Jeanne was a very active member of our Auxiliary over the years. She marched in parades, carried our Colours, volunteered with the Seniors luncheons, helped in the kitchen and continually ran errands. She was always smiling and willing to help when she was needed. She will be dearly missed

I would like to say thank you to Russell Gregg our caterer, for his constant support in the kitchen. He has provided us with great time savers as well. We look forward to working with him and having another great year together.

Also thank you to the members of Branch 322 and their guests for your support with our Christmas basket. The winner of the basket was Doris Tofflemire

Thanks to Leila Wilson for her numerous hours collecting all the items, and Marie Bugg for putting it all together and also to all of our members who sold tickets. Without all of you, this would not have been so successful.

Happy New Year everyone. We are looking forward to a busy 2005.

Yours in Comradeship
Wendy Clark
President Ladies Auxiliary



Colour Guard



Last year was extremely busy for us, we not only represented Branch 322 but Zone F1 as well. The most memorable week for us of course was representing the veterans of our Branch in the Remembrance Parade, and at the Remembrance Service in St. Paul's United Church on November 7th, and the Remembrance Day Services on Hunt Street at our Branch on November 11th.

We are looking forward to another great season in 2005. I would like to thank all of the members of the Colour Guard, as well as our instructor and Sergeant At Arms Butch Andrews, for their dedication, and all of the members of the Branch for your tremendous support over the past year.

The Colour Guard are promoting a raffle for a "24" Colour TV/DVD & Home Theatre Surround Sound System." Tickets may be purchased at the bar in the Clubroom at this time, or from any of our Colour Guard members. The winning ticket will be drawn at the Valentine's Dance on February 12th. Also our 3rd Annual "Rock a Bowl" has been scheduled for February 26th at the Ajax Bowl. Tickets for this fun evening will be available in the near future.

Comrades, let me wish the members of our Branch as well as every member of The Royal Canadian Legion, a very happy and prosperous New Year.

Gary Whelan
Commanding Officer





A Canadian Military Hero



Corporal Frederick George Topham

V.C.

March 24th, 1945

1st Canadian Parachute Battalion

Frederick George Topham was born in Toronto, Ontario, on the 10th of August 1917. He was educated at King George Public School and Runnymede High School. Prior to his enlistment he was employed in the mines at Kirkland Lake. In November 1945 he laid the cornerstone for Sunnybrook Memorial Hospital in Toronto. After demobilization he lived in East York and worked at Toronto Hydro. He died on the 31st of March 1974 and is buried in Toronto.

The Victoria Cross

"For most conspicuous bravery or some daring or pre-eminent act of valour or self-sacrifice or extreme devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy."

On 24th March 1945, Corporal Topham, a medical orderly, parachuted with his battalion on to a strongly defended area east of the Rhine. At about 1100 hours, whilst treating casualties sustained in the drop, a cry for help came from a wounded man in the open. Two medical orderlies from a field ambulance went out to this man in succession, but both were killed as they knelt beside the casualty.

Without hesitation and on his own initiative, Corporal Topham went forward through intense fire to replace the orderlies who had been killed before his eyes. As he worked on the wounded man he was himself shot through the nose. In spite of severe bleeding and intense pain, he never faltered in his task. Having completed immediate first aid, he carried the wounded man steadily and slowly back through continuous fire to the shelter of a wooded area.

During the next two hours Corporal Topham refused all offers of medical help for his own wound. He worked most devotedly throughout this period to bring in the wounded, showing complete disregard for the heavy and accurate enemy fire. It was only when all casualties had been cleared that he consented to his own wound being treated.