



Volume 3 Number 2

CONTACT!

February 2014
www.kanatabr638.ca

President's Report

The Robbie Burns Night attendance was a near sellout with approximately 95 attending. Several members and guests commented that it was the best Robbie Burn's night ever! Thanks goes to Lynn and Dave McPherson for organizing the evening, to the kitchen and bar staff, to the set up and clean-up crews. Tom Baker did his usual outstanding job addressing the haggis. Thank-you to Brenda Grant and Denis Watson for piping, and to Morley Connell for leading the haggis party.

Coffee Wednesdays started a month ago and the attendance is increasing weekly. Thanks to Chartwell and the Royale retirement residences for sponsoring the first and second Wednesdays of the month. They both bring fantastic snacks. Thanks to Lynn McPherson for the super scones, still warm from the oven. Come and join us for coffee, good food and great gabfest. All are invited Wednesdays from 9-11 a.m.

A great St. Valentines party was held on February 14th hosted by the Branch Ladies' Auxiliary. The food was great, and the entertainment was second to none as was the company.

The second Senior Security workshop was held this month with a great job done by Ottawa police constable Lori Fahey; approximately 20 attended.

The Branch, in conjunction with Ottawa Public Health, will be conducting a Falling/Seniors programme. Information on dates and times will follow.

John Cher
President

This Month's Donations

In February, the Branch donated from the General Trust Fund \$250 each to:

DONATIONS

- The Sue Fay Healy School of Traditional Irish Dance
- The Canadian Diabetes Association, to help support Camp Banting, an area summer camp for diabetic children
- The Musquah Recreation Group, to help support Camp Musquah, an area summer camp for handicapped children

You may be interested to know that, in our first three months of operating 50/50 draws, the Branch raised more than \$4,000. Half of this is immediately paid out to winners. The remainder, less license fees, is donated to worthy causes in the community, via the General Trust Fund, which also distributes a large share of the revenue from our Bingo operation.

POPPY TRUST FUND

All donations approved at the January General Meeting have now been distributed, with one exception. We are still identifying the most appropriate registered veterans' transition program to receive the \$3000 donation you approved.

Submitted by
Harry Needham

Snapshots of Robbie Burns Night



Photos by Lorraine Elmas

Branch #638 Elections - General Meeting - April 16, 2014

Yes, it will be time for Branch #638 members to elect a new Executive at the April 16th general meeting 7:30 p.m.

Get involved with your legion. Consider running for or nominating a fellow member for one of the following positions:

- President
- 1st Vice-president
- 2nd Vice-president
- 3rd Vice-president
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- 6 Executive Committee members
- Sgt. @ Arms
- Chaplain

NOMINATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT BRANCH #638 and must be completed and submitted before April 16, 2014. For further information, please ask for Gord McCaskill, Nomination Committee Chair at 613-591-5570 (legion phone number).

Did you know that as a legion member in good standing you have a say in your legion's future. Your input, recommendations and your vote on various decisions can make a difference! We ask that you try to come out to our general meetings, the third Wednesday of the month 7:30 p.m. excluding the months of February, July, August, December. A way to meet your fellow Comrades! Next general meeting is Wednesday, March 19, 2014, 7:30 p.m. at the Kanata Legion!

Mark April 16th on your calendar for the VERY IMPORTANT GENERAL MEETING - OUR EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS!

Gord McCaskill
Nomination Committee Chair

Notice of Intent

Comrades,

Please be advised that a Motion of Intent to Amend the Branch 638 House Rules is posted at the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch #638 - Kanata. The proposed amended House Rules are now posted for review prior to the next General Branch meeting, Wednesday, March 19, 2014, at which time they will be put forward for approval by Branch #638 members.

Please be advised a Motion of Intent to Create Branch 638 Kitchen Operations and Procedures Statement for the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch #638 - Kanata. The proposed statement is now posted for review prior to the next General Branch meeting, Wednesday, March 19, 2014, at which time the statement will be put forward for approval by Branch members.

Branch members are encouraged to attend general meetings to become aware of Branch operations and to participate and vote in decision making. Please note that there is no February general meeting; the next general meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 19, 2014, 7:30 p.m.

Bruce Judge

Chair

Policies, Procedures, House Rules



Photo by Garry Fancy

Comrade Eddie Vance taken at the Branch on the occasion of the celebration of his 90th birthday

Happy Birthday, Comrade Eddie!

Membership Update

Membership **IN GOOD STANDING** to date is 245. In Good Standing means the dues for 2014 have been paid. This leaves the number of Members Not In Good Standing at 55.

Early Bird Renewals for 2013 were 81.44% , which placed us up 2nd in renewals for our Zone.

For those who wish to Renew for 2014 there is still time.



Renewal Dues are \$55.00. One can pay in cash or by cheque. Cheques should be made payable to RCL Kanata Br. 638. Dues can be mailed or dropped off at the Legion. If the Legion is not open, deposit in the mailbox.

Renew now and continue to receive your Kanata CONTACT! newsletter and Legion magazine.

Brenda Grant
Membership

From the Ways & Means Committee

Help Kanata Legion Reduce Our Community E-Waste Footprint



* The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 638 Kanata is working together with Foxy / Target Recycling to collect and dispose of Electronic Waste in an environmentally Safe and Secure way.

* Drop off your Electronic Waste (E-Waste) at the legion for recycling (see list on right)

Friday , April 11, 2014, 12:00 pm - 8:00 pm
and/or

Saturday, April 12, 2014 , 8:00 am - 6:00 pm

Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 638,
70 Hines Road, Kanata.

Eligible Items for Recycling :

- Desktop computers
- Portable computers
- Monitors - Televisions - Modems
- Copiers - Scanners, Typewriters
- Telephones and accessories
- Cell Phones - PDA's & Pagers
- Audio and Video Players - Cameras
- Radios - Equalizers - Receivers
- Speakers - Tuners - Turntables
- Video players/projectors recorders
- Hand held Computers
- Vacuums
- Microwave Ovens - Toaster Ovens
- Fans
- Blenders
- Small house appliances run on a motor



BONUS

\$1.00 off Friday Fish & Chips
Lunch for each person who
drops off E-Waste

BBQ Hot Dog with drop
off Sat Afternoon

BONUS

High Tea & Fashion Show

May 10, 2014 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Featuring:

Fashions by Jockey Person 2 Person

Prizes

Assortment of Teas, Sandwiches, Fruit, Cheese, Dessert

More details coming soon!

**A fun way for women to spend time together
the day before Mother's Day – Mothers and
daughters, sisters, friends, etc. and support
the Kanata legion!**

Submitted by
Lorraine Lapensée
Chair



Youth Education

The Awards Presentation for the Poems, Essays and Poster contests was held Sunday January 19th 2014 from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm.

The Presentation was well attended. A huge thank-you goes out to John Cher, Bob Thomson, Dan Knighton, Sue McLean, Morley Connell, Peter Wilkins, Lorraine Lapensée, Terry Jenkins, George and Betty Ann Pollock for helping to make the afternoon a success.



Terry Jenkins arranged coverage in Kanata Courier-Standard.

The Public Speaking Contest for the Branch was scheduled for the 15th of February. We received FOUR entries and due to the low registration and category breakdown, the Contest was cancelled. The registrants will move on to the ZONE level.

Brenda Grant
Chair
Youth Education

From the Ladies' Auxiliary



A VERY ENJOYABLE EVENING!

Valentine's Day Dinner and Dance, Feb. 14/14

The Ladies' Auxiliary wishes to extend a very special thank-you to the approximate 55 guests for supporting our second annual Valentine's Day celebration on Friday, February 14, 2014.

Proceeds from this event will be donated to The Military Family Resource Centre! Bravo!

Decorations of cupids, paper red and pink hearts were strategically placed in the hall and on the tables for guests to enjoy and to help create the Celebration of Love! Taste buds were tantalized and satisfied as guests enjoyed tossed salad with a delicious salad dressing, Chicken Kiev, mashed potatoes, green beans, sweet red peppers and strawberry shortcake with whipped cream! A few guests were the lucky winners of door prizes donated by Chartwell Kanata Retirement Home and Ladies' Auxiliary members: Mary Aird, Marg Burton, and Judy Homma. Last but not least, guests took pleasure in singing along to or/and dancing to a variety of songs performed by singing artist, **Debra McCann!**

This very enjoyable evening would not have been possible if it were not for the volunteers: Cooks and servers - Marg Burton, Betty Ann Pollock, George Pollock; Servers and table clearers - Angie Jacklin, Chris Jacklin; Dishwasher - Dan Knighton; Ticket Takers: Dave McPherson, Lynn McPherson; Decorating - June Tyrrell and Judy Homma; Bartenders - Brenda Grant, Gord McCaskill; Table setters - Sophia Grime and Case; Design and printing of

posters and tickets - Dan Knighton; Hall set up and clean up - Bob Thomson and John Thomson...

and to those who donated door prizes as listed above.

A BIG THANK YOU AND MUCH APPRECIATION!

Lorraine Lapensée

Valentine's Day Evening Event Co-ordinator

SWING INTO SPRING

is this year's theme for the Ladies' Auxiliary's
19th annual fundraiser,
Saturday, April 26 2014!

Donations will go towards the upgrades in progress!

- Washroom renovations were started in 2013 with concentration on accessibility.
- There is more to be done!

Members can look forward to receiving an *invitation letter* with more details around the beginning of March.

We ask for your continued support by coming out to enjoy good food & music entertainment on April 26, 2014.

That's April 26, 2014, for an evening of fun, food and fundraising! Everyone is welcome! Fill a table of eight! Invite your friends, family, colleagues, neighbours, acquaintances!

Submitted by
Lorraine Lapensée



Article published in memory of
Comrade Jim Lowe, author

This is a little story of a ship
of the R.C.N.V.R., which is
still being written

H.M.C.S. Murray Stewart (aka Georgian Queen)

The ship I mention above, on which I spent two years of my young life in the R.C.N.V.R. during WW2, is nearly as old as I am. She has had her ups and downs just like us humans.

She was designed and built in 1928 in Midland, Ontario, for duties as a coast-guard vessel in the Great Lakes, servicing channel buoys, lighthouses, docks, etc.

In 1941 she was called into service by and for the R.C.N. as an examination vessel on the east coast of Canada, running out of Saint John, N.B. She patrolled the Bay of Fundy outside the port examining ship going into the harbour preparatory to forming a convoy and picking up cargo for overseas. The ships had to be examining ships going into the harbour preparatory to forming a convoy and picking up cargo for overseas. The ships had to be examined for contraband and explosives, which could be used to cause damage to the port or surrounding countryside (protecting the Port). The only armament she carried, however, was a WW1 Lewis gun, which, when brought out for testing, quite often misfired or jammed.

After four or five years of active service, she was de-commissioned and put into "moth-balls" in Sorrel, Quebec, where she remained for several years before being picked up by a consortium of men from Penetanguishene, Ontario. They were planning on refitting her to become a floating grocery store to service the "Thirty-thousand Island" cottage population. However, nothing was done for several years, and the consortium fell apart. Some moved away, and others died, leaving one person to pay the dock fees on the ship, which eventually became a burden on the man

remaining, who was the owner of the I.G.A. store in Penetang, who--I might add--had two ambitious sons. He then turned the vessel over to his two sons and they in turn started to refit the vessel that had sat at the dockside for a number of years. In the meantime, the kids of Penetang would climb aboard the ship and use it as a diving board. Someone finally found the sea-cocks and opened them, allowing water to come in, and the ship sank at dockside where it tilted and allowed the mast to be used as a springboard for the kids to dive from.

The two sons re-floated it, removed the superstructure and the old worn out coal burning engines, replacing it with two new diesel engines and screws, laying a new wooden deck over the old steel deck, rebuild the galley, and built a new wheelhouse and installed the latest navigational equipment, turning the ship into a tour boat cruising the "Thirty-thousand Islands", catering to weddings, birthday parties, etc. Dinners, lunches and snacks could be arranged. They changed the name to "The Georgian Queen" and a whole new life was created for the old ship.

I served on the H.M.C.S. Murray Stewart, as a signalman, in WW2, prior to my discharge, upon de-mobilization, after the war in the Pacific was over. This was a period of about two years. I lost track of the ship for many years, being tied up with raising a family, learning a trade, and earning a living.

Upon moving to Ottawa in the early 1960s for a position with N.R.C., I got to know Rick Blanchard, a close friend of my son's, and a budding journalist. In 2006, Rick was doing some research on a story about the Navy when he remembered stories I had told about my time in the service and the name of the ship I served on during the war, having some across some mention of the Murray Stewart in his searches. He contacted me about this and we found out that the ship had been sold as I have said above. Upon learning of this, I phoned the brothers and made a date to visit with them.

My wife Audrey, my daughter Glenda, her husband David, and I took a trip up to Penetang to see my old friend, "The Ship." Having identified myself to the two brothers, I was invited aboard for a tour of the "Renewed Ship" and taken for a tour of the Thirty-thousand Islands. The islands themselves were of no interest to me at the time, but the fact of standing on the deck of what was my home for two years, some 65 years before, was "weird" and wonderful, bringing back some vivid memories of long long ago... some pleasant, some not so pleasant.

The knowledge that my "good old ship" was still active gave me the incentive to carry on and try to live up to her reputation of renewal and longevity. You see, we were of the same vintage. She was built in 1928, and I was born in 1924, and we were both in "service" to our country in its most trying years.

Roll along, "wavy navy" ... roll along. Keep up the good work.

Recap of Coming Events

Thurs., Feb. 27, 11:30 a.m., Luncheon, Canadian War Museum

Fri., Feb. 28, 9 a.m., Free Income Tax Advice

Fri., Feb. 28, New Pizza Night, 6 p.m.

Sun., March 9, Zone Convention, Smith Falls Branch

Fri., March 14, St. Paddy's Evening

Fri/Sat, April 11/12, Electronic Waste Disposal

Wed., April 16, Branch 638 Elections

Sat., April 26, Swing into Spring, LA annual fundraiser

Sat., May 10, Fashion Show and High Tea

Remarks by

Colonel (Retd) Andrew Nellestyn OStJ PhD
PEng

At the Standing Senate Committee on
Legal and Constitutional Affairs

Study of Bill C-217, An Act to amend the
Criminal
Code (mischief relating to war memorials)

February 12, 2014

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members thank you for inviting me to contribute some personal remarks on Bill C-217. It is an honour to appear before you. I would also like to commend Mr. David Tilson, MP for Dufferin-Caledon, for introducing this private members bill; the relevance and timing of which are broadly supported by many of my colleagues.

When I was first approached by Mr. Tilson's office to participate in these deliberations, other than in a general sense, I was not aware of the extent to which the perniciousness of mischief relating to war memorials was abroad in Canada; a proud and democratic nation which commemorates and applauds the sacrifices made by its veterans in defence of our freedom and those values which most admirably define us as Canadians.

As I first read through the proposed legislation, although I generally supported the Bill, I was somewhat at odds with the measures proposed, specifically, the criminalization of such heinously disrespectful desecration as ways and means to combat such behaviour.

I thus decided to inform myself more fully on the extent and nature of mischief relating to war memorials.

Firstly, I decided to refresh my understanding of the purpose which war memorials, cenotaphs and other commemorative monuments serve; both now and throughout the past. The general definition of a

cenotaph, a word which I will use to describe collectively all commemorative monuments, might read:

A monument erected to honour an individual or group of people whose remains are interred elsewhere or whose remains cannot be recovered, especially in memory of soldiers killed elsewhere.

I might also add that

Monuments also serve to permit those who have lost loved ones to bear witness that the fallen have not perished for naught and to remind all Canadians of the values we and those who went to war hold dear.

Cenotaphs have been erected since time immemorial by diverse cultures and come in many forms and sizes ranging from a simple marker to elaborate mausoleums. Their purpose is to commemorate and celebrate the sacrifices and contributions of those who fought to protect and preserve that which peoples value, that which defines them and that which is threatened. Cenotaphs are deemed sacred and constitute a place of assembly to honour and pay tribute to the fallen. Remembrance Day is such a time and place of assembly. Ceremonies of similar intent and purpose take place annually around the globe.

Secondly, I then Googled vandalism of war memorials and found, much to my dismay, disgust, shame and horror, that such desecration is not isolated but is disturbingly frequent and common in Canada and elsewhere throughout the world. Not only is vandalism rampant, it takes the form of destruction, defacement, acts of woeful disrespect such as graffiti, urination, defecation and a host of other assaults. The desecration of our National War Memorial and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier are but a few examples. Mr. Tilson has provided ample examples of mischief so I will not dwell on these in further detail. I also discovered that measures to curb this deplorable behaviour such as community service, meeting with

veterans and other such soft remedial activity, are of little effect.

So what to do?

I mentioned earlier that, although I fully support Mr. Tilson's initiative to discourage and eradicate mischief relating to war memorials, I was initially at odds as to the criminalization thereof and the consequences related thereto such as the imposition of a range of graduated fines and/or imprisonment. After considerable reflection and discussions with my colleagues, I am of the conviction that there exists little choice but to criminalize mischief against war memorials and impose a range of graduated fines and/or imprisonment.

I have dedicated a considerable portion of my life to service in the military and, by extension, to my adopted country and have witnessed firsthand the brutality of war; the loss of life and tragic consequences which befall nations, peoples and individuals. I was born in The Netherlands. My parents emigrated from a country devastated by war to a land of opportunity and respect for freedom, values, honour and sacrifice for individual and collective good. It thus comes as a shock that there exist those who would deface war memorials and act with such demeaning disrespect to those who sacrificed so much to serve and protect.

I gather that some are repulsed by criminalizing this repugnant behaviour and by the imposition of associated fines and/or imprisonment. Let me state that there exist misdemeanours of less severity which fall under the criminal code and that some of these have outcomes of greater consequence. Let me also reiterate that mischief against war memorials is a grievous and heinous assault and act of woeful disrespect towards our fallen and the values which Canadians hold dear and for which Canada is acclaimed throughout the world. Permissiveness, soft consequential measures for violation of persons (and yes the fallen are persons) and property as well as dishonourable and irresponsible behaviour, do

not reflect our values. They can neither be tolerated nor condoned.

I thus fully support Bill C-217 and commend Mr. Tilson on its formulation and introduction.

THEY GAVE THEIR TOMORROWS FOR OUR TODAY.

LEST WE FORGET

Thank you once again for your invitation to share my views on this defining issue.

Respectfully,

Colonel (Retd) Andrew Nellestyn OStJ PhD
PEng

KANATA LEGION BR. 638 70 HINES RD KANATA
ST. PADDY'S EVENING
FRIDAY, MARCH 14 DOORS OPEN 5:15
SUE FAY HEALY SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCE FAMILIES WELCOME
IRISH STEW CORNED BEEF / CABBAGE DESSERT BUFFET
ADULTS \$15 CHILDREN \$10
DANCERS 6 PM
DINNER 6:30 MUSIC 7:15
IRISH MUSIC BY JOHN O'HENRY
TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE BY TUESDAY EVG. MARCH 11TH
INFO 613 728-8125 BRANCH 613 591-5570

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

CONTACT! is edited by Lorraine Elmas
(lorraine_elmas@yahoo.ca)

New!!

Pizza Night

Starting February 28th
Last Friday of the Month

Award Winning Pizza from **Papa Sam**
\$3.50 a slice

Starts at 6:00 pm
Musical entertainment 7:30 to 8:30

Please sign up to allow for set up and for the size of the initial order.

