

# Editorial



Comrades as many of us are quite well aware, the Royal Canadian Legion is in a state of transition, and as you know was once an organization consisting solely of veterans. But today, veterans are in a minority. Their numbers continue to decline with every passing day. The Legion is now composed of more members who have never worn the uniform than those who served in Her Majesty's forces or those of King George VI.

In addition, the Canadian social and economic environment in which the Legion was founded 75 years ago has changed significantly. But, the foundation remains solid.

There is a Constitution which has been proclaimed as an Act of Parliament, and a well defined set of General By-Laws which all serve to reflect the tradition and history of a most unique and recognized organization. Today, 460,000 members have answered the call and pay tribute by their commitment to the success of this great organization.

The current challenge and plan that is now being drafted by Command will guide the Legion and its members into the future and ensure that the fundamental role and purpose of the Legion is maintained in a manner which is appropriate and relevant to both its past and to the actual environment of the modern Canadian way of life.

In other words the traditional role and purpose of the Legion must be implemented in such a fashion which will continue to win the support and recognition of the Canadian people as it did throughout the 20th century. The Legion's operations, facilities, activities and programs must reflect the society in which we live.

In summary, the large membership base, reputation, presence and symbols of the Legion stand as its greatest strengths. The Legion is recognized as the rock of stability which is committed to consistent Canadian values.

The Royal Canadian Legion as always, will demonstrate that it treasures its reputation, and that it is able to adapt to the changing times so that it can continue to represent its traditional values in a format that is both meaningful and complimentary to the modern Canadian society.

Let's make others aware that by becoming a member of the Royal Canadian Legion, they will have the reward of meeting new friends, becoming involved with their community and also developing and sharing their leadership skills. They will have the great opportunity of preserving the Remembrance of those who gave so much for the freedom and prosperity we enjoy today. The proud heritage of this great Canadian organization would be thoroughly enriched by the injection of enthusiastic ideas from energetic ambitious new members.

Bruce Sharpe  
Public Relations Officer



# Ways & Means

## *Provincial Car Lottery*

Just a reminder, the 2005 Provincial Car Lottery tickets are being sold at the bar in the Clubroom. The tickets are only two dollars each and the proceeds go to Track and Field, and the Youth Education Charitable Foundation. The draw will take place on May 17th, 2005 at the Provincial Convention at the Galt Arena Gardens. A total of 5 car prizes is worth over \$130,000.00. I urge you comrades to buy a ticket and support this great cause.

**Branch 322 Website:** [www.rclajax.com](http://www.rclajax.com)

Don't forget to check out our Website. You will be able to read a few editions of the Hunter News, view all of the pictures from our 2nd Zone F1 Karaoke Challenge or you can simply click on the various Legion related sites.

**Branch 322 News Group:** [rclajax@yahoo.ca](mailto:rclajax@yahoo.ca)

Many of you have given your email address to the Legion and joined our newly formed branch news group. 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.

## *Webmaster & Email Coordinator*

I would like to thank Bruce South, for all of his time, effort, and expertise in downloading the Hunter News as well as the interesting entries and items and also for setting up our new news group. He does a tremendous job and it is certainly well appreciated.

To join our newly formed Branch News Group just pass your email information on to myself or Bruce South, or our News Group email address site.

## *What's On The Agenda*

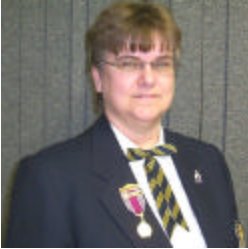
<i>St. Patrick's Dance</i>	<i>Saturday March 12</i>	<i>8:00 pm</i>
<i>Ajax/Brantford Legions</i>	<i>Saturday April 2</i>	<i>2:00 pm</i>
<i>Karaoke Challenge</i>		

## *Meetings*

<i>General Meeting</i>	<i>First Wednesday of the month</i>	<i>8:00 pm</i>
<i>Executive Meeting</i>	<i>Last Wednesday of the month</i>	<i>7:30 pm</i>

Thank you Comrades  
Bruce Sharpe  
Ways & Means Chairman

# Ladies Auxiliary



Comrades, we have had a very busy winter organizing Senior's luncheons, Birthday parties, Anniversaries, Branch and Zone dart competitions and funerals. We also have a full slate ahead of us in the Springtime as well. Easter is fast approaching and we will be organizing an Easter Basket Raffle.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our ladies who continually volunteer their time to make these events a success and also to thank and welcome our new members.

The Ladies will also be hosting the Ladies Auxiliary District Cribbage competition on March 12th, with approximately 160 players involved.

On behalf of the Ladies Auxiliary, let me wish all of you and your families a very Happy Easter and our thoughts go out to Jackie Mazucca. We miss you, take care of yourself and hurry back.

Yours in Comradeship  
Wendy Clark  
President Ladies Auxiliary



# Colour Guard



I would first of all like to thank everyone who supported our TV/DVD Surround Sound Raffle and also this year's Rock a Bowl.

The winner of the TV/DVD Raffle was Francine Ponio. I hope she have many years of enjoyment.

There were 38 bowlers at our Rock a Bowl and they all had a great time as expected. Many thanks to all of the volunteers and also to everyone who donated prizes to this event.

We will be proudly carrying the Colours at the Zone Convention at our Branch on Sunday, March 6th.

Comrades, on behalf of all of the members of the Colour Guard, let me wish everyone a very Happy Easter.

Gary Whelan  
Commanding Officer





The Royal Canadian Legion  
*Dominion Command*  
*Canada's Largest Veterans Organization*



There are many veterans' organizations in Canada but the largest by far is the Royal Canadian Legion with more than over 400,000 members and affiliates.

They are contained within the following membership categories:

**Ordinary:** (serving and retired military, RCMP personnel, provincial and municipal police);

**Associate:** (direct relative of an ordinary member)

**Affiliates:** (voting and non-voting friends of the Legion).

In addition, there are approximately 58,000 registered members of the Ladies Auxiliary who provide invaluable support to the Branches of the Legion and their fundraising activities. Serving members of the Canadian Forces may join under the Military Member-At-Large program and may not need to join a specific branch.

The Legion is a non-profit, dues-supported, fraternal organization with approximately 1,600 branches in Canada, 21 in the United States and 4 in Germany. The Legion receives no financial assistance from any outside agency and membership is open to all Canadian veterans as well as serving and former members of the Canadian Forces, RCMP, The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary, other police forces and their dependants, and Canadians who subscribe to the purposes and objects of the organization.

From the time of its formation in 1925-1926, the Legion has focussed its efforts on the fight to secure adequate pensions and other well-earned benefits for veterans and their dependants. Acting as an advocacy agency on pensioners' behalf, the Legion deals directly with the Federal Government to ensure ex-military personnel and their dependants are treated fairly.

The Royal Canadian Legion has assumed a major responsibility for perpetuating the tradition of Remembrance in Canada. Each year the Legion organizes and runs the National Poppy-Remembrance Campaign to remind Canadians of the tremendous debt we owe to the more than 117,000 men and women who gave their lives in the defence of Canada during two world wars the Korean War and other missions around the world. Contributions made during the campaign are used to assist needy veterans, ex-service members and their families.

The Legion also supports programs for seniors, particularly through direct community-level activities, and housing projects. The Legion's Youth program provides scholarships and bursaries, sports programs and support to activities such as cadets, scouts and guides.