

Presidents Report

March 2011



Hello everyone

Our branch has had a few significant events since my last report.

Our Halloween Dance on Saturday October 30th and Poppy Dance on Saturday November 7th were both well attended and very successful.

Our Remembrance Church Service and parade on Sunday November 7th at St. Paul's United Church was well attended. I asked all of our veterans that were on the bus before they came back to the branch to be on the reviewing stand for the second consecutive year. They certainly enjoyed that and hopefully this tradition will continue in the future.

Our Remembrance Day Service on Thursday November 11th in front of the branch was probably the largest turnout in many, many years, about 600 people attended. We also had seating for two hundred and fifty which was surely welcomed.

Our Veterans Dinner was on Sunday November 14th. What a special night that is when we are given the opportunity to thank all of our veterans for their bravery and valour to our great country.

On Grey Cup Sunday, November 28th, we had entertainment, a Shuffleboard tournament food prizes, and of course the game itself. Special thanks to Dave Wylie, Mike Fitzpatrick and Chester McConnell for their involvement.

Our New Years Eve Party was a sellout and our Presidents Levee was standing room only all day.

Our first Ajax Legion Idol competition was a tremendous success. The final consisted of seven females and seven male singers. About three hundred people came out for the final day. Congratulations to the eventual overall winner Dale Gray and the two finalists Pam Miller and Gary Chitiz.

We had a profit of nine thousand dollars and I thank everyone that supported this venture. A special thank you goes out to Rob MacArthur for donating his time. Without his involvement this competition would not have taken place.

We have started our second Ajax Legion Idol competition and it seems to be even more popular than the first. Finals will take place in our large hall on Saturday May 14th. Everyone is welcome on Tuesday evenings starting at 8pm. The competitors are superb to say the least. For more information on the competition check out our website at www.rclajax.com

We did have a Karaoke Challenge scheduled on February 27th with Fenelon Falls however Branch President Belinda Wilson called me to say they were not going to have enough members to compete because so many of their members would be on holidays. A lot of snowbirds up their I guess. Anyhow we made the best of it and had our own in house competition between our female members and male members. The “Battle of the Sexes” we called it. There were about twenty singers on each team. The girls won. But that was no surprise. It was a great day and a full house throughout.

Future events:

Our St. Paddy’s Day Party will be held on Thursday March 17th. Entertainment is scheduled from 4pm to 8pm featuring Gary O’Cooper. It will be a full house.

We have re-scheduled our Annual Karaoke Challenge with Fenelon Falls on Sunday April 10th.

A Veterans Day Luncheon on is planned for Tuesday April 19th. We will be inviting all of the veterans in our branch to welcome approximately thirty five veterans from Sunnybrook Hospital visiting us for lunch, a few drinks and some entertainment.

Our Canada Day Celebrations have been organized. We will have three bands performing this year due to the fact July 1st is on a Friday. The first band (Lorraine Davies Band) will start at 1pm to 5pm outside, the second band (Draft Kings) will continue outside until 9pm and the third band (The Bonneville) will perform in our Clubroom from 9pm to closing time at 1am. As usual we are expecting a large turnout throughout.

Let me take this opportunity to thank all of my Branch Officers, a magnificent executive and all of our members and volunteers who continue to support the branch.

In closing I would like to extend an invitation to all Legion members and their guests from other branches to drop in anytime to our branch in Ajax to enjoy our hospitality.

In closing, God bless our veterans and thank you for our freedom.

Bruce Sharpe