

January 2015

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH 99



THE ENLIGHTENER

Branch 99 Belleville

0

132 Pinnacle Street



IMPORTANT DATES

New Year's Levee – 1 January 2015

Elvis Tribute – 10 January 2015

General Meeting – 11 January 2015

IMPORTANT INFO

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Branch Hours

Monday – 3 pm to 10 pm

Tuesday to Thursday - 1 pm to 11 pm

Friday - 11 am to 1 am

Saturday – 1 pm to 6 pm

Sunday – Special Events Only



The Enlightener



The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 99

President's Message

Andy Anderson

The City council has signed the Bylaw authorizing the purchase of our building, and the documents are in the hands of the Lawyers. We have not seen the cheque as yet. It seems that the City's financial wheels turn very slowly.

On April 19, we will be celebrating "Operation Manna" and the end of the German occupation of Holland. We have located some Hasty P's who were involved in Holland along with some Air Force veterans who were active at that time. Hopefully, we will have many Dutch Canadians here for that event. To honour the occasion we will dedicate our Poppy Office to Princess Margriet. She was born in Ottawa while the Dutch Royal Family stayed in Canada.

I wish all our members a safe and prosperous New Year.

Youth Education

Gerry McConnell

The Annual Poster and Literary Awards will be handed out at our General Meeting on January 11th, 2015. Please come out to support these young people. We are waiting for the Zone Speaking date for the 2014 competitors.

The Public Speaking packages for 2015 are to be mailed out early this month.

Happy New Year!

Membership

Mary Presley

The Early Bird is now over and we had quite a successful year. Vern Goodwin won the December Early Bird Draw.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new comrades, both those who have been recently initiated and those who have chosen our Branch as their home. Welcome to all and do not hesitate to come out and enjoy the comradeship in the Club Room, attend our events and enjoy a beverage.

Renewals for 2015 are going very well and there is still time to renew your membership and be a "Member In Good Standing" by January 31st.

The Membership Committee wish one all a Very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Entertainment

Pauline DeGenova

Thursday, January 1st, 2015

New Year's Levee

Open at noon, followed by Karaoke with John & Rita, 2 pm to 6 pm

Saturday, January 10th

Elvis Birthday Bash – Bruce Andrew Stewart

Celebrating the Kings 80th Birthday Show / Dance

"Door Prizes" 50/60's music, cash bar.

Ticket's \$15 - in advance or at the door.

Doors open at 7:00 p.m. / Show 8:00 p.m.

For tickets or info call 613 968-9053 or 613-394 3851.

SPORTS

Bob Reid

Zone Shuffleboard Tryouts

January 3rd, 2015

12 noon

Zone Shuffleboard

January 24th, 2015

Registration 9 am

Start 10 am

Zone Mixed Darts Tryouts

March 7th, 2015

Registration 9 am

10 am Start

Friday, January 23rd, 2015

Karaoke with John & Rita

6:30 - 10:30 p.m.

Everyone welcome.

Sunday, January 25th

Belleville Legion Country Jamboree & Open Mic.

\$10.00 p/p at the door. 7:p.m. – 10:30 p.m.

Share the wealth, door prizes.

January 10th, 2015

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 99, Belleville

ELVIS[®]



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Bruce Andrew Stewart



Canteen

Monday – Hot Dogs
5 pm to 9 pm

Tuesday/Wednesday – Hamburgers,
Western Sandwiches, Fries and Onion Rings
6 pm to 9 pm

Thursday – Chicken Wings, Hamburgers,
Western Sandwiches, Fries and Onion Rings
6 pm to 8 pm

Friday Night Specials

Fish & Chips – 1st & 3rd Friday of the month

Regular Menu (Hamburger, Hot dogs &
Fries) – 2nd Friday of the month

Comfort Food Night (Chili, Stew, Spaghetti
etc.) – 4th Friday of the month

Canteen open Fridays, 4 pm to 6 pm

Ladies Auxiliary

Shirley Stewart

We have been very busy during the month of December. It started with a funeral Luncheon for 50 people. Thank you Diane Delarge and Carol Hamilton for looking after this.

Then we had our bake sale at the mall. I would like to thank the following members who donated baked goods: Katherine Cordeau, Diane Delarge, Jennifer Delarge, Gealdine Harvie, Gree Helm, Bea Hunt, Selma McComb, Jean Saulnier, Anne St. Pierre, Shirley Stewart and Lily Young. Thanks also goes out to Diane, Anne and Shelly for helping at the Mall.

The last thing we had in December was the Christmas Basket draws. I would like to thank everyone who donated things for the baskets and for everyone who supported us by purchasing tickets. The winners were Sandra Ross, Tammy Adams, John Wilson, Debbie Nicholson, and Syliva Burt.



Shirley Stewart and Diane Delarge of the Ladies Auxiliary present a \$1,000 cheque to Andy Anderson, RCL Branch 99.

Humour Haunt

"I am not a lawyer, I have many other faults but that is not among them." Ed Broadbent

"Diaper backward spells repaid. Think about it." Marshall McLuhan

"Avoid people who say: Do you have a minute? They take up the most time of all." Allan Fotheringham

"Behind every great man is a woman, rolling her eyes." Jim Carrey

"I am confused therefore I am." Jack Ludwig

"Canadians are careful. We have two railroads, two airlines, two languages, and two temperatures." Barry Mather

Community Support

Mary Presley

Our continuing commitment to our local community was demonstrated on December 14th, as Branch 99 presented a number of cheques to various charities. Without the efforts of our volunteers, this continuing support would not have been possible.



Andy Anderson, President, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 99, Belleville, presenting a \$1,500 cheque to Wil Brown-Ratcliffe of the Salvation Army.



Andy Anderson President, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 99, Belleville, presenting a \$500 cheque to Maureen Corrigan of Heart and Stroke Foundation.



Andy Anderson, President, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 99, Belleville, presenting a \$2,000 cheque to Susanne Quinlan of Gleaners' Food Bank, Belleville.



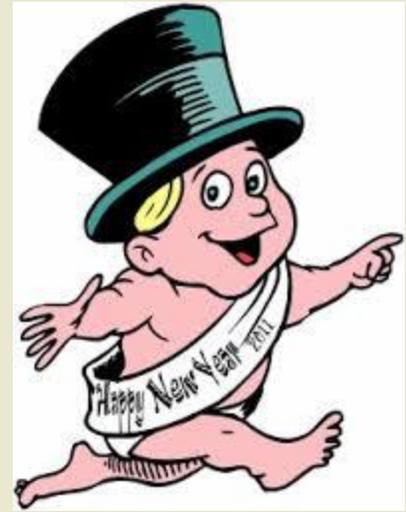
Andy Anderson, President, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 99, Belleville, presenting a \$1,500 cheque to a representative of Christmas Sharing Belleville.

Volunteers Wanted

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer on one of our various committees, please contact one of the Committee members on page 11. We would truly welcome your participation.

New Year's Eve Party

Branch 99 was rocking in the New Year to a full house.



New Year's Levee

This year's Levee was a resounding success with many a dignitary dropping by including Lt. Colonel Wedgewood & CWO Hoper from CFB Trenton. Piper James Wessels provided entertainment to the Branch.



Get the Grump Out!

B.C./Yukon Command sent out the following (adapted) message to their Branches, and Dominion Command whole-heartedly agrees with this message. It's a message that must be shared across the organization, and we hope every Branch shares this message with their members.



Every effort is being made at the Dominion, Provincial, Zone and Branch levels to recruit and retain Legion members. The media loves sounding the death knell for our organization, and we must fight it by working even harder at our membership numbers. We know many Branches have focused on this, ensuring their Branches stay welcoming, inclusive and relevant... and these Branches see growth because of this.

What we continue to struggle with is the reception people get at some of our Branches. We hear of experiences from across Canada that makes us cringe...

- An Ordinary member (in his forties) went for dinner at a Branch in a town where he was working temporarily. Upon entering, the entire place turned and stared at him, and not one person greeted him. He felt too awkward to stay, so he left.
- Another person attempted to join a Branch, and asked if he could be an Ordinary member as a Paramedic. He got a flat "No" and no one took the time to explain or offer information on any other category of membership. He left.
- A group of people belonging to a local softball club went to their Legion Branch after a game. Rather than taking what could have been a great opportunity for the Branch to welcome the team, tell them about the Legion and let them know about membership, a group of 'regulars' (members that occupy the same table each night) shouted at the team to remove their

baseball caps the moment they walked in the door. The team turned around and left.

This kind of behaviour is creating a perception across the organization that is killing our efforts in welcoming potential new members. We must address this final and critical step of recruitment. For this organization to attract new members we must all, even the folks at "that table" in your Branch, be less grumpy. In fact, why are we not more like hosts?

Put bluntly, the Legion cannot survive on its current membership alone; to continue our mission of Remembrance, we must embrace those that walk through our doors, regardless of background, age, or profession. It's time to get the grump out of the Legion!

Let's start to get the word out about being a good host. Here are 6 ideas to assist your Branch in ways to welcome new or visiting people:

1. Agree that if there is any member of the Branch Executive in the Branch, that it is set up that they watch for people who look out of place and uncomfortable, and greet them.
2. Put up a small dry erase board at the entrance that says: New to our Branch? We want to welcome you! The greeter of the day is: (name of volunteer) . Please ask for me.
3. Talk to the bartenders and servers to approach and welcome people when times are quiet. We hear stories of people being completely ignored by bar staff in some Branches. Not ok. Sometimes they are the first people that a new person would approach and they should be personable.
4. Understand that most people don't really know how things work in our Branches or what activities are available in our locations. If we welcome our guests a bit better and make them feel comfortable with the Branch events, then it won't be so intimidating to come in the next time – perhaps with another guest.
5. Having trouble getting a new member to come for their initiation ceremony? It should be done at a general meeting, but it doesn't have to be. Invite them to an event, or even do it with a couple of Executives hosting their visit. Have an Executive member accompanying the new member at the meeting at which they are to be initiated and explain the initiation process in advance of the event – this could make a new member more comfortable; anything that forms the relationship helps.

6. Why not have some pin-on buttons made and ask some of your outgoing and pleasant members to wear a “host of the day” pin and have them welcome people? These are easy things that friendly people do well. Above all, deal firmly with the grouches and those members who “welcome” guests by yelling “remove your hat” – they are hurting your Branch.



We know that some Branches are doing an extraordinary job of being friendly and welcoming from the minute a guest opens the front door. So if you are doing it right and having success, or have good ideas to welcome your visitors, please **share them with Dominion Command** so we can start conversations across the organization. Let’s show Canada just how friendly the Legion can be!

Sergeant-at Arms

Mike Joyce

With the end of the calendar year and the end of local Christmas Parades, it brings about the end of activities involving the nine member Colour Party.

Though the Colour Party struggles as does all areas of the Legion, I am pleased to report that during the past year we met all of our commitments, but did cut back this year on outside local Christmas Parades. As an example the following are just some of the Parades attended either as the Branch Colour Party or as part of Veteran Council Colour Party: BATTLE OF VIMY RIDGE, COMMEMORATION SERVICE - RECOGNIZING AFGHANISTAN SERVICE, BATTLE OF BRITAIN MEMORIAL SERVICE, DRUMHEAD SERVICE, VETERANS NIGHT AT YARDMEN ARENA, NOV 11 CENOTAPH SERVICE, HASTING MANOR SERVICE FOR VETERANS LIVING IN HASTINGS MANOR, DESERONTO WOLRD WAR 1 REMBERANCE SERVICE, BELLEVILLE CHRISTMAS PARADE.

Thanks goes out to Colour Party members who show up on those hot, windy, rainy and snowy days. Participation in any local Parades is a Public Relations opportunity that should not be missed. As always we are looking for persons that are interested in joining our Colour Party. You do not have to be ex-military, but there are procedures and protocols that must be followed etc. With that said and Christmas having just passed, I wish all a **"HAPPY NEW YEAR"** from all your Colour Party Members.

Training being as important as it is for individual members, it also assists the Branch as a whole in updating procedures and keeping abreast of changes regarding the successful operation of the Branch. This past calendar year nine (9) members of Branch 99 have attended Training Seminars that covered subjects and material that is required to carry out jobs , tasks and take on positions as chairs of various committees. Training is not just for those that hold positions in the Legion, but for members who may want to become more involved. This past year there were 11 training subjects covered. That worked out to approx. 75.5 man hours of training received by comrades of this branch. **"WELL DONE"**



Your Public Relations Officer - Who am I?

By Steven Burr

A New Year has arrived and with it, the time for introductions and new beginnings. Both Donna Vickers and Alicia Chambers have been gently prodding me to introduce myself to the General Membership. Thus, I am giving in to their wishes and providing a brief introduction. I was born in Belleville to Ron and Ramona Burr of Ameliasburgh. I have an older brother and a sister who also reside in the local area. Our family moved away from this area when I was very young. The majority of my childhood being spent in and around London Ontario.

I joined the local militia regiment, 1st Hussars (Armoured) at the ripe old age of sixteen years. Upon graduating from High School and dabbling in some post-secondary education, I transferred to the Regular Army where I trained and served as a Communicator Research Operator with the Supplementary Radio System (SRS) and the 1st Canadian Signals Regiment (1 CSR), 2 Electronic Warfare Squadron (2 EW Sqn). Later, I transferred back into the Primary Reserve Force serving with the Reserve Electronic Warfare Squadron (RESEWSQN) and the Canadian Forces Information Operations Group (CFIOG).

During my time in the service I deployed to the High Arctic, Germany and Bosnia. In April of 2013, I retired with a rank of Master Warrant Officer (MWO) after serving a total of 34 years. With most of my family again living in the Belleville area, I moved back to Prince Edward County upon my retirement from the Army. I have two lovely sons aged 15 & 20 who live in Quebec with their mother. And now you know the whole story, or at least a sanitized version. Please feel free to contact me directly or e-mail me at steveburr100@gmail.com.

Sick and Visiting

Janis Drummond

I am happy to report, I have nothing to report. If you are ill, we wish you a speedy recovery. If you are well, please remain so.



In Memorium

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.

SINCLAIR, Albert Clifford -

Passed away surrounded by his family on Monday, December 8, 2014 at the age of 85, following a short battle with cancer.

Ab, son of Agnes and Andrew, was the fourth born of 8 siblings, Don, Bud, Grace, and predeceased by Vernon, Fred, Ken, Lucy, and Al. Albert leaves behind to mourn his passing his wife Gill, children Debbie, Cindy, and John, stepchildren David, Pat and Debbie; as well as eleven grandchildren and fourteen great grandchildren.

Born in Raymore Saskatchewan, and raised in Northern Ontario, Albert started his family close to the Greater Toronto Area, calling places like Owen Sound, Belleville, Kingston, Trenton, and Guelph home over his many years. Always an active member of any community, Albert was involved in organizations like the Hastings County Ridge Runners Snowmobile Club and **the local Legion where he achieved a perfect score at a local dart tournament**. Albert's love for people was reflected in his careers. Starting as a deliveryman for Westons Bakery, he went on to sell vehicles first at Carl Small Motors (later Wayne Pittman Ford) for many years. At one point he owned his own business, Sinclair Bus Sales, and eventually became the transportation officer for the Wellington County School board. Admired by those who knew him for being a man always willing to lend a helping hand; even this last year he could be seen behind his snow blower, clearing snow for the neighbourhood. He was an avid camper, fisherman and hunter who loved horses and whiskey. Not only did he break horses in his younger years, (amassing a few injuries and stories alike) he instilled a love and aptitude for riding in all of his children. Ab, who also enjoyed golf, achieved one of the hardest shots in a golf tournament, the elusive hole-in-one.

At Albert's wishes, a private family service has been held. Arrangements out of Guelph.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions to the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated



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The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 99

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132 Pinnacle Street, Belleville Ontario, K8N 3A4

President	Andy Anderson	613 968-7261
Past President	Bob Morris	613 396-5288
1st Vice President	Mike Joyce	613 967-5923
2nd Vice President	Jack Crozier	613 962-2101
3rd Vice President	Mary Presley	613 967-6494
Treasurer	Joe Drummond	613 962-7947
Secretary	Carol Hamilton	613 962-0356
Padre	Ralph Collins	613 962-8754
Sgt-At-Arms	Mike Joyce	613 967-5923
Membership	Mary Presley	613 967-6494
Honours & Awards	Pat Boulter	613 779-6871
Service Officer	Jane Joyce	613 967-5923
Poppy	Jane Joyce	613 967-5923
Belleville Vets Council	Andy Anderson	613 968-7261
Sports	Bob Reid	613 968-9905
Youth Education	Gerry McConnell	613 968-5940
Bingo	Frank Freeman	613 394-3851
Funerals	Ralph Collins	613 962-8754
Bar/House/Property	Jack Crozier	613 962-2101
Entertainment	Pauline DeGenova	613 394-3851
Ways & Means	Gail Reid	613 968-9905
Special Events	Gail Reid	613 968-9905
Special Events Coordinator	Gary Reid	613 962-9339
Public Relations/Enlightener	Alicia Chambers	613 962-5521
Public Relations/Enlightener	Donna Vickers	613 968-9312
Public Relations/Enlightener	Steven Burr	343 263-0665
Training & Development	Mike Joyce	613 967-5923
Sick & Visiting	Janis Drummond	613 962-7947

Ladies Auxiliary President	Shirley Stewart
1 st Vice President	Jean Saulnier
2 nd Vice President	Ellen Abbott
Secretary/Treasurer	Diane Delarge
Sgt-At-Arms	Brenda Snider