



September 2011

The Hunter News



Bruce Sharpe

Presidents Report

I will start of my stating how confused I am with regards to why ninety percent of our members continue to renew their memberships every year and do not show up to support the branch in any way. The portion of their membership fee that we receive at the branch level is less than twenty dollars, the rest going to Command. Thank God for the other ten percent that always support our Branch, without them we would be closing our doors.

Legion branches are closing their doors every day right across Canada. The main reasons are first of all the lack of volunteers, or a membership that does not support their respective branches. That's a shame because everyone loses.

New blood, new ideas, dedicated volunteers and positive changes are always needed to keep any organization moving forward. I'm reaching out to all of our members to please come out a little more often to support our Saturday afternoon meat-draws, our raffles, our dances, our entertainment, numerous sporting events, competitions and fundraisers so we can stay strong and healthy.

We have lost two very significant volunteers of our Branch with the passing of our 1st Vice President Emma Smith and Ladies Auxiliary member Eileen Cade recently. Their passing will certainly have a ripple effect on our Branch for many years to come.

In closing, Branch 322 welcomes all Legion members from other Branches as well as guests to drop in and visit us anytime. We are financially sound; our membership is stable at around 1250, and once again thanks to all our members and volunteers that continue to support the Branch on a regular basis. Our veterans, our seniors, our charities and the needy are the beneficiaries.

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH 322

111 HUNT ST. AJAX, ONTARIO L1S 1P3

905 683-2927 office

905-683-7811 bar steward

www.rclajax.com



CLAIRE WYLIE

LADIES AUXILIARY

We have lost some key members from our group recently and they were Comrade Emma Smith and Comrade Eileen Cade. They were an integral part of the Ladies' Auxiliary and are greatly missed.

We are working hard on setting up the 2012 Provincial Ladies' Auxiliary Convention and many of our members are involved. I look forward to the support of our Branch in making the different parts of the program a great success and thank Comrade Bruce Sharpe for his involvement.

I am encouraged by the number of new members joining our ranks and our membership is well over 40 members. I am proud to say that we are constantly receiving accolades from different groups and other Branches about the quality of the food we serve and the dedication of our members. I would like to thank our Canteen Chair, Rita Cooke, for the first class work that she is doing.

Our girls are going on to the District Euchre finals and we send our best wishes to them.

We are looking forward to assisting with the Remembrance Day program and I also would like to remind all members that our Christmas Basket Raffle will be out and tickets will go on sale after Remembrance Day.



Dave Wylie

POPPY

Our total of just over \$52,000 raised last year will hopefully be eclipsed by our members this year. My successor, Comrade McConnell, is already working hard on the Sunday Remembrance Day Service and Poppy Raffle as well as the other Remembrance Day events. I ask all members to find the time to donate a couple of hours to tag at the different venues listed on the Poppy Board in the Club Room. If you have any questions, feel free to ask us and we will be glad to answer them.

SPORTS

Our Sports meetings have not been scheduled yet but we will be meeting shortly to set up the Sports calendar for the coming year. We will be hosting the Zone and District Golf this year as a result of our fine finish by Norm Duncan and Jackie Kinghan. Unfortunately, the weather was bad at the Provincials and our boys had to pull out because the course was unplayable.

Our dart leagues have started up and anyone wishing to join or spare should check with the leagues on either Tuesday night (Newfie League) or Friday night.

Shuffleboard will officially start up on the first Friday after Thanksgiving. We hope to see you all back then.

CANTEEN

I have taken over this position from Emma Smith and find that this is a very time consuming position. Our collective objective is to serve you better and maintain the cleanliness of the Branch. If there are any concerns, feel free to contact the office or any Executive member and we will do our best to address the issues.



ED GALLANT

SERGEANT AT ARMS

As my first official article in the Hunter News, I would like to thank the President, Executive and members of Ajax Legion #322 for putting their faith in being their new Sgt at Arms.

I would also like to thank our Past Sgt at Arms for handing over a great team spirited working Colour Party.

This past winter we took over as Zone Colour Party, which means two more parades per year.

Our first Zone Convention was last March 6, 2011. Next Zone Convention is October 2, in Oshawa.

We had six Colour Party members marching in the Toronto Exhibition. Well done once again.

As usual, this time of year is exceptionally busy for our hardworking Colour Party with the following events all happening in less than two weeks. They are:

Honours and Awards

Church Parade

Veterans' Dinner

Remembrance Day

Again, I have been very fortunate to have such a Great Team assisting me, or better still, making me look good as Sgt at Arms



KAREN FRY

HONORS AND AWARDS

Comrade Karen Fry was invited by Sue Clancy Teacher-Librarian, to take part in the Vimy Ridge 2012 Walkathon on Saturday, April 9th. The walkathon was a success. Karen reported everyone enjoyed the day and the soldiers appreciated the Legion's support.

The August volunteer recognition was held at the Legion and Dave made a wonderful selection of steak or chicken or chicken accompanied with various salads and desserts.

It was a full house for this event and we all enjoyed ourselves greatly. This event was held in the outside patio, it was a wonderful warm summer evening and we all enjoyed the fellowship of our fellow comrades.



CHESTER MCCONNELL

POPPY REPORT 2011

The 2011 Poppy campaign starts October 28 till November 11. A sign-up board for the canvassers is up and we're looking for volunteers with vehicles to drive cadets to and from their locations on Saturday, October 29.

Our church parade will be on Sunday, November, 6th, service will be at St. Paul's United church at 2 PM. The ladies auxiliary will serve a potluck lunch at the branch. After the parade, entertainment to follow. If a donation sheet will be put up in the club room. We will also have a Poppy fund draw.

- 1st prize - 40 inch TV
- 2nd prize - Apple I Pad
- 3rd prize - office chair
- 4th prize- handmade Poppy Afghan.

Remembrance Day service at branch 322, 11th hour, 11th day, 11th month 2011th year.

The success of RCL Poppy fund and campaign lies with its volunteers. Please do not let us down. Remember your oath. In comradeship Chester McConnell.

WE SHALL REMEMBER THEM



Judy Davidson

EDITOR'S NOTES

This is my first addition of the Hunter's News. It is a hard job to take over after the excellent work Comrade Doug Smith put into it, but I look forward to this work.

I plan to publish The Hunter's News quarterly and look forward to receiving submissions from people with interesting news to share, achievements and special occasions that you have celebrated at the Legion.

It is my aim to make this newsletter an opportunity to read about the achievements of your fellow comrades, our work as members of the Legion and how we celebrate all of our branch's many activities.

I trust everyone is gearing up for the Poppy drive and all volunteers are welcome to man the various locations required. We look forward to a successful Poppy drive in support of our veterans.

Thank you to everyone for helping me with this. My first addition your input is appreciated.



Happy 50th Kelly

Kelly had her 50th Birthday Party at the Legion and it was a success, as she was totally surprised when she walked in the door. Her husband can arrange a great party and keep a secret.

The ladies Auxiliary provided the excellent food and the entertainment was a success by the Band with No Name.

The surprise guest entertainer of the evening was no less than an Elvis impersonator. The music was great, this comrade danced until her feet hurt.

It was a great event and what made it special was that it was a full house celebrating a wonderful lady's birthday.

Karaoke Challenge

On Sunday, September 18, a bus load of members from the Ajax Branch made our way with best singing voices to Branch 238 in Fenelon Falls.

We were welcomed warmly and a delicious selection of food was served. Our branch represented us well, 20 singers to their 12, however we came home with the Frog Award this year.

Branch 238 donated their portion of the 50/50 draw to Ajax in memory of Emma Smith.

Bruce Sharpe presented Belinda Fenelon Falls President with a gift in thanks of a poppy picture which was received with thanks.



Executive Committee 2011-2012

Branch Officers

President	Bruce Sharpe
Past President	Mike O'Hara
1 st Vice President	
2 nd Vice president	Dave Wylie
3 rd Vice president	Chester McConnell
Treasurer	Doug Smith
Secretary	Jeanette Clarke-Boutilier
Sgt. at Arms	Ed Gallant
Bingo	
Building	Gary Campbell
Bursary/Charitable	Jeanette Clarke-Boutilier
Canteen	Dave Wylie
Honors and Awards	Karen Fry
L. A. Liaison	Jeanette Clarke-Boutilier
Legion Seniors	Sheila Boyer
Membership	Bruce South
Nevada	
Poppy	Chester McConnell
Public Relations	Judy Davidson
Sick and Visiting	Sheila Boyer
Sports	Dave Wylie
Special Events	Bruce Sharpe
T OD	Bruce Sharpe
Veteran Services	Cyril Best
Ways and Means	Karen Fry
Youth Education	Jeanette Clarke-Boutilier

General Meeting 1st Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM

Executive Meeting last Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM

Branch Office Administrator

Sally Leebody Phone: 905 -683-2927

Chief Bar Steward

Cathy Taylor Phone: 905- 683-7811

Email Address rcl322@bell.net.ca

Website www.rclajax.com

LA Exec. Committee 2011-2012

Ladies Auxiliary Officers

President	Claire Wylie
Past President	Dorothy Buchanan
1 st Vice President	Judy Davidson
2 nd Vice president	Sheila Boyer
3 rd Vice president	
Treasurer	Helen McMahon
Secretary	Anna Lennerton
Sgt. at Arms	Katherine Clarke
L. A. Liaison	Jeanette Clarke-Boutilier
Padre	Janette Kaminsky
Canteen	Rita Cooke
Honors and Awards	Judy Davidson
Legion Seniors	Sheila Boyer
Membership	Janette Kaminsky
Sick and Visiting	Rose Carry
Sports	Joanna Wall
Ways and Means	

General Meeting 2nd Wednesday of the month at 8 PM.

Zone Commander

Diane Howarth 905-623-8980

Deputy Zone Commander



EMMA SMITH REMEMBRANCE

I attended Comrade Emma Smith's Life Celebration on September 20th. As everyone knows who went there it was a wonderful celebration of a life lived to its fullest.

I will miss her as she had become a friend and wonderful advisor during the time I had the pleasure of working with her on the LA.

Emma's great grandson kissed her picture at the service and called out to his Nana. There was not a dry eye in room.

Last Post

They shall not grow 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

Eileen Cade
Tyes Degraauw
Ella Foster
Charles Gage
George MacIntosh
Nancy McDonald
Joan Prosser
George Reid
Emma Smith



Some of you may not know that Emma won the Governor Generals Volunteer of the Year Award this spring. It was an honour well deserved for her as she exemplified what it means to be a volunteer.

This award is presented in a ceremony once a year in which the Governor General of Canada presents the award to the volunteer who has been nominated by their organization for outstanding work in volunteerism.

This is an honor that few people receive and as such it is commendable that Emma Smith represented our Legion so competently, that she earned this award. Emma, you will be missed by everyone that knew you.

We will remember you.