



Volume 2 Number 5

May 2013

CONTACT!

The Prez Sez:

The Seniors' Awareness Seminar will be conducted on May 22, 2013 at 10:30 A.M. The presentation will touch on Identity Theft, Telephone and Internet Scams, Door to Door Scams and Safety Tips. The information session should last for 30 minutes and then some time will be concentrated on Question and Answers. Tea and coffee will be served. If interested please call the Branch and register with your name and telephone number. The maximum number for the A.M. session will be 60 people. Should there be more than the 60 an afternoon presentation will be held at 1:30 P.M.

The Branch elections were held and the following are the new Branch Executive:

1st Vice President Dan Knighton, 2nd Vice President Moira Green, 3rd Vice President Gord McCaskill, Treasurer Marj Bifolchi, Secretary Lorraine Lapensée, Chaplain Rev Craig Bowers, Sgt at Arms Bob Thomson and yours truly as President.

Executive Members - Bruce Judge, Brenda Grant, George Medynski, Bill Wilson, George Pollock, Harry Needham.

The Ladies' Auxiliary elections were held May 1st and the results are as follows;

President Marg Burton, Immediate Past President Lorraine Lapensée, 2nd Vice President June Tyrrell, Treasurer Angie Jacklin, Secretary Pat Cher, Sgt at Arms Bev Connell.

Congratulations to both groups and I wish you the best.

The Annual Veteran's Luncheon will take place on June 18th starting at 11:30 A.M. We are hoping to

host approximately 100 Veterans for lunch. Several Perley Veterans and several from local nursing and retirement homes will be in attendance. Members of our pipe band will be entertaining us. This year the menu will be fish and chips.

Congratulations to our LA for a very successful Spring Fling and Auction. Approximately 75 attended and had a great evening.

John Cher
President

The Second Vice

Poppy Campaign 2012.

At the last general meeting I passed on Certificates of Appreciation to the six table captains for presentation to the six stores in our area who graciously permit us table and chair space for our poppy volunteers. Without the support of these six major outlets our poppy donations would be very sparse. The six stores are and table captains are:

Costco	Dan Knighton
Walmart Centrum	George Medinsky
Loblaws Centrum	Morley Connell
Real Superstore	Bev Connell
Hazeldean Mall	Ursula Seyler
Home Depot	Bill Wilson

Thanks to all for their continued support.



Seniors Report

Congratulations to Jack Edelson on his 89th birthday and to Evelyn Dick on her 96th birthday. Thanks to John for picking up the cake and to Sue, Brenda and PJ for their help. Thanks to those who turned out to celebrate and to Terry J for bartending. The next Celebration is on Sunday May 26th, same time, same place. Kindly sign up on the sheet posted in the lounge.



Moir Green with a pair of Jacks

Sick/Visiting

Our best wishes for a speedy recovery to Cde Andy Seguin. Please advise me of any veteran/member who needs a visit/card.

Branch Service Officer

Do mark 11.00. Tuesday June 18th on your calendar. This is our annual Veterans Lunch. We will host this event for all veterans in the community and for the Rideau Perley vets. You need to sign up on the sheet soon to be posted in the lounge.

Congratulations to the third battalion 3RCR on the presentation of new regimental colours by Prince Phillip, Colonel in Chief of the regiment. a fitting tribute to one of Canada's oldest regiments.

Respectfully submitted
Moir

The Sergeant at Arms

Not to be out done by the UK, Canada has now approved its own version of the Bomber Command Clasp.

John Robert (Bob) Thomson C.D.

Attention Canadian WWII Bomber Command Vets.....

Not to be out done by the UK, Canada now has its own version of the clasp.



Application Form at this link...

<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/collections/cmdp/bomber>

The federal government is creating a new military honour to pay tribute to Canadian veterans who served in Bomber Command during the Second World War. Defence Minister Peter MacKay and Veterans Affairs Minister Stephen Blaney made the announcement today in Ottawa.

A special bar is being created which veterans who served in Bomber Command will wear on the ribbon of the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal. The medal was granted to personnel who volunteered for service in the Canada's land, naval and air forces and who served 18 months or more between Sept. 3, 1939 and March 1, 1947.

The government says the new bar is meant to honour all Canadians who fought in Bomber Command during the Second World War, but in particular the more than 10,000 Canadians who died in service. More than 55,000 Allied air crew members were killed carrying out raids over Germany.

Blaney said the bar is being designed and will be ready by the end of the year. Surviving veterans can apply for it, as can the families of any of the 50,000 Canadians who served in the campaign.

DONATIONS

In May, donations from the General Trust Fund will go to:

The Kanata Minor Soccer Association (\$250), and

The South March Women's Institute (\$250).

Yes, Virginia, there IS a new editor for **CONTACT!**

A hearty welcome and a big thankew from me personally to Lorraine Elmas of the L.A., who becomes Editor of the newsletter – and here she is, shown with someone who looks vaguely familiar!



My thanks to all the members who have done so much to make my job so easy over the past year.

Harry

Ladies' Auxiliary

Spring Fling Celebration – hosted by the Ladies' Auxiliary

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to each of you who helped makes our 18th Annual Fundraiser – Spring Fling Celebration held on April 27, 2013 the SUCCESS it was! Donations of money, auction items, preparation materials and time added up to approximately \$4,600.00 raised! On behalf of the Ladies' Auxiliary, I wish to take this opportunity to thank both our Branch members and our own Ladies' Auxiliary members for donating auction items or/and in some cases soliciting for auction items; we thank each of you who came out to be a part of our Spring Fling celebration! Thank you for bidding!

Spring Fling Celebration a good example of the Branch and Ladies' Auxiliary working together and growing together! Thanks a Million!

Ladies' Auxiliary, Branch #638 Election Results:

The Ladies' Auxiliary, Branch 638 held their annual elections on May 1, 2013

The new Ladies' Auxiliary Executive for 2013-2014 effective June 1, 2013 is as follows:

Marg Burton, President
Immediate Past President, Lorraine Lapensée
Vacant, 1st Vice-President (to be appointed)
June Tyrrell, 2nd Vice-President
Pat Cher, Secretary
Angie Jacklin, Treasurer
Bev Connell, Sergeant @ Arms

Executive Committee positions (to be determined at the next general meeting).

YOUR ELECTRONIC WASTE IS INVITED TO BE DROPPED OFF

**THIS FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2013 OR THIS
SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2013**

WE ASK THAT YOU SPREAD THE WORD, PLEASE!
(If you would like the E-Waste poster electronically to forward on,
Please contact Lorraine at 613-831-8319)

THE MORE COLLECTED, THE MORE FUNDS RAISE!

DISPOSE OF YOUR ELECTRONIC WASTE THE RIGHT WAY!

Here's how!!!

- ❖ As a fundraiser, The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch #638, Kanata is working in conjunction with a certified member of the Electronic Stewardship Program to collect and dispose of Electronic Waste the RIGHT WAY!

- ❖ Disposal is environmentally safe, in a totally secured manner which protects all of your private and confidential data.
 - ❖ The more E-Waste collected, the more funds are raised to support the Kanata Legion, our Veterans and our community.
 - ❖ Save your Electronic Waste (E-Waste) – Computers, TVs, Cell Phones, Amplifiers, Cameras (Please refer to complete list below) for drop off days in May at the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch #638 – Kanata. A fundraiser to support our Veterans and the Kanata Community.
 - ❖ Drop Off Days:
 - Friday, May 10, 2013 12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
 - Saturday, May 11, 2013 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- at The Royal Canadian Legion, Br. #638-Kanata, 70 Hines Rd., off Solandt Road, off of March Road
- ❖ \$1.00 off Fish 'N Chips Coupon with every E-Waste drop off. Fish 'N Chips served Fridays 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Kanata Legion.

For further information, please refer to the following websites:

<http://www.targetrecycling.com> or
www.kanatabr638.ca or call Lorraine at 613-266-4705.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Televisions• Desktop computers and terminals• Monitors• Laptop computers• Desktop printers• Fax machines• Disk drives• CD-ROM drives• Keyboards and mice
(Ed. Note: some restrictions on the latter apply.) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amplifiers, stereos, speakers, receivers• Cameras, digital cameras• Copiers, fax machines, scanners• Pagers, PDAs• Radios, TVs all used hospital equipment• Telephones, cell phones, answering machines• VCR and DVD players |
|---|--|

From the Third Vice – home from the sunny south

I would like take this opportunity to thank Brenda Grant and George Pollock for their outstanding performance in filling in for me as "Bar Manager", while I enjoyed the winter months in Florida.

Also asking if anyone would like to be added or removed from "bartenders list" to please contact me, at 839-5465.

June bar schedule will be made up soon, so please answer the call for help.

Thank you.

George Medynski

Are YOU a VIP?

If you are a client of Veterans Affairs' VIP program, you need to read this NOW.

In the past, VIP clients have had to bill VAC for services they have received, either by submitting a claim form to VAC or authorizing a service provider to do so for them. Claims for housekeeping services are usually handled by the firm providing the service.

Beginning 1 March, all that has changed, Now, VAC (actually Blue Cross, which handles the payments) will send each client two cheques a year as ADVANCE payments for the next six months of services.

This does NOT mean each cheque will be 50% of the amount VAC originally assessed for items such as housekeeping, grounds maintenance and window washing. Far from it, your first cheque will be 50% not of your entitlement, but of what you actually claimed in the previous year. Considering the lack of snowfall and prolonged drought in

2012, your first cheque is likely to be much lower than expected. The motto appears to be "use it or lose it". In my own case, instead of the \$400 I expected for 50% of my annual grounds maintenance entitlement, the cheque was for \$110. That's a big drop.

When I called to question the amount, VAC passed me to Blue Cross, who explained how the system worked and, despite the fact that everyone knew that last year's weather had been very abnormal here, sorry, but they had to go by VAC's rules. That appeared to be that; when you lose your entitlement, it's gone – for ever.

BUT, continued the pleasant lady at Blue Cross, there IS a way around the problem. I could ask VAC for a reassessment. Would I like to do that? I replied that I certainly would. She said she would tell VAC.

That was a Friday morning. The following Monday morning, the phone rang. It was another pleasant lady, this one from VAC. We went through a questionnaire over the phone and the upshot was that I had a new entitlement for grounds eminence, higher than my original one. As well, my entitlement for window washing was restored. A week later, I received a cheque for the additional amount for the first six months. Moral of the story: you can always ask for a reassessment by calling the number on your VAC client card.

HOWEVER (there always has to be a however), there are at least two other issues.

The first concerns housekeeping expenses. Most of us who claim for these hire professional cleaning firms, such as Home Instead Seniors Cree. In the past, these firms have submitted one comprehensive claim to VAC covering all their VAC clients over the past few weeks. NOW, these firms are forced to bill and often to chase every individual client every month. This adds a large administrative cost to their operations – and you know who that cost is going to be passed on to – the clients.

I mentioned this possibility to the lady from VAC. She advised me to keep an eye on the bills and, in a few months, if it became clear that what I had was insufficient, to ask for a reassessment of housekeeping costs. So this issue, too, appears to have a solution.

That leaves one huge problem.

What about the client who had trouble budgeting and managing money? Despite the flow of letters from VAC to VIP clients explaining how the system will work, it is clear that many people do not understand it. The week after I got my first cheque, our cleaning lady told me of another of her VIP clients who got his cheque, claimed he didn't know what it was for, and promptly left for Florida on the proceeds. What will HE do for housekeeping for the next six months? He is hardly alone.

What of the veteran with dementia, whose money is being managed by someone else? If that someone else truly cares about the veteran, all well and good. But there will be cases where the housekeeping – and grounds maintenance – money will go of a new wide-screen TV, and not to help the vet.

One thing that is absent from the literature from VAC is just what kind of accounting will be required for the money paid out in advance. No one knows, but it would be prudent to keep careful records – records that will show that all the money has been spent for the purposes it was granted, if you don't want to go through another reassessment.

Actually, accounting is a moot point. In every letter, VAC has stressed that these are GRANTS and nowhere have they said ACCOUNTABLE advances. Under the Financial Administration Act, with which DVA must comply, a "contribution" can be audited, but NOT a grant. I suspect there may be legal challenges to any accountabilities demanded by VAC for the use of their GRANTS. However, I am taking no chances; my future records will be as detailed as those I have kept in the past.

So there you have it. It is a rapidly evolving situation. Remember that, if you need help, our service officer Moira Green is here to provide it. But don't discount VAC and Blue Cross. I found them both helpful and it is clear they are working cooperatively and, at least in my own case, efficiently to resolve these issues.

Harry Needham

HAVE YOU NOTICED THE PRICE OF GROCERIES?

**So have we!
They aren't going down.**

**As of the 1st of June, 2013,
we regret the necessity of
raising the price of our Friday
Fish & Chip lunch.**

**NEW PRICES
Small \$7.00 tax included
Medium \$9.00 tax included
Large \$11.00 tax included**

What to take to bed with you - not a joke

Pretty neat idea. Never thought of it before.



any emergency, such as a heart attack, where you can't reach a phone. My Mom has suggested to my Dad that he carry his car keys with him in case he falls outside and she doesn't hear him. He can activate the car alarm and then she'll know there's a problem.



Put your car keys beside your bed at night.

Tell your spouse, your children, your neighbors, your parents, your Dr's office, the check-out girl at the market, everyone you run across. Put your car keys beside your bed at night.

If you hear a noise outside your home or someone trying to get in your house, just press the panic button for your car. The alarm will be set off, and the horn will continue to sound until either you turn it off or the car battery dies.

This tip came from a neighborhood watch coordinator. Next time you come home for the night and you start to put your keys away, think of this: It's a security alarm system that you probably already have and requires no installation. Test it. It will go off from most everywhere inside your house and will keep honking until your battery runs down or until you reset it with the button on the key fob chain. It works if you park in your driveway or garage.

If your car alarm goes off when someone is trying to break into your house, odds are the burglar/rapist won't stick around. After a few seconds, all the neighbors will be looking out their windows to see who is out there and sure enough the criminal won't want that. And remember to carry your keys while walking to your car in a parking lot. The alarm can work the same way there. This is something that should really be shared with everyone. Maybe it could save a life or a sexual abuse crime.

I am sending this to everyone I know because I think it is fantastic. Would also be useful for

Canadian Government Honours Canada's Veterans of Korean War

Ottawa - The Honourable Steven Blaney, Minister of Veterans Affairs and Minister for La Francophonie, along with the Honourable Peter MacKay, Minister of National Defence, paid tribute to an extraordinary group of individuals this morning on Parliament Hill. Ten Veterans of the Korean War were presented with special certificates of recognition.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Korean War and the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Canada and South Korea. In January, Minister Blaney declared 2013 as the Year of the Korean War Veteran. Various events and activities are planned throughout the year.

"Our response to the Korean War far exceeded what the world could have expected from us. The number of Canadians who served, in proportion to our population, was greater than that of almost every other country in the United Nations force," said Minister Blaney. "These exceptional Canadians should be revered for their bravery, their valour and their belief that all citizens deserve to live in a free and democratic society. That's why I will make every effort to ensure each and every Veteran who served during the Korean War-or in Korea in the years afterwards to keep the peace-is awarded this special certificate."

Approximately 10,000 Canadian Veterans are eligible for the certificate.

"Today we recognize the extraordinary achievements of the more than 26,000 members of the Canadian Armed Forces who were at the forefront of the international effort to bring peace and stability to the Korean Peninsula," said Minister MacKay. "It is our duty not to forget the incredible service of those who gave their lives or were wounded during this war."

Minister Blaney will accompany 36 Canadian Veterans of the Korean War next week as they travel to the Republic of Korea. Through a partnership between the Republic of Korea and Veterans Affairs Canada, the trip recognizes the contributions of all Veterans who came to the aid of the people of South Korea more than 60 years ago.

While in the Republic of Korea, from April 22 to April 27, the delegation will participate in ceremonies of remembrance at the Republic of Korea National Cemetery in Seoul, the Korean War Memorial to the Armed Forces of the British Commonwealth in Gapyeong, the Canadian Korean War Memorial Garden in Naechon and the United Nations Memorial Cemetery of Korea in Busan.

"In this, the year of the 60th anniversary of the Armistice, the Korea Veterans Association commends Minister Blaney and the Harper Government for their extensive work in recognizing Korean Veterans. We are very grateful for their efforts," said John Bishop, National President of the Korea Veterans Association of Canada.

More than 26,000 Canadian men and women served in the Korean War, with 516 of them making the ultimate sacrifice. They joined 15 other United Nations countries that also sent combat forces there to restore peace. The active fighting ended with the signing of the Armistice at Panmunjom on July 27, 1953. Following the Armistice, approximately 7,000 Canadians continued to serve in Korea until the end of 1955, with some troops remaining until 1957.

2013 is the Year of the Korean War Veteran-Canada proudly remembers the heroes of the Korean War

and their brave fight to uphold freedom, democracy and the rule of law.

For more information on Canada's role in the Korean War, visit veterans.gc.ca, visit our Facebook "Canada Remembers" page to leave a message of remembrance or follow us on Twitter @VeteransENG_CA.

"They Too Remember" Project

Over Three Hundred Area Youth to Take Part in Trenton Ceremony
Honouring Canadian Soldiers Killed in Afghanistan

One hundred fifty-eight Canadian men and women have made that final journey down the Highway of Heroes, with devastated family members following behind, and thousands of Canadians lining bridges and overpasses - the nation sharing in a family's grief.

One hundred fifty-eight Canadian men and women gave their lives in Afghanistan, fighting for democracy, human rights, equal rights, peace and stability; all of the things we hold dear as Canadians. Many more soldiers returned from Afghanistan bearing the devastating wounds of war, both physical and mental.

If you have children between the ages of 8 and 18 who would be interested in taking part in a special ceremony honouring Canada's fallen, mark June 1st on your calendar.

The Canadian Army Veterans Motorcycle club, known as The CAV, are holding their 5th annual Heroes Highway Ride on Saturday, June 1st. Hundreds of motorcycles will arrive in Trenton in a steady stream from both directions along the Highway of Heroes.

Organizers are looking for 158 children to carry individual portraits of each of the 158 Canadian soldiers killed in Afghanistan during a parade ceremony at Centennial Park in Trenton. Another 158 children are needed to carry Canadian flags alongside.

These 316 participants will have the honour of representing youth from across the country at this powerful annual event, which draws thousands to the Quinte region and attracts national attention.

Spots will go quickly, and are on a first-come-first-served basis. Parents, guardians and group leaders can register their children as participants by visiting www.theytooshallremember.com and then following the links.

The Canadian Army Veterans Motorcycle Club was started in 2003, and supports a variety of charities and fundraisers benefiting Canada's veterans.

They Too Shall Remember is a project launched by two Canadian school teachers who hope to re-engage school children in the acts of remembering and honouring Canada's veterans and its fallen.

Recapping the Coming Events:

L.A. Electronic Recycling Project Drop-off:

**Friday 10 May, 12 noon to 8 PM and
Saturday, 11 May, 8 AM to 6 PM**

**Sunday, 26 May, Birthday/Anniversary party,
at 1400 in the Lounge.**

**Sunday, 2 June, Annual Branch Awards Night,
1800 in the Hall**

**Tuesday, 18 June, Annual Veterans Luncheon
in the Hall at 1130 hrs.**

CONTACT! Is published monthly by Kanata Branch 638 in Kanata, Ontario. The views expressed in this newsletter are those of its editor and not necessarily those of the Royal Canadian Legion or Branch 638.

CONTACT! Is edited by Harry Needham (harry@hnccs.ca or (voice) 613-831-1068.

A wealth of information on Branch hours, events, contacts, etc., as well as past newsletters and photo galleries, can be found at:

<http://www.kanatabr638.ca/>

PLEASE CHECK IT REGULARLY.