



CONTACT!

Volume 3 Number 11

November 2014
www.kanatabr638.ca

President's Report

Our Branch was asked to support the "Afghanistan - A Canadian Story" book launch, and approximately 25 members attended. Thank you to the colour party, pipe band, bugler and the ushers. It was an impressive book launch with over 200 people in attendance including two federal ministers and several generals.

The Branch's November 11th Remembrance ceremony was again held at the cenotaph, and there were in excess of 2500 people present, the most that I have seen since I have been attending. Thank-you to the members who set up the cenotaph, to the band, to the choir and to all who made this a special day. Thanks also to the Ladies' Auxiliary who prepared the food at the Branch and to the bar staff who did a great job with the large number of people present.

We were honoured with the presence of Major General C. Juneau, Deputy Commander of the Army, who took the salute. On returning to the Branch we were visited by Lt. General (retired) Walt Natynczyk, newly appointed Deputy Minister, Veteran Affairs.

A special thank-you goes to John Gooch who has been organizing this affair for 16 years and has decided to retire. Great job! Well done, John.

Our annual Remembrance Dinner was held on November 14th with 70 members and guests attending. Our guest speaker was Brigadier General (retired) Bill Brewer. Leatherworks catering provided a fantastic dinner. A great night was had by all. Thank you to Moira for organizing our dinner.

John Cher
President



Report from the First Vice

November is a very busy and rewarding month for us and has been a resounding success. This of course is the result of much hard work and preparation. You will see more on these events further along in this issue but I wish to commend our Second Vice President, Moira Green, for running a very successful **Poppy Campaign** and everyone working within this very prestigious group. Additionally, the bar staff, kitchen committee and Ladies' Auxiliary have once again been overwhelmingly successful. We thank you, all.

From where I stood at the cenotaph, it was extremely gratifying to see such a wonderful turnout on what is still not a national holiday. I understand there were 2500+ in attendance at this year's

ceremony. From the many organizers who set up and dismantled at the cenotaph to all those who participated laying wreaths, sang for us (Holy Trinity Catholic School), played for us (Andy Turcotte and Highland Mist Pipe Band), gave us blessings (Rev. Craig Bowers) and saluted us (MGen Juneau), you can be very proud of jobs well done. We are proud of you.

Comrade John Gooch gave a farewell speech to the position he held for 16+ years with dedicated hard work organizing our Remembrance Day services. John was in on the ground floor orchestrating the move to our new cenotaph location and has organized these ceremonies since the beginning. Well done, John. You will be a tough act to follow.

My sincere thanks to all of our volunteers who work together to make these events successful.

Dan Knighton



Comrade John Gooch
September 2014

From the Sports Desk

Zone Cribbage is to be held at the Lanark legion, November 22, 2014. This has missed my radar and I will have to call all those who have participated in the past. Any interested players, please contact me. I will include the 2014/15 sports schedule in the next issue of CONTACT! - space permitting.

Dan Knighton
Branch Sports Officer
613 864 1920

From the Second Vice

Poppy and Remembrance Campaign 2014

A full report will be given in the next CONTACT! This year's campaign appears to be more successful than others due perhaps to the tragic events in our capital and in Quebec. If you are aware of anyone who has helped us in any way other than our faithful stalwarts, I would appreciate knowing their names.

Book Launch

Many thanks to the following who answered the call for ushers at Andrew's book launch: Kathy Bose, Gaetan Chartier, Dan Knighton and Lynn McPherson. It was both privilege and pleasure to attend this special occasion.

Remembrance Services

Many thanks to our stalwart piper Brenda Grant and stalwart Sergeant at Arms Bob Thomson, pianist Bob Murray (Sage Kiwanis), Padre Craig Bowers and Dan Knighton for supporting the Services of Remembrance held at our nine local residences. Thanks to John Gooch for arranging these events.

Street Naming

Veteran Helen Rapp has been honoured by having a street named in her memory. This is the first time since the programme was started in 2005 that a female veteran has been thus honoured. Our congratulations to the Rapp family and to Gerry Bowen, Helen's husband, a resident at the Rideau Perly and member of Kanata Branch 638.

Bullying and Harassment Policy

Our Branch is now at work preparing this policy. Are you comfortable at Kanata Branch 638 Kanata? Your executive hopes so and will continually endeavour to provide a safe, welcoming environment for you, our members, and guests.

Chartwell Kanata

Thanks to the staff of this residence who provided a lovely lunch and certificates of appreciation to our members who attended. Thanks particularly to veteran Hank Dopler who gave gifts of dream catchers to those in attendance and was still smiling, having received a hug from Princess Ann and a handshake from Prime Minister Harper.

Yours in continued service,

Moira



Comrade Hank Dopler, an Aboriginal veteran, shakes hands with the Prime Minister after the Remembrance Day Service held at the War Memorial, downtown Ottawa. Hank also received a hug from Princess Anne. A day to remember more ways than one!

Walmart Poppy Table

As the 2014 poppy campaign has drawn to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of my team members who made staffing the Walmart poppy table such a successful endeavour. You made my job as table captain very easy, by being on time, without any cancellations, informing me of shortages of material to be topped-up and getting money boxes to the Legion or to me. Because of your efforts, I look forward to a very substantial amount collected. Your help was much appreciated, and trust I may count on you for next year's campaign. THANK YOU.

George Medynski, Walmart Table Captain

From the Branch Secretary

BRANCH GENERAL MEETING REMINDER:

The next Kanata Branch general meeting is Wednesday, November 19, at 7:30 p.m.

Also, please note that there is no general meeting in December.

Thank you.

Lorraine Lapensée
Branch Secretary

From the Ladies' Auxiliary

On October 21st, Marg Burton, Johanna Walters, Judy Homma, Bev Connell and I gathered in the legion lounge to pack gift bags with treats and a cozy legion scarf for our veterans residing in retirement homes and long term care facilities in the Kanata.

On October 22 and 23, Marg, Bev, Betty Ann, and I delivered approximately 60 gift bags. The veterans and/or spouses were very pleased with our visit and thanked us kindly.

A special thank you to Judy Homma for storing the items at her home until they were needed. Also a special mention to Bev, who phoned all the homes for the number of residents who needed a visit. Thank you.

Visits to the sick and shut-ins are ongoing, but if we have missed anyone, or you know of a member or vet who needs a gift and/or a brief visit, please call Nancy 613-839-5465, or Bev 613-591-9797.

Thank-you again to all the ladies who helped with packing and delivering gift bags.

Yours in comradeship,

Nancy Medynski
Convenor

L.A.'s Entertainment/Fundraising Committee

Annual Christmas Bazaar

Saturday, November 29, 2014

Hazeldean Mall, Food Court

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

hosted by

The Ladies' Auxiliary of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch #638-Kanata

Crafts, knitting, baking, books, preserves, jams, jellies and more available for your shopping pleasure!

When you support the Ladies' Auxiliary, you support our veterans and our community!



Request for donations of crafts, knitting, baking, books, preserves, jams or/and jellies for the Annual Bazaar on November 29, 2014.

All donated items can be dropped off at the Hazeldean Mall between 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 29, 2014.

For further information, please contact **Angie Jacklin**, Bazaar Co-ordinator
613-720-6737

As always, your support is very much appreciated.

Seniors Festive Dinner

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

11:30 a.m. reception

12:00 p.m. noon "dinner"

The Ladies' Auxiliary of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch #638-Kanata invites everyone to their

Seniors Festive Dinner

Turkey and all the trimmings!

Christmas Carol sing-along
Christmas baked goods
and silent auction table

\$12.00/person

Tickets in advance only on or before
Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Get your tickets at the Kanata Legion
70 Hines Road,
off of Solandt Road
off of March Road

Call 613-591-5570 or www.kanatabr638.ca

Submitted by
Lorraine Lapensée



Ways & Means Entertainment Recruitment Committee

Submitted by *Lorraine Lapensée*, Chair

November 21 - Spaghetti Dinner / Book Sale / Bring a Friend Event

5:30 p.m. reception / 6:00 p.m. dinner

The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch #638, Kanata, is hosting a fun evening fundraiser and everyone is welcome!

Proceeds will go towards paying down the Kanata Legion mortgage!

The evening will begin with a spaghetti dinner including salad, spaghetti with meat sauce, buns, dessert, tea & coffee.

Books on display will be by Wally Kasper, Roly Armitage, Pat Cher, 408 Squadron and the anthology, Afghanistan - A Canadian Story, with the possibility of two others. Plus good quality second hand books for sale.

Know a local author? Send a message to pattc@mac.com

Have newer books to donate? Drop them off at the Branch any Friday until the 21st.

Bring a friend! If the friend joins the legion or the Ladies' Auxiliary, you both get two tickets to the legion's Friday Fish 'n Chips lunch.

Tickets are \$10.00/person. Tickets are in advance only and must be picked up on or before November 19, 2014, at the Kanata Legion. For further information, please call the Kanata legion at 613-591-5570 or check our website: www.kanatabr638.ca



November 23 - Help decorate the legion for Christmas

Everyone is welcome to come out to the Kanata Legion around 3:00 p.m. to help decorate the legion for Christmas and enjoy a pot luck dinner and have a good visit. Decorations are provided. No charge! No tickets! No sign-up! We ask that you bring something for the pot luck. Hope to see you there!

November 28 - Pizza Night

5:30 p.m. reception / 6:00 p.m. pizza
Only \$3.50 /slice / no tickets / please get your name on the sign-up sheet to allow for an estimate as to how much pizza to order!
An opportunity for fellowship / comradeship / a good time!

November 30 - November Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Cake and Ice cream served shortly after 3:00 p.m. FREE!
No tickets in advance required! Preference to sign-up in advance! Everyone is invited.

November 30 - CFL Grey Cup Party

5:00 p.m. - ? Free admission! Football party food at a very reasonable cost! Wear your favourite football hat! Everyone is welcome! Having fun is mandatory!

December 5 - Christmas Dinner / Silent Auction / Live Music

5:30 p.m. reception / 6:15 p.m. dinner

Everyone is invited to come out to enjoy a turkey dinner by Leatherworks Catering at the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch #638-Kanata, 70 Hines Road, off of Solandt Road, off of March Road.
Experience the fun of bidding in a silent auction!

Sit back, relax and sing along to music by the newly formed Kanata Branch band,
THE KANATA LEGIONNAIRES BAND.

\$20.00/person

Tickets in advance only and must be picked up by Tuesday, December 2

Info: 613-591-5570 or www.kanatabr638.ca

REQUEST FOR DONATION OF SILENT AUCTION ITEMS - Some suggestions are Christmas decorations, stocking stuffers, baking, jewellery, purses and decorative items always do well, as do fun kitchen gadgets.

ITEMS CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT THE KANATA LEGION AT FISH 'N CHIPS EVERY FRIDAY UP UNTIL NOV. 28, 2014

December 31 - The Best New Year's Eve Party in Kanata

6:30 p.m. reception / 7:30 p.m. dinner

Roast Beef Buffet and more by Leatherworks Catering!

Music to dance to by DJ Eden!

Spot Dance Prizes! Door Prizes!

Late evening snack!

Champagne available to purchase and celebrate with. A whole lot of fun!

\$45.00/person.

Tickets will be available as of Nov. 19 and must be picked up on or before Dec. 23.

Reserve early to guarantee seats!

January 1 - President's New Year's Day Levee

11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Celebrate the first day of 2015 by dropping in at the Kanata legion for good food and comradeship! Everyone is invited! Donations are welcome!

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Amy McConnell
www.teaandtoast.ca
613.406.6031

Tea & Toast

Fish 'n Chips

Submitted by Garry Fancy

Our World War II veterans are a diminishing breed of heroes. Our Bomber Command veterans and survivors still with us are at the apex of this fine group.



TWO OF THE VERY FEW SURVIVING WWII RCAF BOMBER COMMAND PILOTS WHO EACH COMPLETED A FULL OPS TOUR, AGAINST ALL ODDS
LEFT RUSSELL MCKAY, 420 SQUADRON, RIGHT WALLY KASPER, 408 SQUADRON

Photo, courtesy of Sal Rafi

Thus, our Branch was particularly honoured to have two such veterans with us for Friday's Fish 'n Chips recently. On the left is Russell McKay Halifax, pilot with 420 Squadron, and on the right, Wally Kasper, Lancaster pilot with 408 Squadron.

These two veterans share a number of commonalities:

- they both flew four-engined bombers
- both aircraft types were different, but they both had the same Bristol Hercules engines
- though different squadrons, both flew aircraft with letter X (X-ray)
- BOTH SURVIVED AND COMPLETED A TOUR OF OPERATIONS AGAINST ALL ODDS
- both wrote of their experiences during the War
 - Russell Mc Kay: "One of the Many")
 - Wally Kasper: "A Night Out With the Boys", "Letter To a New Grandson", et al)

Russell McKay was recently honoured by the French Government with the Legion of Honour award for his WWII actions

An Old Friend

Following is the last submission to CONTACT! written in February 27, 2007, by the late Comrade Jim Lowe, former Sig. T.O. R.C.N.V.R. V69484



I recently became reacquainted with an old and very dear friend that I was wondering if I should call a veteran.

She served in the Canadian Coast Guard Service on the Great Lakes here in Canada from 1928 till 1941 when she was conscripted into the Royal Canadian Navy and served faithfully until 1945 when she was retired. Her name was Murray Stewart, which you must think is a strange name for a she. Well, she was a ship, on which I had the honour to serve for 2.5 years and all ships in the Navy are considered she's. I guess that's because they are home and mothers to their crews.

She was built at the Midland dockyards in Midland, Ontario, on Georgian Bay just a little north of Barrie, Ontario. So does that make her a veteran?

Well, according to Webster's dictionary, a veteran is a person with a long experience in a particular activity. So why do I have trouble with that word "person?" In my mind, the M.S. is a real veteran.

The M.S. was a unique vessel, there being only twelve ships in the Canadian Navy with her specialty.

You've probably heard stories of submarines, fairmiles, M.T.B.'s minesweepers, corvettes, cruisers and battleships of all kinds, but not many people really know what an Examination Vessel was.

What is an examination vessel, you say? Well, they were unique inasmuch as they were a variety of vessels from ocean-going tugs built of steel plating, to ocean-going fishing vessels built of wood, which had been drafted or volunteered to the navy, to stop and inspect the cargo of any and all ships entering the various secured harbours from which convoys were formed before proceeding overseas. This was a precautionary step to prevent a catastrophe, like that which happened in 1917 in Halifax. The explosion of a ship loaded with munitions blew up in the basin and devastated over half of the city.

There were only six seaports where convoys gathered before leaving for overseas. Two on the west coast, namely Victoria and Vancouver, and four on the east coast, Halifax, N.S.; Sydney, N.B.; Saint John, N.B.; and St. John's, Nfld. Since I was a signalman aboard the H.M.C.S. Murray Stewart out of Saint John, N.B., in the Bay of Fundy, I had a rather intimate knowledge of X.V.s and their operations.

The above-mentioned cities all had either anti-submarine nets or electronic cables on the ocean floor for detecting ships or anything trying to enter the harbour. It was therefore the duty of the X.V.s to investigate all cases of anything approaching these harbours. They had to patrol outside these nets or cables and stop and examine any and all ships or contacts.

Don't forget, these were the high seas and there were U-boats lurking out there to try to intercept any stray ships.

We were on a three-day cycle: Three days on patrol and three days supposedly to rest up. However, this was war time and the navy never had a chance to rest up. We had to heave to and clean ship, paint and do our personal washing and stand watches to loosen and tighten hawsers because of tides raising and lowering, the average tide rises and falls 27 feet in the Bay of Fundy.

We had to armament to speak of, only a 45 pistol, a 45 automatic, which was the captain's personal sidearm and an old WW1 Lewis gun which intermittently fired and miss fired when it was tested, which was frequently (miss-fired, that is).

Most of the X.V.s had a crew of between 20 and 45 men: 1 captain, 1 executive officer, 1 bosun or chief petty officer, 2 leading seamen, 4 or 6 stokers, 2 ERA 's, 8 able seamen, 1 cook, 1

steward, 2 signalmen, and on patrol days an examination officer and his batman. The three-day patrol consisted of continuous movement across the entrance of the harbour. It may sound rather boring, but it really wasn't. There was always something going on, investigating movement of something over the cable or stopping ships trying to enter the harbour, riding out storms, or receiving signals of approaching vessels.

During your off watch time, it was necessary to catch up on your log notes, do your washing, eat your meals; that is, if you weren't seasick from the pitching and rolling of the ship, and during the winter months there was always the ice to chip off the deck and railings.

And all of this for \$1.00 a day. Of course, I made a little more than that because I had a trade, for which I made an additional 10 cents a day and when on board a ship I also got an additional 25 cents a day. That was called hard layers pay, plus, of course, 25 cents a day for uniform replacement, total of \$1.60 per day or \$48 per month. Of course, we got three meals a day and a place to sleep (occasionally) and the protection of the commanding officers... Amazing, eh? But then we were young and foolish kids then, most of us being between 17 and 21. Old enough to go to war for our country, but not old enough to go into a hotel when we were home on leave and buy a beer.

The particular X.V. I was on for 2.5 years was an ocean going tug. Steel construction, 132 feet long and about 30 feet wide, powered by coal and steam. She was built in Midland, Ontario. In 1928, as a coast guard vessel in the great lakes, where she served until 1941, when she was drafted into the navy and put on examination duties in the Bay of Fundy, outside of Saint John, N.B., where she did faithful duty until being decommissioned at Sorel, P.Q., where she rested up for several years before being bought by a consortium from Penetanguishene, Ontario, ostensibly to be refitted to become a floating grocery store to service the 30,000 island tourist colony. However, this never came about and she languished against the dock for several years doing nothing but providing a diving board for the local kids to dive into Georgian Bay. The consortium faded away and Mr. Leo Robillard of Penetang was left to pay the docking charges. He began to object to this, so his two sons Steve and Paul took it upon themselves to turn it into a touring ship around the 30,000 islands. That is a whole new story that I hope to write about in the future.

I inadvertently found out about the M.S. from a young journalist friend of my sons who was researching a story on tourism in Ontario and had heard me talking about my experiences and recognized its name. He contacted me in 2006 and I then got in touch with the captain (Paul Robillard) and went up to see my old ship in the summer of 2007. It was an eerie feeling to walk on the same deck where I spent 2.5 years of my young life, 62 years ago. The name of the ship was changed to the Georgian Queen. But I'll always remember her as the Murray Stewart. She's almost as old as I am, so I guess we are both veterans. J.L.

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, and she can be reached at lorraine_elmas@yahoo.ca.

Kanata Legion & Ladies' Auxiliary Upcoming Events from November 2014 to January 1, 2015

| Date & Times | Event | Details | Tickets | Cut-off date to buy tickets |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| Fri. 21-Nov-14 5:30 p.m. reception 6:00 p.m. dinner | Bring a Friend / Spaghetti Dinner / Authors & Books | Books by legion members | \$10.00 | Wed. 19-Nov-14 |
| Sun. 23-Nov-14 3:00 p.m. decorate 5:30 p.m. approx. for Pot Luck dinner | Decorate the legion for Xmas & Pot Luck Dinner | Decorations are provided; just have to come out! | No Charge Pot Luck Dinner | No Sign up sheet Dinner will be pot luck |
| Fri. 28-Nov-14 5:30 p.m. reception 6:00 p.m. pizza | Pizza Night | | \$3.50/slice No tickets – get your name on sign-up sheet | Cut off date to sign-up is 28-Nov-14 before 5:00 p.m. |
| Sat. 29-Nov-14 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. | Ladies' Auxiliary's Annual Bazaar | Hazeldean Mall in the food court | Not applicable | Not applicable |
| Sun. 30-Nov-14 2:00 p.m. -4:00 p.m. | November birthday & anniversary celebrations | Cake & Ice Cream | Not applicable | Not applicable |
| Sun. 30-Nov-14 5:00 p.m. - ? | CFL Grey Cup Party | Wear your favourite football hat | Free admission - Football party food at a very reasonable cost. | Just show up and support Br. #638. Having Fun is mandatory! |
| Fri. 05-Dec-14 5:30 p.m. reception 6:15 p.m. dinner | Christmas Dinner & Silent Auction / Live Music | Music by the Kanata Legionnaire's Band Leatherworks Caterer | \$20.00 | Tues. 02-Dec-14 |
| Wed. 10-Dec-14 11:30 a.m. reception 12:00 p.m. dinner | L.A.'s Seniors Festive Dinner | Turkey & trimmings / Christmas carol sing-along with Moira & Gerry | \$12.00 | Wed. 03-Dec.14 12:00 p.m. noon |
| Wed. 31-Dec-14 6:30 p.m. reception 7:30 p.m. dinner | New Year's Eve Party | Dinner / Dance / Fun | \$45.00 Tickets available 19-Nov | Tues. 23-Dec-14 |
| Thurs. 01-Jan-15 11:30 a.m. / Noon | President's Levee | Lunch & comradeship | Donations welcome | Just drop by |