

Dec 2012 – Feb 2013

QUARTERLY EDITION

EDITOR: ROBERT MUSSELL



ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH 138

THE MERRITTONIAN 2012/2013

OUR VETERANS REMEMBERED REMBRANCE DAY 2012

Sunday November 11, 2012

A beautifully gorgeous sunny day with temperatures around the 16 degree C mark.

Our Rembrance Day Service both at the branch and at the Cenotaph after was very well attended by the public of Merritton. I would guess that

200 plus people attended at the Cenotaph.

A Full Colour Party along with a contingent of Members and Cadets marched from the Branch to the Cenotaph only to be met by the many members of the Merritton community.

Thank you to each and every one who took part in this Rembrance Day service at both the Branch and the Cenotaph.

A special thank you to those Cadets who stood in silent guard at our Cenotaph throughout the night.

THE MERRITTONIA



She was named after William Hamilton Merritt, in a contest won by Merritton's own Florence Nelson Sheppard. The modification having been suggested by the town council. Commissioned at Quebec City on November 10, 1944, she arrived at Halifax in mid December and sailed to Bermuda for a months workups. On her return Merrittonia was assigned to EG C-7 and left St John's on February 7 to meet the group which was westbound with convoy ON.283 from Britain.

Thereafter continuously employed on North Atlantic convoy duty, she left Londonderry for the final time at he beginning of June, 1945.

She was paid off on July 11 and laid up at Sorel for disposal. Purchased by K.C. Irving Ltd, Moncton on November 16,1945, she was wrecked on the Nova Scotia coast on November 30.

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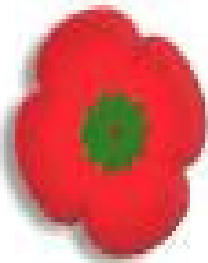
EDITOR: ROBERT MUSSELL



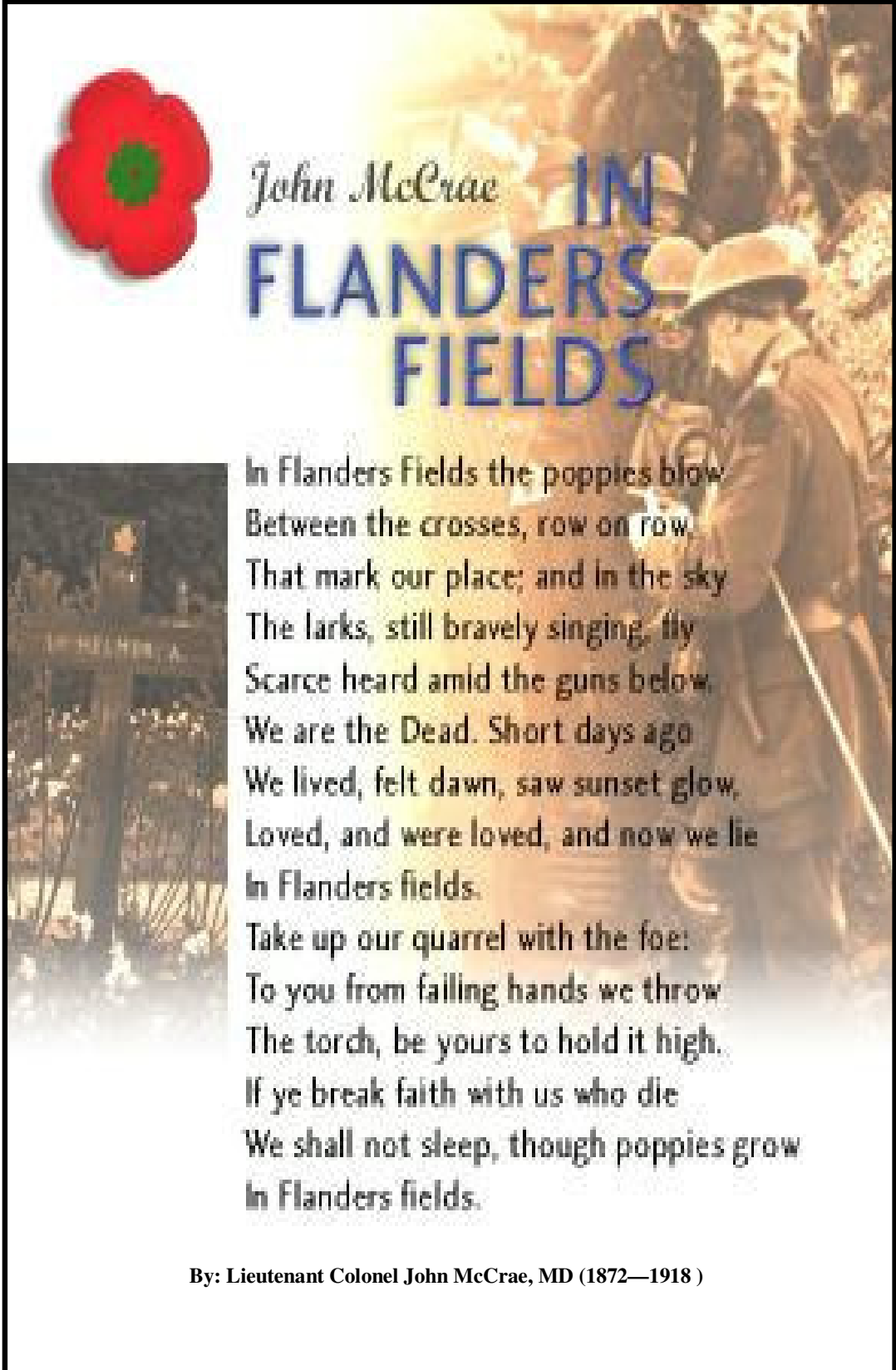
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FLANDERS FIELDS



John McCrae IN FLANDERS FIELDS

A sepia-toned photograph of World War I soldiers in a trench, wearing gas masks and carrying equipment. The image is partially obscured by the text and other elements.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.
Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from falling hands we throw
The torch, be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

By: Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD (1872—1918)

Your 2012/2013 EXECUTIVE

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PRESIDENT: WAYNE HASLAM
PAST PRESIDENT/LEADERSHIP: BOB WEIR
1 ST VICE PRESIDENT/POPPY/SERVICE OFFICER: JACK GEMMELL
2 ND VICE PRESIDENT/NEVADA: GEORGE GOFF
SECRETARY: COLLEEN BRADSHAW
MEMBERSHIP/ LA LIASON: MIKE GANDER
TREASURER: PATRICIA GANDER
SERGEANT AT ARMS/CADET LIASON: MARY NOVARRO
WAYS & MEANS/SPORTS: WAYNE DENVIR
BUILDING & PROPERTY: BILL BORDEN
SENIORS/CHARITABLE FOUNDATION: COLLEEN BRADSHAW
HONOURS & AWARDS: PATRICIA MCCABE
YOUTH & EDUCATION: PATRICIA DICKINSON
PUBLIC RELATIONS: MARLENE GEMMELL
BULLETIN EDITOR/BURSARIES :ROBERT MUSSELL
PADRE: REV ELLISTON BRIDGER

NON-EXECUTIVE

HALL RENTAL : GAIL BARCLAY

VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

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LADIES AUXILIARY

BRANCH 138 MERRITTON LADIES AUXILIARY

PRESIDENT:	PATRICIA DICKENSON
1 ST VICE :	PATRICIA McCABE
2 ND VICE :	AUDRIA FRIZZEL
SECRETARY:	COLLEEN BRADSHAW
TREASURER :	ANGIE REID
SPORTS OFFICER:	VERA STRICKLAND
SGT. AT ARMS:	MARLENE WALLCE

EXECUTIVE

KATHIE BRADSHAW
DONNA CARLEY
EVELYN FROATS
SYBIL WILSON

CHARLOTTE BROADLEY
LINDA CLUGSTON
GAIL ARSENAULT

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we approach this very special time of the year for our families and friends, let us remember also to be generous to others that are not as fortunate as we are.

If you see and hear a Salvation Army volunteer near one of their kettles, put in some spare change or bills, just as people do for us with our poppy boxes.

If you have a few extra non perishable food goods around the home, just drop them off at our canteen area, as we have one or two barrels around, just for that purpose, and they will be distributed to the needed.

You might want to volunteer helping feed those in need of a good hot turkey meal, at one of the many churches in St. Catharines, that do this each year.

Whatever you choose to do to spend your time during the holidays, the bottom line is to smile and enjoy the festive season, and drive safely.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year in 2013.

Wayne Haslam
President

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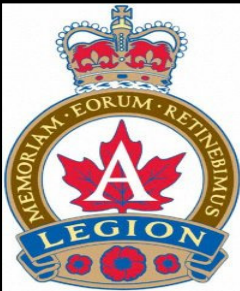
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A MESSAGE FROM THE LADIES AUXILIARY



The Royal Canadian Legion Ladies Auxiliary
MERRITTON (ONT. NO. 138) BRANCH
2 CHESTNUT STREET E.
ST. CATHARINES, ONTARIO L2T 1G5
(905) 227-1821

Dear Comrades;

Can you believe it is almost Christmas? Where has the year gone? We have all probably asked ourselves this question at some point or another. But nevertheless, it's here and I'm sure we will all make it through again as we always do with a few more grey hairs, frazzled nerves and empty wallets.

The Ladies Auxiliary would like to thank you for the honor of preparing the Armistice Banquet for you and our Veterans on November 9, 2012 and for the faith and friendship you have shown us this past year.

Our aim and purpose is to "Work for and stand alongside Br. 138 Merritton in our commitment to our Veterans our fellow comrades and friends".

Our Christmas Wish is that as you welcome the holidays, may your home be filled with happiness, peace and joy and may 2013 bring the best to each of you.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Yours in Comradeship

Patricia Dickinson, President

And all Members

Ladies Auxiliary

Royal Canadian Legion Br. 138 Merritton

POPPY CHAIRMAN REPORT

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I would like to thank the members who helped out on this year's Poppy Campaign. Whether you helped by delivering routes, taking a turn at the Pen Centre or one of the other venues, separating and rolling coin, refilling Poppy boxes or making soup for after the parade, it was all greatly appreciated.

A special THANK YOU to Ev Davisson for all the work she put in as my Co-Chairman.

Now for the news you have been waiting for. This year's campaign has so far brought in a total of \$ 30,282.55 with some funds still coming in. I know it seems like a lot of money and it was done by only approximately 60 members being involved and over half of our time slots being empty during the campaign. I feel it is disappointing that out of a membership of 500 plus that we get just over 10% participation in the most important event of the Legion year. If we raised this amount with only 60 members, I wonder how we could do if every member gave just 2 hours of their time during the campaign. Perhaps these members should re-look at their oath, particularly where it states they would "Actively participate in the Poppy campaign. Comrades, "Actively Participate" means more than putting some money in the Poppy box and wearing a Poppy during the campaign.

I have stated in the past that if we don't raise enough funds to take care of our Veterans and other commitments, then we should look at cutting back on some things, such as our Bursary program where we now award three times more than we used to in the past.

I fervently hope that this will not come to pass and that ALL members will remember their commitment to the Legion and to our Veterans.

EXCUSES FOR NOT POPPYING:

I don't have a uniform - You don't need one

I'm not good at selling - We don't sell Poppies and furthermore, the public will come up to you and put money in the box, take a Poppy, and THANK You for it.

I don't have time - Good thing our Veterans didn't use that excuse when they were sent off to war

I can't stand for 2 hours - We have table and chairs set up every year at the Pen Centre, Soby's offers a bench inside should you need to sit.

If you can come up with anymore excuses, I can give you an answer for them.

Jack Gemmell
Poppy Chairman



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POPPY CHAIRMAN REPORT Essay, Poem & Poster Competition

Each year, during the POPPY CAMPAIGN, our Branch approaches the schools in our area asking that the students participate in our Essay, Poem and Poster competition.

Here are this years Poppy Campaign Essay, Poem and Poster winners.

ESSAY WINNERS:

1st Prize	Kristen Strojin	Denis Morris Secondary School
2nd Prize	Rachael Lynn Herridge	Denis Morris Secondary School
3rd Prize	Katharine Viccica	Denis Morris Secondary School

POETRY WINNERS:

1st Prize	Lorraine Stephanie Evangelista	Denis Morris Secondary School
2nd Prize	Taylor Cotnam	Denis Morris Secondary School

POSTER WINNERS — COLOUR GRADES 1, 2, 3

1st Prize	Arsianna Spence	Gr 2	Burleigh Hill Public School
2nd Prize	Avery Newhouse	Gr 3-4	Burleigh Hill Public School
3rd Prize	Riely Kidd		Burleigh Hill Public School

POSTER WINNERS — COLOUR GRADES 4, 5, 6

1st Prize	Caleb Micheal Mustapha	St Theresa Catholic School
2nd Prize	Allan Toussarnt Jr.	St Theresa Catholic School
3rd Prize	Aleisha Nesbitt	St Theresa Catholic School

POSTER WINNERS — COLOUR GRADES 7, 8, 9

1st Prize	Vanessa Caywood	Pinehurst School
2nd Prize	Samantha Pauline Latanville	Pinehurst School
3rd Prize	Myah Aurilee Valente	St Theresa Catholic School

POPPY CHAIRMAN REPORT

Essay, Poem & Poster Competition

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POSTER WINNERS — COLOUR GRADES 10, 11, 12

1st Prize	Alanya Dahl	Pinehurst School
2nd Prize	Anita Fazlujan	Pinehurst School

POSTER WINNERS — BLACK & WHITE GRADES 4, 5, 6

1st Prize	Makayla Luise Anger	St Theresa Catholic School
2nd Prize	Reilly Carey	St Theresa Catholic School
3rd Prize	Cameron Carr	St Theresa Catholic School

POSTER WINNERS — BLACK & WHITE GRADES 7, 8, 9

1st Prize	Cole Lambert	St Theresa Catholic School
2nd Prize	McRae Esrada	Burleigh Hill Public School
3rd Prize	Emma Mary McDonald	St Theresa Catholic School

POSTER WINNERS — BLACK & WHITE GRADES 10, 11, 12

1st Prize	Emma Yeates	Pinehurst School
2nd Prize	Yasemin Surmeli	Pinehurst School

**Thank you to all of those students who participated in the Poppy Campaign
Essay, Poem and Poster competition.**

Congratulations to all of our Winners

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A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

I'll cut to the chase. I'm very disappointed in our Membership.

We recently , as a Branch tried, and I say tried to show thanks and respect for our Veterans and Ordinary Members during our Rembrance Day / Veterans Week. Not only did we only have 13 members show up for the Poppy Campaign Kick –off parade at the Pen Center (on a Saturday) ,we only had 11 members (6 of which were Executive) show for our Rembrance Day Church Parade

The turn out for our Poppy Campaign was an embarrassment. The Poppy Boards were near empty and many locations were left vacant.

From what I remember when I took my Membership Oath, part of MY oath was to participate in Poppy Campaign. Lets see, 500 plus members, maybe 55 in total participated in one way or another.

My wife and I have been members of The Merritton Legion BR. 138 for the past 8 years and each year have participated in one way or another along with other Members (always the same ones)

The Poppy Campaign is the largest Fund Raiser for the Royal Canadian Legion and these funds are used to help our Veterans, and their Families, ,support hospitals, provide student bursaries, etc.

I would like to thank all of those that did take the time from their busy schedules to participate in our Campaign. It is a true honor working with all of you.

To those of you whom were to busy, please reconsider your Membership oath next year. We need the support of each and every member to make this campaign a success so that we may keep helping our Veterans and their families in their times of need.

WAYS AND MEANS

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Zone Sports are posted on the Sports board by the pool table.
These events are time sensitive so if you wish to participate then look at the dates.

We are always working on Ways and Means for the Branch.

Some are new and some are things that have always been done in the past and are run by our members.

Your comments and suggestions are appreciated. Friday night races have been very successful and has proven to be a good Legion fund raiser.

I am working on a \$5 function that I think could be very beneficial to our Branch but will starting this in February and give you more information at a later date.

Wayne Denvir : Ways & Means/Sports Chair



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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Branch Membership as of December , 2012

LIFE: 8	ORDINARY: 73
ASSOCIATE: 314	AFFILIATE VOTING: 110
AFFILIATE NON VOTING: 2	

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP TO DATE: 507

**KNOW SOMEONE WHO MIGHT WANT TO BE A MEMBER?
BRING THEM OUT, INTRODUCE THEM**

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WHATS HAPPENING ALWAYS SOMETHING HAPPENING

DECEMBER 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30	31					1
2	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

www.merrittionian.com

January 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

February 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

WHATS HAPPENING

ALWAYS SOMETHING HAPPENING

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- Dec. 9 Annual Children's Christmas Party (watch boards for info.)
- Dec. 14 Turkey Roll
- Dec. 25 Christmas Day
- Dec 26 Boxing Day
- Dec 31 New Years Eve

- Jan 1 New Years Day

- Feb 14 Valentines Day—Don't forget your Sweetie !

Fish Frys are up and running on a bi-weekly basis. We have a great crew of volunteers who have stepped forward to help the branch with this function. Everything is running smoothly and we have received positive feedback. Having said this, we need to increase the numbers. Please support the Fish Fry whenever or, wherever you can. Tell your family, friends, co-workers and neighbours. Take a flyer from the branch and post it at work, your apartment building or corner store etc. We offer a good product at a reasonable price. As I indicated at the General Meeting, if we can make a profit of \$500. per fish fry then we can cover our insurance premiums for the year. Your support is always greatly appreciated.

EUCHRE EVERY THURSDAY 7:00 PM (Seasonal)

TOONEY DRAW EVERY FRIDAY AT 6:00 PM

HORSE RACING EVERY FRIDAY (After Tooney Draw)

FISH FRY—EVERY 2ND FRIDAY ENTERTAINMENT FOLLOWS

MEAT DRAWS EVERY SATURDAY

LADIES AUXILLIARY MEETING 1 ST WEDNESDAY OF MONTH

EXECUTIVE MEETING 2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 4TH WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

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LOCAL HAPPENINGS Our Comrades to the South

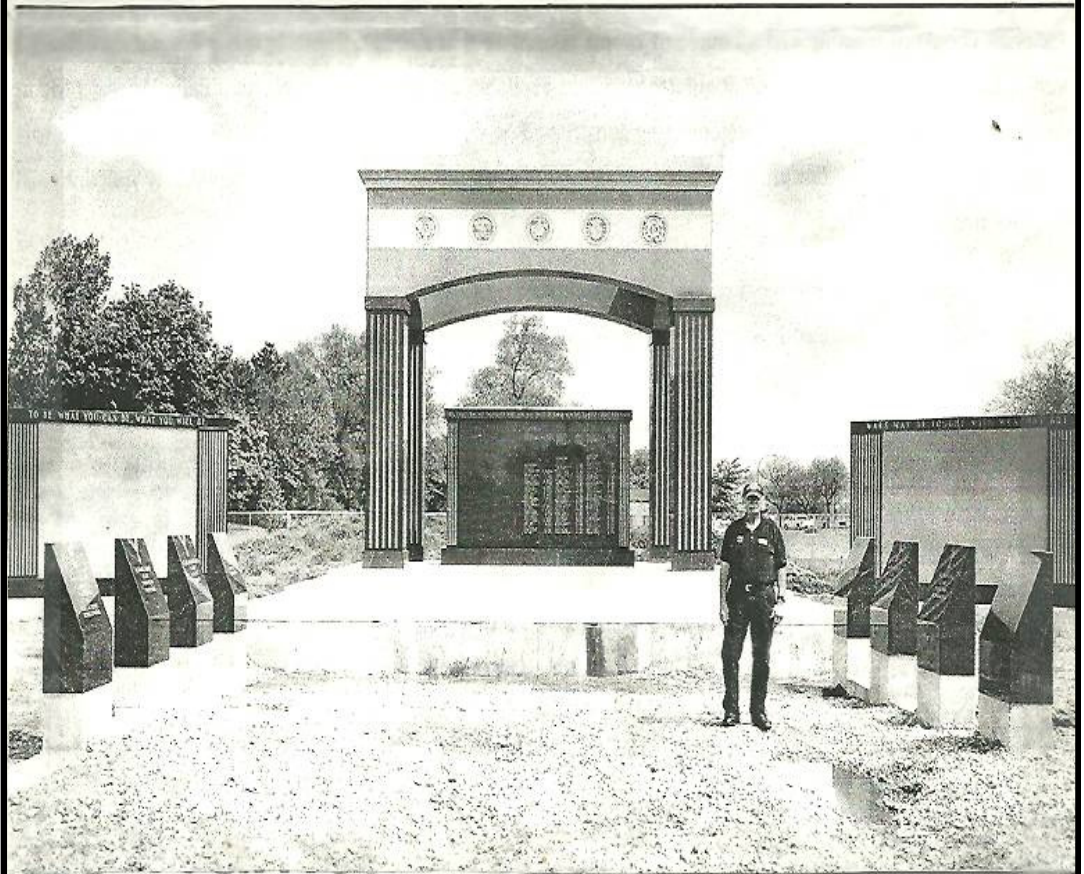
THE NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. VETERANS MEMORIAL

A Veterans Memorial is being built in Niagara Falls N.Y. at the corner of Pine Ave. and Hyde Park Blvd. It will be dedicated on Sat. May 25th 2013 (Memorial Day weekend). A parade and wreath laying ceremony will precede the dedication. Everyone is welcome to attend the event, the host Legion will be the John Welch post #381, 923 Niagara Ave., in Niagara Falls, N.Y. where a Canadian flag is mounted on the front of the building.

The park consists of a square black granite cenotaph, eight black granite stones for medal of honor recipients, and two walls of honor for veterans. Still to be added when funds become available will be four bronze statues, and a lit up fountain in the lake next to the memorial. This memorial is second only to the one in the National Cemetery in Arlington, VA.

And now for “the rest of the story”...

On the wall of honor to the right of the cenotaph (1st row #15 down) is a name you might recognize, Arnold J. Hartnett, US Army, he is also known as “Arnie” to most of you.



THE NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. VETERANS MEMORIAL - A PLACE OF HONOR

Just Clowning Around (I don't write em..just share em)

An old, blind cowboy wanders into an all-girl biker bar by mistake.

He finds his way to a bar stool and orders a shot of Jack Daniels.

After sitting there for a while, he yells to the bartender, 'Hey, you wanna hear a blond joke?'

The bar immediately falls absolutely silent.

In a very deep, husky voice, the woman next to him says,

'Before you tell that joke, Cowboy, I think it is only fair, given that you are blind, that you should know five things:

1. The bartender is a blond girl with a baseball bat.
2. The bouncer is a blond girl with a 'Billy-Club'.
3. I'm a 6-foot tall, 175-pound blond woman with a black belt in karate.
4. The woman sitting next to me is blond and a professional weight lifter.
5. The lady to your right is blond and a professional wrestler.

'Now, think about it seriously, Cowboy.
Do you still wanna tell that blond joke?'

The blind cowboy thinks for a second, shakes his head and mutters,

'No, not if I'm gonna have to explain it five times.'

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Christmas Time Recipes

British Christmas Pudding

1lb /450g dried mixed fruit

(use golden raisins/sultanas* , raisins, currants)

1 oz /25 g mixed candied peel, finely chopped

1 small cooking apple, peeled, cored and finely chopped Grated zest juice

½ large orange and ½ lemon

4 tbsp brandy, plus a little extra for soaking at the end

2 oz /55 g self-raising flour, sifted

1 level tsp ground mixed spice

1 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon

4 oz /110 g shredded suet, beef or vegetarian

4oz /110g soft, dark brown sugar

4 oz /110 g white fresh bread crumbs

1 oz /25 g whole shelled almonds, roughly chopped

2 large, fresh eggs

Preparation:

Lightly butter a 2½ pint/1.4 litre pudding basin.

Place the dried fruits, candied peel, apple, orange and lemon juice into a large mixing-bowl. Add the brandy and stir well. Cover the bowl with a clean tea towel and leave to marinate for a couple of hours, preferably overnight.

Stir together the flour, mixed spice and cinnamon in a very large mixing bowl. Add the suet, sugar, lemon and orange zest, bread crumbs, nuts and stir again until all the ingredients are well mixed. Finally add the marinated dried fruits and stir again.

Beat the eggs lightly in a small bowl then stir quickly into the dry ingredients. The mixture should have a fairly soft consistency.

Now is the time to gather the family for Christmas Pudding tradition of taking turns in stirring, making a wish and adding a few coins.

Spoon the mixture in to the greased pudding basin, gently pressing the mixture down with the back of a spoon. Cover with a double layer of greaseproof paper or baking parchment, then a layer of aluminum foil and tie securely with string.

Place the pudding in a steamer set over a saucepan of simmering water and steam the pudding for 7 hours. Make sure you check the water level frequently so it never boils dry. The pudding should be a deep brown color when cooked. The pudding is not a light cake but instead is a dark, sticky and dense sponge.

Remove the pudding from the steamer, cool completely. Remove the paper, prick the pudding with a skewer and pour in a little extra brandy. Cover with fresh greaseproof paper and retie with string. Store in a cool dry place until Christmas day.

Note: The pudding cannot be eaten immediately, it really does need to be stored and rested then reheated on Christmas Day. Eating the pudding immediately after cooking will cause it to collapse and the flavours will not have had time to mature.

On Christmas day reheat the pudding by steaming again for about an hour. Serve with Brandy or Rum Sauce, Brandy Butter or Custard.

Left over Christmas pudding can be reheated by wrapping tightly in aluminum foil and heating through in a hot oven.



and

Christmas Time Recipes

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BIG BATCH KRIS KRINGLE COOKIES

1 cup butter, softened
1 cup granulated sugar
1/2 cup packed brown sugar
2 eggs
1 tsp. vanilla
2 cups flour
2 tsp. baking soda
2 pkg. (6 squares each) *Baker's* White Chocolate, coarsely chopped
1-1/2 cups dried cranberries
1-1/2 cups chopped pecans

HEAT oven to 375°F.

BEAT butter and sugars in large bowl with mixer until creamy. Blend in eggs and vanilla.

MIX flour and baking soda. Gradually add to butter mixture, beating after each addition until blended. Stir in chocolate, cranberries and nuts.

DROP tablespoons of dough, 2 inches apart, onto baking sheets.

BAKE 10 to 12 min. or until golden brown. Cool on baking sheets 3 min. Remove to wire racks; cool completely.

Substitute

Prepare using 1-1/2 pkg. (8 squares each) *Baker's* Semi-Sweet Chocolate (12 squares).

Nutritional Information (just in case you care)

Serving Size = 1 cookie

Calories:	111 per cookie (well worth it)
Total Fat:	6.7 grams
Carbohydrates:	12.5 grams
Protein:	1.1 grams

THESE ARE REAL GOOD !



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For those who fought for our freedom
LAST POST

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH 138

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LAST POST



LIFE:

ORDINARY: Art Woodhouse
Harry Lawrence

ASSOCIATE: Ron Tuckwell
Norma Mackay

AFFILIATE:

**All Canadian Soldiers from all conflicts past and present who
have lost their lives for the benefit of us and others.**

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



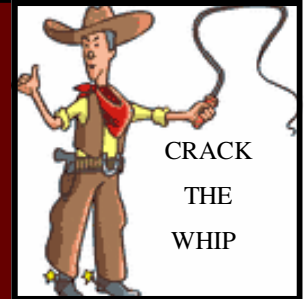
COMMENTS . SUGGESTIONS

WORK WITH YOUR EXECUTIVE—NOT AGAINST THEM

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Ways and Means and your Executive Committee try to put on many Branch Events.

Street Dance and Music Trivia are just 2 of them

The Ways and Means and Executive Committee are always open to suggestions.

Have an Event Idea ? Let us Know ! Write it Down

Merritton Legion Branch 138

Having a party? Stag & Doe? Let us know !!!!!

Merritton Branch 138 Upstairs hall is available for Functions

Contact the Branch to check for availability and bookings

Ph: 905-227-1821

Please don't discourage our Volunteers

They are all doing the best they can

IF YOU CAN DO BETTER

PROVE IT AND VOLUNTEER FOR SOMETHING

CANT VOLUNTEER, DON'T COMPLAIN

Volunteer Sign Up Sheet

Events and Branch Happenings are always in need of Volunteers.

You don't have to volunteer for everything!

If you can spare a couple of hours to help at Branch Event or 2

Never mind saying " No one asked"

You' re Being Asked Now!

Fill this out and give it to any of your Executive Committee

Name: _____

Event: _____

Watch for Sign Up Sheets on Branch Bulletin Board

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STIRRING THE POT MEMBERS COMPLAINT PAGE

This is YOUR page.

There is no use sitting in the canteen complaining at the bar or sitting and stewing amongst yourselves about what you don't like around the Branch.

Don't like the entertainment, or lack of.... Just not happy with the way the Fish Fry is run, or how the various events are put on?

Write it down and submit it to your Executive.

DO IT RIGHT, DO IT HERE

**Please feel free to submit a complaint
Let YOUR Executive know what you don't like**

There is a Right and Wrong way to complain

WORK WITH YOUR EXECUTIVE—NOT AGAINST THEM